

# PRO BONO & HUMAN RIGHTS ALERT

9 DECEMBER 2022



CLIFFE DEKKER HOFMEYR

INCORPORATING  
KIETI LAW LLP, KENYA

## IN THIS ISSUE

**The annual 16 Days Of Activism: A time to reflect, a time to take action**

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign that runs annually from 25 November to 10 December. The campaign is supported by the United Nations and this year, the UN marked the 16 Days of Activism under the theme "UNiTE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls". The importance of this period is globally recognised, with several countries pursuing their own events and campaigns raising awareness for and supporting the fight against gender-based violence. Every year, the South African Government launches a 16 Days of Activism campaign under a theme that responds to the realities of South Africa.



FOR MORE  
INSIGHT INTO  
OUR EXPERTISE  
AND SERVICES

## The annual 16 Days Of Activism: A time to reflect, a time to take action

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign that runs annually from 25 November to 10 December. The campaign is supported by the United Nations and this year, the UN marked the 16 Days of Activism under the theme "UNiTE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls". The importance of this period is globally recognised, with several countries pursuing their own events and campaigns raising awareness for and supporting the fight against gender-based violence. Every year, the South African Government launches a 16 Days of Activism campaign under a theme that responds to the realities of South Africa.

This year, the campaign has the theme "Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women's Resilience against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!". The theme aims to expose society's unequal ownership of the economy, which increases women's susceptibility to abuse. This year's campaign aims to address the barriers women face in accessing the economy through providing platforms for women to connect and contract. According to the Government Communication and Information System, economic empowerment is one of the most powerful routes for women to achieve their potential and advance their rights, as it promotes women's ability to reduce household poverty, hunger, and food insecurity, as well as reducing the heightened levels of inequalities they face daily. The objective of the theme is also to break the bonds of dependent women in abusive relationships, as the absence of social and economic power makes it even more difficult for women to detach themselves from abusive relationships.

### 2022 THEME

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Department) led the launch event, which took place on 25 November 2022 at the Johannesburg Expo Centre. The event took the form of a Women Trade Expo, where hundreds of women-owned businesses from across South Africa were brought together to showcase their products and services, to connect with buyers, and to collaborate and network with other women in business. There were also several informative breakaway sessions throughout the day.

The Minister for the Department, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, highlighted in her speech at the event the various programmes that have been implemented throughout 2022 under this year's theme of the social and economic empowerment of women. These programmes include: the Provincial Summits on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide between September and



**PRO BONO &  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

## DEDICATED TO MAKING AN IMPACT

Whilst it's always rewarding to receive recognition, the greatest reward is knowing we are making a difference in the lives of many.

CDH Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice, ProBono.Org Awards 2021 winner of the highest number of pro bono hours in 2020, the Large Firm award for 2020 and a Special Mention for the many years of work on the Jose Brothers case.

**From powerful partnerships come powerful results.**

 ProBono.Org®

**The legal partner for your business.**

## The annual 16 Days Of Activism: A time to reflect, a time to take action

CONTINUED

October, the Second Women's Economic Assembly in October, the Second Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in November, and the ongoing work which the Department is engaged in with women in the green economy, focusing on economic opportunities in waste management. She stated that the intention throughout this year has been to make linkages between building women's resilience through socio-economic empowerment and its influence in decreasing women and children's vulnerability to various forms of violence, including gender-based violence and femicide. These goals are aligned with two pillars of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, as implemented in 2019, being Pillar 2 on Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion and Pillar 5 on Economic Power.

It was highlighted that under Pillar 2, the Department has developed the Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Under Pillar 5, the Department continues to work alongside the Presidency, private sector, and government departments to advance the mandate of the Women's Economic Assembly (WECONA), which will be a critical vehicle in addressing women's unequal economic and social position through access to government and private sector procurement, employment, housing, access to land, financial resources and other income generating initiatives. To date, WECONA has already been instrumental in the implementation of the 40% preferential procurement in the public sector towards women-owned businesses.

### 2021 THEME

Comparatively, in 2021, South Africa's theme for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign was "*The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – Moving from Awareness to Accountability*". The focus of 2021 was on accountability and addressing the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in line with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The primary objective of the campaign was to promote social mobilisation and coalitions against gender-based violence, as well as to prioritise intervention measures aimed at creating socio-economic opportunities for women. However, apart from various community and sector dialogues and activities hosted by the Government, it does not seem that much more was done by Government during this period of activism.



## The annual 16 Days Of Activism: A time to reflect, a time to take action

CONTINUED

After a rather disappointing campaign in 2021, it is appropriate that in 2022 a more concerned effort has been made to address the harsh realities faced by women and girls in South Africa. Although the address by Minister Nkoana-Mashabane was promising, what is needed is action and implementation to follow and for Government to make good on its promises and plans if true meaning is to be given to the annual 16 Days Campaign. We can simply no longer afford to only pay lip service to the increasing scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa. Creating government bodies and plans to address the socio-economic conditions of women in South Africa is a step in the right direction. However, the execution thereof is where the real change will be seen.

CDH is committed to playing its part in supporting the focus that Government has chosen for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign this year. Lawyers and civil society in South Africa should seize this opportunity to provide the necessary legal support, advice, and training for women-owned business of all sectors, including small, medium, and micro enterprises, co-operatives, and informal traders. Due to the long-lasting and devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many women are still most strongly feeling the effects of the shrinking economy, slow recovery, and increased unemployment. We all have a role to play in helping those affected recover and thrive during these challenging times.

**BRIGITTA MANGALE AND  
CLAUDIA GROBLER**



## OUR TEAM

For more information about our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice and services in South Africa and Kenya, please contact:



**Jacquie Cassette**

Practice Head & Director:  
Pro Bono & Human Rights  
T +27 (0)11 562 1036  
E [jacquie.cassette@cdhlegal.com](mailto:jacquie.cassette@cdhlegal.com)



**Brigitta Mangale**

Director:  
Pro Bono & Human Rights  
T +27 (0)21 481 6495  
E [brigitta.mangale@cdhlegal.com](mailto:brigitta.mangale@cdhlegal.com)



**Gift Xaba**

Senior Associate:  
Pro Bono & Human Rights  
T +27 (0)11 562 1089  
E [gift.xaba@cdhlegal.com](mailto:gift.xaba@cdhlegal.com)



**Clarice Wambua**

Partner | Kenya  
T +254 731 086 649  
+254 204 409 918  
+254 710 560 114  
E [clarice.wambua@cdhlegal.com](mailto:clarice.wambua@cdhlegal.com)



**Elgene Roos**

Senior Associate:  
Pro Bono & Human Rights  
T +27 (0)11 562 1863  
E [elgene.roos@cdhlegal.com](mailto:elgene.roos@cdhlegal.com)



**BBBEE STATUS:** LEVEL ONE CONTRIBUTOR

Our BBBEE verification is one of several components of our transformation strategy and we continue to seek ways of improving it in a meaningful manner.

**PLEASE NOTE**

This information is published for general information purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Specialist legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular situation. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr will accept no responsibility for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of this publication.

**JOHANNESBURG**

1 Protea Place, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196. Private Bag X40, Benmore, 2010, South Africa.

Dx 154 Randburg and Dx 42 Johannesburg.

T +27 (0)11 562 1000 F +27 (0)11 562 1111 E [jhb@cdhlegal.com](mailto:jhb@cdhlegal.com)

**CAPE TOWN**

11 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001. PO Box 695, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Dx 5 Cape Town.

T +27 (0)21 481 6300 F +27 (0)21 481 6388 E [ctn@cdhlegal.com](mailto:ctn@cdhlegal.com)

**NAIROBI**

Merchant Square, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Block D, Riverside Drive, Nairobi, Kenya. P.O. Box 22602-00505, Nairobi, Kenya.

T +254 731 086 649 | +254 204 409 918 | +254 710 560 114

E [cdhkenya@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdhkenya@cdhlegal.com)

**STELLENBOSCH**

14 Louw Street, Stellenbosch Central, Stellenbosch, 7600.

T +27 (0)21 481 6400 E [cdhstellenbosch@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdhstellenbosch@cdhlegal.com)

©2022 11806/DEC

