

# NEEMA

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEAF

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Neema Foundation for the Deaf (NPO)

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## Nationwide Efforts to Combat Violence and Support Deaf Community Continues

**Johannesburg- 02 May 2024** - Neema Foundation for the Deaf, supported by the GBV Response Fund and several stakeholders, today announces the continuation of its nationwide efforts to address violence, substance abuse and psychosocial needs in households with Deaf and hard-of-hearing members.

Neema Foundation for the Deaf kickstarts its first series of Family Conflict & Gender-Based Violence workshops – in Soshanguve and Soweto, on Saturday, 4 May and next week 11 May. Attendance is free.

Says Neema Chairperson Ms Itumeleng Motaung: "In addition to the widespread gender-based violence (GBV) in our society, the Deaf community also suffers other forms of abuse including financial, physical, sexual, and emotional.

"This contributes to the mental health challenges in the Deaf Community necessitating awareness raising and professional help".

The workshops are a continuation of the successful events implemented in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Gauteng since last year.

The workshops feature stakeholders including community leaders, the National Prosecuting Authority's Thuthuzela Care Centres, South African Police Services, Childline, SANCA, Legal Aid, GBV Command Centre, and Safer South Africa Foundation.

"These sessions are helpful because they are provided in a language that the Deaf Community understands. Information is shared on practical interventions to combat GBV, such as reporting to authorities and conflict resolution techniques," Ms Motaung adds.

Additionally, communication barriers exacerbate conflicts within Deaf households and hinder access to help from public institutions and communities. These workshops seek to address these challenges and provide possible solutions.

Neema Foundation aims to preserve relationships within Deaf communities and promote collaboration with stakeholders to provide preventative and support services. Access to translation and pertinent information is essential to ensure support and justice for the Deaf community.

Since its inception, Neema Foundation for Deaf has been approached on many occasions to assist with resolving family conflicts between Deaf couples as well as Deaf children and hearing parents.

The workshops will be attended by the members of the Deaf Community in the respective areas, Deaf learners in grades 10-12, their parents and educators.

The workshops are scheduled to take place as follows with more dates to follow:

Details for the free workshop are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 04 May 2024  
Venue: Filadelfia Secondary School, Soshanguve  
Times: 09h00 – 13h00

Details for the free roundtable discussion are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 11 May 2024  
Venue: Sizwile School for Deaf Children, Soweto  
Times: 09h00 – 13h00

ENDS

For inquiries, contact:

For Neema Foundation for the Deaf

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#### **About Neema Foundation for the Deaf:**

Neema Foundation for the Deaf is a Non-Profit Organisation formed in 2017. The Foundation is committed to creating awareness, prevention and empowering the Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, particularly women, youth and children. Women, youth and children are generally vulnerable across the world, this is significantly worse when they are Deaf or hard of hearing.

The Deaf community faces vast challenges ranging from substance abuse, domestic violence, conflict in homes and other various types of gender-based violence. Moreover, they face challenges in accessing information and public services due to communication barriers and lack of South African Sign Language (SASL) as a medium of communication within the country. One of the key mandates of the Foundation is to create awareness, educate and empower the whole Deaf Community against Gender-Based Violence, being that GBV often starts in homes, stereotypes and upbringing are some of the components towards GBV particularly in disadvantaged communities.

In an attempt to bridge this gap, Neema Foundation for the Deaf was formed. Its goal is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, especially women and youth. The Foundation provides platforms, tools, mechanisms and services that help them actively engage in the economy of South Africa.