



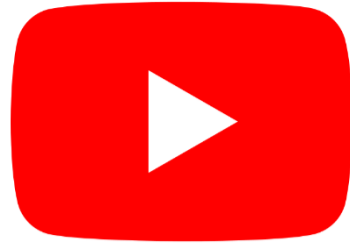
Email us:
info@cge.org.za

NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

05 May 2023

EDITION 78



Follow us on Youtube:
Commission for Gender
Equality.

CGE Addresses Inequality Issues In Northern Cape Community



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in the Northern Cape province addressed issues of poverty, inequality, and equitable distribution of economic opportunities during a Community and Youth Engagement hosted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) last month in Springbok, within the Nama Khoi local municipality. The engagement was to commemorate Freedom Day. The theme was centred on the advancement of human rights and freedom.

The community and youth were engaged on issues relating to promotion of human rights. Mr Tsietsi Shuping, CGE's Legal Officer in the province, spoke on the commission's mandate and addressed the community's concerns of poverty and inequality, "Poverty and inequality are related but distinct concepts, poverty refers to a lack of necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing while inequality refers to the

unequal distribution of resources and opportunities among different individuals or groups within a society" he said. Shuping further explained that poverty can be caused by a variety of factors, such as lack of education, unemployment, discrimination, and inadequate social safety nets. "Poverty can also lead to a range of negative outcomes, including poor health, limited access to education, and reduced economic opportunities" he said.

Shuping also addressed inequality issues and said that inequality can have negative social and economic consequences, including reduced social mobility, increased crime rates and decreased economic growth. "Reducing poverty and inequality are important goals for policymaker, as they can have a significant impact on the well-being of individuals and the overall health of societies" he concluded.

Opening Door For Churches To Join Fight Against Gender- Based Violence



Pic: iStock, Getty Images.

The Commission for Gender Equality in the Western Cape participated in a Gender- Based Violence (GBV) workshop hosted by the United Congregation Church of South Africa, Peninsula Region in Paarl.

Discussions covered questions on possible actions that churches can embark on to help in the fight against GBV. CGE's Provincial Manager Sixolile Ngcobo, said churches should join networks of organisations that fight against GBV in their communities. "Faith and religious leaders should play a vital role in raising awareness and advocating for survivors' rights, challenging cultural gender norms and addressing justice-related issues without fear", she said. "What we see and experience in our communities resembles some of the modelling that takes place at home and at institutions such as churches, thus the church has a responsibility not only to pray but to take action that is formidable and aimed at changing the world for the better" Ngcobo said.

BELOW: CGE Western Cape Provincial Manager Sixolile Ngcobo with various church leaders in Paarl.



Strengthening Reporting Systems In The Workplace To Address Sexual Harassment

Opinion Piece by Nomthandazo Sithole

Section 6 (3) of the Employment Equity Act, as amended, provides that harassment of an employee is a form of discrimination and is prohibited on anyone, or a combination of grounds of unfair discrimination. Despite this increased awareness, developments in law and policies in place against sexual harassment in the workplace, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office of the Commission for Gender Equality has noted an increase in allegations of sexual harassment against public officials. Our courts have described sexual harassment as, at its core, concerned with the exercise of power and reflects the power relations that exist both in society generally and

specifically within a particular workplace. In one case, the alleged perpetrator (a municipal councillor) allegedly offers job security to job seekers in return for sexual favours. Interestingly, the affected women opted not to report the matters internally at the workplace but reported the incidents to the media and the police. Employees often opt not to report matters internally in the workplace. This ought to challenge employers to strengthen reporting mechanisms in the workplace and further impose harsh sanctions for those found guilty of sexual harassment cases in the workplace. **(To read the full piece, visit www.cge.org.za - under Articles)**

Nomthandazo Sithole is a Legal Officer at the CGE

JOIN THE CGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR REGULAR NEWS UPDATES



@cgelive
Commission
for Gender
Equality
@CGE_ZA