

# **Gender Education Advocacy Program**

## **Project Rationale**

Twenty years into democracy, South Africa has made great strides in reforming laws and policies that prohibited women's full participation in all social, economic and political spheres. These range from the development of a constitution which articulates equality for all persons to the establishment of Chapter Nine institutions which serve to guard against historical injustices and promote human rights for all in the country. The Constitution enshrines the right to equality, equal protection and benefit before the law, and to non-discrimination. South Africa is also signatory to a number of international conventions, declarations, regional charters and protocols which aim to address inequalities and ultimately achieve gender equality, and which the state is obliged to implement. Notwithstanding the plethora of legislation women have not advanced as rapidly in terms of socio economic empowerment and gender equality and the National Development Plan (NDP, 2030), identifies women as the most affected by inequality, poverty and unemployment. In 2014, a new Department for Women (DOW) was established with a mandate for advancing the socio- of women and the promotion of gender equality through oversight, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. In 2015, the DOW finalised its strategic plan, and needs support from all players for its implementation.

## **Geographical Coverage**

Township (Daveyton)

## **Focus**

Gender Equality (South African Constitutional Right and SDG (Sustainable Development Goal 5

## **Role Players**

Leaders in Advocacy for Gender Equality and the society at large. A multi-player approach needs to be adopted to ensure for equality in our life time.

## **Dictionary**

### **Discrimination**

Means any distinction, exclusion or restriction which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullify the recognition, enjoyment or exercises, by any person of human rights, and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

### **Equality**

Means state of being equal in terms of the enjoyment of rights, treatment, quantity or value, access to opportunity and outcomes, including resources.

### **Gender Based Violence**

Means all acts perpetrated against women, men, girls and boys on the basis of their sex which cases or could cause them physical, sexual, psychology, emotional or economic harm, including the threat to take such acts, or to undertake the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on or deprivation of fundamental freedoms in private or public life in peace time and during situations of armed or other forms conflict.

### **Gender Equality**

Means the equal enjoyment of the rights and the access to opportunities and outcomes, including resources by women, men, girls and boys.

### **Gender Equity**

Means the just and fair distribution of benefits rewards and the opportunities between women, men, girls and boys.

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

Means the process of identifying gender gaps and making women, men's, girls and boys.

### **Gender Sensitive**

Means acknowledging and taking into account the specific gender needs of both men and women at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Gender Stereotypes**

Means the beliefs held about characteristics, traits and activity domains that are deemed appropriate for women, men, girls and boys based on their conventional roles both domestically and socially.

## Gender-Based violence

Refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue.

## **Issues we would want to confront or address in the Masterclass Are as follows**

- (1) Identify micro-inequalities or instances of unconscious bias caused by lack of knowledge in our communities.
- (2) South Africa is said to have the highest statistics of gender-based violence in the world, including rape and domestic violence, how do we all as a community collectively work towards changing this and what mechanisms can be explored.
- (3) How can the Commission of Gender Equality enable us to develop thriving communities free of discrimination?
- (4) What are the failures of the commission and what interventions should corporates, individuals and leaders of society play in bridging that gap?
- (5) What resources do you have to help victims of gender based violence?
- (6) How do we finance sustainable initiatives for Gender Based Violence?

## **We hope these educational campaigns can**

- Educate society to acknowledge changing gender norms
- Educate people on how to create gender equity as a Democratic Norm
- Establishing platforms that ensure conversations are being had and curriculum is developed to ensure that people are constantly developed in how to interact in spaces of gender equity
- Establish Accounting Metrics which will govern gender norms and the unlearning of perpetual structures that undermine gender transformation and tolerance.

### Resources that we will need

- Venue for 30 that also allows for social distancing
- Meals for the 30 guests
- Speakers (CGE)
- Speaker (Stakeholder) Community Initiative/ Youth Initiative
- Speaker (Social Development)

### **Emergency Contact Numbers:**

- GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / \*120\*7867 from any cellphone People with disabilities, SMS 'help' to 31531
- Childline: 0800 055 555
- South African Police Service (SAPS) Crime Stop: 08600 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211
- National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322
- National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777
- Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150
- Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567