



Commission for Gender Equality  
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

**PRESENTATION TO PORTFOLIO  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN YOUTH  
& PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**

**Commission for Gender Equality  
15 July 2020**



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## OUR MANDATE

According to the Commission on Gender Equality Act (No. 39 of 1996):

CGE **must:**

### **a. Monitor, evaluate and make recommendations, on**

- policies and practices of organs of state, statutory bodies and functionaries, public bodies or private businesses, to promote gender equality.
- any existing law, including indigenous law and practices.
- government's compliance with international conventions with respect to gender equality.

### **b. Propose/recommend**

- new law that may impact on gender equality or the status of women.



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## **OUR MANDATE - 2**

### **c. Develop, conduct or manage**

- Educational strategies and programmes that foster understanding about gender equality and the role of the CGE

### **d. Investigate and resolve conflicts**

- On gender matters and complaints, through mediation, conciliation and negotiation, or referral to other institutions

### **e. Liaise and interact**

- With institutions, bodies or authorities with similar objectives to the Commission.
- With any organisation which actively promotes gender equality and other sectors of civil society to further the objects of the Commission



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## OUR MANDATE - 3

### f. Prepare and submit reports.

- To Parliament on aspects relating to gender equality;

### **In addition, the CGE may:**

- Conduct or order research to be conducted;
- Consider recommendations, suggestions and requests from any source.



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

Across every thematic area led by Commissioners from health; gender based violence, economic empowerment; culture tradition and religion, the impacts of Covid -19 is exacerbated and in order to look into these intersecting issues in a systemic way the Commission has planned an internal Webinar that will assist in ensuring that a holistic approach is taken and specific programmes to be monitored; stakeholders to engage with are agreed upon.

There will however be No immediate impact of APP activities but for intersectionality of gender, the Country is faced with three pandemics, namely; COVID 19; GBV and Femicide and Inequality



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## IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY

Narrative suggests that domestic abuse is increasing during the crisis, with large rises in calls to helplines and reports that domestic violence have more than doubled. Women, children and LGBTIQ+ are more likely to experience violence, domestic abuse. Due to conflicting statistics around domestic abuse and GBVF during this period the Commission will be obligated to undertake and investigation/research to verify the existing statistics available.

This would mean that the Commission will be in a position to release the findings and recommendations relating to the current narrative of GBV and femicide. The ultimate goal will be to inform Policy initiatives on data collection and verification strategies. This means the CGE will pronounce on validity and reliability of existing data.



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## IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY

This crisis is likely to expose many of the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by vulnerable groups. We are aware of concerns that women are not able to access basic sexual reproductive health and rights services. This may force the Commission to investigate and monitor closely access to SRHR.

Emerging evidence indicates that coronavirus and the response to it disproportionately affects a large majority of SA population deemed to be poor, including frontline healthcare workers, majority of whom is women. The majority of south African population are over-represented in low-paid and so this will be disproportionately impact. There has been media reports that surface lack of PPE for frontline workers and healthcare workers and this is likely to impact on covid-19 cases, this would mean the commission may have to undertake investigation on perceived lack of PPE for healthcare frontline workers.



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## IMPACT ON MANDATE

There will be pressures on the services of the CGE to address these challenges

The budget reduction will impact on sustainability and ability to adequately respond. Despite, in the immediate term, focus on the below themes will be undertaken through every means available; Working with Boys and men on issues of socialisation , violence, circumcision, etc.

Heightening and consolidating Research and/or harnessing the vast data generated by various organisations in the country. The links and impacts of alcohol, the pandemic and other variables to the scourge of GBV and Femicide must be authoritatively dealt with by the CGE....Both internal and external dialogues are planned as part of activities to be undertaken from August 2020. This will culminate to a comprehensive intervention seeking to settle the 3 pandemics as stated.



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## POSSIBLE STAFF INFECTIONS

The Commission staff is not immune to Covid -19 infections. Currently the following offices have been impacted by Covid-19

Eastern Cape

Gauteng

Free State

Western Cape

Northern Cape

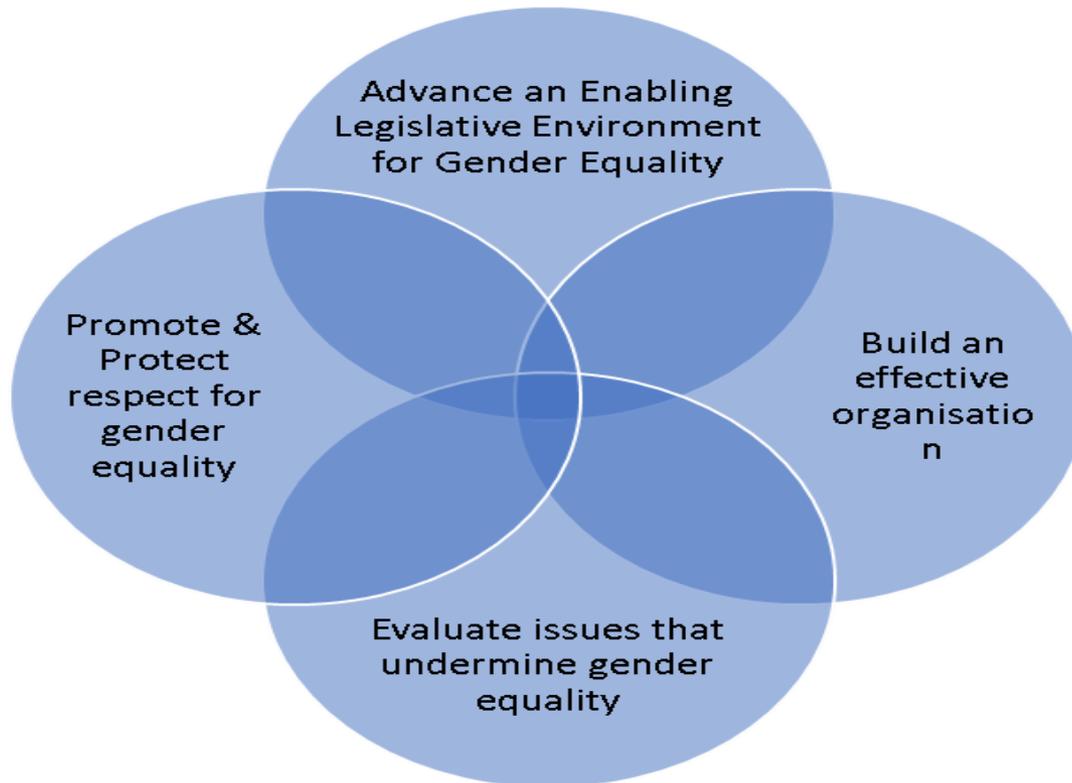
These offices will intermittently closed for deep sanitations and possible isolation of staff.

The Commission endeavour to continue to carry out the mandate of the Commission to the best of our ability under the current status



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## **OUR STRATEGIC PLAN: 4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**





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## Summary of key programmes

**1. CEDAW & Beijing**

**2. SDGs**

Goal 5 – equality and empowerment and relevant Goals for VNR

**3. ACHPR**

**Maputo Protocol**

**4. Gender  
Mainstreaming**

**5. Status Report on  
GBV**

**6. Material  
development**

**7. Radio Programme**

**8. Transformation in  
TVET Colleges  
and follow-ups**



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## Summary of Key programmes

**10. Transformation Hearings -Public and Private Sector**

**11. Follow –up on Recommendations previous years Reports**

**12. Shelters**

**13. Systemic Investigations**

**14. A status report on the country's response to addressing and combatting GBV.**

**15. Assessment of Emergency Response Plan**

**16. Assessment of Gender Responsive budgeting framework**

**17. Traditional male circumcision & Fatherhood and the Rights of fathers**



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## Other programmes

**18. Submissions on new and existing legislation**

**19. Legal and outreach clinics**

**20. Media campaigns**

**21. Report on Submissions**

**22. Complaints handling & Litigation**

**25. Organisational competency**

- Performance
- Behaviours to represent CGE values
  - Teamwork
  - Professionalism

**23. Policy dialogues**

**24. PEI programmes**



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## **PROGRAMMES IMPACTED BY COVID-19**

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

- Each province has to identify two municipalities that they will be working with
- Due to restrictions and social distancing, meetings with the municipalities will be conducted virtually. On Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams and other platforms
- Requests for IDPs will be in writing, analysis will be done for assessing whether IDPs are mainstreamed
- Reports on findings will be communicated in writing and through virtual meetings
- Sharing of information in GM will be done through webinars



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## **IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON PROGRAMMES**

### **Stakeholder engagements**

- Each province will host virtual meetings through Webinars to organise the stakeholder engagement
- A need to utilise telephony to reach CBOs on the ground
- Webinars will be used to host a stakeholder engagement
- Recording of the stakeholder engagement will be shared with participants
- The Commission will also have to explore tele conferencing where stakeholders have difficulty accessing data an/ or are unable to access virtual meetings



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## **Commission's Response to Implication of Covid-19... PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**

### **Outreach, advocacy and legal clinics**

- Will be conducted through the use of Community radio
- These will be procured through GCIS
- Focus for this quarter is on GBV- DVA and SOA
- Script is drafted that will be used in provinces to ensure uniformity of messaging

The Commission has a signed MoU with SABC Foundation & Education. Through engagements the Commission will procure slots in all official languages for outreach, advocacy and legal clinics.



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## Commission's Response to Covid-19... Possible Radio Stations

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ukhozi Fm            | iSizulu              |
| 2. Umhlobo Wenene Fm    | iSiXhosa             |
| 3. Lesedi Fm            | Sotho                |
| 4. Motsweding Fm        | SeTswana             |
| 5. Munghana Lonene Fm   | Xitsonga             |
| 6. Phalaphala Fm        | Tshivenda            |
| 7. Thobela Fm           | Sepedi               |
| 8. Ikwekwezi Fm         | Isindebele           |
| 9. Ligwalagwala Fm      | IsiSwati             |
| 10. Radio Sonder Grense | Afrikaans            |
| 11. Tru Fm              | English and iSiXhosa |
| 12. X-K Fm              | Xhun and Kwe!        |



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# Thank you for your time

***HAVE A GENDER RELATED COMPLAINT ?????***

***REPORT IT TO***

***0800 007 709***

***Twitter Handle @CGE\_ZA***