

IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

CASE NO: CCT 333/23

In the matter between:

CORRUPTION WATCH (RF) NPC

Applicant

and

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

First Respondent

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA**

Second Respondent

COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Third Respondent

INFORMATION REGULATOR


Fourth Respondent

FIRST RESPONDENT'S ANSWERING AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned

CLAUDIA NONHLANHLA NDABA

hereby state under oath:

1. I am an adult female, a Member of Parliament and the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities ("**the Portfolio Committee**"). I am duly authorized to depose to this answering affidavit on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly ("**the Speaker**"), the first respondent in these proceedings.
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2. The contents of this affidavit are true and correct and, unless the context indicates otherwise, within my personal knowledge. Where I make submissions of a legal nature, I do so on the advice of the Speaker's legal representatives, which advice I accept as correct.

3. I have read the founding affidavit deposed to by Karam Singh on behalf of the applicant ("**Corruption Watch**") and respond to its contents herein. Before providing *ad seriatim* responses to the founding affidavit, I deal with the following thematic issues:
 - 3.1. The scope of the Court's powers to pronounce on public involvement processes.
 - 3.2. The failure by Corruption Watch to join the Chairperson and relevant members of the Commission for Gender Equality ("**the Commission**").
 - 3.3. An overview of the process followed in the recommendation of members for appointment to the Commission.
 - 3.4. Responses to the specific challenges raised by Corruption Watch.
 - 3.5. Condonation for the late filing of this answering affidavit.



THE SCOPE OF THE COURT'S POWERS TO PRONOUNCE ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESSES

4. The relief that Corruption Watch seeks includes an order declaring that Parliament, and by implication the Portfolio Committee, failed to comply with its constitutional obligation to facilitate reasonable public involvement before recommending persons to be appointed as members of the Commission.
5. The source of this obligation is section 193 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("**Constitution**"), which provides as follows:

- (1) The Public Protector and the members of any Commission established by this Chapter must be women or men who-*
 - (a) are South African citizens;*
 - (b) are fit and proper persons to hold the particular office; and*
 - (c) comply with any other requirements prescribed by national legislation.*
- (2) The need for a Commission established by this Chapter to reflect broadly the race and gender composition of South Africa must be considered when members are appointed.*
- (3) . . .*
- (4) The President, on the recommendation of the National Assembly, must appoint the Public Protector, the Auditor-General and the members of-*
 - (a) the South African Human Rights Commission;*
 - (b) the Commission for Gender Equality; and*
 - (c) the Electoral Commission.*
- (5) The National Assembly must recommend persons-*
 - (a) nominated by a committee of the Assembly proportionally composed of members of all parties represented in the Assembly; and*
 - (b) approved by the Assembly by a resolution adopted with a supporting vote-*

- (i) *of at least 60 per cent of the members of the Assembly, if the recommendation concerns the appointment of the Public Protector or the Auditor-General; or*
- (ii) *of a majority of the members of the Assembly, if the recommendation concerns the appointment of a member of a Commission.*

(6) The involvement of civil society in the recommendation process may be provided for as envisaged in section 59 (1) (a).

6. Section 193 of the Constitution is to be read with section 3(1) of the Commission for Gender Equality Act 39 of 1996 (“**the Act**”), which provides for two additional criteria for members of the Commission. In terms of section 3(1), members shall –

6.1. have a record of commitment to the promotion of gender equality; and

6.2. be persons with applicable knowledge or experience with regard to matters connected with the objects of the Commission.

7. Corruption Watch’s attack on the appointment of the chairperson and members of the Commission is not a substantive attack. Corruption Watch does not suggest that any of those appointed do not meet the appointment criteria set out in section 193(1) of the Constitution or section 3(1) of the Act. Its attack is confined to the procedure followed by the Portfolio Committee in facilitating public involvement in the identification of recommended candidates for appointment.

8. The first respondent does not dispute the existence of a duty to facilitate public involvement. However, the Constitution does not prescribe how this duty is to be discharged.
9. Section 59(1)(a) of the Constitution provides that the National Assembly must *“facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Assembly and its committees.”*
10. Section 57(1) of the Constitution provides that the National Assembly may –
 - (a) *determine and control its internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures; and*
 - (b) *make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement.*
11. Parliament is therefore afforded a broad discretion to determine how to discharge its obligation to facilitate public involvement.
12. I am advised that this Court has held that this was deliberate: the doctrine of separation of powers requires that Parliament and the provincial legislatures have a significant measure of discretion to determine how best to facilitate public involvement. This is one of their core responsibilities as the legislative arm of government and the democratically-elected representatives of the public with whom they are to consult.

13. This Court has also recognised that what is required of Parliament to meet its obligations will vary according to the specific facts and circumstances of each case. As such, what is required of Parliament in facilitating public involvement is a contextual consideration that stands to be guided by the type and scope of decision or process it is engaged with at a given time.
14. Ultimately, the question for determination is not whether the extent of public involvement and the procedure followed by the Portfolio Committee is the one that would have been adopted by the Court, but rather whether the Portfolio Committee provided a reasonable opportunity to members of the public and all interested parties to have an adequate say on issues affecting them.
15. In this regard it is important to keep the following considerations in mind:
 - 15.1. This matter relates to the recommendations by Parliament for appointments to the Commission. The nature of the public interest in these recommendations differs from, for example, the nature of the public interest in the enactment of legislation that will directly regulate how those bound are to conduct themselves. As such, the manner in which public involvement is facilitated in the context of recommendations in terms of section 193 of the Constitution will differ from the manner in which it is facilitated in the law-making process.
 - 15.2. In the case of recommendations for appointment to a Chapter 9 institution, there are rigorous screening and vetting processes that take

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place over and above the public involvement processes. Each shortlisted candidate is screened by the State Security Agency prior to interviews being conducted. Their qualifications are also verified by Parliament's Human Resources Division. Once the recommended candidates are identified, they are subjected to a further vetting process. In the case of candidates for appointment to the Commission, this vetting process is conducted at the instance of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. As such, there are several sources of information as to each candidate's fitness and propriety to hold office, with the comments received from members of the public being only one such source.

15.3. In dealing with appointments to Chapter 9 institutions, there exist set timeframes within which recommendations for appointment are to be made, in order to avoid situations where delays in filling vacancies render these institutions inquorate and unable to function in the discharge of their constitutional mandates. In the case of the Commission, section 3(1) of the Act prescribes that there be a chairperson and no fewer than seven members at all times. Corruption Watch recognises in its founding affidavit that the possibility of an inquorate Commission was one of the factors that had to be taken into account in the design of the public involvement process.

15.4. The processes followed and time frames permitted for public comment are well within (and in some cases in excess of) the standard time frames



applied in invitations for public comment on appointments to other Chapter 9 institutions. For example –

- 15.4.1. The invitation to comment on the shortlist of candidates for appointment as the Deputy Public Protector was published on 19 February 2024. The closing date for submissions was 23 February 2024. I refer to annexure “PC1”, which is a copy of the invitation for comment.
- 15.4.2. On 12 July 2023, an invitation for comment in the shortlisted candidates for appointment to the Office of the Public Protector was published. Members of the public were afforded until 21 July 2023 to submit their comments. I refer to a copy of the invitation for comment, attached as annexure “PC2”.
- 15.4.3. The invitation to comment on the shortlist of candidates for appointment to the South African Human Rights Commission was published on 25 September 2023. Members of the public were invited to submit their comments on the shortlisted candidates by 6 October 2023. A copy of the invitation for comment is attached as “PC3”.
- 15.4.4. On 6 August 2020, members of the public were invited to comment on the shortlist of candidates for appointment as



Auditor-General. The closing date for comments was 14 August 2020. A copy of the invitation is attached as "PC4".

15.4.5. During 2016, members of the public were invited to submit comments on the shortlist of candidates for appointment to the position of Public Protector. Comments from members of the public were received between 27 June 2016 and 1 July 2016. I refer to the press statement attached as annexure "PC5".

15.4.6. I refer the Court to the confirmatory affidavit deposed to by Dr Herman Tembe, who is the Legal Officer in the Office of Institutions Supporting Democracy: Speaker's Office ("OISD"). The OISD initiates recruitment and facilitates, advises on and monitors statutory appointments to the institutions supporting democracy. Dr Tembe's affidavit will be filed together with this answering affidavit, alternatively soon thereafter.

16. Given the considerations discussed above, I am advised that there exists no basis for the Court to usurp the function of the legislative branch of government and to second-guess the approach adopted by the Portfolio Committee to facilitate public involvement. The process that was followed, as I set out in further detail below, was manifestly reasonable, and allowed a meaningful opportunity for members of the public to have their say in the recommendation process.



NON-JOINDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

17. The relief that the applicant seeks includes an order declaring invalid the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Commission on 1 March 2023. It seeks this relief without having cited these individuals as respondents in this application.
18. As such, those appointed to the Commission on 1 March 2023 stand to have their appointments declared invalid without being afforded the opportunity to participate in the proceedings should they wish to do so.
19. I am advised that this is not remedied by the joinder of the Commission itself as the third respondent. The Commission is an institution that exists separately from its members, and any interest that the Commission has in these proceedings may well differ from the interest held by its individual members.
20. In the circumstances, I submit that the applicant ought to be directed to join the chairperson and the members of the Commission appointed on 1 March 2023 before being permitted to proceed with its challenge.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOLLOWED IN THE RECOMMENDATION OF MEMBERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION

21. In providing an overview of the process followed, it is important to keep in mind the distinction between recruitment and appointment. Recruitment is conducted



by the legislative branch of government, in this instance led by the Portfolio Committee. The legislature makes recommendations to the President on suitable candidates for appointment. Their appointment is effected by the President, following which contracts of employment are concluded.

22. In conducting the recruitment process, the Portfolio Committee recognised the need to create stability within the Commission, and to facilitate a smooth transition in membership.
23. The Portfolio Committee commenced its process for the identification of candidates for recommendation for appointment to the Commission through the publication of an advertisement on 26 June 2022 calling for nominations and applications for individuals to serve on the Commission. A copy of the advertisement is attached as annexure "KS1" to the founding affidavit. As appears from that advertisement, the closing date for applications was 18 July 2022.
24. Corruption Watch addressed a letter to me following publication of the advert, contending that the timeframe of 22 days "may not be sufficient to attract a suitable pool of applications for consideration." They sought a one-week extension of the time frame allowed for applications and nominations to be submitted. A copy of this letter, dated 18 July 2022, is attached as "KS15" to the founding affidavit.



25. In my response (attached as "KS16 to the founding affidavit), I highlighted that the standard practice of Parliament is for there to be a period of two to three weeks provided for the receipt of applications or nominations. In this case, a period of 22 days had been afforded. I accordingly indicated that the time period for the submission of applications could not be extended.
26. The sufficiency of the timeframe for the submission of applications and nominations is demonstrated by the fact that the Portfolio Committee received some 165 applications before the deadline stipulated in the advert. Following the exclusion of duplicate applications, of which there were nine, there were 156 applications for the Portfolio Committee's consideration. This is borne out by the minutes of the Portfolio Committee meeting of 23 and 24 August 2022, copies of which is attached as annexure "PC6".
27. The minutes of the meeting conducted on 23 August 2022 are attached as annexure "KS2" to the founding affidavit. This meeting was convened at the earliest available opportunity, with members of the Portfolio Committee having returned from the National Assembly's constituency period on 15 August 2023.
28. On 2 September 2022, the Portfolio Committee published its shortlisted candidates and invited the public to comment via an online form to which a link was provided. The invitation for comment is attached as "KS3" to the founding affidavit. The following aspects of the invitation bear noting:



28.1. Members of the public were requested to make use of an online google form for the submission of their comments. A copy of this google form is attached as "KS4" to the founding affidavit. The Portfolio Committee opted to use this form to assist in streamlining the comments received: it would allow for the comments to be categorized according to the candidate to whom they related. Thus, the Portfolio Committee would be able to consider each candidate fully during its deliberation processes.

28.2. The invitation also provided a link to a spreadsheet setting out the names and qualifications held by each shortlisted candidate. The spreadsheet was prepared with a view to achieving a balance between providing information about each candidate's qualifications, allowing for an assessment of their suitability for recommendation for appointment, and the obligation to protect their personal information. By way of example, members of the public would be able to ascertain from the spreadsheet that –

28.2.1. Magdalene Moonsamy was awarded an LLB from the University of Westville in 2003. She also holds a qualification in activist and gender studies.

28.2.2. Olave Nthabiseng Sepanya Mogale holds a BA in Social Work, a postgraduate H Dip in Advanced Social Work Practice, an LLB, an LLM and a certificate in legislative drafting.



- 28.3. The closing date for public comment was 16 September 2022. Members of the public were thus afforded 14 days to submit their comments. This is in line with the standard time periods permitted in public involvement processes relating to recommendations for appointment to chapter 9 institutions, as I have addressed above.
29. On 6 September 2022, I received a letter from Corruption Watch, in which they complained about the limited space available for comments to be submitted. Corruption Watch requested that full curricula vitae for each shortlisted candidate be published, and that they be permitted to submit comments directly to the Portfolio Committee Secretary rather than via an online form. A copy of this letter is attached as “**PC7**”.
30. The Portfolio Committee met on the same day, and discussed the letter received from Corruption Watch. As per the minutes of this meeting, a copy of which is attached as “**PC8**”, the Committee resolved that the public would be permitted to submit further comments on shortlisted candidates if their submissions exceeded the 2000-character count permitted on the google form. In such cases, submissions could be sent via e-mail to the Secretary of the Portfolio Committee.
31. This was communicated to Corruption Watch in a letter dated 16 September 2022, attached hereto as “**PC9**”. In particular, Corruption Watch was informed that ~



31.1. The decision to publish candidates' academic qualifications in the format in which this was done was informed by Parliament's obligations arising from the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 ("POPI Act"). The Portfolio Committee sought to balance the right to privacy against the right of access to information.

31.2. In taking this decision, the Portfolio Committee took cognizance of the fact that although candidates had opened themselves up to public scrutiny on their capabilities and potential, this does not amount to blanket consent for the processing of their personal information. Parliament had resolved to adopt a cautious approach in this regard.

32. In relation to the complaint from Corruption Watch about the character limit, the letter informed them of the following:

"Should individuals or civic organisations have additional information they wish to submit in relation to the candidates, they must feel free to do so to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Portfolio Committee. The Committee would not disqualify an individual because of negative public comment without offering audi alteram partem to the concerned candidate and weighing its gravity in relation to the position applied for. Furthermore, please be advised that the Committee will also conduct its own screening through the State Security Intelligence for the vetting to be completed by the appointing authority. Lastly, the process of public involvement in the processes also involve screening by State Security Agents that includes checks on the personal information of the candidates."

33. It appears that the letter to Corruption Watch was transmitted at the same time as Corruption Watch (through their attorneys of record) transmitted their letter of 16 September 2022 to me (a copy of which is attached as "KS18" to the founding affidavit). In their letter of this date, Corruption Watch demanded that the process for appointment of Commissioners to the CGE be suspended, that full curricula vitae be made publicly accessible, that any word or character limits be removed and that the timeframe for public comments be extended by 30 calendar days from the date on which full curricula vitae were made available.
34. I therefore addressed a further letter to Corruption Watch on 22 September 2022 in response to its letter of 16 September 2022. A copy of my response is attached as annexure "KS20" to the founding affidavit. The letter repeated the reasons why the Portfolio Committee adopted the approach to the public involvement process that it did, including a reiteration of the obligations arising from the POPI Act.
35. Corruption Watch did not respond to this letter, nor did they submit comments in relation to any of the shortlisted candidates.
36. However, a total of 656 public comments was received from other stakeholders. These comments related to 22 of the 24 shortlisted candidates. I attach as annexure "PC10" a summary of those comments. The following important aspects may be gleaned from this summary:

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- 36.1. The comments range from brief words in support of particular candidates (for example, "a deserving winner", "such an inspiration" and "very capable and diligent lady") to substantial comments that engage with the candidate's qualifications and experience. By way of example, I refer the Court to the comments received from Saijal Bandulal / Soroptimist International Africa Federation in relation to Ms Bernadine Bachar (at page 14 of the attached summary), the comments received from Nonhlanhla Mkhize in relation to Ms Leonisha Leigh-Ann van der Merwe (at page 58 of the attached summary)
- 36.2. The comments originated from well-established organisations such as trade unions and civil society organisations, to individual members of the public who shared their experiences with the candidates.
- 36.3. A number of stakeholders submitted comments in relation to several candidates. Reference is made in this regard to the comments received from the South African Council of Churches and the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse.
- 36.4. The comments received included both supportive statements and cautionary statements. By way of example, I refer to the comments received from OUTA in relation to Ms Candice Chirwa (page 33 of the attached document) and Ms Theresa Eulenda Mabusela (page 93 of the attached document).



37. Given the number of comments received and the breadth of stakeholders who submitted comments, I submit that there is clearly no merit to the contention by Corruption Watch that the public involvement process was inadequate. In this regard it is worth mentioning that in the previous process for the recommendation of candidates for appointment to the Commission, only six comments were received from members of the public.
38. Between 20 and 23 September 2022, the Portfolio Committee interviewed the shortlisted candidates. The interview process was open to members of the public. The report of these interviews is attached as annexure "KS6" to the founding affidavit. What is clear from this report is that the Portfolio Committee took seriously all public comments received, and gave the candidates an opportunity to engage with and respond to them.
39. On 26 October 2022, the Portfolio Committee met and deliberated on the interview process, identifying the names of candidates who would be recommended to the President for appointment. The National Assembly approved and adopted the report attached hereto as "PC11", which report details the process followed and the outcome thereof.
40. The National Assembly subsequently approved and adopted a supplementary report dated 15 November 2022, in which the terms to be served by each recommended candidate were clarified. A copy of this supplementary report is attached as "PC12".



41. Corruption Watch, however, continued to seek to have the process derailed.
42. On 11 November 2022, Corruption Watch addressed a letter to the Speaker, demanding that the recommendation process be halted and started afresh "to ensure constitutional compliance". This letter, a copy of which is attached as "**PC13**", fails to take account of the following:
 - 42.1. The Portfolio Committee had already at that stage facilitated a full public involvement process during which an overwhelming public response was received. As I have addressed above, the Portfolio Committee received 656 comments from a range of stakeholders. Corruption Watch apparently refused to take part in this process.
 - 42.2. By the time that Corruption Watch addressed its letter to the Speaker, the vacancies on the Commission had already arisen. Starting the process afresh – apart from being unnecessary and costly in the circumstances – would have left the Commission inquorate for a period of approximately six months.
43. The Speaker responded to Corruption Watch on 29 November 2022, informing them that Parliament had concluded its recommendation process and the names of the recommended candidates had already been submitted to the President. A copy of this letter is attached as "**PC14**".



44. By that stage, Corruption Watch had in any event written to the President, requesting that the appointment process be halted, and the process started afresh. A copy of this letter is attached as **"PC15"**.
45. The President accordingly addressed a letter to the Speaker on 30 November 2022 seeking assurance that the proper procedures and processes had been followed in recommending candidates for appointment to the Commission. A copy of this letter is attached as **"PC16"**.
46. On 12 December 2022, I responded to the Speaker, in the attached letter marked **"PC18"**. The letter outlined the process followed, and the manner in which the Portfolio Committee had effectively facilitated public involvement in the process, despite the objections raised by Corruption Watch.
47. The letter was followed by a memorandum to the Speaker on 15 December 2022. A copy of this memorandum is attached as **"PC19"**. The memorandum attached a draft letter from the Speaker to the President, providing reassurance that the prescribed procedures had been followed. A copy of this draft letter is attached as **"PC20"**.
48. The Speaker transmitted the letter to the President, having satisfied herself that adequate public involvement had been facilitated. The President finalised the appointments on 25 February 2023.



RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC CHALLENGES RAISED BY CORRUPTION WATCH

49. Corruption Watch challenges the public involvement process followed on three grounds:

49.1. First, the time afforded to members of the public for the submission of comments in relation to the shortlisted candidates;

49.2. Second, the word limit applicable to the comments submitted; and

49.3. Third, the publication of the shortlisted candidates' qualifications rather than their full curricula vitae.

50. There is no merit to any of these contentions.

51. The time afforded to members of the public for the submission of their comments was sufficient:

51.1. As is clear from what I have stated above, the timeframe of 14 days was well in line with – and in some cases in excess of – the timeframes provided for in similar processes.

51.2. In addition, the fact that 656 public comments were received suggests that ample time was afforded to members of the public to provide their input.



51.3. It was moreover necessary to ensure that, in addition to sufficient time being afforded, the appointments could be made prior to the vacancies arising, as a failure to do so would result in an inquorate Commission that would not be able to discharge its constitutional mandate.

52. The word limit was not a fixed restriction on public comments:

52.1. An analysis of the comments received reveals that the vast majority of members of the public who wished to participate in the process were more than able to submit their comments through the google form, within the space allocated for this purpose.

52.2. However, after receipt of Corruption Watch's complaint, I communicated the Portfolio Committee's amenability to receiving longer submissions via e-mail to the Secretary of the Portfolio Committee directly.

52.3. It is therefore not clear why Corruption Watch persists in its complaint about the word limit.

53. There was sufficient information provided to allow for meaningful public involvement:

53.1. It is common cause that each candidate's qualifications were made available to members of the public for the purpose of submission of



comments on the candidates' suitability for appointment. It can be ascertained from these qualifications whether the candidates have the knowledge and experience required to serve on the Commission, and whether they have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of gender equality.

53.2. The Portfolio Committee took a considered view that the publication of additional information would be in breach of the candidates' rights to privacy as protected by, *inter alia*, the POPI Act. In this regard there is a distinction to be drawn between the submission of their curricula vitae to the Portfolio Committee for the purpose of the application, and the wide publication of their curricula vitae to members of the public.

53.2.1. The definition of consent in the POPI Act requires such consent to be voluntary, specific and informed. This requires, *inter alia*, that separate consent be provided for each instance of processing of personal information. Consent for processing of personal information in one instance cannot be inferred or assumed to have been given for another instance.

53.2.2. Candidates consented to their personal information being scrutinized by members of the Portfolio Committee only, The Portfolio Committee as the responsible party as defined in the POPI Act is required to exercise discretion in determining the purpose and means of processing the personal information and



the extent of the information to be published, while bearing a duty to protect the confidentiality of the candidates' personal information.

53.2.3. Since candidates had not consented to their curricula vitae being made available to members of the public, the Portfolio Committee considered it inappropriate for the full curricula vitae to be published.

53.3. The POPI Act is extremely broad in its application, and is directed at ensuring that personal information is not misused or abused in any way. Once released into the public domain, the Portfolio Committee has no control over how the information is used, including any further distribution. As the responsible party, the Portfolio Committee bears a duty to guard against this.

53.4. I acknowledge that the minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2022 record the intention of the Portfolio Committee to publish the curricula vitae of the shortlisted candidates. However, it was never my intention nor the intention of any other member of the Portfolio Committee to publish the curricula vitae in full. This was the terminology that we used to describe the information about candidates' qualifications. I regret that the use of this terminology caused confusion as to what would be published. This does not, however, negate the onerous obligations placed on the Portfolio Committee by the POPI Act.



53.5. I note that Corruption Watch differs in its interpretation of the POPI Act. While I maintain that the interpretation adopted by the Portfolio Committee is correct, I also record that it was important for the Portfolio Committee to err on the side of caution in upholding the legislation that binds everyone.

53.6. Had the individual candidates been cited as respondents in this application, it would have been possible for them to advise the Court of their attitude to the processing of their personal information in the manner demanded by Corruption Watch.

54. For these reasons, I submit that the application stands to be dismissed with costs.

CONDONATION FOR THE LATE FILING OF THIS ANSWERING AFFIDAVIT

55. This answering affidavit has unfortunately been filed out of time, In directions issued by this Court on 29 January 2024, the opposing respondents were directed to file their answering affidavits by 19 February 2024. It was unfortunately not possible for the first respondent to meet this deadline.

56. The application was served on the Speaker on 1 December 2023, following permission to serve being granted as per annexure "PC21" hereto.



57. Upon receipt of the application, the internal processes of obtaining the necessary authorisations and the procurement process for the appointment of counsel had to be followed. Parliament closed on 14 December 2023 and thus its internal processes could only be finalised on 15 February 2024.
58. The State Attorney was preliminarily instructed on 13 February 2024, to start the administrative process of having a State Attorney assigned to the matter. A formal instruction to oppose was given to the State Attorney on 15 February 2024, once the necessary internal authorisations were in place.
59. On the same date, the State Attorney notified the other parties of the Speaker's opposition to the application. I refer in this regard to the confirmatory affidavit deposed to by Mr Lawrence Ngwenya from the Office of the State Attorney, which will be attached.
60. Together with the notice of opposition, the State Attorney requested an indulgence to file the answering affidavit by 26 February 2024. A copy of the correspondence in this regard is attached as "**PC22**". In the attached e-mail marked "**PC23**", the General Office informed the State Attorney that it would be necessary to bring an application for condonation.
61. It then became necessary for the State Attorney to brief counsel. The State Attorney is required to follow a prescribed procurement process in terms of which it must obtain quotations from prospective counsel, in addition to other documents to ensure that counsel are tax compliant, are in good standing with



the Legal Practice Council and have the requisite skills to perform the work required.

62. The State Attorney sent out a request for quotations on 16 February 2024. On the same date, a submission was made for deviation from the ordinary time periods applicable to the briefing of counsel, to allow the process to be conducted on an urgent basis.
63. Counsel was appointed on Monday 19 February 2023. Although she was furnished with a copy of the application on the same day, she could not commence with drafting the answering affidavit without taking instructions. It was therefore necessary to arrange a consultation with all of those involved in the public involvement process.
64. Unfortunately, I was not able to consult until 23 February 2024. The Parliamentary Programme included a number of prior commitments on my part, with important work that had to be attended to in order for the National Assembly to complete its work before the closure of the sixth sitting of Parliament. The consultation was therefore arranged for the earliest possible date.
65. During the consultation, we provided counsel with the necessary instructions. However, she requested additional documents and information, some of which was in the possession of other functionaries. My team provided counsel with the outstanding documents and information over the weekend of 24 and 25 February 2024 and during the course of 26 February 2024. Although every effort was made

to finalise the answering affidavit and serve and file it on 26 February 2024, this was unfortunately not possible.

66. I submit that what is set out above constitutes a reasonable explanation for the delay in filing the answering affidavit, which will be filed seven court days out of time.
67. I regret the late filing of the answering affidavit. It is not intended as a mark of disrespect for the Court or for the parties to the application.
68. I submit however, that the parties will suffer no prejudice as a result of this delay. The first respondent will not raise any objection to an extension of time for the filing of the replying affidavit.
69. On the other hand, a refusal of condonation would result in substantial prejudice. In addition to the Speaker not being permitted to place the full version of events before the Court to defend its position, there would be a prejudicial effect on the Court and the administration of justice in determining the existence of a breach of constitutional obligations without an explanation of the process from Parliament. Particularly in a matter involving recommendations for appointment to a Chapter 9 institution, which is both novel and important, I submit that the benefit of Parliament's account of the public involvement process is critical.
70. In the circumstances, I humbly pray that condonation be granted for the late filing of the answering affidavit.

AD SERIATIM RESPONSES

71. I turn now to respond ad seriatim to the contents of the founding affidavit. In doing so I have done my utmost to respond to each and every allegation therein. Where I have not responded to a particular allegation, and where that allegation is inconsistent with the contents of this answering affidavit, it ought to be taken as denied.

Ad paras 1 – 2

72. Save to deny that the contents of the founding affidavit are true and correct, the contents of these paragraphs are noted.

Ad paras 3 – 4

73. I note the purpose of the application. I deny that Corruption Watch is entitled to the order it seeks.

Ad para 5

74. The contents of this paragraph are admitted.

Ad para 6

75. I deny that Parliament failed to fulfil its constitutional obligation to facilitate public involvement. The process followed in obtaining public comment on candidates for recommendation for appointment to the Commission were reasonable and in compliance with the constitutional and statutory framework.

Ad paras 7 – 14

76. Parliament is well aware of the importance of the role of the Commission in, *inter alia*, combating the scourge of gender-based violence in South Africa. As I have addressed above, Corruption Watch's challenges to the public involvement process have in fact risked derailing the process and leaving the Commission inoperative and unable to discharge its important mandate.

77. Save for the aforesaid, and to the extent that the allegations in these paragraphs are consistent with the Constitution and the Act, the contents of these paragraphs are noted.

Ad para 15

78. I admit that there exists a duty to facilitate public involvement in the recommendation of candidates for appointment to the Commission. For the reasons set out above, I submit that Parliament complied with this duty.

Ad paras 16 – 17

79. The contents of these paragraphs are denied. I have addressed the specific allegations in relation to the process adopted above.

Ad paras 18 – 21

80. As I have stated above, Parliament takes seriously its duty to facilitate reasonable public involvement. Parliament also recognizes the important role

played by the Commission in the protection, promotion and advancement of constitutional rights.

81. I maintain, for the reasons set out above, that the process adopted was reasonable and in compliance with the constitutional and statutory mandate.

Ad para 22

82. The contents of this paragraph are noted.

Ad paras 23 – 27

83. The contents of these paragraphs are noted.

Ad paras 28 – 31

84. The contents of these paragraphs are noted.

85. As I have addressed above, Corruption Watch has failed to join as respondents the individual members of the Commission, who clearly have a direct and substantial interest in the relief sought. I submit that this matter cannot be adjudicated in the absence of these members.

Ad paras 32 – 36

86. The contents of these paragraphs are admitted only to the extent that they constitute an accurate recordal of the constitutional and statutory provisions referred to.

Ad para 37

87. For the reasons set out above, I deny that the public involvement process was neither reasonable nor meaningful.

Ad para 38

88. The contents of this paragraph are admitted.

Ad para 39

89. As I have addressed above, my statement regarding the publication of curricula vitae was an unfortunate but bona fide use of the incorrect terminology. Neither the Portfolio Committee nor any of its members intended or understood that the full curriculum vitae of each shortlisted candidate would be published. This would have been in breach of our obligations in terms of the POPI Act as we understood them.

90. Instead, the intention was to publish information as to each shortlisted candidate's qualifications, to enable members of the public to comment on whether they were fit and proper, and appropriately qualified to serve on the Commission. This is the route that the Portfolio Committee followed.

Ad paras 40 – 42

91. The contents of these paragraphs are admitted. I have provided context for the contents of the invitation and the mode of public involvement above.

15/11

Ad paras 43 – 45

92. The contents of these paragraphs are admitted.

93. As I have addressed above, it is important to keep in mind the need to conduct the recommendation process within the Parliamentary Programme, which imposes numerous commitments on members of the Portfolio Committee. To the extent that Corruption Watch suggests that there was any delay in the process, this is denied.

Ad para 46

94. I have addressed the nature and content of the submissions received above. I reiterate that they are reflective of a meaningful public involvement process during which members of the public were afforded a more than reasonable opportunity to have their say.

Ad paras 47 – 49

95. The contents of these paragraphs are admitted.

Ad para 50

96. To the extent that Corruption Watch suggests that the Portfolio Committee was not responsive in the engagements referred to, this is denied. As I have addressed above, the Portfolio Committee engaged with Corruption Watch and in fact revised its process to accommodate one of the concerns that had been raised.

CW

Ad paras 51 – 52

97. As I have addressed above, I deny that members of the public were not provided with adequate information, an opportunity to have an adequate say and adequate time. The process followed was manifestly reasonable, as is demonstrated, *inter alia*, by the fact that 656 substantive comments were received.

Ad para 53 – 54

98. I admit receipt of the letter from Corruption Watch on 18 July 2022 and the response from my office on 12 August 2022.

99. I have addressed the contents of these letters above. In line with what is set out above, I deny that the timeframe allowed for nominations and applications was inadequate. Not only is this in line with the standard timeframe adopted by Parliament, but the Portfolio Committee received 165 applications pursuant to its advert. This makes clear that there was ample opportunity for candidates to submit their applications.

Ad para 55

100. I admit receipt of the letter dated 6 September 2022. I deny the contents thereof.

101. I further deny that the Portfolio Committee was unresponsive. As I have addressed above, the Portfolio Committee received a letter from Corruption Watch on the same day, in which the same complaints were raised. The Portfolio Committee discussed these complaints in its meeting of 6 September 2022 and responded to Corruption Watch based on that discussion.

102. Notably, the response from the Portfolio Committee included provision for the submission of comments in excess of 2000 characters directly to the Portfolio Committee Secretary. Not only did the Portfolio Committee respond to Corruption Watch, therefore, but it made accommodation for those concerns that could reasonably be accommodated.

Ad paras 56 – 57

103. I admit receipt of the letter dated 16 September 2022. I deny the contents thereof.

I have addressed the contents of that letter above.

104. I specifically deny that the public involvement process was flawed or opaque in any way. I have addressed above the reasonableness of this process, including the Portfolio Committee's responsiveness to Corruption Watch and its accommodation of those concerns that could reasonably be accommodated.

105. I further deny that the Portfolio Committee failed to respond to the letter from Corruption Watch dated 16 September 2022. In addition to transmitting a letter to Corruption Watch on 16 September 2022 responding to its concerns, I provided a specific response to the letter of 16 September 2022 in my letter of 22 September 2022.

Ad paras 58 – 59

106. I admit receipt of the letter from Corruption Watch's legal representatives on 20 September 2022. For the reasons set out above, I deny the contents of that letter.

0 X

Ad para 60

107. The contents of this paragraph are admitted. As I have addressed above, the process adopted by the Portfolio Committee was reasonable and allowed for meaningful public involvement in the recommendation process.

108. Like other members of the public, Corruption Watch was provided sufficient information, adequate time and a reasonable opportunity to have its say in relation to the shortlisted candidates.

Ad para 61

109. The contents of this paragraph are admitted.

Ad paras 62 – 63

110. I do not have direct knowledge of Corruption Watch's engagements with the Information Regulator. I can therefore neither admit nor deny the contents of these paragraphs.

111. I do, however, note that Corruption Watch's request to the Information Regulator for its intervention was highly irregular, as well as being unjustified.

Ad para 64

112. I admit receipt of the letter dated 11 November 2022. I deny the contents thereof. I have addressed the content of this letter above.



Ad para 65

113. The contents of this paragraph are admitted.

Ad paras 66 – 69

114. I do not have direct knowledge of Corruption Watch's engagements with the President. I can therefore neither admit nor deny the contents of these paragraphs.

115. As I have addressed above, however, the President engaged with the Speaker and the Portfolio Committee before appointing members to the Commission, and satisfied himself that the public involvement process followed was in line with the Constitution and the relevant statutory framework.

Ad para 70

116. The contents of this paragraph are admitted.

Ad para 71

117. I deny that this application was necessary. As I have set out above, the public involvement process was more than reasonable in allowing a meaningful opportunity for input on the recommendation process.

Ad paras 72 – 73

118. As I have addressed above, I admit the existence of a duty to facilitate public involvement. I submit that the process adopted by the Portfolio Committee was entirely reasonable in the circumstances of this case.

Ad para 74

119. I deny that the failure to meaningfully facilitate public involvement automatically invalidates the appointment of members of the Commission. In this regard the Court has discretion to grant any relief that it considers to be just and equitable.

120. In any event, I deny that Parliament failed to discharge its duty to facilitate public involvement. The process followed was more than reasonable.

Ad paras 75 – 77

121. I admit the importance of the Chapter 9 institutions and the role that they play in supporting our constitutional democracy.

122. I further admit the importance of public involvement in legislative processes in our constitutional democracy. It is clear from what I have set out above that Parliament (and specifically the Portfolio Committee) facilitated a process of meaningful public involvement in line with its obligations.

Ad para 78

123. While I admit the duty to facilitate reasonable public involvement in the recommendations for appointment to Chapter 9 institutions, I deny that it is appropriate to transplant the principles applicable to the legislative process, onto the process for such recommendations.

124. As I have addressed above, the processes are distinct and will require different forms of public involvement. In the context of recommendations for appointment to Chapter 9 institutions, there is a rigorous screening and vetting process that takes place in addition to the receipt of submissions from members of the public. It is also important to ensure that any process does not leave important institutions inquorate and unable to discharge their constitutional mandates.

Ad paras 79 – 80

125. I have addressed Parliament's discretion and the extent to which the Court may interfere with that discretion above.

Ad paras 81 – 82

126. The contents of these paragraphs are denied for the reasons set out above.

Ad paras 83 – 88

127. The contents of these paragraphs are denied.

128. For the reasons set out above, I deny that there was insufficient information about each candidate to allow for meaningful participation in the recommendation process. The publication of each candidate's qualifications allowed for sufficient engagement on their suitability for appointment to the Commission.

129. Moreover, the Portfolio Committee never intended for the full curriculum vitae of each candidate to be published. I regret that the use of this terminology caused confusion.

Ad paras 89 – 94

130. I have set out above the basis for the Portfolio Committee's approach to the POPI Act. Given the breadth of its application and the importance of the rights it in place to safeguard, the Portfolio Committee deemed it necessary to err on the side of caution in its processing of personal information.

131. In any event, the information that was made available to members of the public was sufficient to enable meaningful public involvement in the recommendation process.

Ad paras 95 – 102

132. I do not have direct knowledge of the processes referred to in these paragraphs. In particular, I do not have knowledge of whether the candidates in the examples referred to consented to the wide publication of their curricula vitae. I confirm that in the case of recommendations for appointment to the Commission, the shortlisted candidates did not consent to this.

133. It also bears noting that the fact that other processes may have been conducted differently does not render the process followed in these circumstances unreasonable. Each process is to be assessed in its own context, based on the applicable facts and circumstances.

134. In these circumstances, the details of each candidate's qualifications was made available. I submit that this met the standard of reasonableness.

Ad paras 103 – 105

135. The contents of these paragraphs are denied.

136. I have addressed the issue of the length of submissions above. In particular, I noted that while no other interested parties appeared unable to make their submissions within the applicable word limits, Corruption Watch was afforded the opportunity to make lengthier submissions. It did not take up this opportunity.

Ad paras 106 – 110

137. The contents of these paragraphs are denied.

138. As I have addressed above, when regard is had to the timeframes applicable to other processes involving recommendations for appointment to Chapter 9 institutions, the time periods provided for in these circumstances are manifestly reasonable.

139. The time sensitivity in this instance was also particularly applicable, given that the Commission would become inquorate once the vacancies arose and would be unable to discharge its constitutional mandate until appointments were made. This is not negated by the terms of section 4(2) of the Act. While the commission may be capable of taking decisions where a vacancy exists, it certainly cannot do so where no quorum can be constituted.

CA

140. I therefore deny that there was any self-imposed urgency as alleged, nor was there any truncation in the process ordinarily followed by Parliament.

Ad paras 111 – 112

141. I admit that this Court has the requisite jurisdiction to entertain this dispute.

Ad paras 113 – 114

142. For the reasons set out above, the contents of these paragraphs are denied.

Ad para 115

143. In the event that this Court is in agreement with Corruption Watch that Parliament did not adequately discharge its constitutional obligations (which is denied), I submit that it would be appropriate to suspend the order to enable the matter to be remedied without an undue disruption to the discharge by the Commission of its mandate.

Ad paras 116 – 118

144. The contents of these paragraphs are noted.

Ad para 119

145. I deny that Corruption Watch is entitled to the relief sought.

CA

WHEREFORE the first respondent seeks an order dismissing the application with costs.

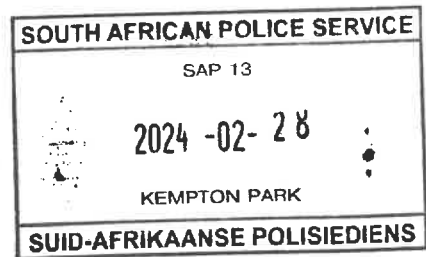

DEPONENT

Thus done and signed before me at Kempton Park on 28/02/24 **FEBRUARY 2024** the deponent having acknowledged that she knows and understands the contents of this declaration and considers it binding on her conscience, the regulations contained in Government Notice Number R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, and Government Notice No R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.

~~CST 1246215-9~~
~~Ngwenya SG~~

**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
EX OFFICIO**

FULL NAMES : NGWENYA GIVEN
PHYSICAL ADDRESS : 17 MONUMENT ROAD
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Public Input: Deputy Public Protector Applications/Nominations PC1

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The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services today called for public comments on applications and nominations received for the position of Deputy Public Protector (DPP).

Committee Chairperson Mr Bulelani Magwanishe said the position became vacant late last year when the then DPP was appointed as Public Protector (PP). Mr Magwanishe said the committee received a total of 46 applications and nominations of which two has since withdrawn.

Mr Magwanishe said a list of all the nominations/applications received is now available on the Parliament website in order to allow members of the public to comment on the suitability of candidates. Please find list of candidates below:

[Adv S Tebeile](#)

/ M

Adv EM Chipu

Adv A Chowan

Adv FT Maleka

Adv JJ van der

Merwe

Adv KA Sedupane

Adv L Matyobeni

Adv M Marriot

Adv M Mnyatheli

Adv MC Molaudi

Adv MM Mtukushe

Adv MPT Maluleke

Adv N Gumede

Adv N Raedani

Adv S Zimema

Adv TA

Banguzana

Adv TDL Sagela

Adv TS

Thipanyane

Dr PV Pillay

Mr AV Mavhidula

Mr MD Maloka

Mr MM Nyiki

Mr MM Sibiya

Mr P Mokotedi

Mr R

Makgalebone

Mr S Ntleki

Mr SM Ludidi

Mr VL Magwebu

Ms ZM Bogatsu

Ms B Mphaga

Ms C Kosi

Ms D Samsity

Ms EN Kabe

Ms FP Ledwaba

Ms KE Malatji

Ms LS Somo

Ms NGK Bunyoyo

Ms TB Mpanza

Prof B

Mmusinyane

He said the DPP is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the National Assembly for such a period as the President may determine at the time of such appointment, but not exceeding seven years. The DPP may at the end of his or her term be reappointed for one additional term. The annual salary for the position is R1 924 542.

The person recommended for appointment as DPP must be a South African citizen, who is a fit and proper person to hold such office, and who:

1. Is admitted as an advocate or an attorney and has, for a cumulative period of at least 10 years after having been so admitted, practiced as an advocate or an attorney; or
2. Is qualified to be admitted as an advocate or an attorney and has, for a cumulative period of at least

- 10 years after having so qualified, lectured in law at a university; or
3. Has specialised knowledge of or experience in, for a cumulative period of at least 10 years, the administration of justice, public administration or public finance; or
 4. Has, for a cumulative period of at least 10 years, been a member of Parliament; or
 5. Has acquired any combination of experience mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d), for a cumulative period of at least 10 years.

Nominations/applications must contain a curriculum vitae (CV) providing the nominee/applicant's:

- Full name, ID number and gender;
- Contact details, including physical address, telephone/cell phone number and email address;
- Relevant previous work experience (including relevant dates and organisations concerned); and
- Academic qualifications.

Mr Magwanishe said a list of all the nominations/applications received will be published in order to allow members of the public to comment on the suitability of candidates. He said the shortlisted candidates will be subjected to a screening process.

Comments can be emailed to Mr Vhonani Ramaano at [\[email protected\]](#) by no later than **Friday, 23 February**

PA

2024 at 16H00.

***Issued by the Parliamentary Communication Services
on behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio
Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, Mr
Bulelani Magwanishe.***

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Public Protector Candidates

Call for comments opened 12 July 2023 Share this page

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Appointment of Public Protector

The Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate a Person for Appointment as Public Protector invites members of the public and organisations to submit comments and/or objections to the list of candidates (see below) who have either been nominated or applied for the position.

Submissions must be addressed to Adv. Vhembe Ramazani at adp@pmg.org.za by no later than Friday, 21 July 2023.

Comments should test the suitability of the candidate based on the requirements prescribed in legislation and whether he/she is fit and proper to hold such a position.

The Committee will follow due process in validating qualifications and objections.

The committee will shortlist candidates on 26 July 2023 for interviews. Interviews of the shortlisted candidates will take place between 27 and 28 August 2023.

View: [Parliament Media Summary](#)

View: [Call for Comments: Appointment Public Protector](#)

Redacted CVs of the candidates can be viewed below

- 1 Ms N. Bhebe
- 2 Adv. Nk. G. Mkhabela
- 3 Mr. R. Jones
- 4 Adv. G. L. L. L.
- 5 Mr. M. Mkhosi
- 6 Adv. T. L. L.
- 7 Ms. E. Mkhosi
- 8 Ms. M. L. L.
- 9 Mr. R. L. L.
- 10 Adv. M. L. L.
- 11 Ms. M. L. L.
- 12 Adv. T. L. L.
- 13 Ms. M. L. L.
- 14 Adv. S. L. L.
- 15 Mr. R. L. L.
- 16 Adv. L. L. L.
- 17 Adv. N. L. L.
- 18 Ms. T. L. L.
- 19 Adv. M. L. L.
- 20 Mr. R. L. L.
- 21 Ms. M. L. L.
- 22 Mr. T. L. L.
- 23 Adv. T. L. L.
- 24 Ms. L. L. L.
- 25 Ms. T. L. L.
- 26 Mr. M. L. L.
- 27 Ms. M. L. L.
- 28 Adv. M. L. L.
- 29 Ms. T. L. L.
- 30 Adv. L. L. L.
- 31 Adv. T. L. L.
- 32 Mr. L. L. L.
- 33 Adv. M. L. L.
- 34 Adv. T. L. L.
- 35 Adv. M. L. L.
- 36 Mr. M. L. L.
- 37 Ms. M. L. L.
- 38 Adv. M. L. L.

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Public Input on Shortlisted AGSA Candidates

Call for comments opened 06 August 2020 Share this page

Submissions are now closed (since 14 August 2020)

[Appointment of the Auditor General](#)

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Appointment of the Auditor-General (AG) is calling for public comments on the shortlisted seven candidates who will be considered in the appointment process of the AG

Comments can be sent to Mr Peter Paul Mbete to [submit public input](#) by no later than 16h30 on Friday, 14 August 2020

The CVs of the shortlisted candidates can be accessed [here](#)

- 1 [Mr. Makhosini Sene, CA\(SA\)](#)
- 2 [Dr. James Joseph, JECOA, UK](#)
- 3 [Mr. Shabazz Khan, CA\(SA\)](#)
- 4 [Mr. Kamel Khatib, CA\(SA\)](#)
- 5 [Ms. Tsakani Mahfike, CA\(SA\)](#)
- 6 [Mr. Zakaria Hassan, CA\(SA\)](#)
- 7 [Mr. Ismond Shaka-sonjani, CA\(UK\)](#)

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Public Protector Ad Hoc Committee to Publish Names of Candidates for Public Scrutiny

Parliament, Wednesday 01 June 2016 – The Ad hoc Committee established to nominate a person for the appointment of Public Protector has agreed to publish names of people that would have been nominated or applied to serve as the new Public Protector.

Committee Chairperson, Dr Makhosi Khoza, said publishing the names of nominees or applicants is critical for public involvement. “Soliciting views from the public is in keeping with our Constitutional obligation, hence our unanimous decision to allow members of the public an opportunity to make their comments or objections on whether a particular name is fit and proper to be considered for the position of the Public Protector, ”

Dr Khoza further said objections against a particular nominee or applicant will not mean automatic disqualification. “The Committee will have to investigate any objection before making a determination on the suitability of a particular nominee or applicant,” added Dr Khoza

The Committee adopted a programme which has a strong focus on public participation.

The programme will be kick-started by publishing of an advert on all major national, regional and local news papers from 03 June 2016 with the closing date of 24 June 2016. Efforts are underway to ensure the advert is aired on a number of radio stations as well as on Parliament’s multimedia platforms.

The Committee agreed that the advert should not be limited to people that will be nominated by various individuals or groups, but should also encourage individuals who believe that they meet the requirements to send their applications.

Members of the public will get an opportunity to make their comments or objections on the names of nominees or applicants that will be made public immediately after the closing date of the advert and finalisation of related processes. The period for members of the public to make their comments or objections is expected to run from 27 June to 01 July 2016. Members of the public will be duly informed on which platforms these names will be published.

After the public participation process, the Committee will convene for short listing during the week of 11 to 15 July 2016 with interviews expected to be held on 10 August 2016.

Dr Khoza said, the programme has been formulated to ensure the Committee is able to table its report of its preferred nominee to the National Assembly on 31 August 2016.

According to Dr Khoza, the Ad Hoc Committee nominee would have to be supported by more than 60% of National Assembly members before the President can act on it.



Draft Minutes of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Date : Tuesday, 23 August 2022

Time : 11:15 – 14:40

Venue : Committee Room M514, Marks Building, Parliament

Agenda:

1. Presentation on criteria for short-listing process for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality
2. Shortlisting process for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality

Attendance by Committee Members

Status	Name of Member of Parliament	Political Party
Present	Ms CN Ndaba	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms T Masondo	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms B Marekwa	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms A Hlongo	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms C Phiri	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms F Masiko	African National Congress (ANC)
	Mr L Mphithi	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Ms N Sharif	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Ms N Hlonyana	Economic Freedom Fighter
Apologies	Mr T Marawu	African Transformation Movement (ATM)
	Ms M Hlengwa	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
	Mr S Ngcobo*	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Ms P Sonti	Economic Freedom Fighter* (EFF)

Parliamentary Officials

Name	Designation
Ms N Nobatana	Committee Secretary
Ms K Abrahams	Content Adviser
Ms C Levendale	Committee Researcher
Ms T Matthews	Committee Researcher
Ms N Twala	Committee Assistant
Mr H Tembe	OISD: Legal Adviser

1. Introduction

The Chairperson officially opened the meeting and welcomed Members of the Committee and the staff. She apologised that the meeting started late due to IT challenges experienced in Parliament and travel delays experienced by Members of the Committee. Hereafter, she outlined the purpose of the meeting indicating that Dr Tembe would present on the criteria for

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shortlisting process and Ms Abrahams and Ms Levendale would present on the outcomes of the applications received. The Chairperson also indicated that the documents with the list of applications received would be circulated to Members of the Committee in the meeting and urged Members to treat the document with confidentiality as it contains personal information of applicants.

In addition, the Chairperson reported that the Committee received two letters from Corruption Watch and OUTA who requested an extension for the submission of applications. She indicated that the request was declined as the Committee provided sufficient time for members of the public to submit their application. She also reported that the Committee received a request from an applicant who could not submit her application as she was not informed by the NGO which nominated her that she was supposed to fill in an online application and requested to be considered. To this end, the Chairperson also indicated that there were two late applications which was attributed to networks challenges and load-shedding experienced in some other areas. As such, and the Chairperson requested Members of the Committee to take a decision on whether to accept those late applications or not. The Chairperson then handed over to Dr Tembe, Ms Abrahams and Ms Levendale to present their reports.

2. Presentation on criteria for short-listing process for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality

The Legal Officer from the OISD presented on the criteria for short-listing process for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality. The Legal Adviser indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to proffer advise to the PC on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on the practical factors to be considered by the Committee on the shortlisting process so that most suitable candidates for the current and upcoming vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) can be recruited. His presentation focused on the background of the current vacancies that exists in the CGE; constitutional and legal framework; Commissioner's Handbook; comment and advice provided to the Committee on the criteria for shortlisting candidates.

3. Presentation on the outcomes of applications received.

The Content Adviser, Ms Abrahams and Ms Levendale presented a document on the outcomes of the applications received. Ms Abrahams focussed covered the introduction, background on vacancies that currently exists in the CGE and the Commissioners term of office. Ms Levendale provided an analysis of the applications received which included the demographic profile of applicants received, applicants by province and gender, applicants by race, applicants received by disability, applicants by employment status and applicants by nomination. Ms Abrahams then concluded with the way forward and outlined the shortlisting process for identifying suitable candidates for Commissioners to serve in the Commission for Gender Equality.

4. Deliberations

The Committee deliberated on the two applications that were received late and agreed to consider them given the circumstances and the communication received by the secretariat in that regard. The Committee also resolved not to consider request for late applications from

persons nominated by organisations as those nominators' were responsible for informing their candidate to submit the application on time.

Furthermore, the Committee deliberated on the reports presented by Dr Tembe and Ms Abrahams outlining the criteria for shortlisting candidates. Thereafter, the Committee adopted both reports. Ms Phiri moved for the adoption of the reports and this was seconded by Mr Mphithi. The Committee also resolved to conclude the shortlisting of candidates on Wednesday, 24 August 2022 at 09:30. In addition, the Committee also agreed to shortlist 24 candidates to be interviewed for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality.

5. General issues

GBV

The Chairperson noted with concern what appeared to be the increase in gender-based violence (GBV) cases in August which is women's month. She mentioned the 8 women who were raped in Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province and other GBV cases that were reported in the news in various other provinces.

Enyobeni tragedy

The Chairperson also mentioned the media reports where families of children who were involved in the Enyobeni Tavern tragedy in the Eastern Cape Province have complained that they have still not received a final forensic report which would indicate why their children died. The media reports also indicated that families complained that they have not received any counselling services from the Provincial Department of Social Development as promised by the Department.

In this regard, the Committee agreed to engage with the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Social Development to indicate why families have not received counselling services as promised. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to engage with the Eastern Cape Department of Community Safety and Liaison and the Minister of Police on reasons why the families have not received a full forensic report on the cause of death of their children. The Committee also agreed to meet with the Department of Health on progress made with regards to the toxicology report emanating from the Enyobeni tragedy in the Eastern Cape Province.

KZN floods impact victims

The Committee also deliberated on the issue of families who were affected by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal Province during April 2022. A Member reported that there were incidents of GBV concerning women and children who are staying in the community halls as they were displaced as a result of the flooding. The Committee agreed to request the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to deal with the situation in those halls and to report to the Committee on progress in this regard. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that the relevant KZN provincial departments should be made aware of these incidents and ensure the safety of women and children living at the community halls. The Committee also agreed to conduct an oversight to the KwaZulu-Natal Province in light of the GBV incidents that were reported by a Committee Member.

6. Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson thanked Members of the Committee for participating in the meeting. Furthermore, she thanked the support staff for presenting the reports and the hard work that as the information would greatly assist Committee members to shortlist their candidates.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:40



Ms CN Ndaba

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities



Draft Minutes of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Date : Wednesday, 24 August 2022

Time : 11:00 – 14:00

Venue : Committee Room M514, Marks Building, Parliament

Agenda:

1. Shortlisting process for the filling of vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality
2. Consideration and adoption of minutes

Attendance by Committee Members

Status	Name of Member of Parliament	Political Party
Present	Ms CN Ndaba	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms T Masondo	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms B Marekwa	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms A Hlongo	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms C Phiri	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms F Masiko	African National Congress (ANC)
	Mr L Mphithi	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Mr S Ngcobo	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Ms N Hlonyana	Economic Freedom Fighter
Apologies	Mr T Marawu	African Transformation Movement (ATM)
	Ms M Hlengwa	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
	Ms N Sharif	Democratic Alliance (DA)

Parliamentary Officials

Name	Designation
Ms N Nobatana	Committee Secretary
Ms K Abrahams	Content Adviser
Ms C Levendale	Committee Researcher
Ms T Matthews	Committee Researcher
Ms N Twala	Committee Assistant
Mr H Tembe	OISD: Legal Adviser

1. Introduction

The Chairperson officially opened and welcomed Members of the Committee to the meeting. She apologised that the meeting started late due to network challenges experienced and opening of document with a list of applications received in different gadgets of Members of

the Committee. She indicated the purpose of the meeting and gave Members of the Committee an opportunity to go thru the list of applicants. She read S193 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and also indicated that the names of shortlisted candidate will be published in Parliamentary website from 30 August – 16 September 2022 for the public to comment.

2. Consideration and adoption of minutes

3 June 2022: The minutes of 3 June 2022 were adopted. Ms Marekwa moved for the adoption of minutes and this was seconded by Ms Mr Mphithi.

7 June 2022: Ms Masondo moved for the adoption of minutes and this was seconded by Mr Ngcobo. The minutes were adopted with amendments.

3. Continuation of shortlisting process

Members of the Committee were given opportunity to shortlist their candidate and thereafter the support staff consolidated the information and reported back to the Committee. The Committee then deliberated and adopted the 24 candidates that were shortlisted. Ms Masiko moved for the adoption of the names of shortlisted candidates and this was seconded by Mr Mphithi. The Committee agreed to shortlist the following candidates:

- Adv Thando Gumede
- Pontsho Pilane
- Candice Chirwa
- Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale
- Itumeleng Gareth Mmusi
- Nthabiseng Moleko
- Bernadine Bachar
- Mulalo Nemataheni
- Emily Makosha Maditsi
- Leonasha Leigh-Ann van der Merwe
- Lebogang Fataha
- Santel Wilhemia van Zyl
- Theresa Eulanda Mabusela
- Pulane Noko Thobejane
- Bongani Ngomane
- Lindiwe Khonjelwayo
- Susan Charity Mokwebo
- Nonhlanhla Gretta Govender
- Fundiswa Barbara Skweyiya-Gusha
- Magdaline Moonsamy
- Nokuthula Mazibuko
- Joy Janita Lange
- Leelambal (Prabashni) Subrayan Naidoo
- Zoleka Susan Ponoane

4. Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson thanked Members of the Committee for attending and participating in the meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:00

Ms CN Ndaba

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

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06 September 2022

Attn: Hon. Claudia Nonhlanhla Ndaba

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Per email: nondaba@parliament.gov.za

**Insufficient information provided to facilitate meaningful public participation in the appointment of
CGE Commissioners**

1. We refer to the above matter.
2. On 2 September 2022, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities ("the Committee") released a [media statement](#), calling on the public to comment on candidates who have been shortlisted to fill vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE). The Committee released a spreadsheet that merely provides the names and qualifications of candidates, and asked the public to comment on these shortlisted individuals via an online form – which has a 2000 character limitation.
3. It is our view that the information provided by the Committee, as well as the character limitation to comment on candidates, will not allow for meaningful public participation in this pertinent appointment process.
4. We strongly urge the Committee to follow the precedent set by other parliamentary committees who published redacted CVs on Parliament's website, and allowed comments to be sent directly to the Committee secretary. We also humbly remind the Committee to adhere to the recommendations set out by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, in his final report on the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, which recommends that Parliament "consider whether it is desirable to amend its rules to give effect to the proposals by Corruption Watch on appointments by Parliament".

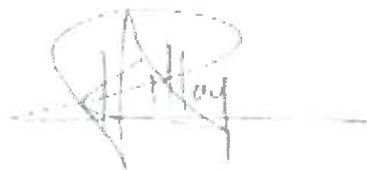
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5. To this end, one of our proposals stated the following:

Ensure that all parliamentary selection processes are transparent and open. Transparency in parliamentary proceedings should involve widely publishing the advertisement for the available position, publishing both the longlist and shortlist of candidates as well as any supporting information that are provided by candidates, sharing the budgets and expenditure related to appointments, and ensuring that interviews and deliberation processes are open and accessible to the public.

6. The principle of public participation is a central tenet in parliamentary appointment processes. Section 59 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires Parliament to include the public in legislative and other processes. Thus, the public should be reasonably and effectively accommodated during this appointment proceeding. This interaction should be meaningful and not just a symbolic exercise or box-ticking process.

Sincerely,



Kavisha Pillay

Head: Stakeholder Relations and Campaigns

Per email: kavishap@corruptionwatch.org.za





Draft Minutes of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Date : Tuesday, 6 September 2022

Time : 09:30 – 12:15

Venue : Zoom Platform Meeting

Agenda:

1. Consideration and adoption of the following reports:

- Draft report on determination of salaries of the Commission for Gender Equality for 2021/22.
- Draft report on the petition calling for the Assembly to establish the National Council on Gender Based Violence and Femicide.
- Draft report on the Commission for Gender Equality Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on Gender Based Violence and Femicide,
- Draft report on oversight visit to North West and Gauteng Province from 18 -23 April 2022
- Draft report on oversight visit to Eastern Cape Province from 3-6 July 2022.

2. Consideration and adoption of minutes

Attendance by Committee Members

Status	Name of Member of Parliament	Political Party
Present	Ms CN Ndaba	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms F Masiko	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms B Marekwa	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms C Phiri	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms F Masiko	African National Congress (ANC)
	Mr L Mphithi	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Mr S Ngcobo	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Ms N Hlonyana	Economic Freedom Fighter
	Ms M Hlengwa	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
	Apologies	Ms N Sharif
Ms T Masondo		African National Congress (ANC)

Parliamentary Officials

Name	Designation
Ms N Nobatana	Committee Secretary
Ms K Abrahams	Content Adviser
Ms C Levendale	Committee Researcher
Ms T Matthews	Committee Researcher
Ms N Twala	Committee Assistant

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Name	Designation
Ms H Tembe	Legal Adviser: OISD

1. Introduction

The Chairperson officially opened the meeting and indicated the purpose of the meeting. She also indicated that Ms Masiko would join the meeting later as she was travelling to Cape Town. Furthermore, the Chairperson updated Members of the Committee who could not attend the meeting that was held on 30 August 2022 with National Treasury, the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. The Chairperson also tabled a letter received from Corruption Watch pertaining to concerns they had about the public participation process related to the submission of public comments for candidates who were shortlisted as part of the process to fill Commissioner vacancies at the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE).

2. Consideration and adoption of minutes

23 August 2022: Ms Masondo moved for the adoption of the minutes and this was seconded by Mr Mphithi. The minutes were adopted.

24 August 2022: Ms Masiko moved for the adoption of minutes and this was seconded by Mr Ngcobo. The minutes were adopted.

30 August 2022: The minutes were adopted. Ms Masiko moved for the adoption of minutes and this was seconded by Ms Hlengwa.

3. Consideration and adoption of reports

3.1 Draft Committee report on determination of salaries of the Commission for Gender Equality

The Committee Secretary presented the letter sent by the President to Parliament on the determination of salaries of the Commission for Gender Equality for 2021/22. The Committee deliberated on the letter and agreed to the 3% remuneration increase for Commissioners as per the contents outlined in the letter from the President. Ms Marekwa moved for the adoption and this was seconded by Ms Masondo. The report was adopted.

3.2 Draft report on the petition calling for the Assembly to establish the National Council on Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

The Committee Secretary presented the draft report to the Committee. The Committee deliberated on the report and it was adopted. Mr Mphithi moved for the adoption of the report and this was seconded by Ms Ngcobo.

3.3 Draft report on the Commission for Gender Equality Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on Gender Based Violence and Femicide,

The Committee Secretary presented the report to the Committee. The Committee deliberated and adopted the report. Ms Marekwa moved for the adoption of the report and this was seconded by Ms Hlengwa. The report was adopted.

3.4 Draft report on oversight visit to North West and Gauteng Province from 18 -23 April 2022

The Chairperson tabled and presented the report to the Committee. The Content Adviser was requested to present the findings and the recommendations of the report. The Committee deliberated on the report and the report was adopted. Ms Marekwa moved for the adoption of the report and this was seconded by Ms Masondo.

3.5 Draft report on oversight visit to Eastern Cape Province from 3 -6 July 2022.

The Chairperson tabled and presented the report to the Committee. The Committee deliberated and adopted the report with amendments. Ms Phiri moved for the adoption of the report and this was seconded Ms Masiko

3.6 Resolutions

The Committee having deliberated on all the reports and matters raised, made the following resolutions:

- The support staff should follow-up with all Departments & stakeholders with regards to the oversight visit to the North West, Gauteng and Eastern Cape Provinces and request a formal response to the recommendations made by the Committee in the respective reports.
- The Committee should invite the Secretariat supporting the establishment of the National on Gender-Based Violence Femicide to update the Committee on work undertaken by the Secretariat.
- The Committee should write a letter of thanks to Mr Zain Bulbulia from the Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province who assisted the Committee in ensuring that the Ms Mabikwa from Katlehong, Gauteng Province received a customised wheelchair.
- The Legal Adviser: OISD should assist the Committee in responding to the letter from Corruption Watch.
- The Committee also agreed that the public can submit further comments on shortlisted candidates if their submission exceeds 2000 character count on the online form. Submissions then can be sent to the Committee Secretary via email should they wish to do so.

6. Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson thanked the Committee for attending and participating in the meeting and to the support staff for the development of comprehensive reports.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15

Ms CN Ndaba

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities



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PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COMMITTEES

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Kavisha Pillay
Head: Stakeholder Relations and Campaigns
Corruption Watch
P. O. Box 30630
Braamfontein
2017

16 September 2022

Per-email: kavishap@corruptionwatch.org.za.

Dear Ms Pillay,

RE: Insufficient information provided to facilitate meaningful public participation in the appointment of CGE Commissioners

Your letter dated 6 September 2022 bears reference and receipt of its contents is hereby acknowledged.

In essence your correspondence sets out that the information provided to the general public for public involvement in terms of section 59(1)(a) of the Constitution is insufficient and implies that the approach adopted by the PC on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is misguided.

Firstly, one must highlight that the Committee is cognizant of the importance of public involvement in its processes hence invitation for public comment.

Secondly, this section should not be read in isolation, but together with section 57(1) of the Constitution, which gives the Committee, as part of the instrument of the National Assembly the liberty to determine its internal arrangements and make rules and orders regarding transparency and public involvement amongst others, and of course without disregarding the relevant Constitutional imperatives.

Thirdly, the Committee decided to attach academic qualifications of candidates for public assessment of their capabilities and potentials on the parliamentary website. Candidates also filled a form relating to their activism which is accessible to the Parliamentarians. Therefore, the Committee considered this aspect amongst the totality of issues. Section 57(1)(a)-(b) of the Constitution allows the National Assembly through its committees to determine and control its internal arrangement, procedures and also make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement.

Fourthly, the Committee is cognizant of the Protection of Personal Information Act No.4 of 2013 in this recruitment process. The disclosure of the candidates' personal information should be understood within that legal framework prism. The Act aims to give effect to the constitutional right to privacy, by safeguarding personal information when processed by a responsible party, subject to justifiable limitation that are aimed

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at amongst others: balancing the right to privacy against other rights, particularly the right of access to information. There is no statutory provision which enjoins the extent of disclosure to be made public.

As you might be aware POPIA promotes the protection of personal information processed by public and private bodies and also introduce certain conditions so as to establish minimum requirements for the processing of personal information amongst others.

Fifthly, the mere fact that candidates have opened themselves to public scrutiny on their capabilities and potential in the parliamentary process of recruiting CGE commissioners does not in any negate the fact that we need to observe the POPIA safeguard provisions. The Committee resolved to be very cautious in its approach brought by the developments of POPIA. Section 2(a) of the Act provides that the purpose of it, is to concretize the constitutional right to privacy, by safeguarding personal information when processed by a responsible party, subject to justifiable limitations that are aimed at balancing the right to privacy against other rights, particularly the right of access to information. Public participation for comments does not supersede the primacy safeguarded by this legislation. The candidates have reasonable expectations that their information would be treated with the confidentiality it deserves and protected from unlawful use and access.

One needs to emphasize "informational privacy" requires greater legal protection because technological advances have facilitated the collection, retention and dissemination of personal information in an electronic form. This also encompass a related interest in having access to personal information that has been collected by others in order to ascertain its contents and to check its accuracy. In a measured manner the Committee believes the avenues and the information supplied suffices for public participation.

Should individuals or civic organizations have additional information they wish to submit in relation to the candidates, they must feel free to do so to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Portfolio Committee. The Committee would not disqualify an individual because of negative public comment without offering *audi alteram partem* to the concerned candidate and weighing its gravity in relation to the position applied for. Furthermore, please be advised that the Committee will also conduct its own screening through the State Security Intelligence for the vetting to be completed by the appointing authority.

Lastly, the process of public involvement for comment the processes also involve screening by State Security Agents that includes checks on the personal information of the candidates.

I hope this suffices for your complaint.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ndaba', is written over two horizontal lines.

Ms CN Ndaba, MP
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Handwritten initials 'CN' in black ink.

Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Micaela Hoff		As she will make a change in the rights for gender equality as well as the rights for the LGBTQ community
Phumlani Mdelethe		Thando Gumede is a well known human rights champion, her work in the fight against abuse of human rights is extremely commendable, she is an excellent fit for the appointment.
Thanfo Gumede		Good work
Terece Swartz		Thando is a remarkable woman who has played a significant role in bringing equality in South Africa. As you know, we have one of the highest rates of GBV in the world, but her work has advocated against GBV for all including the LGBTQ+, whom often are forgotten. Thando is the perfect candidate as she has the experience, education, and many prestigious awards to her name. She will be an excellent leader!
Adv Thando Gumede		She is the most amazing person ever, not only has an absolute phenomenal personality for this position and heart of gold to stand for what is right but has "Ubuntu" for in everything she is and does for humankind. Highly support the rights she's fighting for.
Nikita Hobbs		Well deserved position. Happy congratulations Thando!
Emem Bassey/ African Union		Committed person very strong
Norma Uhuru Mbele from Tosunga Banninga		She is in a better position for the job, she is passionate, loves her work of serving, the respect she has for people is humbling. She sees people as people doesn't judge whether you are an academic or not this I have realized few years ago, most academic do fail in treating those who are not equally, she sees humans the same.
Ruby Jordan		She is a well spoken person and she's fighting for the rights for people. We need more woman who can make a change in society.
Dance		Thando Gumede is a strong, powerful black South African woman who has no problem standing for the rights of her own and others. She is fearful and dominant in what she believes in, we need more woman like her in this world we live on, people who stands up for other who can't for themselves. A voice for all.
Thobeka Motsa		Got my vote.
Steven Rebello/ CSVR (former senior researcher)		I met Adv Thando Gumede earlier this year via a youth inclusion hybrid event hosted by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation. Her advocacy around youth and gender were well noted, where it was clear that she had a wealth of knowledge. I was equally impressed by her humility and call for activists to remain grounded. I hope that this quality will allow Thando to remain true to the call of gender equality and not side-tracked by power or position.
Rehana Moosajee		I met Advocate Gumede at a session I was facilitating for Centre on the Study of Violence and Reconciliation on Youth Inclusion and Participation. I was struck by her clarity, determination and focus on transformation of SA society. She conducted herself with maturity, poise and self awareness. I think that Advocate Gumede will add immense value to the important office of the CGE. I endorse her nomination.

Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Sakina Mohamed Asizameni		Advocate Thando Gumede has been active in the fight for human rights for all, her focus on equality, diversity and the eradication of Gender Base Violence. Advocate Gumede is in good standing in terms of her educational background that would be very important for the position as a Commissioner. Her international participation in the various forums would bring a wealth and knowledge to the post as a commissioner. When she is unsure of an issues she always consults and uses her network and the members of SAWID.
Dululu Hlatshane		I recommend Adv Thando's candidacy as one of the instrumental human rights activists that is assisting young people to awaken their resolve on human rights. The fact she aligns rights to responsibilities makes me highly recommend her.
Nene Nompumelelo		She is a very passionate revolutionary on issues of gender equality. She is a true champion of social justice amongst all the people. She radically transformed legal text for school children with her Mithetho engine platform. She stands for equality amongst the citizens of the Republic. She continues to empower everyone she comes into contact with. She is also a great inspiration to young women across the globe. She has demonstrated consistency in the pursuit of gender equality and fighting against gender based violence in South Africa and beyond have seen her oversee programs and advocacy initiatives over the years with consistency and with maturity and I believe that she would make a valuable contribution to Parliament in the fight for gender equality in South Africa
Hlongwa		Adv. Thando Gumede is an outstanding individual who dedicates her time, energy and resources for the rightful cause of women's rights and empowerment and a world of women free of violence and discrimination.
Mohammed Yairima/Federation of International Gender and Human Rights		She is a genius with immense creative ideas and problem-solving strategies that give her an opportunity like this will never go down the drain. She's the perfect person for the position. I spent quite a lot of time with her online. She's firm, hardworking and friendly and her tenacity for a positive impact she always perceives is really something to tell her country about. Besides her personality, her hard-earned qualifications are what I find making so undeniable about her. Give her this chance and you will never regret it, thanks. Thando is the best candidate for the position to serve as Commissioner at the Commission for Gender Equality.
Michelle Dlamini		She has been fighting for the advancement of human rights in South Africa and across the globe for a decade. She is committed to fighting against racism, sexism and related forms of discrimination. She laid down her life for the building of a better society for all human beings regardless of their superficial difference and has tried to do so in the most collaborative way possible.

Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Sinomhlobo Makelani		<p>Adv. Thando Gumede is a hard worker an inspiration to many, she continues to fight for the rights of women and children through her organisation her dedication to changing lives is visible.</p> <p>Thando has laid down her life for the building of a better society for all human beings regardless of their superficial difference and she has tried to do so in the most collaborative way possible. She has been an advocate for change since she was a teenager, fighting for the advancement of human rights in South Africa.</p>
Charlene Roberson		<p>Thando is an open book, tells you like it is, and stands up for what is right.</p> <p>Adv. Thando Gumede is very dynamic, honest and hard working. And I believe in what she stands for. Time we put responsible people of calibre in parliament</p> <p>I fully support the Adv. The right person for the job.</p> <p>Adv has an authentic and sincere interest in this field. She is passionate about this topic and has spent time in understanding this landscape.</p>
IRENE CONSTANTINIDES		<p>Her contribution especially in the space of woman empowerment is phenomenal. I have her speak on woman in the economy and this was indeed an eye opener. Her characteristics and attributes places her in an ideal place to represent the views of us woman. I hope heartedly support her.</p> <p>Adv Gumede has been an activist in promoting gender equality for a decade. She has played an integral part in promoting and implementing gender invusivity. It would be great if she could be considered for this role as she has demonstrated her commitment to drive gender parity in South Africa.</p> <p>Advocate Thando continues to add value in her Communities... Her Bravery Dedication and PERSEVERANCE is absolutely Admirable</p> <p>She is a phenomenal leader</p>
Nico Weeber		<p>Advocate Gumede will bring her legal experience to CGE considering the great work she is currently involved with, looking at "gender and the Law in SA". She has been instrumental in educating various stakeholders (especially Corporates) on the importance of breaking institutionalized barriers to gender equality. She is not only an advocate for women rights but inclusive of all human rights especially those of the marginalized groups. Her work (amongst a lot that she is doing) on creating awareness on "misogenoir is commendable and very insightful. She will be an excellent candidate to be included as one of the Commissioners of the CGE.</p>
Shaune@sqjgroup.co.za		<p>She is truly selfless and is for her people and has a hunger to see equality amongst all South Africans. I believe with the right Elders in Parliament and flexibility of seniors in listening to her dreams and guiding her throughout this journey South Africa will be a better place. Her heart and soul is in the right place and within all people and all race. This said she is the best candidate for the position.</p>
Nonzuzo Makanda		
WOMEN PAYING IT FORWARD_SA PTY		
Mojases Violet Phejane		
Penny Mkalipe from Eskom Holdings		
Somahle MHLANGA		

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Thando Gumede		<p>Adv. Thando Gumede is the epitome of good leadership. A truly passionate feminist leader, who always has the interests of the people around her at heart. She lives and breathes the concept of Ubuntu. She wears her activism and advocacy proudly and is well fitted for thus position.</p> <p>I have known thando a year now, she was my class meet at United global people enterprinueship program and she was also our team leader she has been of help to all our team members in so many ways ,she is a good learning who makes sure all is well with her team and any one else around her.so heard work and she used to make sure we meet our targets before the deadline.i wish her the best of luck in everything she is going and may the hand of God be with her.</p> <p>I believe Advocate Thando Gumede is the right candidate for this job of commissioner for Gender equality. She has an LLB degree from Wits University law school. She is a hard worker dedicated to advocating for the struggles of women and children. Has a passion for Gender based violence. She involves herself in Community work and out reach programs run by the United Nations Women program. She will do a great job advocate for the rights of women and children and marginalised groups and communities in South Africa. Advocate Thando Gumede is the suitable candidate for this job.</p> <p>Adv. Gumede is one of powerful, educated, talented & resilient women I have ever known. Her academic and volunteering background makes her standout of all the applications.</p> <p>Adv Thando Gumede is an advocate for women. As a young woman she understands all the nuances of what is missing in our justice system to address GBV and has displayed all the commitment necessary to fight for equality. Professionally Adv Thando Gumede has offered her expertise and has gone beyond the call of duty for the rights of women. The Commission cannot do without this dynamic young woman advocate. She will move the commission forward in all the ways that it needs to move to bring necessary changes in our country. It would be a mistake that will cost our progress as a country if she is not appointed. She has all the urgency that is required to address this scourge in our country.</p>
Katlheho Mokhosi		
Boitshapo Gopane		
Siki Dlanga		
Foeeza		<p>Votes</p>
Thandolwethu Nodlawa I Corpjoy Africa Group		<p>Advocate Thando Gumede is consistent in her quest for equal Human rights and fighting gender based abuse in our global and continental society, as a woman it is a blessing to have a young woman with such a caliber of morality and intelligence in South Africa, it would give me so much more faith and hope for the future of our challengingly shaky democracy knowing she is part of policy development to build a better and stronger South Africa za</p> <p>She is a passionate and committed selfless advocate, fighting against sexism, racism and other related forms of discriminations.</p>
John Ondama		<p>She will delivered squarely if giving the opportunity to serve as Commissioner at the Commission for Gender Equality.</p>

Thanks

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Nkithemba NPO		She is a phenomenal leader, who wants to see equality in our life time. I've worked with her in one of her programs which she was partnering with United Nations association of America Greater Chicago Chapter. Keep up the good work
Thandazile Ndlovu		Adv. Thando Gumede has always been a sober minded and just individual, someone who will never compromise the integrity of truth and justice. From a very young age she has always been someone who recognises the importance of leadership, teamwork and inclusion across all levels of human organisations and communities. She has always encouraged the spirit of unity and growth, she absolutely believes in excellence and merit. She leads with both her mind and intellect, that come with her warm and graceful spirit.
Chimurenga Mamphoga		A very focused young person with unbelievable levels of energy, enthusiasm & passion for women's rights. I would like to see Thando occupying a very top judicial position in Women's Rights in SA
Mpume Tshabalala		She is the best candidate for the position
Ashleigh		She's the truer embodiment of equality. Big exploits are going to be seen and felt under her leadership.
First love yourself NPC		Thando would be best suited as a commissioner
Thulelo Makola		In the time that I have known her, Advocate Thando has been a hard core activist and feminist and very practical orientated individual who educates and advocate for Gender equality and conscientizes on the systems of oppression. She continues to hold the values of ubuntu and equality in every aspect of her work. The most humble human being and very open-minded. Her age is another motivation for her to represent youth in this essential role, we need more youth representation in decision making spaces.
Samke Mkhize (AFRA)		Adv. belives in equality for all and that's what we should stand up for. Women should also be given a platform as they too are humans. We are all human being at the end of the day.
Nangamso		I have known Adv. Thanks Gumede for over a year and since then, she has been fighting for Gender Equality through advocacy. I'm from Jamaica and I'm still living here and her work has impacted the lives of people in my country.
Tracey-Ann Harriage		She has led numerous initiatives in seeking justice and saving lives. I'm very proud of her accomplishments and I know that she's capable of serving and delivering on her promises as her words are her bond. As a vibrant young intelligent woman she stands for what she truly believes in and that is to empower women in all walks of life. To fight for not only the rights of women but children. She will definitely add value to whatever she intended to be part of and she gave it her all without fear, favour or prejudice. As a country we need woman like her who can stand up against injustice against women and to be a voice for the voiceless. Gender equality is a burning issue in our beloved country and as a woman from a rural town Upington, Northern Cape, she is a great inspiration to me and I truly believe that this opportunity is destined to be. Thank you very much.
Jacquita Rozel Izacks		

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Comments (limited to 2000 characters)

Luyanda

Thando is the ideal candidate because for over a decade she has dedicated her life to fighting discrimination not only in SA but also in the globe. She's also innovative as the brains behind the MTEO app. She understands that collaboration is key in moving forward and ensures that she prioritises that rights of the largely marginalized. Her achievements are many but one of the biggest carries is also her heart, her ability to put herself in other people's shoes. What a force!

She's a phenomenal leader with vast experience in fighting against racism, sexism and related forms of discrimination. A dedicated lawyer and a champion of social change. I salute her for the many efforts and community engagements that she handles.

Ms Gumede has over the years that I have known her shown an unwavering and unflinching dedication for gender equality. I am well aware of the many pro bono cases that she has undertaken in support of gender issues. She has rallied support among members of the profession in respect of these causes.

Georgina Mabezere
Mwaka Namwila
Foundation

Adv. Ory Ben-Zeev

I could not recommend Ms Gumede for this position enough. She is the best person for this job.

Adv. Thando Gumede

Adv. Thando Gumede has exceptional leadership skills. Her work ethic is unmatched. You can always count on her to bring new and innovative ideas to the table. Her CV and experience in the feminist space speaks for itself and I was honoured to be mentored by her through an initiative she had started (in partnership with the UN). I learnt so much from her through the restorative justice program.

Lifeline South Africa

Advocate Thando is a mediator, volunteer, problem solver, tackles issues head on-a fear tackler. Energetic, peace builder and community developer. A diligent hard working never give up, confident speak up for herself and others. Mentally strong, confident, productive, optimistic and positive.

Lifeline South Africa

Mediator, Volunteer, stand up for what she believes in, tackles issues head on-fear tackler. Problem solver. Energetic, peace builder and community developer.

Diligent works hard without giving up. Confidently speaks up for herself and others. She's mentally strong, confident, productive optimistic and positive.

Advocate Thando is resilient, disciplined, fighter and accountable. A mediator, mentor, problem solver, tackles issues head on-a fear tackler.

Nomusa Papale

Energetic, peace builder and community developer. Diligent, works hard towards a goal without giving up.

Advocate Gumede is a confident person who speaks up for herself and others. Mentally strong, confident, productive, optimistic and positive.

Anelie Ndziweni

In the years that I have known Thando she has always established herself as a leader in her community and a fierce advocate for human rights activism and being a voice for the voiceless. This could not be more clearly demonstrated than with the sacrifice and commitment she made to achieve admission as an attorney of the court in order to be more effective in pursuing her purpose and serving others. Her exploits

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<p>Dimpho Thepa</p> <p>Mahleke Matlome</p> <p>Agnes Phiri</p> <p>Gratlari</p> <p>Nomsa Papale</p>	<p>as an entrepreneur and spokesperson for women's rights and against GBV further highlights her tremendous spirit and character. I have no doubt her contribution to the Gender Equality Commission will be immense. There is simply no better fit to represent South Africans in this post. She is smart, kind, compassionate and very dedicated to the cause.</p> <p>She is an outstanding citizen. A true human rights activist!</p> <p>Adv Thando is a young vibrant gender and human rights activist who has voluntary championed a lot of work and initiatives to promote gender equality and women empowerment. She has engaged herself on the United Nations Women Generation Equality Forum</p> <p>And amplified issues that pertain to gender equality in a very pragmatic way. The future of ensuring young qualified people in spaces where intersectionality is key for gender equality she is the perfect candidate in this space to ensure Gender Equality as envisioned by young people is attained.</p> <p>Great leader in gender equality and gbv awareness. Would love for her to represent the small organisations like ours that work in the field.</p> <p>She's a mediator, problem solver, tackles issues head on-fear tackler. Energetic, Peace Builder and Community Developer.</p>
<p>Annah Mabunda Department of health</p>	<p>Diligent works hard towards a goal without giving up. She confidently speaks up for herself and others. She is mentally strong, confident, productive, optimistic and positive.</p> <p>Advocate Thando Gumede is a very humble and knowledgeable person. She has dedicated her life to fight against the scourge of GBVF from a young persons perspective</p> <p>She doesn't not undermine anyone and she is always willing to listen and to learn from others. She manages stakeholders collaboration very well and never see herself as superior to anyone despite her knowledge and the fact that she is we traveled and she is a visionary. She has very simple ideas that are practical to address GBVF and always available to assist</p> <p>She is a Lioness and very eager to tackle issues with rigor for the benefit of all</p> <p>I have no doubt that she will contribute immensely and progressively to address GBVF in the country, continent and globally.</p>
<p>Cheryl Sister Jenny JEN- TILL TOUCH</p>	<p>What is it that you feel you can change first to align equality?</p> <p>Great candidate</p>
<p>Thando Hopa</p>	<p>Excellent candidate, she's always involved herself in intersectional approaches regarding gender equity. She has been an activist in various platforms and has been consistent in pursuing equitable frameworks. Her legal background provides her with a vast amount of analytical thinking, an ability to provide a needs analysis within different contexts and is very hard working. Thando is quite adaptive to learning and understanding information and experiences she's unfamiliar with. She has a very broad view of</p>

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Nomisa Dlamini		<p>institutionalized discrimination and has innovative solutions to marry her analysis. This candidate is of high quality.</p> <p>For the past 10 years she has been committed to fight against racism, sexism and related forms of racism. From the early age she was fighting for the advancement of human rights in South Africa and across the globe.</p> <p>She is suited for this job specification because she has lived her life under a cloud of judgment. Though a citizen of this country she has had to prove herself thrice as hard in positions of authority. She became an activist because the need resonated within her. I remember when she was elected head of the Wits Law School Council, she had to resign because the rest of the council didn't seem her fit to be president and was asked to take a lesser position. She had to resign because she would not have been up leading a council that didn't approve of her. For me that was a character of someone who resolute. Someone who knows that you do not have to fight all battles. She is strong, cultured and is called for this purpose to speak for people with less voice. When we finished our law school she was head hunted by the largest Law firm in SA, ENS Africa and she declined the offer because her calling was to speak for people who are under marginalised. Despite that she needed the money to improve her life and move from the townships or at least to further her studies. Against all these odds she has fought to be on platforms less rewarding to her that they are for others. Please consider her for this job and position.</p> <p>I've chosen the first listed name but my comment is general. How can this shortlist be considered when no resume is offered, including experience in gender activism. Furthermore, a quality comment might require more time for consideration than the allowed 2 weeks, and more space than the limited 2000 characters. These conditions are unacceptable.</p> <p>I have nicknamed Advocate Thando "The Women's Advocate", who has dedicated her life for the building of a more equitable society for women and of a better society for all human beings regardless of their superficial difference and I have tried to do so in the most collaborative way possible. Thank you for recognising her efforts through this nomination and hopefully confirmation as being meaningful for society at large,</p> <p>There is no one else who is more committed and dedicated to ensuring we live in an equal and just society. Adv. Thando Gumede was born ready for this role. Her appointment would be of great value to this Commission.</p> <p>She is dedicated to fighting all forms of injustices related to racism, sexism.</p> <p>Power to gender equality</p> <p>Adv Thando is the best candidate for the position and she is not only qualified she is living the life towards achieving gender equality in the World. She was facilitator of a global educational program on restorative justice and feminist thought which I am a proud alumna. Let's give those who do good to do good. Gender equality for adv Thando Aluta</p>
Gugu Vilakati-Mdlalose		
Annemarie Hendrikz		
Zoe Molapisi		
Ladovica Gordon		
Akampa Secret		
Nqobile Msimango a		
Lwando Fanana		

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Young Creative Minds		<p>Worked with Adv Thando on the Restorative Justice and Feminist Approaches To Building Peaceful Futures program. A leader by her own right. Her ideological philosophy comprises of 4IR to solve the socio economic issues in our society. Her advocacy for woman and children from disadvantaged communities is of high stature. Her ability to speak truth to power is impeccable. I honour her for the many lessons and discussions we've had.</p> <p>She is well suited for the job, appropriately qualified.</p>
Adv Thando Gumede		<p>Adv. Thando has been serving on South Africa's National Gender Machinery since 2018. In this space, she contributes her skills toward stakeholder and partner consultations, engagement, reporting, research, declaration and policy development. Which makes her a suitable candidate</p> <p>She is young and very. Active in Gender issues. Her work speaks for itself</p>
Private		<p>Our pride, well balanced women, knowledgeable young women, disciplined young women</p>
Nomimise Goggo		<p>ADV Thando is suitably qualified and a dedicated social justice activist. She holds an LLB from Wits University, is currently studying towards her Masters at the University of Cape Town. She is an admitted Advocate of the High Court and a registered mediator and panel member of Alternative Dispute Resolution Network of South Africa. She also served as a Judges Research Clerk at the Supreme Court of Appeals.</p>
Dr Mojekwana Projects		<p>Based on her qualification and bio Thando will make a suitable candidate</p>
Liberateasoul		<p>Yes</p>
Duduzile Shezi		<p>Yes</p>
Duduzile Shezi		<p>She's very versatile and kind at heart</p>
Thando Gumede		<p>Thandos contributions and commitment towards this cause has been nothing short of admirable in creating a better and safer environment for all people</p>
Ellenice Williams-Marede		<p>I met Thando a number of years ago in university and ever since I've known her she has been consistently committed to fighting against racism, sexism and related forms of discrimination. She has done this in the most selfless and collaborative way possible.</p>
Sitable Kuuya		<p>I believe Thando has not only the passion but the necessary experience required to meaningfully engage change in the fight against GBV.</p>
Zodwa		<p>I believe she'll make an incredible contribution on this Commission. She is a feminist thought leader, award winning legal eagle, global consultant, National ambassador against Gender based violence and femicide, Founder of M-TETO search engine, which is an internationally award winning legal and educational mobile technology which uses law, intelligence and gamification to prevent and respond to GBV at schools and across the globe.</p>

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Waleed grootboom	Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA)	
Liezelle Kumalo	Emeritus Professor Rosemary Hickman, former Professor at the JS Marais Experimental Surgical Laboratory, University of Cape Town	
Saartjie Baartman	Tracy Going	<p>I'm in support adv thando gumede work</p> <p>Adv Thando Gumede seems to be a suitable candidate. There are no concerning items that appear when their profile is studied. Adv Gumede is an active director of 2 companies. This, together with their other roles and responsibilities, ought not to interfere with their duties should they be appointed as commissioner. Qualifications are provided and seem to be favourable for this position.</p> <p>Ms Bernadine, has demonstrated a good awareness of gender and the needs of women affected by violence. Her educational background and the fact that she works in a CSO would benefit Commission.</p> <p>Ms Bachar (a former family lawyer) not only runs the home for abused women but she also established the vital National Helpline for such women.</p> <p>She has ensured better training of police in handling of victims of domestic abuse and is running a pilot project in the crime-gangster-, drug-ridden suburb of Manenburg, WC, to better manage the great problem of Gender Based Violence.</p> <p>She hopes then to be able to carry such a programme into rural communities.</p> <p>Bernadine has hands on experience of what is like to work with woman and children that are abused on a daily basis.she understand that the system of all parties are necessary to work together and she has the passion , knowledge and wisdom to do it.</p> <p>I have had the honour of working with Ms Bachar on a few projects. She would be an absolute asset to the Commission. Her understanding, knowledge, empathy and endless commitment to bringing about change in the Gbv sector cannot be questioned. I do hope you'll consider her as a final candidate.</p> <p>Bernadine Bachar is a suitable Candidate for a vacancy in the Commission for Gender Equality.</p> <p>Her extensive knowledge and experience as a Senior Family Advocate at the Office of the Family Advocate has provided a solid basis for her leadership role as Director at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children. Bernadine is passionate about social justice specifically Gender based Violence and Children's Rights. She is Chairperson of the Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement. A National Body representing 80 shelters for survivors of GBV and their Children. She is President Elect of the Western Cape Club and serves on the Advocacy Committee of our National body Soroptimist International South Africa.</p> <p>I support Bernadine Bachar for this position. An incredible advocate for women and Gender Equity who stands up for and represents women's rights. She is professional and passionate about gender equity, empowering women and for the safety of gbv victims, especially women and children. Excellent candidate that should be accepted for this position.</p> <p>Adv Bachar is an individual of unimpeachable character. She is a passionate advocate not only of women's rights and gender issues, but also issues which affect children. Her practical dedication to these</p>
Joan Cornish	Soroptimist International South Africa	
Susan Hill	Advocate in private practise	

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Lisette Genseberger, Soroptimist International		<p>fields yields measurable results. I have known Adv Bachar on a personal and professional level, having worked with her at the Office of the Family Advocate and, after her departure from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, in her capacity as a practising advocate and later in her capacity as director of the Saarfjie Baartman Centre. In all three of these capacities, Adv Bachar impressed with her enthusiasm for her work and for her devotion to the promotion of the rights and interests of those who have been disempowered by their circumstances. Adv Bachar's experience includes extensive experience within the civil service, in private legal practice and in the NGO sector. I believe that this makes her an ideal candidate for a position at the CGE, simply because from my experience, her dedication to principle so easily compels her to translate it into practical, tangible benefit for those she strives to assist.</p> <p>Mrs Bachar is highly respected in her field of Gender Based Violence and together with Soroptimist International South Africa has established the first GBV Hub in Cape Town which brings together all stakeholders who collectively take care of victims of GBV. The plan is to replicate these hubs countrywide. She took over a Centre that was collapsing in 2018. Staff members weren't being paid on time, the Centre owed SARS close to R1 million, it was a toxic environment to work in to an extent that those who left, did so even with social media password codes of the Centre - you can imagine what else they left with 😊. She has turned things around, staff members have received their 13th cheques and COLA increases two years in a row, the SARS debt is paid off, we received a clean audit last year and our house is on order. The Centre now almost has 900K in reserves while she is actively fundraising. They also have a thriving food gardening project.</p> <p>I she is s worthy Candidate</p> <p>Since 2018, Bernadine Bachar, has been the Director of the Saarfjie Baartman Centre for women and children, a shelter located in one of the poorest areas of Cape Town. Ms Bachar took over a Shelter that was collapsing. Staff members weren't being paid on time, the Centre owed SARS close to R1 million, it was a toxic environment to work in to an extent that those who left, did so even with social media password codes of the Centre - you can imagine what else they left with.</p> <p>In four years, she has turned things around. Staff members have received their 13th cheques and COLA increases two years in a row, the SARS debt is paid off, the Centre received a clean audit last year. The Centre now almost has 900K in reserves while she is actively fundraising. They also have a thriving food gardening project.</p> <p>I can only imagine what the CGE could achieve with her leadership and influence within the sector. Advocate Bernadine Bachar stands up for women and children's rights as well as those of the disabled in whatever she does or says. She heads up the GBV project for Soroptimist International South Africa and has established the first Hub for GBV victims in Cape Town. Bernadine is passionate about the importance of</p>
Pamela Masiko-Kambala		
Trunell Morom Soroptimist International		

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SISA Aneeqa Abrahams Camilla Swanér/ Soroptimist International		<p>women's shelters and has made the Saartjie Baartman Centre for women and children one of the most active shelters - it is the only one that is open 24/7. In her daily work, Bernadine leaves no stone unturned in her battle for the recognition of the rights of women, children and the disabled. She is an ideal candidate for the Commission.</p> <p>The portfolio is in line with the Soroptimist International objectives and SDGs</p> <p>Bernardino Bachar is a suitable candidate for this position given her long standing history working for womxn rights, working against gender based violence and to ensure the protection of womxn and children. She is a community leader and fighter who always puts equality and equity first.</p> <p>She would be the perfect woman for the job!</p> <p>It is indeed a great pleasure for me to lend support to a truly remarkable individual who I am confident is perfectly suited for this position.</p> <p>In addition to Bernadine's excellent qualifications as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa, her involvement in protecting women and children's rights throughout her career makes her a very valuable asset in the fight against GBV.</p> <p>I have had the privilege of working with Bernadine Bachar as part of Soroptimist International South Africa's National Project.</p> <p>Her position on the executive committee for the National Shelter movement, leadership on the National Shelter Helpline meant that she was perfect to lead Soroptimist International South Africa's Advocacy programme on GBV. The SISA program seeks to support GBV survivors through a community based response mobilising community based organizations and local stakeholders to protect and support GBV survivors.</p> <p>This model under the guidance of Bernadine has been launched in Cape Town and will begin roll out in KZN and JHB soon.</p> <p>It is indeed a pleasure for me to support this remarkable leader and know she will make an immeasurable contribution to the commission.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>I have known Bernadine for 25 years in the capacity of close friend. Bernadine is a strong woman, navigating work and children as a single mother to the highest standards. She has always exceeded expectations at work and in all other areas of her life. Her children (now at university) are hardworking,</p>
Jacqueline de Vos		

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Rachel Kolisi (Kolisi Foundation)	Bernadine Bachar	<p>honest and caring people just like their mother. If I can describe Bernadine in one word it would be "giving". Bern does not stop giving. She gives so much of herself (I often think too much) to everyone around her, starting with family, then work, and friends and of course the community. Bernadine is a consistent person. The way she is today, she will be the next day and the next. She is also consistently honest and ethical because these qualities are part of her character. You will never regret hiring Bernadine Bachar!</p> <p>We have worked Very closely with Bernadine over the past 2 and half years in the GBV fight. And I can't think of a better person suited for this position. She is 100% committed to the people of South Africa.</p>
Soorijie Baartman center	Carli Smith	<p>Just thought of the humility that is in her.</p>
Kelly Jones	Bernadene Meryl	<p>Very cheefu women I ever met. Working hard and believe in every women Nomatter the circumstances. She is up for a change.</p>
Bailey Georgiades	Bernadine Bachar	<p>As someone who has shot a short documentary video and many photos at the Soorijie Baartman centre, I have seen first hand the work that she does. I have heard from the women who have been abused how life changing the centre is and listened to their testimonies. She is an incredible leader in the GBV space. I support her</p>
Dr Niel Sascha Stofberg	Not sure	<p>She's done amazing work A deserving winner</p>
Monica Ulrich-Barnard	Zanna Warrick	<p>Best person for this extremely important position</p>
Not sure	Saarjie baartman	<p>Incredible candidate</p>
Zanna Warrick	Leigh- Anne Stofberg	<p>An intelligent and eminently capable candidate, who has proven her unwavering commitment to furthering the cause of vulnerable women in South Africa.</p>
Saarjie baartman	Miche Nicholas	<p>Vote for Bernadine Bachar</p>
Leigh- Anne Stofberg	Valencia Beukes	<p>Best Bernadine for commissioner <3 Vote for Bernadine.</p>
Miche Nicholas		<p>Bernadine is absolutely dedicated and phenomenal in the work she does The best candidate. She has already proven her numerous talents and her great ability to get the job done</p>
Valencia Beukes		<p>N/A Bernadine has already proven her many abilities by being an excellent family advocate and highly regarded director of the Soorijie Baartman Centre. She is the right and only candidate.</p>

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Mel Ledele		End gender based violence
Kelly Braby		She definitely deserves this role and is best suited
Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children		An angel on earth making such a big difference where ever she goes.
Saartjie Baartman Centre		Bernadine runs the largest shelter in CPT and has years of working against GBV. She will be an asset to the Commission.
Bernadine		She's just the best
Melani		None
Bernadine bachar		.
Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children		They do the most for the fight against GBV!!!
Saartjie Baartman		My vote
Cara Becker		She's doing amazing work here in Cape Town and runs an important center for women. Bernadine does amazing work with her shelter for GBV survivors. She is so well suited for this role and I can't think of anyone better.
Vuyile Luyaba		None
Kolisi foundation (Donnant)		Humble
Kayleigh Santos		Incredible work by a wonderful human, dedicating her life to vulnerable people!
Darren Julyse		She's great
Saartjie Baartman Centre		This Centre does excellent work for women and children who are survivors of abuse.
Cassidy		She is an inspiration, impactful person who deserves this position.
Laurian Visagie - Social Worker		I cannot think of another person who deserves the position more. For all that you have done to support, save and safeguard the lives of so many women and children, thank you!
Tabitha Parkin		To be elevated to a position where further positive change is possible.
Amanda Logan		You get my vote!
Olivia		Great work
Lwazi		I honestly feel that Bernadine is underrated and I feel that she will be best suited in our fight against GBV in our nation, South Africa

Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Makazolo		Bernadine will be best suited for the job and will help keep our sisters safe in Mzansi
Celetse Dias		Voting for Bernadine
Elna de Wet		Women's Centre
Siphe		Cool
Kelly Vermeulen		The Saartjie Baartman centre has done great work in helping women during GBV outbreaks.
Bernadine Bachar		Bernadine Bachar has an extensive wealth of knowledge on GBV in South Africa and has actively been involved in the fight against it for a very long time.
Sabrina		Amazing dedicated to helping and benefiting woman and children in need.
Jeannie		An excellent candidate!
Olivia		Can't think of anyone better for the job
Cailin Aylward		Bernadine has great experience for this position and would be extremely suitable.
Bernardine Bachar		She is doing an amazing job
Rieva		She's good
Marcé Cilliers		Can't think of anyone better for this position.
Ilhaam Davids		I
Mia		She is a rolemodel example of an equalist
Shaney		Bernardino Bachar for the win
Saartjie Baartman Center		Such an inspiration!
Therese Hore		Most deserving
Colonel Hermanus ; Manenberg SAPS		Saartjie Baartman is offering comfort and safety to so many abused women and children. The director, Bernadine is managing the place with absolute love and professionalism. Her leadership is not only noticeable at the foundations. She's also actively in partnership with the local police where she aspires to assist in awareness campaigns and prevention initiatives. She even offers herself to do voluntary services at the police station on a weekly basis. Her contribution to better the lives of women in need is unmatched in the area of responsibility.
Saartjie baartman		Bernadine has the right attitude to create positive change and is always available to assist whoever she can. I have an organization myself and she has helped with my clients in so many ways. Always eager to help, very accessible no matter what time day or night. A strong phenomenal woman for this position.

Name of person/organization

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Shamieah Abrahams
Fortunate Folks
Foundation

Shirin Ebrahim

Ben Mahon/HBIS

She will be and asset to our community that is facing challenges on a daily bases of Gender Equality and GBV. As she already proved herself to many community leaders and members as leadership I that field Bernadine works extremely hard to uphold the rights of women and empowers GBV victims through various interventions and support. The CGE needs to reflect diversity amongst its commissioners
Our school has partnered with her organization and she has only but shown selflessness and compassion towards others
I, Jade Cave as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Jade cave

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis, I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Yours Faithfully,

Jade Cave, Cape Town
I, Alexander Cowell-Vu as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Alexander Cowell-Vu

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness

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campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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Yours Faithfully,
Alexander Cowell-Vu, Cape Town
I, Benjamin Stern, as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

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Benjamin Stern

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appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Yours Faithfully,

Benjamin Stern

I, Jack Thomas as a student at the International School of Hourt Boy hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Jack Thomas

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Soarjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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Yours Faithfully,

Jack Thomas, Cape Town

I, Iona Beth Drummond as a student at the International School of Hourt Boy hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Iona at Hourt Boy International

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Soarjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of

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Yours Faithfully,
IONA DRUMMOND, Hout Bay Cape Town
I, Dylan Allen as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Dylan Allen

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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Yours Faithfully,
Dylan Allen, Hout Bay, Cape Town

Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to

Name of person/organization

Comments (limited to 2000 characters)

I, Emily Spring, as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.



Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

Emily Spring

As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis, I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Yours Faithfully,
Emily Spring, Cape Town, Hout Bay

I have known Bernadine Bachar since we attended School for legal practice at UCT in 1998. Since then we have remained good friends and our relationship continued when Bachar was employed at the Family Advocate's offices, when she practiced as an advocate of the Bar and whilst she was director at the Saartjie Baartman Centre. I have briefed Bachar several times as she has a good understanding of child-related matters and is passionate about children's rights and the protection of children. Whilst at Saartjie Baartman centre I was often called upon to assist with pro bono legal advice and services at court. I witnessed first hand how dedicated Bachar is in championing for women and children's rights. I have experienced Bachar's hard work and dedication over the years towards her professional duties. She is highly motivated and will exceed in expectation in the proposed role.

Naseema Hassan of N
Hassan Attorneys

I, Madison Micalil as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Madison Micalil

Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to

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Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis, I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Yours Faithfully,
Madison Micali, Cape Town
I, Fortema Kassam as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person

International school of
Hout Bay



Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Sidney Dawson		<p>who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis. I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully, Fatema Kassam, Cape Town</p> <p>As a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.</p> <p>Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Soartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.</p> <p>As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis, I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.</p> <p>I, Lutcia as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.</p> <p>Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Soartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my</p>
Lutcia		

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As a South African, as a student, as a young person, I believe that Bernadine Bachar would be instrumental in the essential vision of bringing an end to the GBV epidemic in my country. As a South African, as a person who is deeply concerned about the senseless violence perpetrated against South African women on an hourly basis, I believe it to be vital to appoint a woman with the outstanding and irrefutable moral scruples and dedication of Adv. Bernadine Bachar to the CGE. By this message, I hereby voice my support for the appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Yours Faithfully,

Lucia, Cape Town

I, Juliette Laubscher as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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Yours Faithfully,

Juliette Laubscher, Cape Town.

Name of person/organization

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Mr. Milon Burnett

I am writing my submission as the Head of Service for the International School of Hout Bay. By my name, I hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as the next commissioner of the commission for gender equality. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, the campaign I have led has raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. Bernadine has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting GBV. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines. The care and love Bernadine shows every day is remarkable. A close personal friend of mine was sexually assaulted just three weeks ago. Despite Bernadine being the director of the largest women's centre in South Africa, and an extremely busy woman, Bernadine dispatched her victim support team to help my friend, despite it being a case outside of the normal operations of the centre. Similarly, on Friday, September 8th, I was forced to fight for the life of a loved one after being attacked in Cape Town, a clear case of GBV. I called Bernadine the next day, and she immediately dropped everything to help me. What I find remarkable about Bernadine is that she always makes room for one more. One more person to care about, one more person to love. She has dedicated her life to the struggle for gender equality. We frequently have phone calls long after dark to discuss the projects we are running in partnership with the SBCWC. Bernadine is selfless, she is dedicated, she is caring, she is a patriot, and she is the best candidate for the next commissioner of the CGE. By this submission, I hereby voice my unequivocal and passionate support for Adv. Bernadine Bachar as the next commissioner of the CGE.

Saki Barthman Center

I do not wish to disclose.

Stella de Beer

When it comes to Bernadine Bachar I trust her in the shoulders of protecting and keeping women safe. I am all Bernadine Bachar!
Bernadine is an incredibly efficient, helpful individual who has done so much for the women and all people of South Africa. Not only is she the founder of woman's shelters, she is kind and always does everything she can do to help.
I, Stella de Beer, as a student at the International School of Hout Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.
Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Saariej Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my



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power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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Yours Faithfully,

Stella de Beer, Cape Town, South Africa.

Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA)

Ms Bernadine Bachair seems to be a suitable candidate. There are no concerning items that appear when their profile is studied. Ms Bachair does not appear to be a director of any company. Their other roles and responsibilities, ought not to interfere with their duties should they be appointed as commissioner. Qualifications are provided and seem to be favourable for this position.

I, Gauthier Ibars as a student of the International School of Hour Bay hereby endorse Advocate Bernadine Bachar as shortlisted for commissioner of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

Gauthier Ibars

Over the past few months, my school has partnered with the Soartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, the largest of its kind in the country and of which Bernadine is the Director. Through our partnership and under her inspiration, we have raised over R50 000 for the centre, hosted multiple awareness campaigns by the centre and our school leadership, and collaborated with the centre on a beautiful mural to raise awareness on gender based violence. We have continued our partnership with the centre in a raffle worth R30 000, bringing together over 10 organisations and South African businesses in celebration of women's month 2022. Advocate Bachar has been an inspiration to me. She has helped me recognise my power to play a role in fighting gender equality and gender based violence. She works tirelessly every day to protect people, care for people, and make people feel loved. We need more people in South Africa like Bernadine. She is one of South Africa's understated heroines.

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appointment of Advocate Bernadine Bachar to the Commission for Gender Equality.



Yours Faithfully,
Gauthier Ibars, Cape Town

Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA)

Bongani Glenton Ngomane
Candice Chirwa

No information could be found on this individual on public databases and social media. It is doubtful whether someone, who has no online presence, is suitable for the role of commissioner. This position is in the service of the South African public. There is also no evidence relating to suitability. Qualifications are provided, but it is not clear how it can add value to the position.

She will be the perfect candidate, her work to end period poverty is remarkable.

Hannah

Kaarnil Aili

Candice is an exemplary individual who has taken up many struggles throughout her life. Having worked with her at Wits University and seen her passion for Menstrual and Reproductive health activism grow and make her the influential person she is today, inspires me to continue to fight for these causes. I would love to see Candice on the Gender commission as she not only has the knowledge and expertise to add value to the commission, but also the necessary drive and passion to take the fight for women's and marginalized groups rights to the next level. She has tremendous talent and understanding of the subject matter and will serve our country diligently. Of that I am certain.

The Pad Run

She is without a doubt the best candidate for the position. Candice displays adequate knowledge & on ground experience regarding women & especially menstruation. She's an asset to this position & well like by the public!

Odwa Mazwi

Candice is a committed and diligent candidate who continues to shine the spotlight on issues affecting society in a way that resonates with her peers and removes stigmas. Period poverty is a social issue that needs to be addressed in the highest and most relevant structures in government. Candice is the best person to engage on that topic and influence change at a policy and framework level. This level of participation by a young person in advancing change by taking responsibility and active participation in various platforms is exactly what South Africa and Africa need.

Bongani Frank Masilela

Candice has been doing activist work for menstrual justice since her university days. Having grown her NGO from scratch, I believe that she is the most resourceful person to have on your team and she is particularly skilled at engaging large audiences to bring attention to pressing social issues.

Boitshupo Ndlovu

Candice is admirably passionate about her work. She cares deeply about gender issues and has made it her life's mission to empower young girls and women through her work. She is inclusive of men, and has done so well in training them to understand some of the issues that women face. Affording Candice the opportunity to be a part of the committee for the Commission of Gender Equality can only add value to the commission.

Name of person/organization	Name of applicant/person to which commentary is directed to	Comments (limited to 2000 characters)
Andrea L		<p>A passionate, driven and warrior queen. Who will take all points into consideration. She is amazing to work with and watch work: changing lives and building confidence in those she works with in her programmes.</p> <p>Candice has an important contribution, her work focuses on building a new narrative around period positivity, which empowers adolescent girls and young women giving them accessible reproductive health education and fights for a more gender equal society. She has a resolute approach for period poverty and this can also build a stigma free generation that works collaboratively with menstrual health allies. Her NGO, Grate partners in educational projects with reproductive health institutions to donate sanitary health packs in schools around communities which directly mitigates gender health inequalities.</p> <p>The work Candice Chirwa does in the menstruation space is invaluable. She has provided much needed attention to ending period poverty which is often overlooked in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is through her various campaigns, workshops and contribution to academia. A fierce all rounder, who deserves to take up much needed space.</p> <p>Tirelessly working towards uplifting women in her work as the 'Minister of Menstruation', Candice is an exemplary example of how one voice can amplify the needs of many. Her understanding of the basics required for equality among genders is out into practice through her awareness campaigns and her visits to young people all over the country, Candice is an inspirational leader and her inclusion in this forum will give young women a much needed advocate.</p> <p>There is no one better to lead the charge for gender equality in South Africa, I fully support this candidate. She is the right candidate for this position</p> <p>Candice Chirwa has shown great commitment to the plight of many across various spectrums of age. Her efforts to combat menstrual poverty speak for themselves. I cannot think of a better person to bring this effort to a national level. Her work in the gender equality endeavours of our fairly young Constitutional democracy, have been nothing short of pragmatic and tangible. You know, as well as I do, that menstrual poverty is one of the practical impediments that women, of various ages, face and that tend to hinder one's performance.</p> <p>Furthermore, Candice is a young black woman who knows and understand the political economy within which we exist - she hold qualifications in the humanities in International Relations. Thus, there is no better person to lead that conversation of inclusivity both within the borders of our country and the region within which we live and the world at large.</p> <p>I hereby give my public support to Candice to be favourably considered as a member of this committee. Candice has been an activist for as long as I can remember! Her philanthropy work has also been so admirable. There couldn't be a better candidate!</p>
Nyakallo Mokaena		
Amanda Nyanhongo		
Dominique Vermeulen		
Niki Palesa Marshall		
Candice Chirwa		<p>She is the right candidate for this position</p> <p>Candice Chirwa has shown great commitment to the plight of many across various spectrums of age. Her efforts to combat menstrual poverty speak for themselves. I cannot think of a better person to bring this effort to a national level. Her work in the gender equality endeavours of our fairly young Constitutional democracy, have been nothing short of pragmatic and tangible. You know, as well as I do, that menstrual poverty is one of the practical impediments that women, of various ages, face and that tend to hinder one's performance.</p> <p>Furthermore, Candice is a young black woman who knows and understand the political economy within which we exist - she hold qualifications in the humanities in International Relations. Thus, there is no better person to lead that conversation of inclusivity both within the borders of our country and the region within which we live and the world at large.</p> <p>I hereby give my public support to Candice to be favourably considered as a member of this committee. Candice has been an activist for as long as I can remember! Her philanthropy work has also been so admirable. There couldn't be a better candidate!</p>
Sibusiso Mafanya		
Camilia Mhlambi		

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Siluleko Mkhize	Erin	Give her the role. She's very current and committed to the nationwide education on menstruation matters Candice as she affectionately known Minister of Menstruation has been doing amazing well advocating for menstrual misconceptions and driving various campaigns to raise awareness. She's a true leader and passionate about change. I recommend her for this opportunity. This thought leader is indeed an inspiration to many. She's a true change maker. I am hoping and trust with her track record and impact in various communities she will be considered by your committee.
Miss Gauteng Exclusive	Voice of the people movement	Candice is a selfless leader. She will be an incredible asset to the committee given her academic and professional experiences and impact to the community. We want to see a leader like Candice to lead in parliament so constituents know they are served by the best and by someone who cares and understand about their challenges. I went to school with Candice many years ago and I have been watching her growth as a person and as a leader for many years. She is extremely qualified as a leader, as a compassionate person, as a hard worker, and as a fighter for women's rights. She has started her own company, she has written a well-acclaimed book, she has participated in many talk shows and on many TV shows, and she has put an enormous amount of effort and passion into women's rights and menstruation awareness and rights. I cannot think of a more qualified person for a role like this. Candice has worked tirelessly for years and all of her amazing achievements are her own doing. She absolutely deserves to be in the commission of Gender Equality. She is a young, empowering, social media expert, and she is exactly what Gender Equality needs! Based on her capabilities Candice will make a suitable candidate.
Liberateasoul	Kayleigh Mayr	Candice is a former peer of the University of Witwatersrand where we studied International Relations together. Since that time, I've known her to be compassionate and approachable but firm and clear in her values. Candice is able to speak to any audience and is a published author, presenter and radio host. She is fair and articulate, able to win people over to her cause. This is how she began award winning NGO Grate among other notable contributions. Candice has made a name for herself in the media as the Minister of Menstruation. As a fellow female living in South Africa, I undoubtedly want Candice representing me. She is a worthy candidate and I have no doubt she will make many positive contributions to the commission on Gender Equity. As an active member of the current cohort Youth empowerment and engagement of gender activists. Candice Chirwa has chosen to pursue the empowerment of the Girl child, and young women be as her career and made significant impacts on society.
Melinda Norris Mduliri	Kondwan' Chumbu	She possess a keen insights on gender and menstrual health with regard to right and the empowerment of her fellow man.