



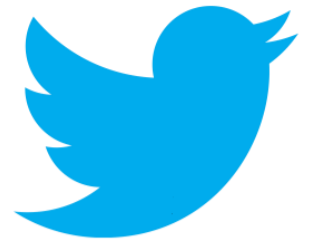
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# NEWSFLASH

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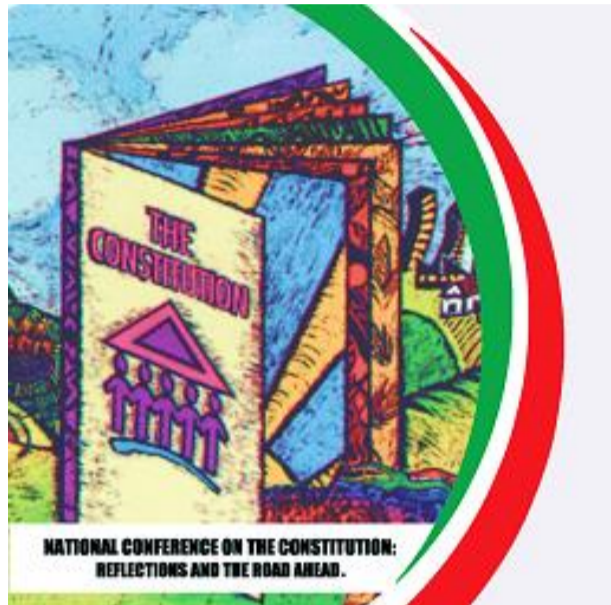


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## CGE Chairperson laments triple challenges of race, gender and class faced by women

Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality, Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale called on policy makers to do more to deal with systemic challenges faced by black women in the South African economy. Sepanya-Mogale addressed delegates on the second day of the National Conference on the Constitution, which was conducted under the theme: 'Reflections and the Road Ahead'. "Black women are bearing the brunt of most social ills in our society, the triple challenges of class, gender and race are still alive today as they

were in the 80s, because gender and class are yet to be deconstructed in South Africa despite us having the most progressive Constitution" she said during her address. The national conference, which ends today, discussed various topics such as 'The effectiveness of Constitutional and independent statutory bodies in strengthening constitutional democracy', 'Building an effective system of traditional leadership within the constitutional framework', 'Human Rights in the region', 'Progressive realisation of socio-economic rights', and 'The effectiveness of local government'.



CGE Chairperson Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale addresses conference delegates.

## CGE engages community women on their participation in the township economy

The Commission for Gender Equality's Gauteng office conducted a session with women from the community of Doornkop in Soweto in a stakeholder engagement that focused on women's participation in small enterprises and the township economy. CGE's Education Office in Gauteng, Koketso Sekhu said the engagement was part of the Commission's efforts to advocate for women's participation in local economies, "The picture of micro business in townships is not gender balanced. There are business sectors that are still male dominated because entrepreneurship itself is structured based on society's gender perceptions" Sekhu said. The engagement forms part of advocacy work the Commission for

Gender Equality has been doing in various provinces for women's economic empowerment. CGE's Head of Public Education and Information, Ms Philisiwe Gabela, said the engagement with Doornkop women was an opportunity for them to redefine the township economy through information, "We want to see more women participating in the township economy because township enterprises are able to meet the economic needs of the she said. The community women were addressed by various speakers from the City of Joburg, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, Gauteng Department of Social Development and SAVE Act. The initiative was part of CGE's outreach engagements aimed at women's economic empowerment in townships.



ABOVE: CGE's Education Officer Koketso Sekhu addresses a community women's gathering on township economy.

BELOW: A lot of women operate small businesses in the informal sector due to lack of capital and information. (Pic: Ossewa, Wikimedia Commons)



## CGE strengthens relationship with DEAF SA in Limpopo



The Commission for Gender Equality in partnership with DEAFSA held an engagement with the deaf community on 17 March 2023 in Capricorn District, Limpopo. The gathering was part of the human rights month programme conducted by the Commission in the province. The engagement was to introduce the mandate of the Commission, explore linkages between gender and disability, to gain more insight on challenges faced by the deaf community and to ascertain the types of assistance CGE may provide.

Discussions centred around gender-based violence and femicide and how it impacts persons with disabilities as they face a myriad of challenges and discrimination. "Deaf people are faced with structural violence challenge in health, economy, employment, and other spaces within the society. Some of the emerging issues include discrimination at public health centres because health care providers cannot use sign language and this compromises patient care", said Tshepang Mokgokong, CGE's Limpopo Provincial Manager.

"Deaf people are vulnerable to gender-based violence, unfortunately due to the communication barrier, they have difficulty reporting cases at police stations" he added. "Therefore, it is critical that issues of disability be mainstreamed across all sectors and development initiatives" Mokgokong concluded.