



# NEWSFLASH

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An Internal CGE Newsletter

05 AUGUST 2021

EDITION 6

## Constitutional Court Hears CGE's Muslim Marriages Application



The Constitutional Court is today hearing an application supported by the CGE to confirm an order of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which declared the Marriage Act 25 of 1961 and the Divorce Act 70 of 1979 to be inconsistent with Section 9, 10, 28 and 34 of the Constitution, in that they fail to recognise marriages solemnised under Sharia Law (Muslim Marriages). The CGE and other parties want the court to order the state to protect women and children in Muslim marriages, by enacting legislation providing for the recognition of Muslim marriages. The CGE is also asking the Concourt that relief for Muslim women should be fully retrospective to 27 April 1994. The Commission has been admitted by the Concourt as an intervening party as it seeks protection for women and children.

## Western Cape's Gender Activities on Full Steam

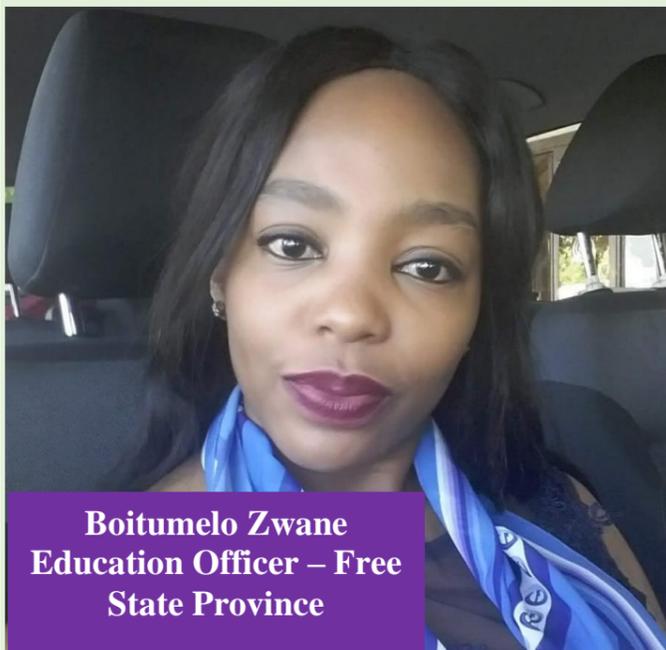
CGE's Western Cape Provincial Manager Sixolile Ngcobo & Education Officer Leonard Macakathi are today hosting a Gender Mainstreaming programme with Prince Albert Municipality to promote the national gender policy framework. On Friday Ngcobo will be a guest speaker at a Women's Day event hosted by the Western Cape Provincial Department of Treasury, and will be speaking on a theme: 'Uncertain times: The reality of women' in the workplace'.

## University Dialogue on LGBTQIA Rights



The Free State office will today participate in a virtual dialogue that is aimed at ensuring support, acceptance, and integration of LGBTQIA+ community at the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT). The university is striving to reduce prejudice or discrimination against the LGBTQIA community and create an institutional culture. The university says it has embarked on developing a policy on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Harassment for both students and staff, targeting women and members of the LGBTQIA+ respectively.

## CGE Women Speak On Women's Month



**Boitumelo Zwane**  
Education Officer – Free State Province

The theme of this year's women's month "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Realising Women's Equality" is a key reminder of how unequal our society remains and of how women and girls remain at the bottom of the pyramid experiencing camouflaged daily attacks from various spheres of society; the home, the streets, the workplace, political space and even worship spaces.

Almost three decades into South Africa's democracy gender inequality remains at the realm of women's struggles. For me, being a woman is a citrus, bittersweet experience but constantly aiming to outweigh the good over the bad. Therefore, I view women's month as a period of national historical reflection and a call for individual introspection on how we impact others across and between genders, remembering that this commemoration is equally about addressing gender inequality as is about addressing other forms of structural oppressions. May the women in the CGE use their voices to elevate one another, and to use our skills to promote the voices of women in the communities in which we live and serve to ensure that they too have equal access of their constitutional rights and freedoms.



**Koketso Sekhu**  
Education Officer – Gauteng Province

It has become the new normal to wake up to devastating shocks caused by Covid 19. The pandemic is exposing structural inequalities across every angle, from health to the economy, security, and social protection. Women in the frontline and at home bear the brunt of the pandemic disproportionately as their rights come under threat as the virus becomes more vicious. The pandemic might have multiplied the load on women; however, women are still present, they are surviving and thriving unduly.

I am convicted on women becoming decision-makers, showing indestructible strength during the pandemic that allows them to get down but, to also get up and get through. During this women's month, I want to encourage women to take care of their mind, body, and spirit. To take care of their mental wellness. To pause and recover, be bold, to stay empowered and remain resilient. Lastly, may women overcome fear, self-doubt, confront boundaries, commit to positive vibes, pray, slay, remain beautiful, and be optimistic!

