

# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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## Establishing Educational Programmes To Address Gender Based Violence



CGE and University of Fort Hare Delegates after the meeting

University of Fort Hare's Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention unit Director, Nonhlanhla Moyo commended the Commission For Gender Equality (CGE) for their thorough investigation into the state of shelters in South Africa. The CGE in the Eastern Cape led by Commissioner Leonashia Leigh-Anne Van Der Merwe met with director Moyo at the UFH to strengthen working relations and explore areas of cooperation particularly around GBVF prevention.

The GBVF unit at the UFH was launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, to drive GBVF campaigns at UFH, investigate gender-based violence cases reported by both students and staff, provide counseling to the GBVF survivors and victims, arrange safety home placement for the victims and conduct research to contribute to the national discourse of gender equality, gender-based violence through collaboration on research by exploring drivers of GBV in the Eastern Cape. Both institutions identified common grounds for partnership, focusing on educational programmes

addressing GBVF, with the aim to foster research and enhance awareness. Commissioner Leonashia van der Merwe further extended congratulations to the pioneering establishment of the GBV Prevention Unit. This commendation comes in light of the unit's significant strides, including the implementation of safe homes for students and staff affected by GBV, making it the first university to institutionalize such a program. Commissioner Van Der Merwe also emphasized the importance of these efforts in ensuring that the University of Fort Hare (UFH) not only supports but also embeds gender-based violence prevention within its framework.

The Director emphasized that the CGE's comprehensive report on shelters served as a crucial foundation for the development of safe homes at the university, ensuring that these spaces were established with informed guidelines and standards. "This initiative reflects the university's commitment to creating a secure and supportive environment for its community", she said.

## Addressing Human Rights and Gender Equality



CGE's Education Officer, Nkhensani Hlekane at Munghana Lonene FM in Limpopo

Commission For Gender Equality's Education Officer, Nkhensani Hlekane, spoke on 30 years of Democracy during a Documentary by Munghana Lonene FM in Limpopo. Hlekane educated listeners on Human Rights and Gender

Equality as well as the Status of Women now as compared to prior 1994. She further spoke on different rights that women enjoy such as social rights, civil rights, economic rights as well as political rights and emphasized on how access to education, employment, economy, sexual and reproductive health has significantly impacted the lives of women by empowering them to make choices, improved their well-being, and contributed to the development of society.

"There have been efforts to enhance women's access to resources for achieving gender equality and promoting sustainable development, however, more still has to be done", concluded Hlekane.

## National Conference On Human Rights in South Africa



Former CGE's Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko and Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma addressing the audience at the National Conference on Human Rights.

By: Lungelo Mesh

Former Commission For Gender Equality's (CGE) Commissioner, Ohara Ngoma-Diseko formed part of the panel that addressed critical assessment of the national human rights mechanism in day two of the Department of Justice's National Conference on Human Rights which took place in Boksburg, Johannesburg.

Commissioner Ngoma- Diseko reflected on the work that has been done by the Commission since 1996, "the 30 years of democracy, the 28 years of the Constitution of South Africa and Bill of Right, and the 28 years of the CGE are an important moment of pausing and reflecting on whether we are institutionalizing human rights as a cornerstone of our democracy. For 28 years now the CGE has contributed towards the strengthen of democracy through

its work such as public education, research and legislative initiatives addressing some of the issues faced by the citizens", she said. Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma reflected on the protection of vulnerable groups under our Constitution, "the Constitution has

done well by introducing equal rights for all, today we have access to education, health care and the law even allows us to claim for maintenance for our children, however we are still faced with challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality, these challenges affect mostly women", she said. In his keynote, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said we still have a long way to make sure that everything in the Bill of Rights is realised.

