



Commission for Gender Equality

Public Education and Information on October reflections, gender equality in every sphere.

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) joins South Africans and the global community in marking October as a month of reflection, awareness, and action towards advancing gender equality, health, and social justice. This month serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of women's rights, wellbeing, and empowerment. It is observed globally as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, calling attention to the importance of early detection, access to quality healthcare, and equal treatment for all women regardless of their socio-economic or geographic circumstances. Breast cancer remains one of the leading health concerns affecting women in South Africa and addressing it requires collective action that ensures no woman is left behind, particularly those in rural and underserved communities. In addition, October shines a light on significant international observations including the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, which emphasises the need to promote education, leadership, and protection for girls, the International Day and Month of Rural Women celebrated on 15 October, which recognises the resilience and contribution of rural women in sustaining households, economies, and food systems, and Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day on 30 October, which highlights the urgency of building sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive food systems. These observations share a common thread, they all underscore the need to transform our policies for a healthier and more empowered, more affirmed societies to ensure equality, dignity, and justice for women and girls in every sphere of life. They are also grounded in South Africa's obligations under key international and regional frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and 5 (Gender Equality), and the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, which collectively call for gender equality, health rights, and women's empowerment. Let us use this month to reflect on the progress made, acknowledge existing challenges, and take decisive action towards building a South Africa where gender equality is not an aspiration but a lived reality for all. To lodge a gender-related complaint send an email to legal.complaints@cge.org.za, download

the complaint form from www.cge.org.za or visit or call the CGE office in your province. For more information on the CGE follow us on X: @CGE_ZA, Instagram: @cgelive and Facebook: Commission for Gender Equality.

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