



Commission for Gender Equality

NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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@CGE_ZA

CGE continues the stand for the recognition of widows



South Africa is a widely cultured nation, however, some of its cultural practices are of an oppressive nature towards women. On Thursday, 2 September, the Commission for Gender Equality hosted a webinar with panel members of non-government organisations, the Department of Justice and the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, sharing their experiences and knowledge on existing support mechanisms for widows.

The different speakers shared insightful knowledge, including the importance of marriage registrations. Ms. Venter Hester of the Department of Justice said that “When you get married, ensure that your marriage is registered with Home Affairs to avoid issues such as not being

acknowledged by the in-laws after the death of your husband”. The role of religious organisations, financial education, maltreatment of widows and children’s wellbeing were some of the issues raised. Ms. Awelani Madira said children are often forgotten victims when there is a death in the family, urging families to allow children to express their grief. “Have family meetings with your children to understand which child is at which phase, and it is important for children to be allowed to express their emotions and to be taught on how to handle them” reiterated Ms Madira.

CGE Deputy Chairperson Nthabiseng Moleko stressed that to alleviate these challenges in society, non-government initiatives and other organisations, together with the CGE need to work in cooperation to inform and educate public.



Gender and Development Training in KwaZulu Natal

The KZN CGE office had a gender and development training programme running over two days, from Wednesday to Thursday, 9 Sep. The training programme covered gender concepts, introduction to gender and development, sustainable development goals, principles of human rights and human rights-based approach and introduction to gender analysis and mainstreaming.

Participants in the programme included ward-based community development workers from the Department of Social Development, Zululand District (eDumbe Service Office), ward based social workers also from the Zululand District. In attendance and participation were also community care givers from various wards at eDumbe, employed by the Department of Social Development, youth club members, NPO Office Bearers and a child and youth care worker. The training took place at the Bilanyoni Library.

CGE SEPTEMBER WEBINAR CALENDAR

- 02 Sep:** Webinar on Challenges of Widowhood
- 16 Sep:** Webinar on Human Trafficking Awareness
- 23 Sep:** Webinar on Compensation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA)



Presenting the September Wellness Soundbite

DAILY HABITS FOR BETTER HEART HEALTH

In this soundbite we will discuss daily habits to improve your heart health.



click [here](#) to listen on-the-go from a device of your choice

Sexual harassment in the workplace

Sexual Harassment is a form of GBV



An employee may refer a case of sexual harassment in the workplace to the CCMA for conciliation.

The CGE and CCMA are working together on a social media campaign to raise awareness on sexual harassment in the workplace. The campaign, which started in the month of August, comes in the wake of rising cases of sexual harassment in South Africa’s corporate environment. Statistics show that this abuse is common in most organisations and that in many cases, perpetrators go unpunished as a high number of employees who become victims are often not sure of where or how to report sexual harassment incidents.

According to CCMA, the Employment Equity Act provides for all cases of unfair discrimination – including sexual harassment - to be referred to the CCMA for conciliation. “Sexual harassment includes sexualised verbal or physical harassment, unwanted sexual advances, and requests for sexual favours – often in exchange for something else” the CCMA said.