



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

Media Statement by the Commission for Gender Equality: Xenophobic Attacks

As the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), we are concerned by the incessant violence. We there find government's response inadequate. We caution against the use of labels that could obscure the use of multiple factors. Once the attack has been on foreigners (Xenophobic attack), we find it difficult to comprehend as these people have been living together side by side for a decade. What triggers or the root cause of these acts of violence is still a mystery that still needs to be unravelled. Finding the underlying factors in these attacks will, therefore enable the CGE to come with strategies and intervention in addressing the issue.

The CGE notes with concern the attacks on vulnerable people (women, children, pregnant women elders). They conditions in which they find themselves are appalling and constitutes to forced removal. The CGE calls for appropriateness in making statement to ensure that people are not further traumatized. We appeal to the Heads of the Judiciary and the Department of Justice to set up special courts and extra-ordinary courts in order to assist in fast -tracking the cases against perpetrators of rape. This process will ensure that the victims can have justice have access to justice without further delays.

We insist that the South African Police Services (SAPS) bear the responsibility to defend all human beings, if necessary Special Services must be utilised to reinforce the SAPS including the arm of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), that is adequately trained for peace keeping not to favour the traumatised people or create a state of panic, but to assist the SAPS in restoring calm.

We also call on political parties not to misuse the situation for their short-sightedness gains. We also request political and community leaders to act responsibly in protecting the dignity of all human beings. It is time for us to move beyond rhetoric and near statement condemning the attacks.

We are calling all citizens to action to stop the violence and commit to the protection of all our communities

Issued by: Javu Baloyi
083 579 3306

Spokesperson,
Commission for Commission Equality