



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

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **GENDER COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP HOLDS WOMEN'S COURT IN KHATU, NORTHERN CAPE**

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) joins the country as it celebrates and honour women of all ages, status and other persuasions during this month (August), which has been set aside to take stock of women's development and achievements, through various activities.

In response to a myriad of issues that contribute to stymied progress for, and development and well-being of most women, the CGE, in partnership with AnCRA, intends to hold a *Women's Court* on 12-13 August 2008 in Kathu Kgalagadi Region, in the Northern Cape. In the region, the high rate of gender-based violence seems to be interconnected with abuse of drugs and alcohol.

The planned *Women's Court* is intended to empower and create awareness on different legislation that enable women to gain access to the Justice system. It will feature a panel of experts whose comprising of national, provincial and local leaders from various institutions. Topics to be discussed include maintenance, widowhood, illegal farm evictions and HIV/AIDS. It is expected that survivors and victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as well as other forms of discrimination will give testimonies during the event.

The event also comes with the background that, despite the gains made in South Africa in advancing the status and conditions of women, their rights continue to be undermined in all spheres of society. Gender inequality, HIV/AIDS, and untransformed economic and justice systems continue to deter progress and the well-being of most women.

With regret and dismay, the CGE has further noted the increasing number of cases of GBV, particularly against women. This pattern poses a great threat to a democratic state such as ours. The conspicuously poor response of our government regarding issues that affect women and children, such as gender inequality, health, safety, current energy crises and access to justice, remains serious challenges in South Africa today.

We believe that many women, especially in the poor rural areas, cannot celebrate this month because they have been failed by the government on service deliver, more so in their strife to seek justice and restoration of their rights and dignity.

Along with our key partners, the CGE is driven to raise levels of awareness on issues of gender equality.

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