

NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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Educating Gender-Based Violence Offenders on Rehabilitation



By: Lungelo Mesh

Nelspruit Correctional Service Centre inmates told the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) to consider taking Gender-Based Violence (GBV) workshops to schools and implementing it as an academic subject if possible, this was during the CGE's visit to the centre last week to educate gender-based violence offenders on rehabilitation programmes.

"We want to empower and educate people on the negative effects of GBV on families, communities, and society as a whole, we want to encourage and educate offenders about human rights, especially the importance of not violating other people's rights", said CGE's Mpumalanga Provincial Manager, Moltah Mavuso. "If we were given the knowledge on GBV at a younger age, I don't think we would have ended up here, the Commission has taught me that there is always a solution in every situation."

This has opened my mind and I will be able to teach others when I am out there", said one of the inmates. CGE's Public and Information Deputy Director, Rabbuh Raletsemo addressed the offenders during the engagement, "You are still part of society, and your basic rights are safeguarded by the constitution, the Bill of Rights, enshrined in our constitution demands that we are all treated with dignity, equality and freedom, this applies to you too as inmates".

Thomas Silinda, Spiritual Care Coordinator from the Department of Correctional Service Centre said the Commission's visit to the centre was impactful, "We would like this programme to expand to other centres because we see that we need the Commission more to educate the inmates during the rehabilitation process, the knowledge that the inmates have gained will help them not to take the law into their hands".

Gender Mainstreaming- a work in progress for Free State local municipality

The Commission for Gender Equality in the Free State conducted a Gender Mainstreaming workshop on Tuesday, 13th of February where they engaged the Maluti-A-Phofung local municipality on matters pertaining the status of Gender Mainstreaming within the municipality. This following a gender audit conducted with the local municipality which highlighted multiple areas of concern including the implementation of 'gender-blind' policies, no integration of gender inputs from the community members, lack of budgeting for gender mainstreaming programmes amongst others. CGE's public education officer in

the Free State, Boitumelo Zwane raised a concern to the Maluti-A-Phofung municipality on the lack of policies "The absence of gender policies and the misplacement of gender focal persons in political offices have contributed to the lack of political and administrative commitment and therefore affecting the response of local government to issues of gender transformation," she said. Zwane further advised the municipality to develop an implementation plan stating clearly how the municipality will implement the Commission's recommendations. The Commission for Gender Equality will continue to monitor the process of implementation together with its outcomes.

The Future of Data Collection on Gender-Based Violence



Dr Morné Oosthuizen, Development and Policy Researcher at the University of Cape Town



CGE's Acting Head of Research and Policy, Naledi Selebano

By: Keletso Rampeng

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in partnership with United Nations Population Fund in South Africa, The British High Commission, University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Development Policy Research Unit recently hosted a round table discussion on in Pretoria under the theme: 'Towards an Index of Gender-Based Violence in South Africa'.

Objectives of the discussions included providing the CGE an opportunity to engage multiple stakeholders on the development of a 'Gender-Based Index'. The Commission for Gender Equality's Acting Head of Research & Policy, Ms. Naledi Selebano remarked on the scourge of gender-based violence in the country, mentioning that "GBV is one of the worst scourges facing our

democracy, however notwithstanding the National Strategic Plan, the scourge continues to rise," she said. She further touched on statistical data on the increase of sexual offenses which were reported to the south African Police Services, "Between April 2022 and March 2023 alone, 53 498 sexual offence cases were reported to the police, with rape accounting for 42 780 of the cases".

Dr Morné Oosthuizen of the Development Policy Research Unit at the University of Cape Town went into an in depth and technical explanation of the index, "The index must allow the measure of the extent of GBV in South Africa on an ongoing basis, providing useful evidence for policy making at all levels of government."

Educating Communities on Critical Gender Issues



The Commission For Gender Equality (CGE) in collaboration with Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality and National Prosecution Authority (NPA) conducted three public education outreaches in communities in Tzaneen, Limpopo to educate them on critical gender issues. The collaboration was also to encourage the involvement of relevant structures and stakeholders with similar objectives in promoting justice in communities and generating complaints from these communities.

This collaboration is essential for meaningful and impactful interventions, ensuring that efforts are well informed, well supported and are responsive to community issues", said Nkhensani Hlekani, CGE's public education officer in Limpopo. Issues discussed on the day also included gender-based violence and Femicide, Sexual Offences, Marriages, Divorces and separation as well as widowhood.