



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

Media Release

For Immediate Release: 27 January 2022

To: Editors, Producers and Reporters

Commission for Gender Equality Statement on Vaccination

On 16th January 2022, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) issued a public statement to the media in which we erroneously quoted an article published in a medical journal which alleges possible negative consequences of vaccination on women's sexual and reproductive health. The CGE wishes to withdraw and retract the statement unreservedly. On reflection, we wish to acknowledge that issuing the statement was a regrettable error. We further regret that it led to unnecessary distraction of public attention away from our common fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Commission's objective is the protection and fostering democracy through ensuring the protection of vulnerable and marginalised communities. This includes ensuring that the information we use is reflected accurately. The Commission will coordinate various education drives in collaboration with various health and medical experts in order to rectify any misinformation which may have occurred as a result of its statement.

The CGE wishes to reiterate its support for existing government policy and guidelines on vaccination, and to express our confidence in current medical expertise and knowledge as provided by the country's medical scientific community. We encourage South Africans to exercise their right to access information and to take necessary steps to increase their understanding, through available medical information and expertise, of the risks posed by the Covid 19 pandemic as well as the benefits of vaccination.

END,

Issued by Commission for Gender Equality

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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#