



# NEWSFLASH

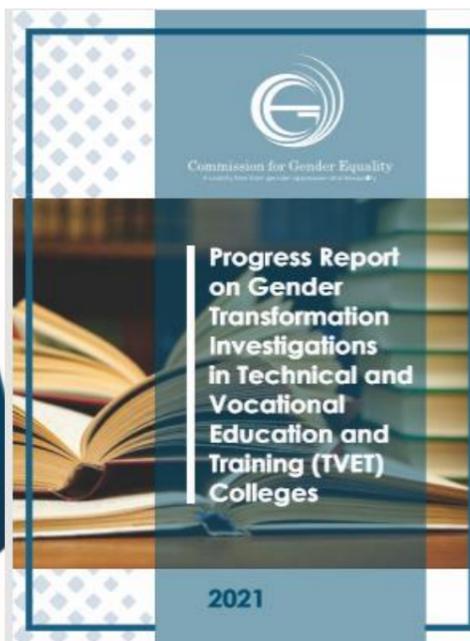


A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

19 AUGUST 2021

EDITION 08

## CGE Issues Legal Reports on Gender Transformation, Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights



The Commission for Gender Equality's Legal Unit has released six legal reports that include progress gender transformation in the public and private sector; progress report on gender transformation investigations at TVET colleges; investigation into choice on termination of pregnancies in South Africa; and progress report on the state of shelters in the country.

Following transformation hearings in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), the commission decided to do a follow up by tracking progress made by certain institutions on the CGE findings reflected in the Investigation Report 2019/2020. The latest report provides progress on compliance and implementation of CGE findings. South Africa's Choice of

Termination of Pregnancy Act (CTOPA), which is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, seeks to increase facilities that provide abortions. However, access to abortion services remains a challenge in South Africa, with approximately 50% of abortions occurring outside of designated health facilities. The CGE obtained information from national and provincial departments of health in relation to TOP services.

The progress report on the state of shelter in South Africa is a result of the commission embarking on a process to monitor the implementation of its recommendations following a consultative engagement with key stakeholders during 2019. The reports are available on the CGE website.

### HAPPENING TODAY

#### Access to Justice Initiative and Intervention on Sex Work

### DID YOU KNOW?

2021 is CGE's 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Existence



Sex Workers continue to face discrimination in their sector and COVID 19 further impacted on them disproportionately. The Commission for Gender Equality, in partnership with stakeholders in the Bloemfontein Task Team on Gender Based Violence, are today conducting an Access to Justice and Empowerment Intervention on sex work in Bloemfontein. The purpose of the initiative is to educate participants on gender discrimination, the role of various institutions and raise awareness on available economic empowerment opportunities.



### The Meaning of Women's Month



"Women's Month remains a constant reminder of the zeal, strength, and commitment of the women of 1956. Women who were united and spoke in one voice to come up with solutions for the socio-economic barriers of their time. This is the time we need to celebrate and take stock as we weigh our successes in

changing the life and status of women and the girl child. A historically important day that awards us an opportunity to self-correct and evaluate the sustainability of our work including the empowerment and development of women".

"As we celebrate this month, may we remember all the women we supported and elevated, most importantly remember the ones we did not empower and support. As the women of the 21st century, we are obligated to ascertain support and development for all women irrespective of their colour, race, creed or religion".

It is our silver jubilee, yes, the Commission for Gender Equality turns 25 this year, 2021. Looking back and planning ahead, two words come to my mind, history and the future: history tells us all about who we have been, where we came from, what we have done and what we stand for. Whereas the future gives us an opportunity to shape and become who we want to be in our truest form.

Bouncing to the future, we must take stock and learn from our past. Twenty-five years has taught us that gender equality and women's empowerment remain critical in the development trajectory of South Africa and the world. We also know that the CGE is better placed to contribute to the achievement of the *NDP: vision 2030 of South Africa; the African Union vision of Agenda 2063 and the UN Global vision of leaving no one behind, Agenda 2030*. Our strategic plan 2018-2023 serves as our compass, guiding our contributions as we now know more than before that achieving gender equality requires urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtail women's rights in private and public spheres. As we fix our eyes into the future and vision of the CGE, we must all be reminded of all the remarkable work that we do and our contribution to the broader agenda of gender equality and women's empowerment. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, to the CGE family – **Ms. Jamela Robertson, CEO**.



Ms. Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla  
CGE Commissioner