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NEWSFLASH

An Internal Newsletter For The CGE Community

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Research Unit Releases 3 New Reports

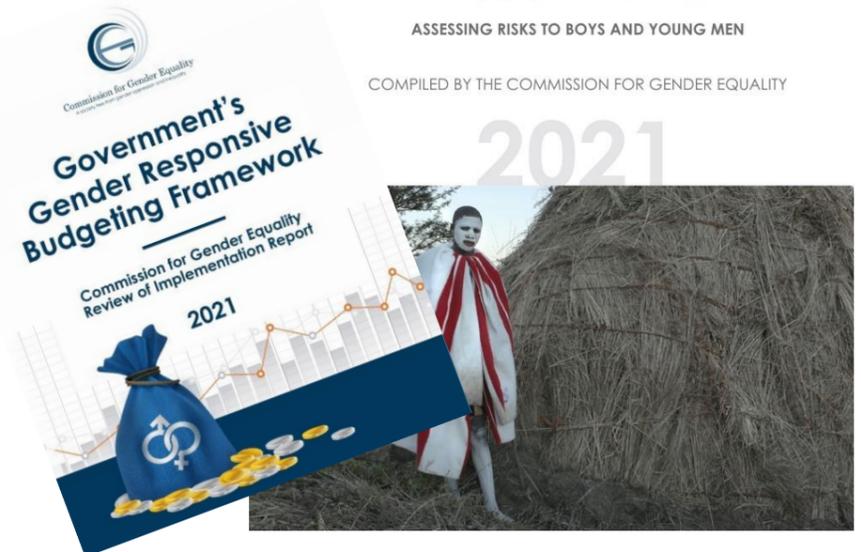
The Research Unit of the CGE has recently published a number of research reports on various subjects. Three of the new reports are on the government's Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework; Illegal Initiation Schools; and Government's Responses to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework report provides a review assessment of progress made by national government departments in their implementation of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Framework (GRBF), which was formally adopted by the National Cabinet in 2019. This was a response to longstanding public demands for the greater prioritisation of gender policy issues when allocating financial resources in the South African national budget. In the report on illegal initiation schools, the CGE sought to assess the plight of young men when

undergoing the rites of passage to manhood through the process of traditional initiation, which includes but is not limited to the ritual of circumcision. The project was motivated by widespread reports in the media about incidents of young men being subjected to inhumane conditions that violated their gender rights. In the third report, titled One Step Forward, One Step Backward, the CGE continues to carry out a long-standing commitment to an assessing government's ongoing responses and interventions to combat gender-based violence in general and violence against women. "Our work and the contents of our recent research reports demonstrate the continued challenges faced by policy makers in fulfilling legislative and policy imperatives around gender equality", said Head of Research, Dr Thabo Rapoo. The reports have been lodged in parliament and will now be available on the CGE website.

ILLEGAL INITIATION SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

ASSESSING RISKS TO BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

COMPILED BY THE COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Q&A With Khutso Monyepao Gauteng Provincial Manager



How is lockdown level 4 affecting the Gauteng Office's programmes?

Gauteng is a densely populated province with lots of informal settlements and it's also an economic hub where people from different provinces come for work opportunities, that's why it's a Covid-19 epicentre. The level 4 lockdown has crippled our modus operandi to implement our programmes and unfortunately this happens at a time when GBV has been declared a second pandemic.

Is the lockdown likely to result in increased GBV cases in Gauteng?

The lockdown has certainly opened room for GBV to thrive because we are no longer able to monitor hotspots and meet our clients. We have suspended monitoring and oversight visits as we try to comply with regulations. GBV perpetrators are taking advantage and cases are now increasing because local police stations have limited human resources with most police officers deployed to Covid-19 response in other areas.

How are you overcoming this challenge as a provincial office?

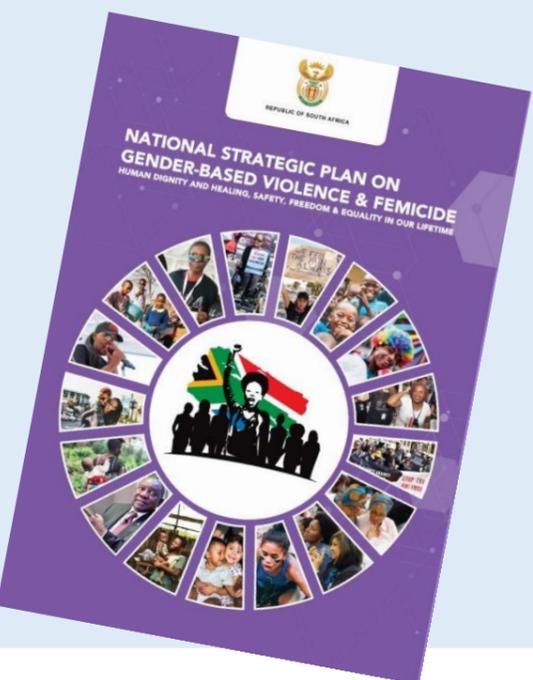
We run our anti-GBV campaigns through community radio stations but that does not replace the physical face to face engagements we used to do, where we spoke to people directly and they asked questions in an interactive way. With radio stations, you can only speak and leave your contacts but few people will call because not many people have airtime or even cellular phones. People are unemployed and live in poverty, the little money they get goes towards bread and butter issues.

We plan to go into partnerships with like-minded stakeholders to have a broader reach in the province. We have decided to start an initiative called "Train The Trainer", targeting 20 organisations, and capacitate them to reach their community constituencies. We train them on how to tackle GBV, and in turn they take the information to their constituencies. This way we will be able to broaden our reach.

Provincial Managers' lecture on localisation of National Strategic Plan on GBVF

The CGE provincial managers' Learning Hub hosted a lecture session on localisation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) on Wednesday this week. Ms Nomsa Nabo from the Department of Women, Youth and Persons With Disabilities, was an invited speaker who addressed how provincial governments and municipalities can assist the CGE in its oversight role on GBV.

The Learning Hub is an informal structure the provincial managers established as a community of practice for themselves to exchange knowledge with their provincial stakeholders. "This is a space for us to share information and build each other in terms of the work we do as gender and development practitioners. From time to time we host speakers on substantive gender equality topics so that we are kept abreast on developments in the gender discourse" said Limpopo provincial manager, Tshepang Mokgokong.



CGE expresses unwavering support for Caster Semenya



Last week the CGE issued a media statement expressing its unwavering support for Caster Semenya following her unsuccessful attempts to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. "We are supporting her to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024, we are also confident that the European Court of Human Rights will overturn the ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Switzerland that banned Ms. Semenya from participating in the 400m and 800m international competitions". "This is not a Caster Semenya issue, but a gender oppression and human rights issue that will continue to linger in sport and athletic spaces far beyond Semenya's era and perpetuate the continuous discrimination against many more female athletes" said Chairperson, Ms. Tamara Mathebula.