

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 North West Empowers the Phokeng Community on GBVF and Navigating Court Processes for Maintenance and Protection Orders

On 3 June 2026, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) hosted an information dissemination session in Phokeng, Rustenburg, attended by community members and civil society organisations (CSOs). The objective of the session was to empower participants with knowledge on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), while equipping them with practical tools to navigate court processes for maintenance and protection orders.

CGE Education Officer, Ms Tsholofelo Sabole unpacked the meaning of GBVF, its root causes, and its devastating impact on individuals and communities. She also highlighted the role of the CGE in promoting gender equality, raising awareness, and supporting those whose rights have been violated. Building on this foundation, the discussion flowed into practical interventions, focusing on how victims and affected individuals can seek help through the justice system.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) engaged the participants on how to navigate court processes for maintenance and protection orders, linking these legal mechanisms directly to the realities of GBVF. Participants were guided on how to access maintenance for the support of children, as well as the steps involved in applying for protection orders to safeguard themselves from abuse.

This integration of GBVF awareness with practical legal processes enabled participants to understand not only the nature of violence and inequality, but also the concrete actions they can take to protect themselves and their families.

What stood out strongly throughout the session was how knowledge was positioned as a tool for empowerment. By connecting the lived realities of GBVF with clear, step-by-step legal processes, the session moved beyond theory and gave participants a sense of agency.

It reinforced that addressing GBVF is not only about raising awareness, but also about equipping people with the confidence and practical knowledge to act, seek protection, and hold systems accountable. In this way, the engagement closed with a clear message that ending GBVF requires both understanding and action, supported by accessible institutions committed to protecting the rights and dignity of all.



North West Education Officer, Tsholofelo Sabole engaging with a participant during the session.



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CGE Conducts GBVF Capacity-Building Workshop for Healthcare Workers in Limpopo

By Malebo Nijana



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in Limpopo, in partnership with the Department of Health, is conducting a Gender and Development (GAD) training workshop for healthcare professionals in the Waterberg District.

The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of frontline healthcare workers to respond effectively to the ongoing crisis of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). Bringing together participants from healthcare facilities across the district, the workshop provides a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the development of strategies to address gaps in victim support services and legal compliance within the healthcare sector.

The training focuses on key legislative frameworks that guide the response to GBVF, with particular emphasis on

the legal definition of sexual consent and the obligations imposed by South African law. The CGE is providing guidance on the Domestic Violence Act and the Children's Act, highlighting the mandatory duty of healthcare professionals to report cases involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

Through this intervention, the CGE seeks to strengthen institutional responses to GBVF, enhance accountability, and promote the protection and dignity of vulnerable individuals within communities.

Building Safer Customary Male Initiation Practices Through Collaboration and Accountability

By Khaya Nkontso

The Chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders (ECHTKL) officially declared the 2026 Winter Customary Male Initiation Season open on 9 June 2026.

During the event, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Zolile Williams, presented statistics on fatalities and initiation-related complications recorded during the 2025 initiation seasons. According to the report, eleven

(11) deaths were recorded during the June 2025 season and twenty-nine (29) deaths during the December 2025 season, resulting in a total of forty (40) deaths for the year.

The commencement of the customary male initiation season also marks the beginning of intensified monitoring and oversight by the Department of Health, the South African Police Service (SAPS), traditional leaders, and other relevant stakeholders to promote the safety and well-being of initiates.

The engagement brought together traditional surgeons' forums, traditional nurses' forums, the Eastern Cape Men's Movement, government monitoring departments, and other key stakeholders. Discussions focused on identifying best practices, strengthening oversight and accountability mechanisms, and developing sustainable strategies to prevent initiation-related deaths and complications during future initiation seasons.

CGE Engages Traditional Leaders on Balancing Cultural Practices and Human Rights

By Lucky Mabuza

The Mpumalanga Provincial Office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted an outreach session on cultural practices and human rights at the Mandlangempisi Tribal Council in Swallowsnest, under the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality.

The cultural practices discussed included, among others, Umemulo, Funelani Nganeno, widowhood rituals, customary marriages, and inheritance. While cultural practices play an important role in preserving

traditions and cultural identity, they can sometimes conflict with human rights when certain customs are inconsistent with constitutional principles of dignity, equality, and freedom.

Participants called for more dialogues on these issues to deepen their understanding and provide opportunities for communities to contribute their views towards policy reform. Furthermore, participants emphasised the need to incorporate human rights education into Umemulo

ceremonies to raise awareness among young people and women about their rights and responsibilities.



Strengthening Gender Equality and Safe Learning Environments in TVET Colleges



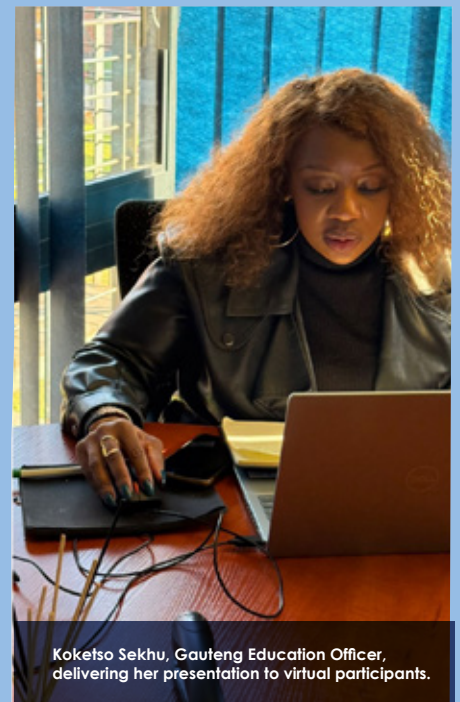
Ms Keketso Sekhu, Gauteng Education Officer, delivered a presentation on the Gender Audit Tool Report Back for TVET Colleges, covering Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni, and Western TVET Colleges.

The presentation outlined the purpose of the gender audit, which is to assess the extent to which institutions are integrating gender equality into their policies, systems, and daily operations. Key findings revealed that while many colleges have gender-related policies in place, implementation and awareness

remain inconsistent across institutions. The presentation further highlighted ongoing challenges, including gender imbalances in leadership positions, persistent gender stereotypes influencing programme choices, and concerns relating to campus safety and gender-based violence.

To address these challenges, several recommendations were proposed, including the capacitation of college principals and staff on gender mainstreaming, as well as the implementation of awareness campaigns aimed at promoting inclusivity, safety, and gender equality among students.

The session concluded by emphasising the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in advancing gender equality and fostering inclusive, safe, and supportive learning environments within TVET colleges.



Protecting Children Through Knowledge of Legal Reporting Duties



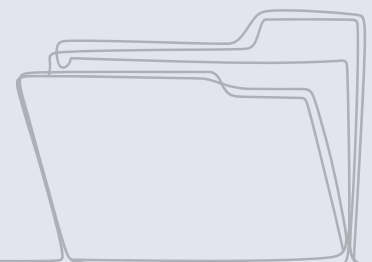
As part of its ongoing efforts to address the abuse of girls, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Mpumalanga Office conducted a workshop on the legal duty to report the abuse and/or neglect of children, as provided for in Section 110 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. The workshop was held at the Inkhaba Traditional Council in Elukwatini and targeted members of the traditional council, who are among the categories of persons identified in the Act as mandated reporters.

The workshop highlighted that any person listed in Section 110 of the Act who, on reasonable grounds, concludes that a child has been physically abused, sexually abused, or deliberately neglected is legally required to report such concerns, using the prescribed form, to a Designated Child Protection Organisation (DCPO), the provincial Department of Social Development (DSD), or a police official.

The presentation also covered Section 54 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007, which provides that:

* Any person who has knowledge that a sexual offence has been committed against a child must immediately report the matter to a police official.

* Any person who has knowledge, belief, or suspicion that a sexual offence has been committed against a person with a mental disability must immediately report the matter to a police official. The workshop reinforced the critical role of traditional leaders and community stakeholders in safeguarding children and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements aimed at protecting vulnerable members of society.



CGE Joins Constitutional Institutions to Strengthen Democracy and Accountability in Free State

By Boitumelo Zwane

On 10 June 2026, in Bloemfontein, the Forum for Institutions Supporting Democracy (FISD) convened its first quarterly engagement for the 2026/27 financial year, bringing together key constitutional institutions committed to strengthening democracy, accountability, and human rights in the Free State Province.

Representatives from various institutions, including the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Public Protector South Africa (PPSA),

the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), and the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA), participated in the engagement.

Participating institutions presented on their respective mandates, key constitutional and human rights issues affecting the province, barriers to justice and accountability, and emerging risks that threaten public trust and constitutional democracy. Institutions also shared interventions implemented within their mandates and reflected on their impact in communities across the province.



A significant outcome of the engagement was the commitment by participating institutions to strengthen collaboration through joint programmes and coordinated responses to governance and service delivery challenges. The engagement reaffirmed the importance of inter-institutional cooperation in advancing substantive equality, promoting human rights, and ensuring responsive governance that places communities at the centre of democratic development.

CGE Commissioner Addresses SALGA Women's and Youth Commissions Ahead Of 2026 Local Government Elections

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Commissioner, Ms Seehaam Samaai, accompanied by the Northern Cape Provincial Manager, Mr Solly Ngoveni, participated in the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Women's Commission and Youth Commission Seminar held in Upington, Northern Cape, on 10 June 2026.



The seminar formed part of ongoing stakeholder engagements aimed at strengthening inclusive leadership, democratic participation, and governance ahead of the Local Government Elections scheduled for 4 November 2026. The event brought

together women and youth leaders, councillors, municipal representatives, and other key stakeholders to deliberate on challenges and opportunities relating to meaningful participation in local government.

During the seminar, Commissioner Samaai presented the Commission for Gender Equality's Consultative Report on the 2024 General Elections. The report provides important insights into the status of gender representation within political parties, electoral processes, and elected leadership structures.

Addressing delegates, Commissioner Samaai emphasised that numerical representation alone is insufficient to achieve substantive gender equality. While acknowledging the progress made in increasing the representation of women in leadership positions, she stressed that meaningful participation requires women to be entrusted with decision-making authority and provided with adequate resources and budgets to execute their responsibilities effectively.

"The findings of the CGE's consultative report demonstrate that representation without power, influence, and access to resources does not necessarily translate into gender-responsive governance. Women must be positioned to exercise leadership and drive developmental priorities within local government," said

Commissioner Samaai.

She further reiterated the Commission's commitment to safeguarding democratic participation and advancing gender equality throughout the electoral process. Commissioner Samaai assured participants that the CGE will continue to monitor developments leading up to and during the 2026 Local Government Elections and will undertake investigations where necessary to ensure compliance with constitutional and legislative obligations relating to gender equality and non-discrimination.

The seminar concluded with a collective call for strengthened collaboration among government institutions, civil society, and communities to advance gender equality, empower women and youth leaders, and ensure that the upcoming local government elections contribute to more inclusive, representative, and accountable governance across municipalities.



CGE and Department of Health Strengthen Healthcare Professionals' Capacity to Respond to GBVF in Sekhukhune District

By Malebo Ntjana

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in Limpopo, in partnership with the Department of Health, successfully conducted a Gender and Development (GAD) training session for healthcare professionals in the Sekhukhune District. The initiative aimed to strengthen the capacity of frontline healthcare workers to respond effectively to the persistent challenge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). By bringing together healthcare professionals from various healthcare facilities across the district, the training provided a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the development of strategies to address systemic gaps in victim support services and legal compliance within the healthcare sector.

The workshop focused on key legislative and policy frameworks that guide South Africa's response to GBVF, with particular emphasis on the legal definition of consent and the statutory obligations of healthcare professionals. The CGE provided comprehensive guidance on the Domestic Violence Act and the Children's Act, highlighting the mandatory duty of healthcare practitioners to report cases involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

The session reaffirmed the critical role of healthcare professionals in preventing and responding to GBVF, protecting survivors' rights, and promoting a coordinated, survivor-centred approach

within the healthcare system. Through initiatives such as these, the CGE continues to work with strategic partners to strengthen institutional responses to GBVF and advance gender equality across all sectors of society.



Lesley Mogale, Limpopo Education Officer addressing participants during the GAD training workshop

Strengthening Accountability: CGE Monitors Cases Through NPA Engagement to Advance Justice in Mpumalanga

The pursuit of justice for victims of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) requires more than legislation and policy commitments—it demands vigilance, accountability, and coordinated action across the criminal justice system. Recognising the critical importance of ensuring that cases are effectively investigated and prosecuted, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) continues to play an active oversight role in monitoring matters that affect some of the most vulnerable members of society. Through strategic engagements with key justice sector stakeholders, the Commission seeks to strengthen institutional accountability, remove systemic barriers, and ensure that victims and survivors are not denied access to justice.

In this regard, Commissioner HRH Princess Erika Mogane recently led a strategic engagement with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) at the Mbombela High Court in Mpumalanga. The engagement formed part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between the NPA, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, while addressing operational challenges that may hinder the effective prosecution of gender-based violence cases.

A significant outcome of the engagement was the establishment of a dedicated 14-day feedback mechanism between the CGE and the NPA. The engagement also provided the Commission with updates on an extensive list of monitored cases across Mpumalanga, including matters originating from Schoemansdal, Tonga, Boschfontein, Kabokweni, Volksrust, Thulamahashe, Kriel, Barberton, and Kamhlushwa. Commissioner Mogane and the CGE Mpumalanga team will continue to closely monitor court dates, postponements, and outstanding prosecutorial decisions to ensure that these matters receive the necessary attention and are not lost within the system.

Another key concern raised during the discussions was the high number of case withdrawals resulting from a lack of cooperation by complainants and witnesses during investigations. This challenge continues to undermine efforts to secure justice for victims and hold perpetrators accountable. In response, Commissioner Mogane called on civil society organisations, community structures, and support networks to play a more active role in supporting victims and survivors throughout the legal process. Such support is essential to ensuring that

survivors feel safe, protected, and empowered to pursue justice.

The Commission further encouraged community members who are aware of, or involved in, active, unresolved, or improperly handled cases of gender-based violence, femicide, or statutory rape in Mpumalanga to come forward. Members of the public are encouraged to provide a CAS Number or Court Case Number, together with details of the relevant police station or court, to enable the Commission to effectively monitor and intervene where necessary. Complaints may be lodged through the Commission's complaints portal at <https://cge.org.za/complaints/>

Commissioner Mogane emphasised that strengthening accountability and closing gaps within the justice system requires a collective effort from government institutions, communities, and civil society alike. The CGE remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard, every case receives the attention it deserves, and that justice remains accessible to all.





Keketso Sekhu (third) with participants following the engagements workshop.

The Gauteng Province of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), through its Public Education and Information Department, continues to play a pivotal role in advancing gender mainstreaming and institutional transformation within higher education institutions. On 11 June 2026, the CGE successfully conducted a Gender Mainstreaming and Institutional Transformation Advisory Session at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). This session marked a significant milestone in the ongoing collaboration between the CGE and the institution. It also culminated in the formal presentation and handover of a comprehensive Implementation Plan for the 2026/2027 cycle.

The implementation plan is designed to guide the delivery of structured programmes that focus on gender

Gender Mainstreaming and Institutional Transformation Advisory Session

By Keketso Sekhu

equality and equity, institutional transformation, and advocacy, education, as well as information dissemination. The overall aim of the plan is to cultivate a safe, inclusive, and transformed institutional environment. This aligns with both national transformation priorities and TUT's internal policies.

TUT has been provided with a structured and measurable framework to guide the implementation of the plan. This framework follows a clear sequence, moving from the programme level to thematic areas, activities, outputs, outcomes, and ultimately impact. As a result, all interventions are designed to be systematic, outcome-driven, and impactful. In addition, the framework includes clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and effectiveness.

A key feature of the implementation plan is the integration of continuous radio advocacy, which ensures sustained engagement on critical

issues. These include consent and respectful relationships, GBV reporting mechanisms, mental health awareness, gender identity and inclusion, as well as student rights and institutional policies. In addition to radio programming, the plan outlines multiple methods of delivery. These include workshops, seminars, and dialogues, as well as peer education initiatives, awareness campaigns, digital platforms, and collaboration with student leadership structures.

A key feature of the implementation plan is the integration of continuous radio advocacy, which ensures sustained engagement on critical issues. The delivery of this implementation plan reflects the CGE's unwavering commitment to supporting transformation within higher education institutions. Through structured programming, strategic partnerships, and continuous monitoring, the CGE aims to ensure that institutions such as TUT become centres of excellence in gender equality, human rights, and social justice.

The CGE Meets with South African Clothing & Textile Workers Union (SACTWU) To Assess Their Response to Sexual Harassment

By Mikateko Shipalana

The South African Clothing & Textile Workers Union (SACTWU) appeared before the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) for an investigative hearing on Monday 8 June 2026, following their failure to attend the initial hearing which was scheduled for 7 May 2026. The hearing was led by the Chairperson, Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale who welcomed SACTWU delegates, led by the Secretary General, Ms Bonita Loubster, who took the oath as administered by Commissioner Seehaam Samadi. The hearing sought to establish SACTWU's processes in the handling of sexual harassment matters within the organisation informed by a complaint received by the CGE.

Presenting the analysis report, the Legal Officer, Nothemba Sonjica shared that SACTWU did not submit the requested documents for assessment by the Commission. Requested documents included employment equity plan, recruitment and selection strategy, uniform and protective clothing

policy, sexual harassment policy and breastfeeding policy, amongst others. SACTWU confirmed that they did not have a formal sexual harassment policy and had committed to have one by December 2027. SACTWU also confirmed that they currently employ the 1995 Code of Good Practice for sexual harassment disputes, despite the fact that the Code has been revised in 2022.

In response to the analysis report, SACTWU, through Ms Loubster confirmed that SACTWU had one case of sexual harassment in 2023. This case was handled through an independent body to investigate the allegations and to chair the disciplinary hearing. The chairperson recommended that the perpetrator be given a final written warning and that he apologises to the complainant, even though SACTWU argued that he should be dismissed. SACTWU further shared that their employee development does not specifically focus on race or gender, they offer leadership development



CGE and SACTWU delegates during the hearing proceedings.

training programmes and provide capacity building specifically for women's leadership development. During deliberations, Commissioners and Secretariat raised concerns and sought clarity on various matters arising from the presentation. Questions were raised on SACTWU's process for handling sexual harassment cases, the absence of a sexual harassment policy, and the timeline for its development. Additional areas of discussion included gender-diverse persons, compliance with Convention 190 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), risk assessment measures, and the implementation of COSATU's policy framework.

The Commission also raised concerns about the potential impact of policy gaps on employees' protection. While responses were provided during the hearing, SACTWU was requested to submit further written responses, which will inform the Commission's report.

Advancing Human Rights and Accountability Within the Religious Sector

Yesterday, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) met with the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) to discuss the work of the Section 22 Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee has been tasked with consulting broadly with religious organisations and stakeholders across South Africa on the development of a legislative framework aimed at strengthening accountability within the religious sector.

The CRL Rights Commission sought the CGE's support and input on areas where the mandates of the two institutions intersect, particularly in relation to the promotion of constitutional rights, equality, human dignity and the protection of vulnerable groups.

Deputy Chairperson Prabashni Subrayan-Naidoo emphasised that the purpose of these consultations has, in some quarters, been misunderstood and misrepresented. She stressed that the initiative is not an attack on religious freedom, but rather an effort to ensure that constitutional rights are protected while fostering transparency and accountability within the sector.

She noted that, over the years, religion has at times been invoked to justify practices that undermine the rights and dignity of women and other vulnerable groups. This has manifested in matters relating to marriage and divorce, hate speech, gender discrimination, and other forms of rights violations. Referring to the widely publicised case involving Timothy Omotoso, she highlighted

the serious concerns that arise when positions of spiritual authority are abused, particularly where vulnerable individuals are subjected to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, coercion or financial abuse.

The CGE will continue to engage constructively with the Section 22 Ad Hoc Committee and, once the proposed framework has been finalised, will provide guidance and input in accordance with its constitutional and legislative mandate. The Commission remains committed to ensuring that any future framework advances both the protection of fundamental rights and the strengthening of democratic accountability within the religious sector.

CGE and SAHRC Commemorate Youth Month Through Community Outreach in Postmasburg

In commemoration of Youth Month and the enduring legacy of the youth of 1976, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) joined forces to host a community outreach programme at the Newtown Community Hall in Postmasburg on 12 June 2026. The initiative sought to empower young people through information sharing, access to essential services, and meaningful engagement on the socio-economic challenges affecting their lives.

The outreach programme was led by the CGE Provincial Manager, Mr Solly Ngoveni, who facilitated constructive discussions with young people on issues ranging from unemployment and economic exclusion to access to opportunities and support services. The engagement provided an important platform for young people to voice their concerns, obtain information, and connect with institutions committed to advancing their development and well-being.

One of the key concerns raised during the engagement came from unemployed young women who expressed a desire to establish hairdressing businesses but

lacked the financial resources required to do so. Discussions further revealed that many participants had limited awareness of economic empowerment opportunities offered by institutions such as the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and the Youth Desk within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality.

As part of the programme, Mr Ngoveni met with the Executive Mayor of Tsantsabane Local Municipality, Councillor Ennglish, to discuss the concerns raised by the youth. The Mayor acknowledged the challenges facing young people and encouraged them to visit municipal offices to access information on entrepreneurship programmes, skills development initiatives, and other support mechanisms aimed at youth empowerment.

The Mayor further committed to strengthening collaboration between the municipality and the Commission for Gender Equality by ensuring the inclusion of the CGE in municipal stakeholder engagements. This commitment is expected to contribute

to the advancement of gender equality, inclusive development, and the effective mainstreaming of gender considerations within local governance processes.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work together to create sustainable opportunities for youth development, entrepreneurship, and economic participation within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality.



CGE staff at the engagement

CGE Briefs Portfolio Committee on Transport on the Experiences of Women Farm Workers

By Lesego Zungu

On 9 June 2026, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) briefed the Portfolio Committee on Transport on its report, "Do Women Reap What They Sow? The Experiences of Women Farm Workers: A Sequel (2025)."

During the briefing, Commissioner HRH Eurika Mogane highlighted the relevance of the report to the transport sector, noting that poor rural infrastructure and limited access to public transport continue to intensify the challenges experienced by women farm workers. She emphasised that transport insecurity contributes to economic exclusion, limits access to essential services and increases vulnerability to gender-based violence.

Presenting the report findings, Head of Research Dr Jamela Basani Hoveni

outlined the experiences of women farm workers across various provinces and agricultural subsectors, including sugar production, dairy farming, and the wine industry. The study found that women continue to face numerous challenges, including poor working and living conditions, gender pay disparities, limited access to resources, and barriers to economic advancement.

The presentation further highlighted transport insecurity as a significant concern. Women farm workers often face difficulties accessing safe and reliable transportation, particularly in remote rural areas. The lack of adequate transport not only affects their ability to access employment and essential services but also exposes them to heightened safety risks.

The Commission noted that, despite the existence of gender-inclusive policies and programmes, implementation gaps continue to undermine progress towards gender equality. The briefing underscored the importance of incorporating a gender-responsive approach into policy development, implementation, and monitoring across sectors.

Among its recommendations, the CGE called for strengthened gender transformation initiatives within the agricultural sector, increased investment in skills development and advancement opportunities for women, and greater collaboration between farmers and provincial transport departments to develop safer and more accessible transport solutions for farm workers.



OPINION PIECE

Men's Mental Health as a Gender Equality Imperative

By Koketso Sekhu

June marks Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, an important moment for South Africa to confront a growing yet often invisible crisis. The urgency of this issue is reflected in national statistics. According to World Health Organization (WHO), South Africa records approximately 13,774 suicide deaths annually, with about 10,861 of these being men, meaning nearly 80% of all suicides are male. Furthermore, men are estimated to be four to five

times more likely to die by suicide than women. These figures point not only to a mental health crisis, but to a profound gender disparity.

This disparity is not accidental but rooted in deeply embedded social norms that shape how boys and men are taught to experience and express emotion. Research consistently shows that dominant models of masculinity reward silence, self-reliance, and emotional

restraint, while discouraging vulnerability and help-seeking. From a young age, boys are socialised to endure hardship without complaint, an expectation that, over time, becomes both a coping mechanism and a risk factor.

Read more: <https://cge.org.za/mens-mental-health-as-a-gender-equality-imperative/>

The Invisible Burden of Financially Independent Widows

By Mable Shayi and Naledi Selebano

There is a quiet contradiction shaping the lives of many widows today. As women increasingly gain financial independence and enter the formal workforce, they are celebrated as symbols of progress. Yet, when loss strikes, the expectations placed upon them remain deeply rooted in patriarchal and cultural traditions that rarely evolve at the same pace.

For many financially independent widows, mourning is not simply an emotional process but a negotiation between grief, survival, and societal expectation. In households and communities, women are still expected to be the emotional anchors, that means caring for children, managing extended family obligations, upholding cultural rituals, and often returning to work almost

immediately. This is not resilience alone but can also be interpreted as pressure. It is the burden of performing strength while experiencing profound vulnerability.

Read more: <https://cge.org.za/the-invisible-burden-of-financially-independent-widows/>