



Commission for Gender Equality  
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

**Media Statement**

**For Immediate Release: 20 November 2021**

**To: Editors, Producers and Reporters**

**CGE to investigate the Re-Election of Rape Convicted Mayor in the Kannaland Local Municipality**

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) has launched an investigation into the re-election of Jeffrey Donson as Mayor of the Kannaland local municipality in the Western Cape province. It has been reported that Donson was convicted of raping a 15-year-old girl in 2004.

The CGE notes that while Donson appealed to the Western Cape High Court and had his sentence subsequently reduced, the rape conviction was not challenged. The CGE is concerned about the high number of girls under the age of 16 who fall pregnant every year in South Africa. The Commission has met with government and other stakeholders this year, to discuss corrective policies and actions to address the statutory rape crisis in the country, and the high learner pregnancy statistics in schools.

The Commission views this development in Kannaland as a slap in the face of the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and intends to engage all relevant parties in this matter. The CGE believes that local government institutions should be at the forefront of the campaigns against GBV, as they are closest to people. The Commission will make a public statement once it has completed its probe into the matter.

**End,**



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The Commission for Gender Equality is established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development, and attainment of gender equality.

Toll Free Number: 0800 007 709. GBV Toll Free Number: 0800 428 428, Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150 Witness, Survivors, and victims of GBV can send Please Call Me at \*120\*7867#