

NEWS RELEASE

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SALGA Women Commission (SWC) says “enough is enough” with gender based violence

The SALGA Women Commission (SWC) says “enough is enough” with the abuse and killing of women and calls for South African men to join women in the struggle to end the atrocities faced by women in the country.

Speaking at the opening of the SWC National Summit, at Emperor’s Palace, in Kempton Park, on Wednesday, 17 May 2017, SALGA Deputy President Cllr Lindiwe Ntshalintshali told the delegates that it cannot be business as usual when women live in fear of being raped and attacked at any time of the day in a democratic country.

The summit opening was preceded by a candle light ceremony which was solely dedicated to women who have lost their lives in recent weeks in gruesome crimes perpetuated against women.

Cllr Ntshalintshali said: “The gender based violence is a reality in South Africa and unless women unite in action and say enough is enough, women will never find peace”.

In a slide presentation flighted at the summit, the SWC observed shocking statistics that:

- One in every three women still experience physical or sexual violence.

- It is estimated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and / or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non -partner at some point in their lives.
- It is estimated that of all women who are the victims of homicide globally in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members, compared to less than 6% of men killed in the same year.

The SWC was attended by 187 women delegates representing municipalities across the country, who in their capacity serve as Executive Mayors, Mayors, Council Speakers, Chief Whips and Councillors from across the Republic of South Africa, the outgoing National Commissioner of the SALGA Women Commission, Cllr Sindiswa Gomba and outgoing Provincial Chairpersons of the SWC, the current Provincial Chairpersons of the SWC, Partners, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Women and the Network of Locally Elected Women in Africa (REFELA), UN Women Multi-Country Representative, the Department of Women, Gender Links, Commission for Gender Equality, and many others.

Delivering a message of support, Vice President of REFELA, Cllr Nonceba Molwele said: “The theme of the Summit ‘Working together to promote gender equality, sustainable development and good governance’, goes to confirm that we must indeed be united and work as a united front in order to achieve Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

“Together, we have a responsibility to ensure that the struggles and sacrifices of the millions of women on this continent are not in vain,” Cllr Molwele.

Since its inception in 2010, the SWC has been a reflection of SALGA’s mandate as it has been established to coordinate, promote and advocate for gender appropriate strategies and practices within member municipalities and feed into regional, continental and global processes. One of the strategic objective of the Commission is to increase the representation and participation of women in local government to parity.

The Summit marks yet another milestone of the journey wherein the SWC is to intensify its combined leadership resourcefulness and efforts towards a meaningful sharing of experiences

on gender programme development and mainstreaming in local government and a realistic development of the programme of action on the work of the SWC in this new term of office.

The key objectives of the summit was to (1) adopt revised Terms of Reference aligned to the SALGA Constitution as adopted at the SALGA November 2016 national conference (2) agree on the Programme of Action aligned to the SALGA 5 year strategy – 2017-2022, including localising SDGs on Gender equality, and (3) elect the national chairperson of the commission.

Cllr Gomba was re-elected as the National Chairperson of the SWC and will serve for the next five years.

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