

# NEWSFLASH



A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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## CGE Chairperson Calls for Global Support in Caster Semenya Case



CGE chairperson Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, and Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, addressed the CGE's side event at the CSW68 in New York.

Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality, advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale expressed the Commission's disappointment over the decision by athletic authorities in Switzerland to appeal the ruling in Caster Semenya's case.

Addressing a global side meeting at the United Nations' 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, Sepanya-Mogale and the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, called on the world to show support for Caster Semenya and other female athletes facing similar discrimination as Caster has faced, "On 15 May, Caster will defend herself in the grand chamber of the European court of human rights, in a legal fight that has violated her rights to compete in athletics. We call on all countries to support this case," Sepanya-Mogale said, "Switzerland is bidding to host the winter Olympic games for 2030 while they are subjecting a young female athlete to discrimination, if Caster Semenya

then Switzerland should not host the Olympics" she added. The CSW side meeting was conducted under the theme "Gender Based Discrimination imposed by international sport bodies which promote exclusion of athletes with differences of sexual developments in sports".

Minister Zulu said Caster Semenya's court case will be fighting for younger female athletes, "She will no longer go back to competing again, this case is about seeking justice for African black girls like Caster, who will be unable to use their talents because of discriminatory laws imposed by world sport authorities" Zulu said. Speakers at the side meeting included advocate Mojankunyane Gumbi, UN Special Advisor for addressing racism in the workplace, Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, and Dr Joyce Mutinda, Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission in Kenya.



"There should be no place in international sport for discriminatory practices that impose gender injustices on female athletes" – Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng addressed the CGE's side event at the #CGECSW68.

## Commission for Gender Equality Helps TVET Colleges Fight Gender-Based Violence and Femicide



CGE's Education Officer in the North West province, Tsholofelo Sabole (far left) has conducted an outreach at various TVET college campuses since 2023.

"Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) can have multiple short-term and long-term negative consequences for survivors, including emotional and psychological consequences, such as heightened anxiety, low self-esteem, somatic symptoms, decreased concentration and low productivity". These are the words of Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)'s public education officer in the North West province, Tsholofelo Sabole addressing students on the effects that Gender Based Violence and Femicide can have on its victims and survivors. This follows the Commission's intervention to combat GBVF at TVET colleges in the province

by conducting a three-day public education program at Vuselela TVET college in two districts: Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti and Dr Kenneth Kaunda. The objective of CGE's interventions is to raise awareness on the scourge of GBVF, encourage victims to speak out and empower institutions' leadership structures to transform their policies and find ways to address gender-based violence both on and off campuses. "Often students and staff fear falling victim to GBV inside colleges, and this fear often impacts their well-being, academic functioning and progress as well as engagement in campus activities" Sabole said.

## Educating Communities on Gender Equality and Mental Health Matters



By Keletso Rampeng

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in Gauteng hosted a 'Gender Equality and Mental Health' outreach on Thursday in the Sedibeng District Municipality, at the Ratanda Multi-Purpose Centre. This was done to educate community members on issues of Gender Equality and raise awareness on Mental Health issues. Stakeholders present included the Sedibeng District Municipality, Agape, the Department of Health, Harvest Outreach and SAVF. Addressing residents, CGE's

Gauteng Provincial Manager, Khutso Monyepao, emphasized the importance of community engagement to further the mandate of the Commission.

"Commissions are established to promote, strengthen, and deepen constitutional democracy, hence the importance of collaboration for greater impact", she said, "The Commission for Gender Equality exists to promote respect for, protect, develop and attain gender equality" Monyepao added.