



Commission for Gender Equality

# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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**Vision:**



An independent, constitutionally mandated organisation that pioneers and catalyses gender development and transformation.

**Mission:**



To lead, promote, protect, monitor, and evaluate gender equality through research, managing public education, policy development, legislative initiatives, and litigation.

## Parliament Turns Focus To CGE Reports on Sexual Harassment and Gender Transformation in Higher Education



Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe.

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Higher Education has raised concerns about the level of gender-based violence and sexual harassment in universities and TVET colleges. The Committee held a briefing session with

The Deputy Minister further committed that the department is going to make sure that the CGE recommendations are adhered to, "Together with CGE, we are going to engage NSFAS to discuss the impact of delayed payments on female students, where some of them have to resort to being sexually exploited to survive" she said. "We should have regular engagements with the CGE where they would update us on the progress made by DHET to ensure that institutions of higher learning implement CGE recommendations" said Committee Chairperson, Tebogole Letsie.

the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss how DHET will ensure that universities and colleges comply with gender transformation recommendations and prevent GBV. CGE presented its findings and recommendations to the Committee from the research study it conducted on sexual harassment in institutions of higher learning, and public hearings it held with universities on gender transformation in higher education institutions.

Higher Education Deputy Minister, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, said they welcomed CGE reports and believe the findings have helped the department understand the level of sexual harassment and gender-based violence in institutions of higher learning, "We are alive to the recommendations made by the CGE which includes legislative review and penalties for non-compliance with transformation imperatives, and have already started a working collaboration with the Commission to ensure compliance by institutions" she said.

**“We need intentional commitment from all parties in the higher education sector, to ensure the prevention of gender inequality and gender-based violence.”**



CGE CEO Dr Dennis Matotoka

said CGE CEO Dr Dennis Matotoka.

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# Justice Cluster Discusses Importance of Gender Responsiveness Across Criminal Justice System

By Mfundo Nomvungu and Mpelo Malebye



Commissioner Mfundo Nomvungu.

Commissioner Mfundo Nomvungu represented the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) at a high-level stakeholder engagement hosted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the lead-up to its Budget Vote in Cape Town on 09 July 2025. "During the critical engagement session, the significance of gender as a cross-cutting issue within the justice system became clear," said Commissioner Nomvungu. Discussions in the session highlighted operational conditions of Thuthuzela Care Centres as raised by the CGE, the functionality of sexual offences courts as monitored by CGE, delays in the delivery of rape kits, and the eviction of women farm workers in the Western Cape as observed by the CGE. The session also addressed the implementation of legislative measures

affecting the LGBTQIA+ community and the concerning handling of rape cases by court officials, including magistrates that the CGE has flagged.

"We noted the increased awareness and understanding across the justice cluster on how gender and sexuality influence access to justice," Nomvungu added. Also present in the session were the National Prosecuting Authority, South African Human Rights Commission, Commission for the Promotion of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, the Public Protector of South Africa, and the Special Investigating Unit. Commissioner Nomvungu said the engagement affirmed CGE's commitment to monitoring and advocating for gender equality in all spheres of governance.

# Multi-Stakeholder Ecosystem for Effective Accountability in Sexual Corruption

By Koketso Sekhu



CGE's Head of Public Education, Ms Philisiwe Gabela.

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop themed 'Sexual Corruption to Build a Multi-Stakeholder Ecosystem to Expose the Impact of Corruption on Gender Equality'. The workshop, which took place over two days (16–17 July) in Muldersdrift, Johannesburg, brought together stakeholders from various sectors to strengthen relations, align tools and co-create sustainable responses to gendered corruption.

CGE's Head of Public Education and Information, Philisiwe Gabela said the engagement was critical for shaping content that will inform advocacy campaigns, "Our contribution focused on developing targeted messaging and identifying emerging trends that highlight the link between corruption and the erosion of gender equality" she said. "Through this engagement, we aim to support a results-driven, collaborative

action plan that places education, prevention, and public accountability at the centre of efforts to combat sexual corruption" Gabela added.

Participants discussed contexts and environments within which sexual corruption occurs, and the importance of collaboration in tackling sexual corruption, "Working together creates a network of checks and balances, which strengthens prevention and enforcement mechanisms, collaboration efforts also ensure unified messaging that can help break the silence, stigma, and normalisation of sextortion" said Gabela. She added that CGE's participation in the workshop deepened its influence in shaping gender justice across sectors, "By collaborating with diverse stakeholders, the CGE enhances its monitoring essence and reinforces its commitment to rooting out sexual corruption," she explained.

# CGE Speaks on Gender Transformative Education at G20

By Tracey Gumede

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in KwaZulu-Natal participated in the recent G20 event focused on gender transformative education. The gathering which was hosted on 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Durban ICC, brought together international leaders and community voices committed to building education systems that are just, inclusive, and grounded in human rights.

CGE's Deputy Chairperson Prabashni Subrayan-Naidoo said the event created a platform that allowed participants to reimagine education through justice, dignity, and equality, "Education is not only about learning, but about shaping values that build peaceful and equal societies. Gender transformative education is key to addressing the deep inequalities in our communities and systems," she addressed the audience. The Deputy Chairperson affirmed CGE's commitment to work with all sectors to strengthen gender equality in education.

CGE's Provincial Manager Zanele Ncwane joined a panel discussion and shared five key reflections from the Commission's work in the education space. She emphasised the power of education to drive structural change, stating that, "Education must go beyond simply placing girls in classrooms. It must confront patriarchy, heteronormativity,

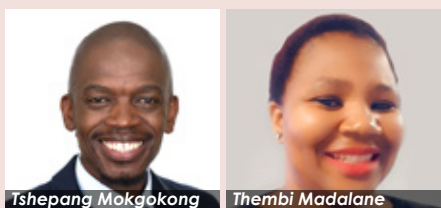
and gender-based violence," Ncwane said. She also highlighted the need for schools to be safe and supportive environments, not only in policy but in practice and called for stronger partnerships with civil society, traditional leaders, and youth, as well as clear accountability measures across the G20 and within South Africa.



## OPINION PIECE

By: Tshepang Mokgokong, Limpopo Provincial Manager and Thembi Madalane, Legal Officer.

## Challenges Faced By Women While Navigating Child Maintenance System: A violation of Human Dignity



Section 1 of the Constitution states that the Republic of South Africa is founded on the values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

Section 7 (1) (2) of the Constitution states that:

1. The Bill of Rights is a cornerstone of democracy in South Africa, enshrining the rights of all people and affirming democratic values.

2. The state must respect, protect, promote, and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights.

Section 10 of the Constitution provides for the right to human dignity:

"Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected". Human dignity is a central value of the objective established by the Constitution. The right to human dignity is the key to the fulfilment of socio-economic rights. Recognising a right to dignity is an acknowledgement of the essential worth of human beings including women who are navigating the child maintenance system. Considering the rights established by the constitution and the Maintenance Act, access to child maintenance remains a challenge for women in South Africa.

In most cases women are the primary care givers of children and therefore have to interact with the maintenance courts.

(To read the full opinion piece, visit [www.cge.org.za](http://www.cge.org.za) under Media)

**“Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.”**