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NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

14 April 2023

EDITION 76



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CGE Addresses LGBTQIA+ Discrimination Concerns And Recourse At KZN School



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) KwaZulu- Natal Office in partnership with Ubumbano Newcastle LGBTI (NPO that advocates for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community) held an LGBTQIA+ dialogue on hate crimes and recourse at Blaaubosch Youth Centre in KwaZulu-Natal. The engagement was attended by the members of the LGBTQIA+ community and discussed gender terminology and concepts, social challenges including hate crimes and recourse available to victims and survivors. This comes after the CGE's KwaZulu-Natal provincial office received information from Ubumbano Newcastle LGBTI that

were discriminating against six learners who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. It was alleged that teachers unzipped the learners' school pants, called them derogatory names and told them they were not boys. The teachers have further allegedly told the learners not to come to school wearing pants. The CGE made contact with the affected learners' parents. CGE's legal officer in KwaZulu Natal, Nomthandazo Sithole, said the situation was tense for the parents, "One parent expressed that the situation is emotional for her as she had accepted her child's gender identity but was worried about what took place at school" Sithole said.

CGE To Address Gathering to Strengthen Partnerships on Victim Empowerment Programme



CGE Commissioner Adv Thando Gumede will address the gathering in Kimberley tonight.

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will take part in the gala function organised by the Northern Cape provincial government to strengthen partnerships with Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) stakeholders. CGE Commissioner Adv Thando Gumede will address the gathering of stakeholders as the Commission is a critical stakeholder on gender-based violence issues in the province. The Northern Cape department of social development is mandated to champion the implementation of VEP forums in districts and municipalities. The gathering will take place in Kimberley tonight and will be followed by activities next week meant to raise awareness on gender-based violence and human trafficking.



Gender Inequality Impacts Realisation of Socio-Economic Rights

Opinion Piece by Nothemba Sonjica

Socio-economic rights such as healthcare, education, shelter, and social security are essential in realizing the right to human dignity. From a gender perspective the Commission for Gender Equality (The CGE) recognizes how gender inequality has affected access to these rights.

The ripple effect of this inequality has resulted in the Commission pushing gender mainstreaming and upskilling of women to enable women from different socio-economic classes to have access to adequate healthcare, education, and economic empowerment. The CGE is cognisant of the impact of historical inequality and how it has affected women in South Africa.

In her study published in 1997 Sandra Lienbenberg wrote that the disproportionate impact of poverty on black women is due to the combined effects of inter-linking factors such as race, gender, and class. CGE is committed to advancing access to socio-economic rights for vulnerable groups, this has been the motive behind our various initiatives and reports. Initiatives such as the Back-to-school campaign, Shelter Investigation report, Community outreach programmes, Oversight visits, Gender responsive budgeting and various other initiatives and projects. The CGE is aware that a lot needs to be done to eradicate inequality and is committed to steering the ship.

Nothemba Sonjica is a Legal Officer at the CGE



Portfolio Committee Undertakes Mpumalanga Visit to Assess Progress in Addressing GBV

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will undertake an oversight visit to Mpumalanga Province from 17 April – 21 April, to assess the progress and outcomes of specific programmes by the Commission for Gender Equality and National Youth Development Agency in addressing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, gender equality and youth unemployment in Mpumalanga. Led by Chairperson Ms Nonhlanhla Ndaba, members of the committee will hold an engagement with the leadership of the CGE on Tuesday.

The committee will be taken on a tour to a Thuthuzela Care Centre at the Themba hospital, a police station in Masoyi and a Greater Rape Intervention Programme shelter in Mbombela. The purpose of the visit is to monitor the level of compliance in providing victim-friendly services for victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) are one-stop facilities established as part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy, with the aim of reducing secondary victimization and assisting successful prosecution.