



GAUTENG PROVINCE CONSULTATION REPORT



Human Rights Institute of South Africa
21 Village Road
Selby, Johannesburg

This Gauteng Province Consultation Report was produced by the Human Rights Institute of South Africa.

This Gauteng Province Consultation Report was made possible by the generous support of Kagiso Trust.
Copyright: 4 October 2023 Human Rights Institute of South Africa, All Rights Reserved.

No part of this guide may be reproduced, stored online or by any form or by any means for access, transmission without permission of the copyright holder. For any educational purpose, research, advocacy, or public dissemination must reference the copyright holder.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
METHODOLOGY	6
BREAKAWAY GROUPS.....	8
FORMAL PROGRAMME	11
THE JOURNEY TO #UNMUTED AT NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL, CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT.....	11
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MOBILISATION	13
EMBRACING EQUITY WITHIN CSOs COALITION	14
ELECTION REFORM AND ELECTIONS.....	15
COALITION BUILDING.....	16
CONCLUSION.....	18

ACRONYMS

BUSA	Business Unity South Africa
CBD	Central Business District
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DSD	Department of Social Development
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HRD	Human Rights Defenders
HURISA	Human Rights Institute of South Africa
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual
NDA	National Development Agency
NPOs	Non- Profit Organisations
NSP on GBV-F	National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

HURISA expresses its deep gratitude to Kagiso Trust for their invaluable support in organizing the Gauteng Province Consultation Meeting. HURISA also extend its appreciation to the speakers who significantly enriched the dialogue with their expertise, representing various organizations and backgrounds. The speakers covered crucial topics such as the journey to #Unmuted at National and Provincial Level, Civil Society Summit and the Presidential Social Sector Summit - Boichoko Ditlhake from Kagiso Trust, Enabling Environment and Resource Mobilization - Mashile Phalani from Batlhabine Foundation, Embracing Equity within CSOs Coalition - Cynthia Chishimba from Kero Community Development, Election Reform and Elections - Mr Ali Magabane from Electoral Commission of South Africa, and Coalition Building - Dr Paul Mulindwa from CIVICUS.

The facilitators, Cathy Kodiumoka and Tshepo Legodi, are also recognized for their exceptional coordination efforts in ensuring the smooth and effective running of the dialogue.

Corlett Letlojane, HURISA's Executive Director, is acknowledged for her outstanding leadership and dedication in advancing human rights in South Africa.

A special thanks is extended to Kagiso Trust for their pivotal role in making the Gauteng Province Consultation Meeting possible, providing a platform for CBOs, CSOs, activists, and others to come together, discuss challenges, and propose solutions for the betterment of communities in Gauteng Province.



INTRODUCTION

The Gauteng Province in South Africa is confronted by a myriad of pressing challenges, with each presenting complex human rights issues demanding immediate attention and concerted efforts. Among the foremost concerns is the alarming increase in incidents of gender-based violence, sexual offenses, marked by a surge in femicide and murders. Despite the existence of a NSP GBV-F to combat this scourge, progress has been slow, and a disturbing backlog of DNA evidence continues to hamper the prosecution of perpetrators. Equally troubling are reports of "rapes by police officers," which have raised questions about the accountability of law enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, the youth in Gauteng have witnessed a sharp rise in early pregnancies, exacerbated by limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, contraceptives, and comprehensive sexuality education. Poverty and gender-based violence serve as compounding factors in this deeply concerning trend.

The failure to tackle the looming climate crisis adds another layer of complexity to Gauteng's challenges. South Africa currently lacks legislation to hold the government and businesses accountable for climate commitments, while the adequacy of the Climate Change Bill remains in question. The nation's emission reduction targets fall short of global climate goals, and the region has experienced deadly flooding events, exacerbated by climate change.

Tragedy has struck Gauteng with catastrophic events such as the Boksburg explosion that took place on 24 December 2022, when a fuel tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exploded underneath a railway bridge in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality with a death toll of 41 people as of 18 January 2023. Another, explosion incident occurred in Johannesburg CBD on 19 July 2023 in Bree Street, which claimed a life and resulted in several injuries. Several vehicles and the street were left damaged as a result of the explosion. This has left the residents along the street vulnerable and at risk of further calamity.

Notably, a devastating fire engulfed an illegally occupied, government-owned building in Johannesburg leaving 77 people killed and 88 others injured on 31 August 2023. This incident stands as one of the deadliest fires in South African history.

Xenophobic attacks persist, which has resulted in a tragic killing of Elvis Nyathi a Zimbabwean national. Operation Dudula, an anti-migrant movement, has expanded to multiple provinces, heightening concerns about the safety and rights of migrants.

The excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies continues, resulting in injuries and deaths, with little accountability. This has been demonstrated by the killing of a 16-year-old, Karabo Chaka, who lost his life during a service delivery protest at his family home in Slovo Park, South of Johannesburg. The protest was aimed at addressing the lack of access to water, sanitation, and stall upgrades in an informal settlement.

In light of these challenges, Gauteng faces a complex web of human rights concerns, spanning gender-based violence, inadequate infrastructure, climate-related disasters, and refugee and migrant rights. While there has been progress in addressing these issues, the overall picture remains mixed, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive and sustained efforts to protect and uphold human rights in the province.



METHODOLOGY

HURISA is actively involved as a crucial member of the Steering Committee, which carries the responsibility of rejuvenating a civil society organization movement dedicated to the restoration and betterment of South Africa under the banner #SouthAfrica-#WeWant. In this role, HURISA conducted a significant and impactful event, the Gauteng Provincial Consultation Meeting, it took place on 4 October 2023 at Observatory Golf Club, Johannesburg.

HURISA played a critical role of coordinating the activities related to this consultation meeting, The event brought together a diverse and influential participants representatives drawn from various locations within Central, East, North, South and West of the Gauteng Province. These included Krugersdorp, Orange Farm, Thokoza, Soweto, Johannesburg CBD, Pretoria, Sebokeng, Vaal, representing a diverse array of communities and perspectives.

This gathering, consisting of 36 representatives from various CSOs, CBOs, Electoral Commission, gender activists, advocates for sexual orientation and gender identity, faith-based organisations, traditional communities, migrants, persons with disabilities, and individuals with albinism, to name a few, were pivotal in the pursuit of inclusive and constructive dialogue.

The primary objective of this consultation meeting was to facilitate discussions and gather input from various sectors and districts within the Gauteng Province. The topics under consideration were wide-ranging, encompassing prevalent challenges that included gender-based violence, inadequate infrastructure, climate-related disasters, xenophobia, discrimination against the LGBTIQ+ community, state capture, unemployment, and electoral processes. This multifaceted and inclusive approach ensured that a broad spectrum of concerns and perspectives were considered.

The consultation programme provided the opportunity for in-depth discussion through three small commissions. The goal was not only to pinpoint challenges but also to strategize on how to implement the proposed solutions to bring about positive change within Gauteng Province. This collaborative and focused approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of pressing concerns and practical steps to address them, fostering a shared commitment to driving meaningful transformation within Gauteng Province.

The information and insights gathered from this consultation will serve a vital purpose. They will contribute to the formation of the National Social Compact, a significant initiative aimed at fostering collaboration among civil society, business, labour, and government. This National Social Compact is envisioned to play a pivotal role in the discussions at the upcoming Extra-Ordinary Civil Society Summit and the Presidential Social Sector Summit, both of which hold great promise for policy and social development.

Furthermore, the valuable insights gathered during the Gauteng Provincial Consultation Meeting will also contribute to the Second National Consultative Conference, where the objective is to establish sector coordination and cultivate a spirit of organization within civil society. This event is a significant step towards aligning and strengthening the efforts of various stakeholders committed to building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous South Africa under the banner of #SouthAfrica-#WeWant."

The workshop deliberated on the following themes:

- The journey to #Unmuted at National and Provincial Level, Civil Society Summit and the Presidential Social Sector Summit.
- Enabling Environment & Resource Mobilisation.
- Embracing Equity within CSOs Coalition.
- Election reform and Elections.
- Coalition building.
- Breakaway session according to the thematical areas.



OUTCOME FROM BREAKAWAY GROUPS

Election Reform and Elections.

- The group identified individuals who were eager to participate as Observers in the upcoming 2024 General Election. Notably, activists not affiliated with any specific organization were to be registered under HURISA for this purpose.
- To facilitate networking and information sharing, a WhatsApp group was created to enable participants to stay updated and connected. Furthermore, timelines and communication plans will be shared through the WhatsApp group.
- HURISA will be providing guidance on the process of applying to become Observers, ensuring that interested individuals were well-prepared for this role.
- Upon a successful application, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will provide voter training and conflict resolution training to Observers. These trained Observers would then be deployed to different areas during the elections to ensure their effective participation.
- There was a collective commitment to mobilize funding for the activities of civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in election-related initiatives.
- Ali Magabane is expected to provide the online link mentioned during his presentation to individuals interested in completing online modules, thus qualifying them to work for the IEC during the elections.

Coalition Building and Embracing Equity.

Economic Socio-Political Challenges:

- The communities are facing a persistent high unemployment rate, contributing to widespread poverty and economic hardships among its residents.
- The youth are grappling with substance abuse issues, which has led to various social and health problems, affecting their future prospects and well-being.
- There is energy crises and a water shortage disrupting the daily life of residents and impacting access to their essential services and comfort.
- Lack of Internet coverage isolating the community from the digital world, hindering access to information, education, and economic opportunities.
- Mental health issues are prevalent, and there are inadequate mental health services and support available to address these challenges effectively.
- Corruption, Suicide, Lack of Psychosocial Support and a lack of accountability within community has led to feelings of hopelessness and even suicide.
- Car Hijacking and Criminal Syndicates poses significant threats to community' safety and security.
- Failure of Law Enforcement in addressing crime and ensuring public safety.
- The community lacks adequate support systems, including social services and community organizations, to address the diverse needs of its residents.

Action Plan:

- There is need for us to collaborate with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, government agencies, and community leaders, to address the pressing issues within Gauteng Province.
- Establish a Civil Society Unmute initiative to empower and amplify the voices of civil society organizations, activists, and community members. This platform will serve as a catalyst for awareness, advocacy, and coordinated action on the identified challenges.
- Set up support groups within the community, offering capacity-building training workshops. These groups will provide a safe and nurturing space for individuals to share experiences, learn, and find the necessary support.
- Work together as a strong coalition to demand accountability from local authorities and hold them accountable for addressing community concerns and challenges.
- Develop programs and initiatives that specifically target youth issues, such as employment opportunities, education, and mental health support.
- Governance Reform, Advocate for improved governance at the local level, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and efficient service delivery.

Enabling environment and resource mobilization for civil society organizations.

- There is a need for mitigating strategy to prevent deregistration of thousands of NGOs facing deregistration in Gauteng Province.
- It was proposed that a workshop be organized, bringing together diverse organizations across the sector. The goal is to collaboratively explore and address various pressing issues, such as gender-based violence, elderly care, and substance abuse. This collective effort will allow for a more comprehensive approach to tackling community challenges.
- There is a need to conduct capacity building training workshop to disadvantaged NGOs so that they can be compliant. This workshop will equip CSOs with the knowledge and tools needed to adhere to regulations and reporting requirements, ensuring their sustainability and impact.
- Representatives from key funding agencies like the National Lotteries Commission, NDA and DSD should be invited to participate in upcoming workshops. Their insights will offer guidance on funding opportunities and the critical role they play in creating an enabling environment for NGOs.
- Build networks beyond funding agencies, including influential bodies like Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and banking institutions. These relationships will open doors to additional resources, support, and partnerships to further the work of CSOs.
- There is a need to develop policy that promotes access to WIFI in rural areas and townships. This initiative would bridge the digital divide and ensure that underserved communities can harness the benefits of the digital age.
- CSOs intend to engage with banks to understand the reasons behind the closure of NGO bank accounts after just three months of inactivity. By engaging in a dialogue with financial institutions, they aim to address these issues and ensure that NGOs can maintain financial stability.

Coalition Building

Five Districts focal points / community actions teams have been established that will lead and popularise Unmuted CSO activities.

HURISA assuming overall coordination role and collaborating with representatives from the following sub districts:

- East Gauteng – Fundisile Nzimande from Rerothle Development Institute and Puseletso Maile from Africa Monitor.
- North Gauteng – Sakina Mohamed from Open Hands Aids Outreach Project and Patricia Mkwanzazi from Meisie Motaung Foundation.
- South of Gauteng – Sidwell Bolae Lengatsa from Vuka People's Rainbow Movement and Norma Mbele from Tosunga Banninga
- West of Gauteng – Thembi Tshabalala from Knowledge Hub for Youth Empowerment and Jane Chikwado from Black Womxn Caucus.
- Central Gauteng – Seema Seabela from Melokuhle Albinism Foundation , Eric Dondolo from Sex Workers Sector

Drafting Committee

A drafting committee was formed during our deliberations, and its members were thoughtfully selected based on their expertise and commitment to advancing our shared goals. Sakina Mahommed from Open Hands Aids Project and Fundi Nzimande from Rerothle Development Institute volunteered to take on this crucial responsibility.

The primary objectives of this drafting committee are as follows:

- Sakina Mahommed and Fundi Nzimande will be responsible for composing a formal letter addressed to the National Lottery Commission and the Department of Social Development (DSD). The letter to the National Lottery Commission will seek to address matters related to the allocation of shares and the beneficiaries of these funds. By seeking transparency in this process, we aim to ensure equitable distribution and accountability.
- A letter also be directed to the Department of Social Development (DSD) to request clarity on the deregistration of organizations due to non-compliance and the reasons for continued deregistrations. The aim is to understand the rationale behind these actions and to explore how the DSD can actively contribute to creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) to carry out their essential work effectively.

These letters will serve as formal mechanisms to seek answers, transparency, and collaboration with relevant government entities. They represent a crucial step in our collective effort to advocate for a more inclusive, equitable, and transparent environment in which CSOs can thrive and continue their vital work in service of our communities and the greater society."

FORMAL PROGRAMME

THE JOURNEY TO #UNMUTED AT NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL, CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT.

Mr Boichoko Ditlhake provided the contextual background on the journey to #Unmuted CSO at National and Provincial Level, Civil Society Summit and the Presidential Social Sector Summit. He played a pivotal role in facilitating the activities of CSOs and coordinating them on the field.

He emphasised that this marks his seventh participation at a provincial consultative conference. The issue of youth is a matter with deep concern. This must be addressed from the ground. In provinces like Limpopo and the Northern Cape, the primary concerns are substance abuse, frustration, and high unemployment. The youth's involvement in drugs is a result of this frustration, necessitating a re-evaluation of how we can secure their future.

During the Kagiso Trust National Conference held from 9-11 November 2022, a significant resolution was made to organize a convention in response to the national crisis. The conference was marked by a lot of grievances and yearning as CSOs had been silent for a prolonged period resulting to three critical issues. It was agreed to establish a unified body of CSOs to speak with one voice, engage in

consultations to incorporate community-based organizations, and identify programs that unite CSOs. As the importance of creating an enabling environment was underscored, it's essential to make informed decisions about these muted organizations and come together again to have a way forward.

The challenges faced extend beyond the CSOs sector, with South Africa facing various issues. The importance of holding undisputed elections was stressed, and the 2024 general election is compared to the historic 1994 election. Progress in provincial consultations was noted, along with the need to strengthen the IEC and address the current volatile situation.

Provincial consultation meetings have been conducted in six provinces, with Mpumalanga showing strong commitment in establishing local district structures. The Northwest is gradually progressing as well. The Eastern Cape is presenting some challenges, but overall, the process is moving forward. A women's caucus consultation and an electoral network meeting under the #unmute banner have also taken place. Following these consultations, we need to identify resources to support CSOs and establish a lasting legacy for the next generation.

In Gauteng, there is need to for more effort to establish local district structures in municipalities and districts similar to Mpumalanga. The Western Cape is set to meet next week, while there are difficulties in the Eastern Cape. The strengthening of our commission is imperative in the next two months, and the enabling environment must be actively managed as the situation is becoming more volatile.

The Department of Social Development's role in supporting the sector was discussed, along with concerns about the Anti-Terrorism legislation's impact on bank accounts. The outcome of provincial consultations will feed into the Extraordinary Summit of Civil Society, set for November 2023, with a focus on national challenges, rebuilding the National Social Compact with the government ahead of the Presidential Social Sector Summit rescheduled to 2024, and engaging the youth by holding an urgent national youth meeting within the #Unmute framework.

The need to prepare for the Presidential Social Sector Summit, involving CSOs, NEDLAC and transparency in identifying representatives was emphasised. A suggestion to reschedule the Second National Conference to February 2024 was made with a view of strategizing for rebuilding the country. Another proposal considered was convening of a meeting to explore the prospects of establishing advice centres and CBOs for documenting, creating evidence-based data to assess progress and identify gaps at the grassroots level.



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Mr Mashile Phalani from Batlhabine Foundation, a member of the Steering Committee for the Civil Society Unmute and the Coordinating Committee, is actively involved in organising activities under the Civil Society Unmute framework.

During a trip to Europe, he engaged in discussions with leaders from the European Union Desk of South Africa. They inquired about South Africa's potential involvement in a coalition government and what steps CSOs should take in response. Mashile expressed skepticism about a national coalition government due to existing divisions and emphasised the importance of strengthening CSOs.

Upon returning to South Africa, Mashile met with Corlett Letlojane from HURISA, who suggested a brainstorming session to explore activities aimed at rebuilding the country through Kagiso Trust. Mashile highlighted concerns about government support for CSOs, particularly the allocation of funds meant for CSOs by the NDA. He emphasized that the NDA's role should be to support CSOs, not act as a direct funder. He questioned the distribution of funds by the DSD in Limpopo, emphasising the government's potential lack of capacity or expertise in this area. Mashile and others began engaging with Kagiso Trust, leading to the National Conference held in November 2022, which involved participants from Limpopo.

Mashile and Cynthia Chishimba proposed the establishment of various sectors within CSOs, with a specific focus on the education sector and digital devices. They encouraged all members to actively participate in these sectors. Beyond sectors, they emphasised the significance of commissions, which would work to create an enabling environment for CSOs, address policy landscapes for NPOs, enhance the capacity of CSOs through partnerships and training, and resource mobilisation.

Mashile expressed concerns about the lack of funding in the NGO sector, which hinders job creation despite the government's expectations for NGOs to employ millions in the face of high unemployment. He stressed the need for responsive NGO policies and discussed CSOs efforts in influencing the NGO bill, leading to its scrapping. Furthermore, he also mentioned the importance of organised NGOs and NPOs collaborating to address legislation that could impede compliance, potentially leading to the deregistration of NGOs.

Emphasis was made on the risk of government targeting vocal NGOs and their intention to establish an "enabling environment commission" to research and address legal matters. This commission would aim to prevent government interference and collaborate with Chapter 9 Institutions, ultimately holding the executive accountable when necessary.

He called for stronger networks and coordination among CSOs and highlighted their efforts to locate resources previously allocated to the NGO sector and discussed plans to establish institutions for training the next generation of CSOs to create a more enabling environment for civil society.

EMBRACING EQUITY WITHIN CSOs COALITION

Ms Cynthia Chishimba, representing Kero Community Development, emphasised the importance of Embracing Equity within CSOs Coalition.

She highlighted that equity is not a luxury but a necessity and stressed the need to integrate gender equity into the very fabric of society. She also explained the distinction between equity and equality, underscoring that while these terms are often used interchangeably, they have distinct meanings.

Equity entails providing individuals or groups with the necessary opportunities and resources to achieve equal outcomes, acknowledging that everyone has unique circumstances. Cynthia encouraged individual organizations and the coalition to actively promote equity by challenging stereotypes, addressing discrimination, highlighting bias, and advocating for inclusion.

She emphasised that collective activism is essential for driving change, from grassroots efforts to broader momentum. Achieving gender equity is not solely the responsibility of women; allies play a crucial role in the social, economic, cultural, and political advancement of women.

Equity aims to ensure fair treatment, access, equal opportunities, and advancement for all, while also striving to identify and remove barriers that hinder certain groups from full participation. It promotes justice, fairness, and impartiality in processes, procedures, and resource distribution within systems and institutions. Understanding the root causes of outcome disparities is essential to address equity, as it requires valuing diverse experiences and perspectives and creating opportunities for everyone to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Embracing equity fosters mutual understanding and respect for others' perspectives, enabling learning from different cultures and backgrounds and building relationships with people from diverse walks of life.

To contribute to the goal of embracing equity, the coalition should establish zero-tolerance policies against discrimination based on various factors. Starting within their own organizations and the coalition itself, a comprehensive gender policy should be implemented to ensure equal opportunities and diversity. This policy should reflect the diversity of its membership, providing equal opportunities for all members and staff, regardless of their background. The coalition should also maintain gender balance within its governance structures and management at all levels, from the national level to the local level.

ELECTION REFORM AND ELECTIONS

Mr Ali Magabane from the Electoral Commission of South Africa discussed Election and Electoral Reform. He stressed the importance of using voting as a catalyst for change in South Africa.

One key highlight was the recent assent by the President to the Electoral Amendment Act on April 17, 2023. The Amended Act introduces a new framework for the participation of independent candidates in national and provincial elections. The Act outlines specific requirements for independent candidates, such as prescribed deposits, declarations of compliance with the Code of Conduct, and photo submissions.

An important aspect of the reform is that independent candidates elected to the National or provincial legislature in the previous election will be exempt from the signature requirement. The Electoral Commission is also engaging the public for feedback on various draft regulations.

In terms of electoral systems, South Africa is moving towards a multi-member, single-tier compensatory system. Each voter will receive a single ballot that includes independent candidates for provincial elections. The Commission will determine the number of representatives in the Legislature, using a droop quota for calculations.

A significant logistical challenge is the increased quantity of ballot papers required due to the larger number of contestants and the use of both single and double column ballots. This necessitates adjustments to ballot box allocations and envelope sizes. Printing ballots is a challenge due to limited production capacity and the need for a 30-day printing window.

Additionally, the presentation highlighted the establishment of an Electoral Reform Consultation Panel to investigate potential electoral system reforms. The Panel will engage in research and public consultation and submit a report on electoral reform options within 12 months of the 2024 National and Provincial Elections.

Notable amendments from 2021 were also discussed, such as changes in candidate nomination requirements and the removal of a static date for determining the size of provincial legislatures and the regional component of the National Assembly.

Mr. Magabane's presentation underscores the evolving electoral landscape in South Africa and the efforts to enhance electoral processes and representation.



COALITION BUILDING

Dr Paul Mulindwa from CIVICUS, delivered a presentation highlighting the importance of coalition building within CSOs. He touched base on various aspects of coalition building, with particular relevance to South Africa and the potential for improving the country's democratic processes.

Paul acknowledged that South Africa is blessed in comparison to other African countries when it comes to electoral laws and elections. South Africa is a country with a robust legislative framework, a functioning judiciary and well-established institutions.

Paul emphasised the importance of unity and collaboration among CSOs, in his experience in other African countries such as Uganda, Benin, and Niger, he had rarely engaged with electoral commissions. However, in South Africa, the presence of the Electoral Commission of South Africa, represented by Mr. Ali Magabane, was a significant advantage. This reinforces the idea that South African CSOs have the opportunity to work closely with institutions responsible for electoral processes.

Paul underlined the need for coalitions within CSOs. He emphasised that coalition is not merely a collection of people or organizations coming together. It is formed when a group shares a common objective, vision, and goal. The primary reason for establishing a coalition is to gain power and coordination, which can significantly impact the influence and reach of CSOs.

One of the key reasons for coalition failure is the lack of management of expectations. It's crucial for coalition members to understand their roles and the scope of the coalition's activities. Transparency in managing expectations to prevent misunderstandings and conflicts. The distribution of finances and power within a coalition is another critical aspect to consider. Members must determine who controls what and how resources are allocated. Balancing financial and power expectations is essential for maintaining trust and cohesion within the coalition.

Paul emphasized the importance of strategically involving various groups in coalitions, such as businesses, educational institutions, community organisations, and government agencies. By creating diverse coalitions, a wider range of issues can be addressed, and different stakeholders can be engaged.

He illustrated the potential for coalitions to effect change by sharing the case of Hopewell Chinono from Zimbabwe, who was arrested. In response, activists and HRDs from around the world united using social media and advocacy efforts to exert pressure on the Zimbabwean government. This collective action resulted in Chinono's eventual release, with all charges against him dropped. This example vividly demonstrates the substantial impact that coalitions can have in advocating for human rights and justice.

In conclusion coalitions are agents of change and are essential for the success of CSO initiatives. Collaboration and partnership among different groups and organisations are crucial in achieving public health goals, advocating for human rights, and addressing various social issues. His presentation underscored the importance of unity and effective coalition building in the pursuit of common objectives.



CONCLUSION

To improve the situation for citizens in Gauteng Province, a collaborative approach is vital. This includes addressing gender-based violence, empowering the youth, taking action on climate change, economic social political situations must improve including addressing infrastructure, dilapidating buildings, combating xenophobia, ensuring police accountability, enhancing service delivery, and fostering collaboration among CSOs. Advocating for policy changes, community support, transparency, accountability, and participatory governance are also essential.

Furthermore, one promising avenue for change is the National Social Compact, which is expected to bring about positive transformations and serve as a responsive mechanism to address the daily issues faced by ordinary citizens.

The Gauteng Provincial Consultation Meeting served as a vibrant platform anchored by comprehensive and inclusive discussions on pressing human rights issues. During this gathering, stakeholders from various backgrounds came together to coordinate their efforts, collaborate on solutions, and develop action plans. This event demonstrated the commitment of diverse stakeholders to address these challenges and work towards creating a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous South Africa under the banner of #SouthAfrica-#WeWant. It reflects a shared value dedicated to building a better future for the region and its people.