

Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign in Eastern Cape Province

The Eastern Cape CGE is this week embarking on activities to raise awareness on the impact of human trafficking. Monday 04 October – Friday 08 October has been classified as Human Trafficking Awareness Week. The Eastern Cape office is a stakeholder in the Trafficking in Persons Forum (TiP). The TiP said it has learned of human trafficking incidents in the province, wherein young girls have been victims of sexual exploitation and forced early child marriages.

The forum held an Imbizo with the community of Tshoxa in Keiskammahoek on Monday, where they heard of local community members who have been victims of trafficking incidents. “There is a case of Trafficking in Persons in this community where a 42-years-old mother sold her 13-year-old daughter to foreign nationals for sex in exchange for cash” said CGE provincial manager, Nceba Mrwebo. The CGE Eastern Cape officials visited the Chris Hani District Municipality on the awareness campaign since Tuesday. The office also held a human-trafficking awareness workshop with representative from the SAPS, provincial government and local municipality.



CGE Meets Traditional Leaders in North-West

The North-West office had a high-level meeting with the North-West House of Traditional Leaders to discuss their role in the community. The meeting, attended by Commissioners Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale and Lindiwe Mazibuko with North-West Provincial Manager Joyce Khutsoane, was part of the CGE aim of protecting and promoting gender equality while educating and raising awareness on issues of gender equality. “We also had another meeting with the Department of Basic Education to address the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the province, with a view to establish what could be the means of government intervention in this crisis” Khutsoane said.

How rife is gender-based violence in the Northern Cape?

It is especially rife, even more challenging in circumstances where alcohol consumption is involved. Early in the year, we reached out to stakeholders such as the NPA, SAPS, DOJ, DPP and TCC across the province, as far as GBV services are concerned. We also requested statistics from SAPS on cases and hotspot areas in the provinces and the stats confirmed the growing problem of gender-based violence in the province.

Are there any programmes you are working on with stakeholders in the province?

We are on the Provincial VEP Forum and currently busy with the Trafficking in Persons awareness campaign. This is a provincial program where all stakeholders contribute through solutions and strategies to fight and raise awareness on the trafficking of women which now also affects young girls.



**Q&A with
Thembelihle Bongwana**
Northern Cape Provincial Manager

How did the lockdown affect your outreach plans and how did you cope?

A lot of programs were delayed and the fact that most stakeholders have limited resources made things more difficult. Things improved during level 2 as we resumed with contact training sessions, and now things are even better under level 1, as we are almost back to normal in terms of getting the work done and implementing activities.

Is there any LGBTI programmes you are working on?

Yes, we recently held a LGBTQIA+ dialogue which was aimed at addressing Christianity Inter-Faith matters. Issues on Sexuality, Gender Diversity, Inclusion, Dignity and Justice were discussed. Inclusivity of the LGBTQIA+ communities is a constant discussion.

Any other activities conducted campaigns?

We recently had a radio campaign on revival FM on Tuesday 5 October 2021 where we raised awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. We spoke on the role of CGE as a chapter 9 institution in promoting a society free from gender oppression and all forms on inequality.



Nkhensani Hlekani – CGE Limpopo office

Meeting The CGE Faces

Nkhensani Hlekani is based at the Limpopo office and has been working with the CGE for 12 years. She grew up in the village of Nghezimani in Malamulele, Limpopo, “My job allows me to work with different types of people in a wide variety of environments and at different levels where I get to influence and challenge attitudes and stereotypes.” She is concerned about the escalating gender-based violence

(GBV) in the country, “Poor economic empowerment of women increases their vulnerability to GBV and other social ills such as sexual harassment in the workplace, teenage pregnancy and so forth.” She believes that the amendment of laws such as the Domestic Violence Act and other legislation, will help the CGE achieve a society free from all forms of gender oppression and inequality.

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