



Commission for Gender Equality

**Commission for Gender Equality- Public Education and Information Message on Advancing Inclusive Child Protection and Gender Equality to Safeguard Every Child in South Africa.**

In South Africa, National Child Protection Week is observed annually from May 29 to June 5. Child Protection Week reminds us of our collective duty to safeguard the rights, safety, and dignity of children in South Africa. Our nation has made a firm commitment to a robust child protection framework, supported by legal and policy instruments like the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Children's Act 38 of 2005, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Too often, children face barriers to education, healthcare, and protection simply because of their gender. Girl children are still facing barriers in accessing equal schooling. Certain cultural norms are grooming boys away from expressing emotion, all in the pretext of indoda'yikhali. Non-binary and children living with disabilities are often left unseen in the systems that are designed to include them. Children's rights are crucial because they are a foundation for a child's well-being, development, and future. These rights ensure children are protected from harm, have access to essential resources, and have a say in decisions that affect their lives. To tackle these challenges, South Africa has implemented several key interventions. The Child Protection Units within the South African Police Service focus on investigating crimes against children, while Thuthuzela Care Centres offer comprehensive support for victims of sexual violence. The National Child Protection Register, overseen by the Department of Social Development, identifies individuals found unfit to work with children due to abuse or neglect. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) bolsters these efforts by addressing the link between gender inequality and child protection. Through public education, legal advocacy, investigations, and policy oversight, the CGE strives to eliminate gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. By integrating a gender perspective into child protection initiatives, the CGE ensures that efforts to protect children are inclusive, rights-based, and in harmony with constitutional values. As we commemorate the Child Protection Week, it is crucial to enhance collaboration across all sectors, ensuring that laws, systems, and services effectively protect every

child, regardless of their background or identity. For more information, visit our social media platforms. We are on X: @CGE\_ZA, Instagram: @cgelive and Facebook: Commission for Gender Equality.

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