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Commission for Gender Equality

NEWSFLASH

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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 and Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic Explore Strategic Partnership to Advance Gender Equality and Access to Justice

By Nceba Mrwebo



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Eastern Cape Provincial Office, held a strategic engagement meeting with the Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic at the CGE Eastern Cape offices. The meeting sought to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two institutions, with a particular focus on promoting gender equality, strengthening access to justice, enhancing legal referral pathways, and facilitating public education and research on gender-related issues. The primary objective of the meeting was to identify areas of mutual interest and establish a framework for collaboration between the Eastern Cape Provincial Office and the Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic. The engagement also sought to explore opportunities for joint programmes, legal support, stakeholder accountability dialogues, research dissemination, and gender equality awareness initiatives within institutions of higher learning and surrounding communities.

The Director of the Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic, Mr Paul Anthonie, outlined the mandate, functions and key programme areas of the Law Clinic. He explained that the Clinic provides legal services, including public-interest litigation and legal representation in the High Court, particularly in matters affecting communities within the OR Tambo District.

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The Law Clinic's work is organised around three principal programme areas:

- Training and Education: Providing law students with practical legal skills and experiential learning opportunities to complement their academic training.
- Research: Conducting research on key legal and policy issues to contribute to knowledge generation and inform legal and policy development.
- Litigation: Representing clients in legal matters, particularly those arising within the OR Tambo District, with a focus on advancing access to justice.

The presentation provided a basis for identifying areas in which the mandates and institutional capacities of the two organisations could complement each other and based on this the Provincial Manager of the CGE Eastern Cape Office, Mr Nceba. Mrwebo, and Mr Anthonie highlighted several areas in which the two institutions could work together.

The institutions identified opportunities to conduct joint awareness-raising programmes on gender equality and related human rights issues within institutions of higher learning. These initiatives could address gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), sexual harassment, and other violations of gender rights affecting students and university communities. Additionally, the meeting emphasised the importance of establishing effective referral pathways between the two institutions. Such arrangements would facilitate the appropriate referral of matters requiring legal assistance, gender-related complaints and other interventions falling within the respective mandates of the CGE and the Law Clinic.

The meeting explored the possibility of collaborating on matters requiring strategic litigation relating to gender equality and human rights. Mr Anthonie indicated that the Law Clinic would welcome opportunities to work with the CGE in this area, subject to the respective institutional mandates, legal requirements and internal approval processes. He further indicated that the Law Clinic has access to a panel of attorneys, including practitioners associated with the Black Lawyers Association, who may be available to provide pro bono support in appropriate legal matters. This presents a potential opportunity to explore legal support for suitable cases without additional legal costs to the CGE, subject to confirmation of the applicable arrangements and the availability of the relevant practitioners. Mr Anthonie undertook to facilitate engagements between the CGE and other university law clinics, including those at the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University and Nelson Mandela University. This proposed network could broaden the geographical reach of joint gender equality programmes and strengthen collaboration between the CGE and academic institutions across the Eastern Cape.

Based on this the Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic and the Eastern Cape Provincial Office resolved the following;

- Draft Memorandum of Understanding: A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be prepared and shared with both institutions for consideration by their respective senior management structures.
- Joint Awareness Programmes: The institutions will explore opportunities to collaborate on gender equality awareness and education initiatives within institutions of higher learning.
- Referral Mechanisms: The parties will consider appropriate arrangements to strengthen referral pathways for matters falling within their respective mandates.
- Research Dissemination: The CGE will explore opportunities to share its published research with the Walter Sisulu University community through relevant academic and public engagement platforms.
- Stakeholder Accountability Dialogues: The institutions will consider joint participation in or the organisation of dialogues addressing gender equality, access to justice and institutional accountability.
- Legal Support and Strategic Litigation: The parties will explore opportunities for collaboration on suitable gender equality matters requiring legal intervention, subject to applicable legal and institutional approval processes.
- Engagement with Other Universities: Mr Anthonie will facilitate opportunities for the CGE to engage with other university law clinics, including those at the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University and Nelson Mandela University.
- Sharing of Invitations: Both institutions will share invitations to relevant programmes and activities to strengthen participation and institutional cooperation.
- Access to University Venues: The CGE may approach the Law Clinic to request access to university venues at no cost, subject to availability and the necessary arrangements being made in advance.

The meeting marked an important step towards establishing a mutually beneficial working relationship between the CGE Eastern Cape Office and the Walter Sisulu University Law Clinic. The proposed collaboration has the potential to strengthen gender equality education, improve access to justice, support research dissemination and enhance institutional accountability.

CGE Champions Inclusion of Persons with Albinism

The North West Provincial Office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)participated in an engagement convened by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD). The engagement was on the Albinism National Action Plan Workshop, held in Rustenburg from 27 to 28 October 2026. The Commission was represented by Commissioner Kamohelo Teele and Ms Joyce Khutsoane, who played a technical and strategic role in the proceedings. The purpose of the workshop, from the CGE's perspective, was to strengthen its role in promoting equality, advancing the rights of persons with albinism and ensuring that the outcomes of the Action Plan are effectively integrated into its monitoring and advocacy programmes.

The engagement will assist the CGE in enhancing its capacity to address discrimination, strengthen collaboration with government and civil society partners, and ensure that persons with albinism are included in broader gender equality discourse. For other stakeholders, the workshop provided a platform to share best practices, align strategies and strengthen networks of support, thereby contributing to a more coordinated and impactful national response to the challenges faced by persons with albinism.



CGE and SAHRC Take Human Rights Education to the Mjindini Community in Barberton

Sandile Useni

The Mpumalanga Provincial Offices of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) collaborated on a community outreach session at the Mjindini Traditional Council in Barberton. The session focused on gender equality, access to information, fair administrative action and the rights of older persons. It aimed to empower community members with knowledge of their rights and strengthen their engagement with Chapter 9 institutions.

The session provided a platform for community members to learn about their human rights, understand the mandates of participating institutions and engage on issues affecting their daily lives. The CGE presented on the mandate and work of the Commission, emphasising the importance of promoting gender equality, challenging gender discrimination and advancing the rights of women, particularly within traditional communities. Other participating institutions included the Public Service Commission, the Department of Employment and Labour, and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), which shared information about their respective mandates and roles in promoting accountability, justice and the protection of human rights.

The CGE presented on the mandate and work of the Commission, emphasising the importance of promoting gender equality, challenging gender discrimination and advancing the rights of women.

The outreach reaffirmed the importance of collaboration among Chapter 9 institutions and other public bodies in bringing human rights education closer to communities and ensuring that residents are informed about where to seek assistance when their rights are violated.

CGE and Limpopo Department of Health Strengthen Workplace Protection and GBVF Response

Lesley Mogale



On 22 October 2026, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Limpopo Office, in partnership with the Department of Health, conducted a Gender and Development (GAD) training session for healthcare and administrative personnel, focusing on Sexual Harassment in the world of work and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). Grounded in the Code of Good Practice and ILO Convention 190 (C190), the workshop addressed internal workplace vulnerabilities where rigid medical hierarchies and fear of victimization often prevent junior staff, interns, and community health workers from reporting harassment. The CGE emphasized the department's legal obligation to enforce a zero-tolerance environment by establishing confidential grievance procedures and mandatory management sensitization to protect its workforce.

Simultaneously, the training reinforced the clinical and legal responsibilities of frontline practitioners dealing with community-level GBVF. Personnel reviewed victim support protocols to eliminate secondary trauma, with heavy emphasis placed on the flawless completion of Form J88 to prevent the collapse of sexual offense cases in court. Practitioners were strictly reminded of their statutory reporting mandates under the Domestic Violence Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Moving forward, the Department of Health must immediately audit its internal anti-harassment policies, integrate these protocols into standard staff inductions, and expand employee wellness programmes to support staff dealing with secondary trauma.

“Good Men, We See You, Now Rise Up!” | Launch of Positive Masculinity Programme



Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Commissioner HRH Princess Eurika Mogane joined government leaders, traditional authorities, and civil society at the Elshaddai Praise Centre in Ermelo, Mpumalanga, for the official launch of the National Positive Masculinity Campaign. The high-level programme was led by the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga, and the Acting Premier of Mpumalanga, MEC for Social Development Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe.

Convened under the rallying theme “Real Men & Boys Build, Protect and Transform,” Commissioner Princess Eurika Mogane delivered a hard-hitting Message of Support from the podium. She grounded her address in the CGE's constitutional oversight mandate to ensure accountability across both government departments and the GBVF Council, underscoring that accountability must be matched by proactive, community-rooted partnership.

In her address, Commissioner Mogane addressed key pillars vital to redefining masculinity and driving sustainable change:

Building, Protecting, and Transforming:

In alignment with the campaign theme, she emphasized that genuine strength is demonstrated through constructive action, not dominance. Men and boys are called to build healthy families grounded in mutual respect, protect their loved ones and peers through active allyship rather than silence, and transform social norms by dismantling normalized violence.

Dispelling Destructive Generalisations:

Society must urgently discard the counterproductive narrative that “all men are the same.” Commissioner Mogane stressed the vital importance of actively highlighting and amplifying the voices, presence, and leadership of good men.

Shared Progress, Not Competition:

The rise of women does not mean the fall of men. Gender equality is a shared journey where empowering women creates stronger, more resilient families and communities.

Living Examples for Young Boys:

Young boys in our homes and communities are watching closely. They will not simply follow what men preach; they will emulate what men do. Good men carry the solemn responsibility of walking the talk every day.

Reclaiming the Narrative Through Action:

Good men must refuse to let the rot of bad actors paint everyone with the same brush. Commissioner Mogane urged men to actively author their own stories through established Men's Forums, scaling their impact with the institutional backing of the Department.

Challenging men to stand firm at the forefront of the fight against gender-based violence, Commissioner Mogane concluded with a firm call to action:

“Good men, we see you and we refuse to allow others to silence you. So let's work together to ensure that your voices, leadership, and work are seen and felt. Let's face these perpetrators head-on while making a powerful change.”

CGE participated in Discussions on the Protection and Promotion of Indigenous Peoples' Rights at the 89th ACHPR Ordinary Session in Dakar, Senegal



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) attended the 89th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), held from 12–21 October 2026 in Dakar, Senegal. As part of its participation in the session's side events, CGE Commissioner Dr Charnell Naidu engaged with representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) at a workshop on the role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Africa. Indigenous Peoples across Africa continue to experience serious and persistent human rights violations, including inadequate recognition as distinct rights holders, dispossession of ancestral lands and natural resources, and forced displacement. Furthermore, they experience discrimination, limited access to lifesaving remedies, and insufficient respect for their right to Free-Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in decisions affecting their territories, livelihoods and ways of life. Through its standard-setting, promotional, protective and interpretative mandates, the ACHPR played a central role in clarifying the application of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

National Human Rights Institutions play a critical role in bridging the gap between human rights commitments and their implementation at the national level. This is through complaints investigations, monitoring visits, national inquiries, policy advocacy, engagement with Indigenous communities and strategic litigation. NHRIs contribute to strengthening accountability and advancing the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Many Indigenous Peoples had been evicted and dispossessed of their land, undermining the knowledge systems through which they had sustained life. This negatively affected their livelihood systems and deprived them of their resources. Their continued existence was therefore placed under serious threat as they faced poverty and destitution.

Women generally occupy multiple marginalised positions, while Indigenous women faced further intersecting forms of discrimination because of their indigenous identity. Indigenous women and girls experienced additional discrimination as a result of customary practices that prevent women from inheriting land and participating in decision-making processes. These restrictive cultural practices contribute to low levels of education and limited economic opportunities for women and girls, further exacerbating their hardships and trapping them in cycles of poverty.

On the margins of the workshop, the CGE engaged with Commissioner Petua of the Equal Opportunities Commission (Uganda), Ms Sofie Hansen, Human Rights and Sustainable Development Advisor (Denmark), Mr Mompati Setlhabi, Chief Legal Investigator in the Office of the Ombudsman (Botswana), and the Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), Mr Chris Niesen. These engagements provided an opportunity to foster institutional dialogue, exchange experiences and lessons, and explore opportunities for collaboration to address shared human rights challenges and strengthen effective institutional practices.

CGE Participates in Dialogue on Sexual Corruption and Legal Reform

By Lesego Zungu



On 21 October 2026, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Gauteng Provincial Office, in collaboration with the Gendered Corruption Action Network (GCAN) and its partners, participated in an engagement titled "From Dialogue to Action: Debating Sexual Corruption Legal Reform." The engagement brought together stakeholders from government, civil society and legal institutions to discuss the challenges of addressing sexual corruption, the need for legal reform and the role of institutions in promoting accountability. The programme included a debate on whether South Africa should introduce a specific criminal offence of sexual corruption, followed by a fishbowl discussion examining legal gaps, survivors' experiences, abuse of authority and barriers to accessing justice

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Representing the CGE, Gauteng Public Education and Information Officer Koketso Sekhu highlighted the CGE's role in collaborating with like-minded institutions and relevant government departments to strengthen oversight and accountability, particularly in higher education institutions. She emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement, public information and information dissemination to promote education and awareness of sexual corruption.

The engagement also explored the social norms that contribute to the normalisation and underreporting of sexual corruption. During the World Café discussions, participants identified the need for stronger reporting and referral mechanisms, institutional policies, public awareness initiatives and training for responders, prosecutors and magistrates. The importance of protecting victims from secondary victimisation and challenging harmful gender and social norms was also emphasised. The discussions reinforced that addressing sexual corruption requires more than legal reform. It calls for coordinated action across government, educational institutions, civil society, the media and the private sector to challenge the abuse of power, strengthen institutional responses and protect those who come forward.

CGE Attends the Launch of the 2026 Local Government Elections Results Operations Centre

By Tracey Gumede



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office attended the launch of the 2026 Local Government Elections Results Operations Centre, held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) on 30 October 2026. The launch brought together the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), government representatives and other stakeholders to provide an update on preparations for the elections and the measures put in place to safeguard the integrity, transparency and security of the electoral process.

As part of these preparations, the IEC outlined various measures aimed at strengthening election administration, including improvements to voter management, queue optimisation, results capturing and verification, as well as the introduction of a Virtual Results Operations Centre. Particular emphasis was placed on transparency, with political parties and other stakeholders afforded opportunities to observe different stages of the process, including the capturing and verification of results. In addition, the South African Police Service outlined the security measures in place to protect voting stations, election materials and the results process, highlighting the importance of cooperation among stakeholders in maintaining a peaceful electoral environment.

The presentations also highlighted the scale of the electoral process in KwaZulu-Natal, which has over 6 million registered voters across 5 028 voting stations, making it the second-largest province nationally in terms of registered voters. A total of 26 633 candidates are contesting the elections, comprising 17 565 male candidates (66%) and 9 068 female candidates (34%). These figures are particularly relevant to the CGE's interest in gender equality and political participation, as the representation of women in electoral processes and positions of political leadership remains an important consideration in assessing equality in democratic participation.

> *"The representation of women in electoral processes and positions of political leadership remains an important consideration in assessing equality in democratic participation."*

It is against this backdrop that the CGE's participation in the launch was particularly important. In fulfilling its constitutional mandate to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality in South Africa, the CGE has an oversight duty in ensuring that electoral processes uphold the principles of equality, non-discrimination and inclusion. This involves looking at more than just, whether people can cast their votes; it also requires consideration of whether everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process, including women, gender-diverse individuals, persons with disabilities and other groups who may experience barriers to political participation.

The information shared during the launch provided the CGE with insight into the IEC's operational preparations and the measures being implemented to promote credible elections. It also reinforced the importance of independent oversight in assessing whether these processes are accessible and inclusive. Through election observation, the CGE examines the electoral environment, paying attention to possible barriers, discriminatory practices and other factors that may affect people's ability to exercise their democratic rights freely and equally. This forms part of the Commission's broader responsibility to promote accountability and ensure that gender equality remains a consideration in democratic processes.

Ultimately, the credibility of an election is not measured only by the integrity of the results, but also by whether all people have an equal opportunity to participate, have their voices heard and contribute to decisions that shape their communities.