



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

29 March 2023

Media Advisory

CGE HOSTS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, GOVERNMENT AND MULTI-PARTY ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN LEADERSHIP

The 2021 local government elections saw a reversal of the past gains made in the overall representation of women at the local government level. Women's representation declined by 4% in 2021 to 37%, from the 41% that was obtained in the 2016 elections. This decline took place against the backdrop of a weak legislative environment as South Africa currently does not have legislation in place to enforce equal gender representation in the elections. The country further lacks a coordinated national programme to promote women's political representation and participation by individual political parties and in government.

There is pressure for women to lead differently but when they do, they are characterised as emotional, soft, and sympathetic and when they are seen to be assertive, they are labelled aggressive and uncaring. Women's rights in leadership are also violated through sexual harassment and violence, and gender pay gaps, among others.

The event is premised on amongst others the following objectives:

- To encourage public discourse about the status of women in leadership.
- To utilise existing CGE reports and recommendations to influence gender transformation across all sectors, including political parties.
- To confront and address issues that hinder women's representation and effective participation in public office and other areas of leadership.
- To gain buy-in and commitment on the use of effective measures to transform leadership in all sectors of the South African society.



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It is against this backdrop that the CGE is convening a high-level discussion with Civil Society Organisations, Government and Multi-Party Organisation in order to discuss some of the objectives as outlined above and to craft in a new path that will be monitored and evaluated by the CGE as per its legislative mandate.

Date: 30 March 2023

Time: 09H00-15h00

Venue: Anew Parktonian Hotel, 120 De Korte Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2001. Braamfontein

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End,

Issued by Commission for Gender Equality

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Commission for Gender Equality



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Commission for Gender Equality

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#