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NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

18 November 2022

EDITION 62



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Engaging Men and Boys to enhance gender equality



Free State Provincial Manager (second from the left) and Education Officer, Boitumelo Zwane, (tenth from the left) with provincial stakeholders.



LEFT: KwaZulu Natal participants during the Men and Boys outreach programme conducted by CGE KZN in Richmond.

"Men and boys are usually left behind in gender equality and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) programming, however as part of the journey to reach the goal of gender equality, it is important to emphasise the need to engage them to challenge gender norms and various forms of GBV", said Boitumelo Zwane, who is the Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Education Officer in the Free State province.

Zwane added that CGE recognises that men and boys can also be victims of GBVF, and that they can play a role in its eradication. The Free State Office conducted a public education programme on Wednesday and Thursday (9 - 10 November) at the Clive Solomon Community Hall in Heidedal, Bloemfontein. The main activities in the outreach were group discussions on substance abuse, LGBTQIA+ rights,

mental health, bullying and manhood. The purpose of the two-day outreach was to create a conducive platform for men and boys to gain an understanding of some relevant concepts regarding the respective topics, to share their stories, and to analyse common trends, issues and challenges heard from the participants.

The KwaZulu Natal engagement took place on Friday, 11 November at the Sahlia Community Hall- Ward 2, in Richmond. The session focused on men and boys as both perpetrators & survivor of GBV and analysed why men and boys struggle with and do not open cases of violence perpetuated against them. Furthermore, participants were assisted in steps to follow in reporting cases of GBV.

CGE A Catalyst in Curbing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide



South African women and the girl child are under siege and their right to freedom, safety and security remains an implausible dream. Women continue to live in fear both at home and in their communities. It's a sad tale that South African as a country is faced with profound inequalities and high levels of gender-based violence. These challenges cut across race, age, and historical background. It is well known that gender-based

violence (GBV) is a scourge in South Africa, and this led to President Cyril Ramaphosa declaring it a second pandemic on the 29 December 2020. Prior to this declaration a 2015 report by Tswaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (2015) in Gauteng notes that, in relation to GBVF "justice is an aspiration" but not a reality for the women of South Africa. These human atrocities have taken from women the freedom of choice, movement, and association.

It is against this background that the CGE initiated the process of visiting the South African Police Service (SAPS) police stations and Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs), conducting oversight and monitoring process to assess the level of compliance in terms of providing victim-friendly services for victims and survivors of GBV. The oversight visits were conducted under the theme "Call to Action": United to end gender-based violence.

Ms Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla is a Commissioner at the Commission for Gender Equality. Read her full article on www.cge.org.za

Be careful what you repost and reshare on social media

- a look into what uninformed and careless circulating of explicit content and false news could mean for the everyday person in terms of revised legislation.

It is known that loose lips sink ships, however, these days having fast fingers on social media could land you in hot water in terms of the Films and Publications Amendment Act. The sharing and circulation of sexually explicit videos on social media is prevalent in recent years. The sharing of such content is a criminal offence. Furthermore, any person who circulates content of this nature could face a fine of R300 000 or be imprisoned up four (4) years.

In recent years, society has witnessed the expansion of violence against women that has gone beyond the physical. Image based violence has

plagued women's lives all over the world for a while. Many women's lives have been shattered by ill-famed sexual abuse that occurs online.

In South Africa, as of 01 March 2022, perpetrators of such behaviour will be breaking the law after the amendments to the Film and Publications Act comes into effect.



This means that all persons, who perpetrates and/or circulates or shares revenge porn, which is defined as the posting of nudes or explicit content without the consent of both parties and does so with an intention and malice could face being fined R150 000 and or being imprisoned for up to two (2) years; and any person sharing false news or misinformation, which is the spreading and sharing of such content recklessly could also be fined R150 000 and be imprisoned for up to two (2) years.

With the dawn of a new era in terms of how society communicates and how fast real and fake news spreads on the world wide web, the introduction of such mechanisms to clamp down on abuses perpetrated against women in a new sophistication is welcomed. It is therefore imperative that social media users be cognisant and alert when it comes to that repost and reshare tab in the name of "freedom of expression".



Mamello Mathews is a Legal Officer for the Commission for Gender Equality in the Western Cape Province.