



Fight against the scourge of GBV continues



The CGE Free State officials attended the Masibambisane GBV Programme launch on 11 May, co-hosted by the Foundation for Human Rights and Lawyers against Abuse in Bloemfontein.

The project aims to address the lack of accountability for gender-based violence (GBVF), create awareness and mobilise communities against GBVF in 18 selected communities in South Africa.

Gender-based violence is fundamentally rooted in patriarchal ideologies and power imbalances, whether economic or social.

The country witnesses brutal and violent abuse and murders daily, particularly those of women and girls as majority of the victims. The recent reporting of Namhla Mtwa'a abuse and murder left the country in shock,

The remains of 6-year-old Bontle, who had been missing for a month exacerbated the dire situation that the country faces, and its requirement for urgent interventions.

"We continue to work with likeminded institutions to fight the scourge of GBV in our communities" said Free State Education Officer, Boitumelo Zwane.

Translating Gender Terms

The Limpopo Office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) held a Gender Terminology Translation meeting with the Department of Sports Arts and Culture. The meeting, which took place on 18 May at the Department's offices in Polokwane, Limpopo is one of many meetings which will be taking place across the country in an effort to translate gender terms into all of South Africa's official languages. In Limpopo, the project's meeting was aimed at translating gender terms into XiTsonga, SePedi and TshiVenda.

These are the widely spoken languages in the province. The Gender Terminology project is an issue of access to information.

"In order for our work to be impactful, and for our communities to understand the mandate of the Commission, and gender issues, we need to share information with them in languages that they understand", said the Limpopo Education Officer, Nkhensani Hlekani.



Celebrating 20 years of WCAR20



Chairperson of the CGE, Tamara Mathebula attended the National Conference which commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR20). The conference was hosted by Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in Johannesburg on 23 and 24 May.

The commemoration national conference had a specific focus on the progress on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) which calls for the development and implementation of strategies in laying the foundation for cohesive societies and provides a road-map for the pursuit of the anti-discrimination agenda by the international community to better the lives of victims of racial discrimination and intolerance.

Ms Mathebula spoke about Equality Courts and CGE interventions made in dealing with human rights violations and gender related discriminations that the Commission has resolved and are still resolving.

Equality Courts were created by the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000 which was promulgated as a direct result of section 9 of the Constitution of South Africa.

They are specialised courts designated to adjudicate matters specifically relating to infringements of the right to equality, unfair discrimination and hate speech, with a view toward eradicating the ever-present post-apartheid specter which essentially has divided the country along racial,

gender and monetary related lines.

Among the few equality courts matters that the CGE has intervened in was in KwaZulu Nata wherein the CGE finalized the matter at the Durban Magistrates Court wherein the complainant argued that she was unfairly discriminated against by a magistrate.

"The Equality courts in SA are well designed to remove barriers to judicial access for everyone but mostly the poor. However, the processes at the equality courts are often rigid and may be a barrier for most laypersons to access the court. Popularisation of these courts will ensure that even the most vulnerable in society are protected against acts of unfair discrimination" she said.