



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

**07 October 2022**

**Media Statement**

**To: Members of the Media**

**RE: CONCERTED EFFORT NEEDED IN CURBING THE RAPE OF MINORS IN THE COUNTRY**

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) is saddened by reports of 150 girls between the ages of 10 – 14 who gave birth in Free State hospitals in the past five months. These statistics call upon society to be on high alert over the growing rape culture of underage children in South Africa.

The CGE is concerned about the escalating number of girls who lose their future by dropping out of school while those who impregnated them continue with their normal lives. The impregnation of children in the age bracket 10-14 constitutes statutory rape as they have not reached the legal age of consent. The Commission calls on the South African Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and like-minded institutions to work together to stop the brutality and violation of the rights and dignity of minor children.

We also caution families of affected children not to take these pregnancies lightly or be misled into protecting the perpetrators even if they are close relatives, family bread winners or other known persons.

The Commission is cautiously optimistic after learning that the establishment of 80 sexual offences courts across the country as part of the fight against gender-based violence is at an advanced stage. The Commission welcomes this confirmation by



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Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, and is confident that this will enable the criminal justice system to speedily prosecute rape cases.

**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#