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A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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CGE And Other African Gender Commissions Discuss Women Empowerment at 67TH CSW Session

"It is important for African countries to establish gender commissions because these constitutional bodies serve to monitor and ensure equality for all people across the board" this was a call made by Deputy Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Nomasonto Mazibuko on the side event during the 67th session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) at UN headquarters in New York. Mazibuko added that the underfunding of gender commissions undermines the efforts to attain gender equality. Held on 15th March, the side event was hosted by the



Commission for Gender Equality in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and Kenya's National Gender

Equality Commission, to discuss the role of Gender Commissions in promoting accountability towards the empowerment of women in Africa. In her address to highlight the achievements and challenges faced by the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), Chairperson Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe said the implementation of constitutional principles remains a key challenge towards achieving gender equality in the country. Chairperson of Kenya's National Gender and Equality Commission, Dr Joyce Mwikali-Mutinda said collaboration by human rights and equality bodies is required for countries in

Africa to achieve gender equality, "We have started engagements with various role players to do away with the silo work approach" she said. Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Nonhlanhla Ndaba, called on the CGE to make its research and legal work visible to the country, "The CGE is doing a lot of great work and we want to encourage them to put their reports on public platforms to show the extent of the work they are doing," she concluded.

Empowering Local Stakeholders Through Gender and Development Workshops in Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces



The Commission for Gender Equality in the Eastern Cape Province conducted a Gender and Development workshop in Flagstaff, on Tuesday, 13 March 2023. The workshop was attended by various Civil Society Organizations and the Department of Health, Early Childhood Development Practitioners, Paralegal Officers, members from the EC Council Churches and Community Development Workers. The workshop sought to empower Civil Society

Organizations on human rights and gender equality principles and practices. It was also designed to strengthen the capacity of participating entities through training on how to engage with communities on human rights and gender equality. The CGE Eastern Cape Office extended their gratitude to iNgquza Hill Local Municipality, iNgquza Hill GBV Combat team and SAPS Management for the support given to the initiative.



The Commission for Gender Equality in the Free State Province conducted a Gender and Development workshop at the Performing Arts Centre of Free State in Bloemfontein. The workshop had employees from the Performing Arts Centre of Free State (PACOF) as participants and was coordinated by CGE's Free State Provincial Manager, Samantha Britz, Education Officer Boitumelo Zwane and Nosana Sondiyazi from Tholoana e Molemo. The CGE Provincial Manager informed the participants about the mandate of the CGE and its role as an institution

supporting democracy in line with Section 187 (1) of the Constitution. Ms Zwane and Ms Sondiyazi co-facilitated the engagement and discussed the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons. They also unpacked Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity concepts. "The LGBTQIA+ community has reclaimed the word Queer through new advocacy based on human rights principle, and owning who you are" said Sondiyazi. The workshop was successfully completed and employees from the PACOF were grateful for the opportunity given by the CGE.



Using Community Radio To Inform Communities About CGE Mandate

Education Officers at the Commission for Gender Equality continued to conduct information and outreach campaigns to educate communities about the role and mandate of the Commission. This week the CGE delivered messages through interviews on various community radio stations in the Free State, Limpopo, and Western Cape provinces.

Today, CGE's Education Officer in the Free State province, Boitumelo Zwane spoke on the various functions of the Commission on Mosupatsela community radio station. "We are an independent Constitutional institution that monitors the public and private sectors to see if they respect and implement gender equality laws in their respective spaces," Zwane said.