



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.

CGE's Campaign to Educate Public on Gender Complaints

The Commission for Gender Equality is running a public messaging campaign to encourage members of the public who have experienced gender discrimination, to lodge complaints and enquiries with its legal department. To kickstart women's month, the Commission released a public call inviting enquiries and complaints from eligible people who may have experienced gender injustice or been unfairly discriminated against based on their gender or sexual orientation. The CGE Act 39 of 1996 empowers the Commission to investigate gender-related complaints as part of its legislative mandate.

Acting Head of Legal, Bradley Swanepoel said the Commission wants to address systemic gender-related issues that commonly affect citizens, "We are looking forward to our new approach to increase enquiries and extend our reach, while allowing us to focus on, and effectively deal with systemic issues affecting gender," he explained. The messaging campaign will run on CGE's website and social media platforms for the duration of the financial year. CGE's Communications

Manager, Sello Molekwa, said there is a need for people to be educated on CGE's mandate and services, "We want to be consistent in disseminating message that educate people about our offerings and services as a chapter 9 institution," he said.

The messaging campaign elaborated that gender discrimination and gender injustice include amongst others, sexual harassment cases that are not being resolved in the workplace, child maintenance challenges, delays of sexual assault or GBV cases in the court system, lack of support or assistance from the police or prosecutors in rape cases, domestic violence matters, intimate partner violence cases and more.



“ We have a duty to educate the public on what constitutes gender discrimination and what kind of cases should be reported to the Commission ”

Molekwa added



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Commemorating Women's Month Engagement To Honour Women: Kwa-Zulu Natal

By Tracey Gumede

The KwaZulu Natal Office of the Premier hosted a Women's Day commemoration event on Saturday, 9 August at Inkosi Mzondeni Hall in KwaMbane, uMkhanyakude as part of Women's Month activities. The KZN provincial office of the Commission participated in the commemorative event which brought together members of parliament, religious and faith-based leaders, community members, traditional leaders, women in the provincial legislature, and other key stakeholders. "Our participation in this Women's Day event demonstrated the strength of our oversight role, as we monitored the program and engaged with leaders to ensure that the voices and contributions of women are valued," said Tracey Gumede, CGE's Education Officer in the province.

On Friday, 8 August, the office had attended the second day of the Women's Day event hosted by the Provincial Legislature as part of the 2025 Women's Parliament, an annual Parliamentary sitting that takes place during Women's Month, aimed at engagement on issues pertaining to the advancement of the status of women. Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Provincial Manager Zanele Ncwane highlighted the urgent need to break down the barriers that keep women trapped in poverty and place them at a greater risk of harm. "If we do not dismantle the structural barriers that keep women in cycles of poverty and vulnerability, we will continue to see inequality deepen across generations," she said.

The Provincial deployed Commissioner, Deputy Chairperson Subrayan-Naidoo was also in attendance and showed the Commission's ongoing commitment to ensuring that women's voices and experiences are heard and acted on. "We remain

committed to holding institutions accountable and working with all partners to create a society where women's voices shape decisions and their rights are fully realized," she said.



Free State

By Leandi Esterhuizen



The Free State office supported the Independent Electoral Commission's Women's Day commemorative event on Friday, 8 August in Kroonstad. Leandi Esterhuizen, the Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Provincial Manager in the Free State province, addressed the audience on discrimination in the workplace, detailing the state of discrimination in the workplace, the country's legislative framework and the gaps as identified by the CGE.

“Workplace GBV has far reaching consequences for all in the workplace and continues to foster unsafe environments for women and men in the workplace” she said

Eastern Cape

By Nceba Mrwebo

The Eastern Cape office attended the Provincial Women's Day commemoration event that took place on Saturday, 9 August at the University of Fort Hare Sport Complex at the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality. The Commission for Gender Equality's officials, led by Commissioner Leigh-Ann Van Der Merwe interacted with stakeholders on the mandate and functions of the CGE, emphasising its oversight and monitoring role for accountability to ensure that such engagements and beyond are not futile exercises, but that they produce tangible

results in transformation and gender equality. Officials, led by the Provincial Manager, Nceba Mrwebo supplied information brochures and reports conducted by the Commission on the various societal issues that the Commission has conducted studies and held investigative hearings on. Mrwebo was pleased that the Commission was one of the institutions provided exhibition space as education and information is part of the Commission's functions into the attainment of gender equality.

Women's Parliament: Mpumalanga

By Augustine Mabuza

The Mpumalanga office of the Commission for Gender Equality, under the leadership of Commissioner HRH Eurika Mogane attended the two-day Annual Women's Parliament at Siyathemba Thusong Center, hosted by the Provincial Office under the theme "Following up on the government's commitments."

"As a Chapter Nine Institution, our role is to play an oversight duty over different departments. The oversight is based on the previous year's resolutions to assess the progress made in the implementation of these resolutions to ensure that transformation is indeed taking place", said Mogane. She further explained the powers of the CGE and its function to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise, and report on this progress, explaining how the CGE identifies systematic gaps for adequate intervention. "We implore you as women to stand up and report these cases of gender discrimination issues," said Commissioner Mogane.



Uplifting women in business: North West

By Mikateko Shipalana

The North West Office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) partnered with the Bakgatla ba Kgafela Development and Welfare and other stakeholders to host an Empowering Women in Business Engagement in response to the challenges faced by small business owners in the Moruleng area. The engagement hosted different businesses who showcased their products and services. Various departments and institutions also attended to provide support and assistance to the women attendees ranging from funding application and compliance issues.

The women heard from various speakers, including the CGE's Commissioner Mulalo Nematahene who emphasised the need for women to know and understand their basic human rights, "CGE makes recommendations on what is needed for women to equally benefit and elevate themselves, also monitoring the compliance in implementing systems and policies that cater for gender transformation across all sectors," she said.

She also spoke to the unpaid labour work of women, which often competes with and hinders women's success in businesses.

“As a Commission, we are here to support, collaborate and also hold accountable responsible parties in achieving gender equality”

she said, calling on the financing sector to begin designing gender responsive financial solutions.