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# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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Email us on info@cge.org.za

## One Step Backward In GBV Fight



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) has a long-standing strategic focus on monitoring and assessing government's responses and interventions to gender-based violence in general and violence against women.

Between 2019 and 2021, the Commission conducted studies to assess progress regarding interventions that emanated from the 2018 Presidential Summit on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and the Summit Declaration that listed key commitments to tackle the scourge of GBVF in the country. The summit had resolved that a national coordinating structure on gender-based violence and femicide must be established and thus called for the setting up of an interim steering committee (ISC) that would fulfil this task.

The ISC was established but was later dissolved in April 2020 without having completed some of the key tasks for which it was established, particularly the task of setting up the national coordinating structure on gender-based violence and femicide as outlined in the 2018 Presidential Summit

Declaration. Following these developments, the CGE study recommended that the process of establishing the multi-sectoral national coordination structure be prioritised in line with the resolutions of the Summit, and in compliance with the 2011 recommendations of the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In addition, the study recommended that government should ensure that, once established, the national coordinating structure on GBVF be given the necessary legislative status, adequate financial resources and institutional capacity to drive the coordination and oversight of the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF. The CGE study further recommended that government, through the Ministry for Women in the Presidency, urgently prioritise the implementation of the NSP which was approved by cabinet in March 2020. The CGE research report can be found under Publications on the website: www.cge.org.za

## CGE Welcomes DNA Backlog Reduction News

The Commission welcomes President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement during his state of the nation address last week, that government has made progress in reducing the DNA backlog that is affecting court cases that involve sexual offences. The President said the backlog process has now been reduced from 210,000 exhibits to around 58,000 as of last week. Prosecutors rely on DNA results to successfully prosecute

persons accused of rape and sexual assault and without this critical evidence, courts may not be able to convict criminals. This has led to many rape cases being struck off the court roll in the western cape province last year. The Commission repeats its calls for rape and other GBV cases to be fast-tracked in the courts, as the country is experiencing a prolonged wave of femicide across all provinces.



## 100 Days Challenge to localise the National Strategic Plan on GBV, Femicide



NSP	Districts	Focus area
Pillar 1	Sol Plaatje	Rapid response and accountability structures
Pillar 2	Tshwane	Toxic masculinity behaviour
Pillar 3	Letaba Bloemfontein	Victim centred service Alternative dispute resolution
Pillar 4	Lejweleputswa	Access to victim support and trauma service
Pillar 5	Bojanala Platinum	GBV & Sexual Harassment in mining companies
Pillar 6	Garden Route	Integrated Data Management and Collection system

The GBVF NSP Collaboration is piloting the 100-Day challenge initiative to fast-track the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP GBVF) at local level.

The 100-Day challenge is a structured approach where those closest to the problems are challenged by leaders to deliver a real and tough impact in 100 days. There are 6 Pillars in six provinces, of which the Commission for Gender Equality is involved in two. On Friday, 11 February, CGE Free State Provincial Manager, Samantha

Britz attended the Leaders' Design Session in Bloemfontein, with Pillar Three ambassadors who focus on justice. Pillar Five focuses on safe workplaces that are free of violence against women and LGBTQIA+ persons, including but not limited to sexual harassment.

On 17 February, CGE Western Cape Provincial Manager, Sixolile Ngcobo attended a meeting with mining company, Exxaro, and she led the sessions on deciding on operations to focus on and the way forward.