

A black and white photograph of two hands, one with dark nail polish, gripping a vertical wooden post. Overlaid on the image are several concentric circles in yellow, red, and grey, with a white semi-circle on the right side.

2021-22

ANNUAL ADVOCACY AND
COMMUNICATIONS REPORT





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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADVOCOMM	Advocacy and Communications
CGE	Commission for Gender Equality
CSO	Civil society organisation
CoGHSTA	Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (provincial)
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DBE	Department of Basic Education (national)
DOE	Department of Education (provincial)
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
ESR	Health care, food, water and social security rights
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000
PEPUDA	Promotion of Equality and Elimination of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SAHRC ACT	South African Human Rights Commission Act, 2013
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SAPS	South African Police Service
TAR	Trends Analysis Report
UN	United Nations

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The South African Human Rights Commission (the Commission/ SAHRC) presents this eighth annual Advocacy and Communications Report (AdvoComm) for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Through the report, the Commission reflects on its efforts to advance and promote a culture of respect for human rights.

The reflection of interventions and programs by the Commission is located in a context where South Africa and the world were rocked by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic which claimed millions of lives. The pandemic impacted both planning and implementation, requiring constant adaptation to respond to different needs in a strictly controlled environment where the daily external and internal environment had drastically changed, but which was also in a state of uncertain flux. The Commission constantly assessed and evaluated this evolving situation to adapt the implementation of its advocacy activities with the objective of sustaining rights awareness and promoting respect for human rights, during this period of particular risk to basic human rights.

Stakeholders supported the Commission by participating in virtual engagements, radio discussions and limited physical contact-based events hosted by the institution. This support and robust interaction through remote means, provided rich insight and tremendous value to the Commission in reimagining how to take forward and sustain human rights awareness.

Invariably the stakeholders with whom the Commission engaged all raised these challenges and contemporary needs during interactions with them. Another common theme arising from the engagements, was an almost collective will to forge partnerships with supporters of human rights beyond contact-based engagements and to sustain both introspection and conversation regardless of the constraints posed by the external environment. This commitment underpinned a deeper acknowledgement that awareness and education of human rights is a collective effort.

Continuing with the trend from the previous year, the Communications section of the report provides exact numbers of the Commission's media activities whilst the Advocacy section of the report broadly refers to the extent of the reach and impact of the Commission's interventions. This is mainly due to the formats and approach that required continuous adjustment in the implementation of advocacy outreach activities, based on the extent of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic at any given time.

The report provides an overview of the nature, scope, and extent of the key highlights of advocacy and communication interventions and approaches undertaken by the Commission during the last financial year to promote human rights. Select promotion initiatives are reflected, with a view to demonstrate deviations in trends, highlight opportunities and to showcase challenges typically encountered. These reflections in turn are intended in some measure to serve as reference in future efforts to strengthen the promotion of human rights.

THE ACTIVITIES REFLECT PROMOTION EFFORTS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND INCLUDE KEY STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS



To influence policy, legislation, service delivery or create awareness



The empowerment of community human rights champions



The commemoration of key human rights calendar days



The roll out of the Equality Toolkit and monitoring the functionality of Equality Courts



The resumption of the National Schools Moot Court Competition in virtual format



The usage of a broad range of communication related tools

This report seeks to share information and is broadly intended for a wide readership of persons interested in and working to promote human rights. The Commission hopes that the report may serve as a resource to potentially inform and mobilise efforts by organs of state, other statutory bodies, civil society formations, human rights champions and defenders, academia, the media, and the public in their respective efforts to promote the observance of human rights.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission is an independent state institution established in terms of section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Constitution) to support and strengthen constitutional democracy. In terms of section 184(1) of the Constitution, the Commission is mandated to:



promote respect for human rights and a culture of human rights



promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights



monitor and assess the observance of human rights in the Republic.

This mandate is a responsibility not unique to the Commission but extends to all organs of state in the country.

The Constitution vests in the Commission the power to investigate and report on the observance of human rights; take steps to secure appropriate redress where human rights have been violated; carry out research and educate on human rights, as vital dimensions to promoting and advocating respect for human rights.

The powers of the Commission are regulated by the South African Human Rights Commission Act 40 of 2013 (SAHRC Act). Other national legislation entrenches specific responsibilities for the Commission in respect of rights they seek to promote and protect. The Commission is through such legislation, also responsible for discharging responsibilities as mandated by the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000 (PEPUDA) and; as well as the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000 (PAIA).

Commissioners provide strategic direction and oversight to the Commission, whilst the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as supported by a senior management team; provides guidance, leadership and oversees the overall performance of the administration. The Commission's head office is located in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, and nine offices are situated in the central business districts in each province of the country, to facilitate local access

to the Commission. The Commission is accountable to Parliament and periodically reports on performance and activities in fulfilment of its mandate both to regional and international mechanisms.

As a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), the Commission complies with the United Nations (UN) Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (also referred to as the Paris Principles)¹. The Paris Principles serve to guide the nature and functioning of an NHRI and provide that NHRIs should play the important role of promoting human rights through education and advocacy about human rights norms and standards.

The strategic priorities for the promotion mandate require the Commission to educate, raise awareness, foster understanding, develop and manage information, build public consensus and commitment to human rights, the values of the Constitution and the role and activities of the Commission. Thus, the Commission prioritises and advances advocacy and communications activities which endeavour to:



Deepen outreach in rural and peri-urban communities



Maximise reach to vulnerable and marginalised communities



Strengthen stakeholder relations and foster strategic partnerships



Strengthen links with the media



Enhance the overall visibility of the Commission.

Whilst the promotion mandate cuts across all of the work of the Commission, execution of the promotion program is mainly vested in the Advocacy and Communications Unit (AdvoComm) which co-ordinates all advocacy and communications activities conducted across the Commission. Commissioners conduct activities in accordance with key human rights focus areas they oversee; whilst programmatic interventions are implemented through the provincial offices.

¹ Adopted by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/48/134 on 20 December 1993



2. ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH



2.1. CONTEXTUAL APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

Since 1994, the process of transforming South African society from an exclusive to an inclusive system has been propelled by legislative and policy reforms aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. The Constitution leads as the primary vehicle for the transformation of South African society. However, the country continues to experience various challenges that constrain the democratic ideals and realisation of rights. South Africa's history of colonialism and apartheid entrenched systems of inequality along racial lines continue to inform deeply entrenched patterns of persisting inequality. This makes South Africa one of the world's most unequal societies that is heavily racialised and gender biased.²

Given this context, the Commission subscribes to the global assertion that human rights education and knowledge of rights is essential for the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of all other rights.³ In South Africa, it is critical that communities have the knowledge and information to be able to assert rights to social justice, including with a view to preventing a recurrence of the injustices of the past, as well the prevailing conditions that impact on access to, and the full enjoyment of human rights. It is clear to the Commission that it is only when people know and understand their rights that they can exercise

agency effectively, including when their rights are under threat or have been violated. Deepening an understanding and awareness of rights at community level and in local authorities is vital to participation in decision making processes that affects lives and to accessing justice.

The Commission employs various methods and approaches in response to needs and to raise awareness, educate the public about their rights and to advocate for change; as provided in more detail in the report. This includes the identification of key issues to inform interventions by relying on an analysis of statistics of the complaints received by the Commission; concerns reported in media, topical issues in the public domain; independent research reports in terms of the extent, prevalence and intensity of human rights concerns or needs; observations from its monitoring engagements, as well as the nature of requests received from various stakeholders.

In addition, the Commission continually assesses and refines its outreach strategies to strengthen and improve sensitisation and empowerment of communities in asserting and claiming their rights. The strategy during the state of national disaster was to use media as a key platform to reach people, and community radio was particularly important for the purpose of accessibility to its target groups. The second pillar involved mobilising other human rights champions to support the work of the Commission through their presence

² Statistics SA "How unequal is South Africa?" (2020)

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Pages/UNDHREducationTraining> adopted by UN Res 66/137 on 19 Dec 2011

in the communities in which they were based, which in turn allowed for sustained ease of access. On this basis, the Commission invested in the training of champions to support continuity and sustainability. Finally, the Commission reconfigured key projects such as the National Schools Moot Court Competition to allow implementation through online platforms.

In the 2021-2022 period the Commission employed strategies and undertook specific activities with the key objective of inculcating a culture of human rights and the outcomes were increased awareness, reach and visibility. The Commission achieved its planned promotion mandate targets for the period under review which are summarised⁴ as:

- Conducted one hundred and ninety-one (191) provincial engagements and interventions.
- Hosted twenty-six (26) dialogues.
- Empowered human rights champions in one hundred and seven (107) communities.
- Hosted forty-one (41) calendar day commemorative events.
- Implemented the roll out of the Equality Toolkit in one hundred and seven (107) interventions and monitored the functionality of ninety-nine (99) Equality Courts.
- Hosted a virtual edition of the National Schools Moot Court Competition, and
- Successfully utilised a wide range of media platforms and communication tools for advocacy, as appears more fully in section 3 of the report.

2.2. OUTREACH DURING COVID-19

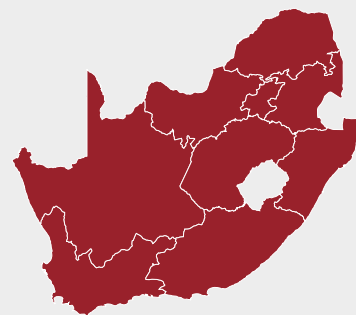
The Commission operated in the context of the pandemic for the greater part of the period under review, under the Regulations Governing the National State of Disaster (Regulations) declared in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002. The pandemic continued to re-write life as the population had known it, as the various COVID-19 waves intermittently swept across the country⁵ and resulted in the enforcement of adjusted lockdown alert levels. Self and social isolation, disconnection from family and friends, illness and bereavement, quarantine, and restriction on movement, resulted in more people than ever experiencing feelings of helplessness, anxiety, uncertainty, and depression.

⁴ Note that the SAHRC 2021-2022 Annual Report records percentage of achievement of targets whilst the AdvoComm report records actual figures of activities conducted

⁵ Relevant to the period under review, South Africa experienced the 1st wave from March 2019-Nov 2020 and the 2nd wave from Dec 2020-April 2021 <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa>, accessed 31 May 2022

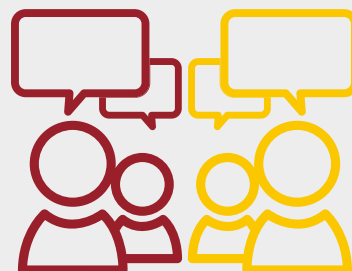
191

**PROVINCIAL
ENGAGEMENTS
AND
INTERVENTIONS**



26

DIALOGUES



107

**EMPOWERED
HUMAN RIGHTS
CHAMPIONS IN 107
COMMUNITIES**



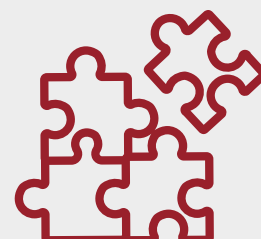
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**CALENDAR DAY
COMMEMORATIVE
EVENTS**



107

**IMPLEMENTED THE
ROLL OUT OF THE
EQUALITY TOOLKIT IN
107 INTERVENTIONS**





The Commission adjusted its conventional formats of direct in-person engagement with audiences and migrated to online platforms, remote working arrangements, and hybrid formats as appropriate to the external environment and adopted risk mitigation processes as needed. The Commission further utilised the windows of opportunity created in the intermittently adjusted lockdown levels to implement some of its interventions that were not ideal for virtual format. As physical interventions posed greater risks of exposure for both staff and participants alike due to COVID-19, the Commission ensured strict adherence to standard health and safety measures including the compulsory wearing of masks, use of hand sanitisers, maintaining social distancing and ventilation in venues.

In complementing attendance on media enquiries, the provincial offices initiated and requested slots on respective community radio stations for direct engagements about human rights in general and in the context of government's Risk Adjusted Strategy to the State of National Disaster. These conversations allowed wide reach, and for general rights information to be disseminated while at the same time addressing specific issues to the local listeners.

The community media engagements promoted and encouraged conversations about the effects of the lockdown primarily on the most vulnerable persons in the country. Issues of concern included the scourge of gender-based violence against women and children, inequalities in online education, mental health challenges and mandatory vaccination. The intensified community media focus complemented the Commission's engagements with mainstream media through press statements, with the Commission consistently pronouncing on various issues that had been exacerbated by the pandemic and proposing solutions based on human rights principles.

The Commission also suffered the adverse effects of illness and deaths among staff, their relatives, and friends. In recognition of the need to play a greater role in the promotion of access to mental healthcare, the Commission formed strategic alliances with organisations specialising in mental healthcare. In partnership with the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), the Commission conducted awareness sessions for staff to assist with tools for coping and adjusting to the ongoing pandemic. An increased vaccination drive by government brought the debate on mandatory vaccination to the fore. The Commission engaged its staff and continued to articulate the human rights-based position on the matter.

2.3. ENGAGEMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS TO INFLUENCE POLICY, LEGISLATION, SERVICE DELIVERY AND AWARENESS

The Commission engages with state entities as responsible authorities for the realisation of rights with the objective of influencing policy, legislation, service delivery and awareness. The engagements are not confined to any rigid format and accordingly took the form of meetings, presentations, one on one sessions or roundtable discussions and roadshows on issues of mutual interest and concern. In each such instance, the Commission sought to secure more than interaction with the identified stakeholder and elected instead to evaluate such formal strategic stakeholder sessions on the basis of outcomes in the form of commitment by the stakeholders which were secured during the engagements.

As an organ of the state, the Commission is required to engage public bodies with a view to cooperation and collaboration to take forward the promotion and protection of human rights. Following a previous model, the Commission continued with its shift to focus on high level strategic engagements with identified state institutions to gain insight into their policy and implementation responses to human rights norms, standards, and existing needs.



For the period under review, the Commission conducted one hundred and ninety-one (191) interventions to influence pro-human rights policies, legislative changes, service delivery and create awareness. The high number of interventions was attributable to both need and opportunity to intervene in the areas of policy, legislation and service delivery occasioned by the pandemic.

Key interventions included stakeholder engagements with the provincial leadership of core government departments that provide services to communities and were informed by the spike in complaints lodged with the respective Commission's offices. The Commission has consistently over the years noted the trends across provinces, responded to and prioritised issues on account of their systemic nature and untold adverse impacts on communities.

Common concerns ranged from the inadequate, and sometimes complete lack of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, roads, health care services, electricity, and housing⁶. These services are intrinsically necessary for the realisation of basic rights in the Bill of Rights and failure by municipalities to provide basic services

impacts negatively on the quality of life of communities across the country. One of the key observations by the Commission was the need for strengthened cooperative governance, and for efficiencies in the administration of water service authorities. These observations appeared to be cross cutting across the country as revealed in various provincial interventions, including systemic investigative enquiries⁷.

The Eastern Cape provincial office conducted a stakeholder engagement with the Joe Gqabi District Municipality on 9 December 2021, on the lack of access to water in the Ndofela villages in Senqu Local Municipality. A significant concern for the Commission was that despite numerous complaints, the area had not had water for a number of years and the provision of water tankers was reportedly erratic and inadequate. Following the engagement by the Commission, the district municipality committed to look into the issues and on 14 March 2022 provided a plan of action with implementation dates and activities to the Commission. To ensure accountability, the provincial office intends to monitor progress of the action plan in the 2022-2023 financial year.

⁶ <https://www.sahrc.org.za/imndex.php/publications>

⁷ Limpopo Provincial Inquiry into Access to Water and the Efficacy of Water Service Authorities- 19 to 22 October 2021 and Mpumalanga Provincial Investigative Inquiry into Service Delivery Challenges Within Local Municipalities-27 September to 1 October and 8 to 9 November 2021 which will be reported on more fully in the Trends Analysis Report that focuses on the protection mandate

The Gauteng provincial office conducted a roadshow from 7 to 10 February 2022 to monitor service delivery in select areas, based on the number of complaints lodged with it on the lack of service delivery. The office identified four (4) districts of the West Rand, Mogale City, Sedibeng, and the City of Johannesburg as areas from which the majority of complaints emanated. The top issues for complaints pertained to water leakages, sewage, and waste spillages. The roadshow entailed a combination of interlinked activities such as site inspections of the affected areas, information sessions with community representatives and dialogues in the form of strategic engagements with key stakeholders such as mayors, municipal managers, and civil society organisations. The interventions sought to identify the extent of the problems, understand the challenges hindering the delivery of services and propose potential solutions to remedy the issues.

The Commission reiterated the fiduciary duty vested in local municipalities to interact directly with citizens in the delivery of basic services and the need for direct engagement with communities by service delivery agencies and local authorities on the progress of service delivery challenges raised by communities. The lack of engagement is often the source of frustrations for communities and finds expression through protest, which could easily be overcome through the provision of access to information and public participation. There was consensus that simple communication by the municipality on the challenges it encounters would build

trust with the residents. The Commission stressed the importance for government officials and service delivery bodies to engage meaningfully, consult effectively and regularly communicate information to communities in a form that is accessible to them to ensure that people are fully informed. Through such engagements, the Commission was able to connect the significance of basic rights to access information, and principles of public participation which underpin the Constitution of the country.

The roadshow yielded a number of outcomes with strategic stakeholders, amongst which were the institutional links with various municipalities and communities which were established. Direct engagements with mayors and municipal managers assisted in their appreciation of the important roles they carry as duty bearers and for them to better understand the Commission's mandate. These stakeholders undertook to directly engage with the Commission in respect of violations relating to service delivery reported to the Commission. The Commission intends to monitor the implementation of the plans that municipalities provided as a mechanism to address the pending complaints.

The Gauteng, Northern Cape Mpumalanga and North-West provincial offices held dialogues and information sessions on mental health care on 23 and 29 September and 18 November respectively. The Commission was concerned with the slow pace in the implementation of recommendations from its *2019 Report on the National*





Investigative Hearing into the Status of Mental Health Care in South Africa would continue to render the rights of mental health care users vulnerable as had transpired during the tragic Esidimeni deaths of mental health care users⁸. Further, from its monitoring of health and mental health facilities in the provinces, the Commission had noted a number of issues requiring intervention.



Through the dialogues, the Commission reiterated the need for compliance with the minimum standards for the protection of the rights of persons with mental disabilities as set out in the Mental Health Care Act, 17 of 2002 as well as the National Mental Health Policy Framework. The Commission further urged the respective provincial Department of Health (DOH) to apply a pro- human rights approach to budgeting and accelerate the appointment of provincial and district Mental Health Review Boards. The Northern Cape provincial Department of Health (DOH) committed to abiding with the Commission's recommendations. Compliance with the recommendations issued by the Commission in 2019 is monitored both nationally and provincially, through a Committee of Experts convened in terms of Section 11 of the SAHRC Act.



The KwaZulu-Natal provincial office collaborated with the Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa (CEGAA), in hosting a training workshop on pro-human rights budgeting on 9 March 2022. The training equipped government officials, chapter 9, and civil society representatives with basic knowledge on the key concepts for pro-human rights budgeting and monitoring and covered topics on budgeting for impact, budget analysis, and basic resources and expenditure tracking.



The Commission envisaged that the information would assist officials in the implementation of programmes and resolution of service delivery challenges that emerge due to poor understanding of the budgeting process. The sessions are intended to continue in the future, and to include other critical provincial departments such as the Office of the Premier and the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (COGTA). The office also envisages that training of officials in the office of the Premier will enhance their oversight role in monitoring budget expenditure by other government departments, and ultimately improve service delivery.

The intervention achieved the outcome of a basic level of awareness around human rights based – impact budgeting in respect of the targeted officials. The intervention, however, did not appear to yield the desired results having had regard to the reports of the Auditor-General of South Africa, indicating that an unacceptably large number of municipalities received qualified audits in respect of the



audited financial period. These findings make clear the need for targeted training in critical departments and sustained awareness efforts for empowerment interventions to yield the desired outcomes.

The Western Cape provincial office intervened and mediated in a stalemate between the community of Qolweni and the provincial government on a range of issues pertaining to access to housing in the area. This followed the community blockade of the N2 freeway that links the Eastern and Western Cape provinces on 17 June 2021. The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Housing undertook to provide a date for commencement of a previously halted housing project; and the possible handover of the Qolweni housing project to the provincial government from the local Municipality of Bitou, after liaison with the National Department of Human Settlements. The provincial office was able to secure direct outcomes preventing further disruption to economic routes, but more importantly to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation for the protection of human rights.

The Western Cape provincial office hosted stakeholder engagements on 10 December 2021 and 24 March 2022 on homelessness. The engagements followed two earlier dialogues with civil society organisations on the matter, and the latter engagements aimed at escalating the issues to the responsible provincial government departments to address the plight of the homeless community. However, since the Department of Human Settlements was the only department in attendance, the discussions centred more broadly on challenges of access to adequate housing in the province. The Commission noted with concern the continued mushrooming of homeless communities across the Cape Metro and urged the department to urgently spearhead and coordinate collective efforts to address the issue of homelessness before it escalates to an unmanageable crisis.

In as much as a clear commitment was not immediately realisable following the dialogue, a number of civil society organisations have since begun interrogating the absence of a clear policy on 'homeless' persons in the metro.

The North- West provincial office convened a high-level stakeholder engagement with the Premier and the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs on 1 April 2021 to enhance cooperation in improving service delivery in the province. The parties committed to a referral and monitoring system of relevant complaints from the Commission to the provincial administration and quarterly meetings to ensure timely and effective resolution of service-related complaints.

The office further conducted a workshop for newly appointed councillors in Mahikeng on 30 March 2022 to empower councillors to understand the role of local government in terms of chapter 7 of the Constitution, sensitise them on the Commission's mandate and on the extent of service delivery complaints that the Commission is dealing with. The provincial office focused on the Mahikeng local municipality as the municipality where the provincial legislature is located, with the aim of building partnerships in tackling service delivery challenges. The Commission committed to engage further with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for similar capacitation of other municipalities in the province for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The above engagements reflect a commitment by the Commission, in its role as a national human rights institution to promote cooperation and non-adversarial means in efforts to promote respect for a culture of human rights. These efforts also create the opportunity to heighten awareness in the leadership at local and provincial government level with a view that information from the Commission bears some reference in policy formulation and implementation at these levels.

2.4. DIALOGUES

2.4.1 PROVINCIAL DIALOGUES

The over-arching threats of entrenched inequality, deepening poverty and unemployment continue to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of key groups such as women, children, older persons, non-nationals, farm workers, inmates in places of detention and persons living with disabilities; making them more susceptible to human rights violations than others.

The Commission planned to host dialogues throughout the country and to implement the resolutions emanating from the dialogues. Dialogues were designed to supplement the more focussed identified format of engagements with strategic stakeholders, with a view that the dialogues would lend themselves to more open, flexible formats, involving a wider range of audience and participation. Twenty-six (26) provincial dialogues were conducted, some of which are highlighted in the following paragraphs. However, the implementation of dialogue resolutions varied based on the nature of the dialogue outcomes and the resolutions can be regarded as work in progress.

The tragic incident at Mbilwi Secondary School in the Limpopo province in April 2021 where a learner committed suicide following the circulation on social media of a video of her being physically attacked by another learner, galvanised the Commission to look closely into the issue of bullying, violence, and safety in schools. The Limpopo provincial office's preliminary findings revealed that bullying in schools is way more prevalent than anticipated, with more learners experiencing bullying in one way or the other.

The Northern Cape and Eastern Cape provincial offices, in partnership with the respective provincial Department of Education (DOE) hosted similar dialogues on safety in schools on 7 July and 30 March 2022 respectively. The dialogues aimed at ensuring adherence to the National School Safety Framework (NSSF) as a key mechanism through which minimum standards for safety at schools can be established, implemented, and monitored. In all the dialogues, the DOE committed to ensuring the roll out of the National School Safety Framework -that outline reporting process of incidents, consequences for transgression and guidelines on preventative measures for bullying- to all schools including learners with special needs; regular sensitisation of school principals on the Framework to enable submission of reliable bullying incident reports and for DOE to exercise consequence management for failure to comply with this requirement; improved access to psycho-social services to victims of bullying and violence and

improved coordination and communication between district managers and school safety coordinators.

The Northern Cape and the North West provincial offices conducted dialogues on the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ+) communities on 11 August and 19 November respectively. During the dialogues, facilitative support was invoked to assist in establishing multi-sectoral task teams as spearheaded by the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD), to tackle the challenges faced by members of LGBTIQ+ community especially when interacting with the criminal justice system. These include stigma and discrimination, secondary victimisation and forced medical interventions. The Commission committed to intensified educational initiatives to change perceptions and promote tolerance, understanding and ensure respect for the rights of everyone.

The Western Cape provincial office, in collaboration with the Langa Community Advice Office and the South African Police Service (SAPS), hosted a dialogue on policing in Langa on 25 November 2021. Whilst appreciating the existence of the local community safety patrols, participants raised concerns of possible vigilantism and the meting of mob justice by some of the safety patrol members in dealing with possible transgressors. Allegations of both police officials and gang members demanding protection fees from non-national shop owners were also raised. In addition, communities complained of the lack of visible policing and rising crime levels of housebreaking, mugging and rape- ostensibly arising from an informal settlement that had sprouted during the national lockdown period next to the M7 road. The Commission undertook to engage the SAPS management, Police Ombudsman, SAPS Service Complaints Inspectorate and the Department of Justice to address the allegations that were raised and improve service and trust levels with the community.

The Northern Cape provincial office conducted a dialogue on law enforcement and human rights in Upington on 1 March 2022. The intervention was informed by an increase in the complaints of continuous human rights violations by people who are arrested, detained and in custody as lodged against both the SAPS and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). The Commission's observations during its monitoring of detention facilities such as police holding cells revealed amongst others, victimisation, dehumanizing or ill-treatment, excessive use of force and solitary confinement as critical issues of concern. The dialogue noted the role of South Africa's National Preventative Mechanism (NPM)⁹,

9 <https://sahrc.org.za/npm/index.php>

where more detailed recommendations are presented and reported on more comprehensively.

The Mpumalanga provincial office conducted a multisectoral dialogue on 9 March 2022 at the Kwa Mhlanga Old Legislature focusing on teenage pregnancy due to an increase in the number of learners falling pregnant from relationships with educators and adults in the community. The dialogue sought to influence compliance with the Child Sex Offenders Register, the Children's Protection Register and the DBE Policy on Management and Prevention of Learner Pregnancy in Schools. The dialogue noted that vulnerability, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children were contributing factors and cause for concern. Participants from the education sector, the criminal justice system as well as the Department of Social Development committed to better coordination to ensure the protection of learners.

The KwaZulu-Natal provincial office conducted a follow up engagement with the provincial Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMER) in Durban on 22 March 2022. The engagement focused on issues of concern to mining affected communities of Vryheid, Mtubatuba, Dannhauser and Richards Bay that the provincial office had noted in previous community engagements. The Commission had further noted the persistence of many of the issues that were raised in its 2016 National Hearing into Socio-Economic Challenges Facing Mining Affected Communities. Challenges regarding compensation for land relocation, rehabilitation of mines and artisanal mining remained unresolved.

The parties agreed on the need for continued engagement and sharing of information, including the 2016 report, to allow the provincial DMER to acquaint itself with the report's findings and recommendations, the judgement that invalidates the Mining Charter and the modalities for referral of mining related complaints. The Department agreed to prioritise such complaints and also participate in those outreach engagements that are relevant to it, and these commitments bode well with the Commission.

2.4.2. NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Commission hosted a virtual Imbizo entitled, "A Nation in Dialogue-Reflecting on the July 2021 Unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng" on 23 July. The Imbizo was held in response to large scale acts of civil disobedience conduct and social unrest that rocked the country from 8 to 19 July 2021 and were mostly prevalent in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.



Public narratives speculated that the unrest was triggered by the Constitutional Court judgement of 29 June 2021 which found former President Jacob Zuma guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to 15 months imprisonment. Sections of the population dissatisfied with the said judgment then spontaneously embarked on the unrest activities which rapidly spread, targeting mainly retail malls, shops, businesses, schools, and the transport system. Other narratives suggested that the unrest was orchestrated and that there was a high degree of organisation and instigation that led to the unrest.

Mobs of people looted merchandise that included food, medication, clothing, liquor, and electronic equipment / appliances and set alight or damaged stock warehouses and property. The major arterial N3 and N2 highways linking the ports of Durban and Richards Bay to the industrial hub of Johannesburg and Cape Town, were forced to close due to the unrest.¹⁰ The law enforcement response in the affected areas drew criticism for being slow and inadequate in arresting the situation and restoring order, until the deployment of the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) took place. The extent and severity of the violence resulted in the loss of 330 lives¹¹ and massive economic losses running into billions of Rands.

The use of on-line platforms allowed the Commission to respond rapidly in its engagement with the public despite the restrictions on gatherings and movement imposed by the National State of Disaster. Although not ideal, the engagement allowed direct contact with people who were both traumatised by the events, and likely unable to access a physical in-person meeting. The Commission was however alive to the fact that an on-line engagement with the public allowed limited access to people who were able to access and participate through the remote platform.

Through the Imbizo, the Commission sought to dialogue with the nation in a bid to strengthen consultation and understand the impact of the unrest on human rights; as well as inform the Commission on carving a response plan necessary to promote a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law and assist the country in effectively mitigating future incidents.

Following the Imbizo, the Commission proceeded to convene the National Investigative Hearings in fulfilment of the resolutions from the Imbizo. The KwaZulu-Natal leg was

held from 15 Nov until 3 Dec, and the Gauteng leg from 21 February until 4 March 2022 respectively. The hearings sought to inquire, report, and make recommendations on the broad and overarching issues of the safety, freedom and security of the person, business and human rights and human dignity of people, by focusing on¹²:

- The causes of the July unrest.
- The alleged racially motivated attacks and killings following the unrest.
- The apparent lapses in law enforcement by state security agencies and the role of private security companies, and
- The extent that the socio-economic and political factors played a role in the unrest.

The findings of the hearings will be reported on in due course upon conclusion of the hearings¹³.

The Commission is cognisant of the value of dialogues as a platform for optimum representation of critical voices and role-players on diverse and complex issues and intends to continue their usage as important tools in the resolution of key human rights challenges.

2.5. AMMAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

As a signatory to the 2012 Amman Declaration and Programme of Action to Promote Gender Equality (the Declaration), the Commission is committed to promote non-discrimination and gender equality through the realisation of legislative, policy and attitudinal change. For the period under review, the Commission focused on assessing the extent of implementation of the resolutions from the 2012 conference entitled *“The Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality – the role of National Human Rights Institutions”* that it had participated in.

The Commission consulted internally and further engaged external key stakeholders such as the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development, and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as the secretariat of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP)¹⁴, to assess progress in the implementation of the 2012 conference resolutions.

10 <https://apnews.com/article/africa-business-biden-cabinet-south-africa2d0aaef63102a661c-8e54d3bdf926566> accessed 20 July 2021

11 As provided by the SAPS to media as at August 2021 <https://ewn.co.za/2021/07/23/watch-live-minister>, accessed 30 Sept 2021

12 <https://www.sahrc.org/index.php/sahrc-media/news-2/item/3157>

13 At the time of writing of this report, the hearings were still underway.

14 www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202006/stratplan-gbvs.pdf



MOBILIZE THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD

**-Charles
Malik**

The assessment of implementation yielded mixed results summarised as follows:

- The programs and activities cited in the Amman Declaration of 2012 are being implemented under the NSP. In general gender rights have been the subject of considerable developments post Amman and some of these go beyond the Amman commitments in the areas such as gender-based violence, femicide and issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Recent developments include the enactment of three new pieces of legislation in January 2022 to strengthen the criminal justice system, promote accountability across the state and put support for survivors at the center of all efforts¹⁵.
- Despite the lack of an action plan specific to the Declaration, the SAHRC has prioritised and mainstreamed the rights of women and girls and gender equality in its strategic planning processes, policies, programs, and activities to establish sustainable interventions to achieve gender equality.

- The SAHRC continues to monitor the States' fulfilment of human rights obligations and non-State actors' compliance with human rights standards, including those relating to the rights of women and girls and gender equality, in line with Declaration.

The Commission conducted information sessions for its staff and the outreach officers of fellow Chapter nine bodies to sensitise them on the Declaration; translated the Declaration into all the country's official languages and uploaded these onto the SAHRC website. The Declaration may be downloaded freely by any user. The Commission continues to disseminate the Declaration as educational and promotional material to participants during relevant outreach engagements.

The SAHRC further resolved to collaborate closely with the CGE in expanding awareness of gender issues as institutions supporting democracy; maintain a focus on the post Amman commitments; mainstream gender and align its work with the overall national efforts under the NSP for a comprehensive holistic approach in the promotion of gender equality.

¹⁵ The three enacted legislations are the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act 12 of 2021; the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 13 of 2021; and the Domestic Violence Amendment Act 14 of 2021.

2.6. EMPOWERMENT OF COMMUNITY HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPIONS

The Commission embraced community centred human rights approaches by continuing with the task of establishing and empowering a network of community based human rights champions across the country¹⁶. The Commission continued to empower the champions through training workshops, information sessions and regular interaction. For the period under review, the Commission conducted one hundred and seven (107) capacity building workshops and training sessions across all nine provinces.

Champions were trained on basic human rights, the powers and functions of the Commission and structures that can assist with human rights violations, and their roles and responsibilities to enhance their understanding and empower them in interacting with human rights issues. In addition, all champions were provided with branded reflector jackets to improve their validation and visibility in the course of their duties.

Champions that were empowered include Paralegals; Early Childhood Development Care Workers; Community Development Workers; Community Health Care Workers; the Clergy / Religious Leaders; Traditional Leaders; Ward Committees and Community Policing Forum members. Building on the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Community Advice Offices of South Africa (CAOSA) as the national coordinating body of the community advice office sector, the Kwa Zulu- Natal, Mpumalanga and Western Cape provincial offices conducted training workshops in March for the CAOSA provincial executive leadership. The methodology of a train-the trainer aims at cascading the training within the entire CAOSA membership. The partnership is proving beneficial as the parties have implemented a referral system on complaints of alleged human rights violations handling between them and collaboration is being strengthened as some community advice offices now serve as access points to both the Commission and the community. The parties are also utilizing CAOSA's monitoring reports on human rights violations in given localities to develop collaborative interventions to assist communities in accessing their basic human rights.

Provincial offices attribute the high subscription of champions to the encouraging working relationship with stakeholders, increasing mutual interest of community-based structures and leaders to deepen protection of human rights, and an abiding high level of need in many

communities in the country. The champions complement the work of the Commission in the execution of its broad mandate and serve as a link between the Commission and communities, increasing direct community access to justice. Such programs serve to increase the visibility, reach and strength of both the Commission and community-based advice offices.

2.7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EQUALITY TOOLKIT AND PROMOTING THE FUNCTIONALITY OF EQUALITY COURTS

The Commission is acutely concerned that equality related complaints have remained consistently high over the period of the Commission's existence. The Commission's 2019-2020 Trends Analysis Report (TAR) notes that the highest category of complaints was based on Section 9 of the Constitution; with race and hate speech featuring amongst the highest categories of equality related complaints lodged with the Commission.

Following the development of an Equality Toolkit (the Toolkit) in the previous financial year, the Commission undertook one hundred and seven (107) initiatives in implementing the Toolkit in the period under review. The roll out took the form of presentations, information sessions, training workshops, and focus groups discussions to create awareness and popularise the Toolkit with key stakeholders. The stakeholders included human rights champions, community-based organisations, learners and educators, community radio personnel, correctional services and police officials, and equality court clerks. For ease of reference, the Gauteng provincial office further designed and disseminated a poster highlighting the locations of Equality Courts in the province.

Presenters endeavoured to make the engagements as practical as possible for participants to encourage them identify with the subject matter. Participants were presented with scenarios of unfair discrimination and through role playing, were able to interact with the application of the Toolkit. This format proved to be effective as it demonstrated the extent to which participants had grasped the concepts and mechanisms to deal with equality related matters, thus confirming the value of the Toolkit. Participants engaged on definitions and the identification of what constitutes unfair discrimination, the recognition or assessment of equality violations, institutions which work on complaints of violations to the right to equality, and the role of designated courts in determining matters for redress.

16 Details of the roles, responsibilities, and areas where champions are already operational appear in the 2020/21 Annual AdvoComm report, available at www.sahrc.org.za

A worrying incident circulated on social media platforms in April 2021 showed a shopper being forced to leave a shopping centre by the mall management because he was considered indecently dressed in his traditional attire. Situations such as the latter are clear examples of the need for awareness about the right to equality across sectors, including business. The Gauteng provincial office conducted an awareness session on the Toolkit to sensitise the Redefine Group staff as owners of the mall in question, on equality and the role of business in ensuring respect for the right to dignity and equality.

The Commission's provincial offices monitored ninety-nine (99) select Equality Courts at Magistrates Court level, to establish the extent of their functionality. The Commission engaged Equality Court staff such as clerks and court managers with a view to establishing the challenges they had encountered in the functioning of the courts. Amongst the key findings was that most courts are under-utilised as

they handle few complaints, possibly due to people not being aware of the existence and role of Equality Courts; and that some clerks and presiding officers were not confident of their level of skill due to the infrequency with which they handle equality matters.

The Commission noted the need for in-depth engagement with the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development for comprehensive interventions to highlight the need for attention to be brought to the functioning of the Courts. Some of the possible interventions include intensified public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of Equality Courts and encourage the public to directly access the courts; as well as refresher training to court staff to enable them to execute their duties efficiently. The Commission further shared the Equality Toolkit with court staff to assist them in the processing of equality matters. The Commission will continue implementing the project for the 2022-2023 financial year.



2.8. COMMEMORATION OF KEY HUMAN RIGHTS CALENDAR DAYS

As an NHRI within the global human rights family, the Commission identifies national, regional, and international human rights days which are widely celebrated or commemorated. The commemorations serve as a platform for broader engagement in raising awareness on a particular issue, topic or focus area and events in history as sources of human rights violations. Certain sectors also leverage on the marking of a dedicated day to place the spotlight on the issues, and the Commission sustains key messaging for wider awareness, and unifies action to prevent a recurrence of events in history or possible violations, thereby ensuring future protections and reforms.

The Commission commemorated forty- one (41) select key human rights calendar days. The events comprised of public gatherings, using virtual and hybrid formats dictated by the prevailing health and safety regulations in place at a given time. The interventions were complemented by mass communication methods such as press statements, opinion pieces, radio interviews and social media.

Calendar days to be commemorated were informed by national historical events and issues of significance in a particular province. The issues were determined by considering a range of province specific factors such as the extent and nature of complaints in the province, the provincial demographics, the nature of requests received from various stakeholders; research of systemic human rights abuses and developments requiring attention for the protection of human rights. The Commission hosted and participated in the following key human rights calendar days:

- a) Child Protection Week (28 May - 2 June 2019) is an annual campaign to raise awareness through mobilisation of all sectors and communities, towards the holistic care and protection of children. All the Commission's provincial offices participated in the launches and series of activities marking the week as spearheaded by the Department of Social Development. Basic information about the rights and responsibilities of children were provided to children, together with information about the SAHRC Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedures, to enable them to identify threats or violations and to more easily be able to report these to the relevant authorities.

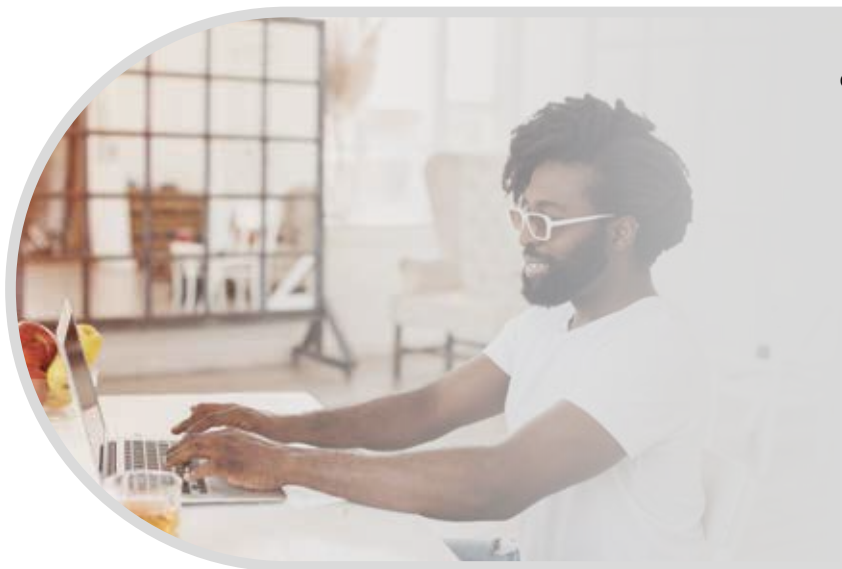


- b) Women's Day (9 August) was observed by the Limpopo provincial office, in partnership with the CGE; through a series of dialogues conducted at Molemole on the 11th, Lebowakgomo on the 12th and Ga Ratsaka Tribal Council on the 13th of August. The events acknowledged the role that women played in the struggle for national democracy and empowered women with knowledge on possible initiatives to undertake in the fight for gender equality.





- c) International Day of Democracy (20 September) was observed by the Northern Cape provincial office through a dialogue in Upington that reflected on the state of democracy in South Africa and the extent to which the province is making progress in the realisation of human rights.



- d) International Day for the Universal Access of Information (28 September) was marked by the Mpumalanga provincial office at Mbombela and emphasized the importance of information, types of information and how to access and use information in the assertion of rights.



- e) World Children's Day (19 November) was observed by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial office at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and sought to raise awareness amongst children in the Pietermaritzburg metropolitan area. The event entailed edutainment, information sharing, learning and role-playing exercises on child safety and protection. The children engaged with issues on sexual and physical abuse, their rights and responsibilities and the SAHRC Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedures.

- f) World Food Day (16 October) was observed by the Free State provincial office at Hennenman and highlighted the importance of food security, the need to fight hunger, malnutrition and promote healthy diets for all.



- g) Africa Human Rights Day (21 October) was commemorated by the Commission's national office in partnership with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and the Human Rights Institute of South Africa through two virtual dialogues. The partners hosted the first event on 27 June to mark the 40th anniversary of the adoption and ratification of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter) by the Heads of State and Government of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union. The Charter is a key regional human rights instrument, which reaffirms the principles of human and peoples' rights and freedoms; promotes and safeguards justice, equality, and human dignity on the continent.



The event reflected on South Africa's contribution to the Charter, through presentations from prominent citizens who have served in key organs established through the Charter. These included chairs and Special Rapporteurs of the African Commission and African Court. The second event entailed a high-level panel discussion held on 21 October to mark the 40th anniversary of the coming into force of the Charter. The panel consisted of the Deputy Ministers of Justice from Ghana and South Africa, deputy chairs of the African Commission and African Court respectively, heads of select continental civil society entities, representatives of academic institutions and NHRIs.

The discussions reflected on the highlights and challenges of the past 40 years and current landscape of the Charter. The participants identified the issue of access to information as a priority in need of possible reform to strengthen the regional African human rights system. Proposals included the need for a guidance note on the interpretation of article 59(3) of the Charter to enable civil society to have full access to information and list of cases pending before the African Commission. Such information can enable NHRIs to provide additional information as part of the information verification process and other entities can determine whether to join as *amicus curiae* and thus improve the quality of information before the decision-making body. The highly interactive event was attended by approximately 457 participants from across the continent, showing the strong sense of activism for a culture of human rights amongst Africa's people.



- h) 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children (25 November - 10 December) is an ongoing multi-sectoral campaign commenced by the United Nations, that seeks to discourage violence against women and children and to encourage vocal activism on violence against women and child abuse. South Africa is reportedly a country with the highest

rates of violence against women. Brutal crimes against women and children, continue to manifest at an unacceptable rate despite commitments by the Presidency to fight the scourge. In 2019, President Ramaphosa announced an Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Following on this commitment, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities spearheaded the campaign for activism against women and children. Several stakeholders have taken a stand against what has been referred to as the second pandemic when referring to the levels of violence against women and children. Despite these efforts and mounting calls, levels of violence have not abated. The Commission has mounted a series of interventions throughout the country to increase awareness and to support efforts by stakeholders through the campaign. All the provincial offices participated in the respective provincial launches and series of activities such as community dialogues, as spearheaded by the government and broad-based stakeholders comprised civil society actors, local government representatives, and business.



- i) International Human Rights Day (10 December) commemorations were led by the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development, supported by the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the SAHRC national office. The day marks the coming into force of the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights (UDHR) as the first key global instrument providing for the universal protection of fundamental human rights and recognition of the inherent dignity, equality, and inalienability of rights for all human beings. The day was commemorated globally under the theme "Equality - Reducing inequalities and advancing human rights."

The national virtual event also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution into law under the theme "The Constitution as a catalyst for the achievement of equality". The common themes that emerged were the need to address the deeply entrenched patterns of inequality and poverty; concerted efforts for state accountability for service delivery and enjoyment of socio-economic rights and strengthening of the justice and crime sector for access to justice, particularly gender-based violence. The overall message was that notwithstanding the challenges, all facets of society have the responsibility to respect the Constitution and live its ideals towards a better life for all.

- k) International Mother Language Day (21 February) was observed by the Mpumalanga provincial office in partnership with the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) in White River. The event promoted awareness of multilingualism and celebrated the country's diverse languages as recognized by the Constitution. Learners showcased the province's languages through essays, poems, and cultural attire.



- l) World Day of Social Justice (18 February) was observed by the Gauteng provincial office in Zandspruit. The day is aimed at promoting social development, human dignity, and equal opportunities for all. The community dialogue was aimed at promoting human rights, with a focus on the widespread socio-economic challenges in the area.



- m) Human Rights Day (21 March) commemorates the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of equality and democracy and to reinforce the principles enshrined in the Constitution. Human Rights Day affords the nation an opportunity to critically reflect on, and celebrate, the progress that the country has made in the promotion, protection, and realisation of human rights.



The month of March is recognised as human rights month nationally. As such it is a significant month for the Commission as it co-hosts, participates in, and supports various activities organised by other partners and stakeholders, including the official national and provincial state events. The 2022 commemoration of human rights month was jointly led by the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture (DSAC) and the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development and was supported by the Commission. The main event was held at Koster in the North-West province where President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation, and the SAHRC chair Advocate Bongani Majola gave a message of support. The chair reiterated the message from prior events marking the 25th anniversary of the Constitution. He indicated that although the government and Chapter 9 institutions take the lead, the responsibility to promote and protect human rights is vested in all spheres of society. All sectors including business, academia, the media, civil society, and the public have the duty to promote equality and root out stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes.

The day was commemorated under the theme “The Year of National Unity and Renewal: Promoting and Protecting our Human Rights” which the Commission endorsed as fitting following the widespread unrest which erupted in Kwa Zulu Natal and Gauteng in July 2021, and in the context of the global pandemic, and socio-economic challenges which continue to deepen inequalities in South Africa.

Noting March as human rights month, the Commission’s provincial offices undertook and collaborated on a range of outreach activities including dialogues, information sessions and symposiums in raising awareness on the rights and responsibilities that everyone bears. Collaborative partnerships with other rights bodies assist in part to mitigate challenges to accessibility, but also strengthen relationships and expertise within the context of limited resources; thereby multiplying the reach and impact of efforts. Participation by the Commission extends to support and responses to requests and invitations from other stakeholders during this significant month.

2.9. NATIONAL SCHOOLS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

In 2021 the Commission resumed hosting the National Schools Moot Court Competition (NSMCC) as a flagship project which seeks to heighten critical rights awareness and articulation in high school learners using the mooting method. This followed the suspension of the competition in 2020 due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the state of disaster which resulted in a national lockdown, including the closure of schools

for prolonged periods and the suspension of all in-person contact activities such as those associated with the competition. The Commission with its partners- the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Department of Justice & Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD) as supported by the legal fraternity, civil society organizations and academic institutions - utilised 2020 to plan to enable the competition to proceed in virtual format.

The competition broadly aims to educate and create awareness among learners in schools about the Constitution and the values that it embodies, the rule of law and Institutions Supporting Democracy; by utilizing hypothetical topical examples rooted in real human rights praxis. Additionally, it aims at encouraging learners to consider pursuing a law career, but more broadly, to contribute towards the civic education in social justice of all young people, whatever career they may follow. The competition tests a range of skills such as oral advocacy, critical thinking, legal writing, researching volumes of law, structuring an argument, teamwork, problem solving, time keeping and meeting deadlines, arguing, and assessing both sides of a case.

The 2021 competition recorded significant milestones as mainly reflected in its expanded reach. One of the issues of concern is that even though the competition is open to all schools, participation depends on several factors such as the choice of co-curriculum model and level of interest among the educators and principals at each school. Approximately 310 schools participated in the 2021 leg, which is a marked improvement from the 135 schools of 2019. In addition, 87 out of the 135 schools that qualified for the national rounds were from lower quintile category, marking an improvement from a previous figure of 82 in 2019. In addition, an analysis of the essay results indicates that generally the lower quintile schools scores were in most instances higher than those of the upper quintile schools. This is commendable as it shows that the competition is promoting equity in education.

The Commission developed and disseminated an animation video to assist learners in understanding and sharpening their mooting skills. All provinces hosted physical rounds as the number of participants for the provincial rounds was manageable in observing health and safety protocols and were held from 2-18 September 2021. The provincial rounds enabled learners to argue their case before judicial officers in actual court settings.

The Commission hosted the first ever virtual national preliminary oral rounds from 6-9 October, comprising of the top four teams- two each from both the lower and higher quintiles -from each provincial round. The use of virtual

platforms was ground -breaking and the organisers pre-empted some of the challenges associated with accessing technology, especially in remote rural areas. Adjustments included ensuring that participants operated from a location with stable electricity supply and network coverage and provided all competing teams with adequate data.

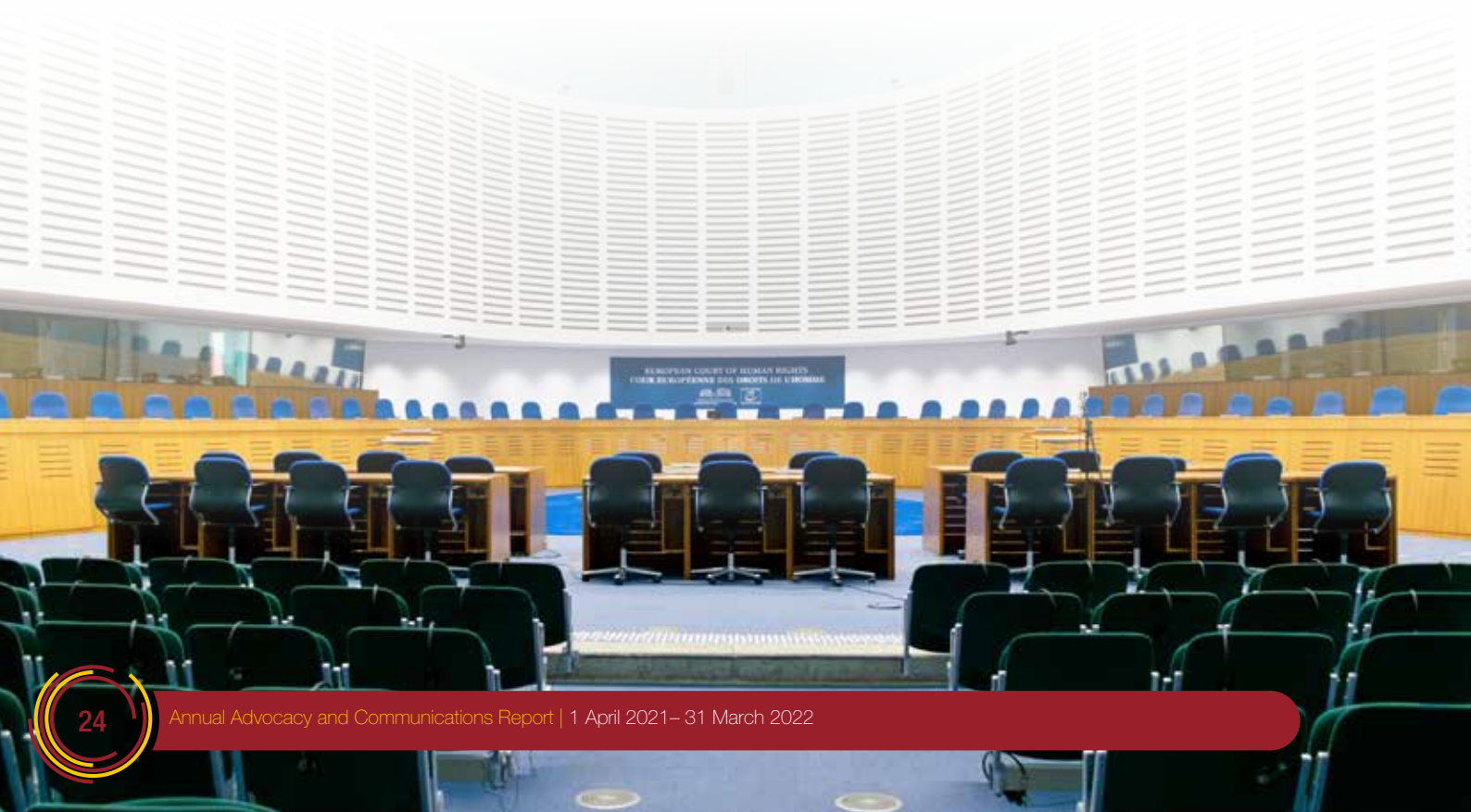
The four highest scoring teams in the preliminary rounds proceeded to the final round in the Constitutional Court on 10 October. Two of the teams argued the case for the Applicant and Respondent respectively, as new combined teams. To ensure fair representation each of the joint teams comprised of at least one team from a lower quintile school. Lots were drawn to determine the composition of the combined teams in the final round, and allocation of presenting the case for the Applicant or Respondent. The teams received intensive coaching in preparation for the finals by experienced law student volunteers who also ensured that the teams worked cohesively as combined teams.

The panel of judges comprised a cross section of esteemed judicial officers and human rights activists. The panel was led by Justice Margaret Victor, Judge of the Gauteng South Division High Court and supported by Ms Rehana Khan Parker-Director Partner at RPK Attorneys; Ms Fatima Laher, Director of Pro-Bono at Bowmans Inc; Ms Jacque Cassette, Director of Pro Bono at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr; Dr Ashwanee Budoo, Programme Manager at the Centre for Human Rights- University of Pretoria; Mr Hanif Vally, Executive Director at the Foundation for Human Rights; and SAHRC Commissioners Adv Shafie Ameerma, Adv Andre Gaum and J B Sibanyoni.

After teams presented arguments, the panel of Judges deliberated and ruled in favour of the Respondent team comprising of Lithela Njongwe & Mihle Mpahlwa of Mida High School from Eastern Cape and Bertha Mutsakani & Alutto Luwaco of Mowat Park High School from KwaZulu Natal as the winners of the 2021 competition. The Applicant team of Busisiwe Boozi & Andisa Muluvhedzi of Mbilwi Secondary School from Limpopo and Philile Nene & Ntothuka Ndlela of Makhedama High School from KwaZulu Natal were the runners up. The proceedings closed with a prize giving ceremony. Other categories of winners included best overall essay, best applicant essay, best respondent essay and best oralist.

The Commission noted the positive feedback that was received from learners, educators, coaches, volunteers, and judges who participated in the competition. Testament of the value of the competition is reflected in the range of stakeholders that readily volunteered their services for over six months. The Commission acknowledges the contributions by the various legal professionals across the judiciary, private firms, academic institutions, and civil society organisations that contributed to the success of the competition. The Commission will continue investing in partnerships with various key strategic stakeholders to broaden human rights knowledge and literacy in schools and inculcate a culture of human rights within learners from an early age and looks forward to the 2022 edition of the competition.

In summary, the advocacy section of this report has highlighted the various methods that the Commission utilised to reach select communities and audiences in the promotion of human rights.



3. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

In fulfilment of its promotion mandate, the Commission communicates through print, broadcast, online and social media, to a broader public audience. The key strategic outcome for the Commission's media and communications activities is for increased reach and visibility. The Commission further prioritises the use of community broadcast media, to increase penetration within communities, deepen understanding of human rights, and raise awareness of the Commission and its mandate.

3.1 OVERVIEW OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic remained a major discussion point in the media during the 2021-2022 financial year. As the pandemic progressed into a second year, media focussed largely on matters relating to the pandemic such as vaccinations and implications on daily life.

Insofar as media interest in impacts to human rights were concerned, health and equality continued to dominate. Equality and related rights – with race as a sub-category remained prominent. The highest media exposure for the Commission however, commenced shortly after the unrest which took place in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng from 8-19 July 2021 as the events resulted in serious impacts to human rights.

The Commission released media statements condemning the violence and large-scale damage which followed. Interventions by the Commission in the form of the Imbizo held on 23 July were supported by some reportage in the media. Shortly, after the Imbizo, the Commission convened its National Investigative Hearing into the July 2021 Unrest. The unrest impacted the lives of people in various ways, severely undermining the resolve for South Africans to live in peace, harmony, without fear and want. The impacts however, extended beyond the actual events themselves, resulting in the closure of many small businesses and consequent loss of jobs, damage to infrastructure, and costs to the provincial government which will have long term effects on the economy and the realisation of basic rights.

The Commission released 186 media statements, published 6 opinion pieces in mainstream media and on its website; published 15 internal Pfanelo newsletters and conducted 6 media briefings during the period. The Commission's online

and social media activities consisted of 281 items published on the SAHRC website, 547 posts on Facebook and 686 posts on Twitter as well as 114 videos broadcast on the Commission's YouTube channel for the 2021-2022 financial year.

The table below provides a statistical summary of communications activities:

Media Articles	12 302
Advocacy Messages on Twitter	686
Media Statements	186
Web Uploads	363
Advocacy Messages on Facebook	547
Online Media Activities	281
YouTube Videos	114
Pfanelo SAHRC Newsletter	15
Opinion Pieces	6
Media Briefings	6

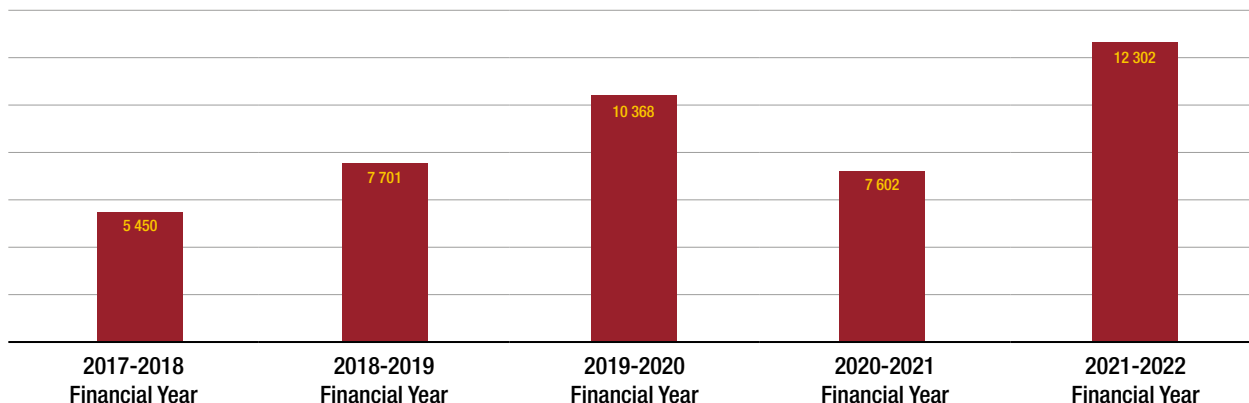
3.1.1 MEDIA ITEMS

In the 2021-2022 financial year, the Commission received the highest numbers in media coverage and representation in comparison over a five-year period. Following on reporting trends for the previous year, reportage continued to focus largely on COVID-19, with a focus on mandatory vaccinations as well as return to school and workplaces. These themes led to media seeking the views of the Commission in terms of the human rights implications around these new developments.

Equality, and race in particular remained at the forefront of the Commission's interventions in so far as communications are concerned during the period. However, the July unrest and the resultant National Investigative Hearing dominated the news from September onward. As a result, reporting on the work of the Commission increased by 61.82% as compared to the preceding financial year and is an increase of 18.65% of the Commission's 2019-2020 year which was the then highest media coverage since the 2017-2018 period. It should be noted that media coverage of the SAHRC, by sheer volume has increased by 125.72 % in comparison to the past five years. These increases are potentially indicative of increasing awareness by the media of the work of the Commission on matters of general public interest involving basic human rights.

Media items featuring the SAHRC increased to 12 302 in the 2021-2022 financial year, from 7 602 in the previous financial year and consisted of items published, broadcast, or communicated electronically on the work of the Commission on human rights as reflected in the table below:

NUMBER OF MEDIA ITEMS PER FINANCIAL YEAR



3.1.2 AUDIENCE REACHED

The increase in quantity of media coverage for the Commission directly relates to the number of consumers reached. The Commission's audience increased to 16 444 714 973 during the 2021-2022 financial year, up from 8 689 168 295 during the 2020-2021 financial year, an increase of 89.26% in audience reach.

HOW IS THE COMMISSION'S AUDIENCE MEASURED?

The measurement of various audiences reached by print, broadcast and online media is complex as each medium applies different methodologies to measure audience information. The Commission utilises the services of an independent external service provider that measures the Commission's media presence through daily, weekly, and monthly media monitoring. The service provider does not measure or create audience figures but sources such information from various industry bodies such as the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC), and the Internet Advertising Bureau of South Africa. These bodies provide the approximate reach of particular media which considers factors such as the number of estimated readers and

listeners, and the number of copies of print media produced for circulation by an entity. Where media owners are not members of these bodies, the audience figures are sourced from the media owners directly in the following manner:

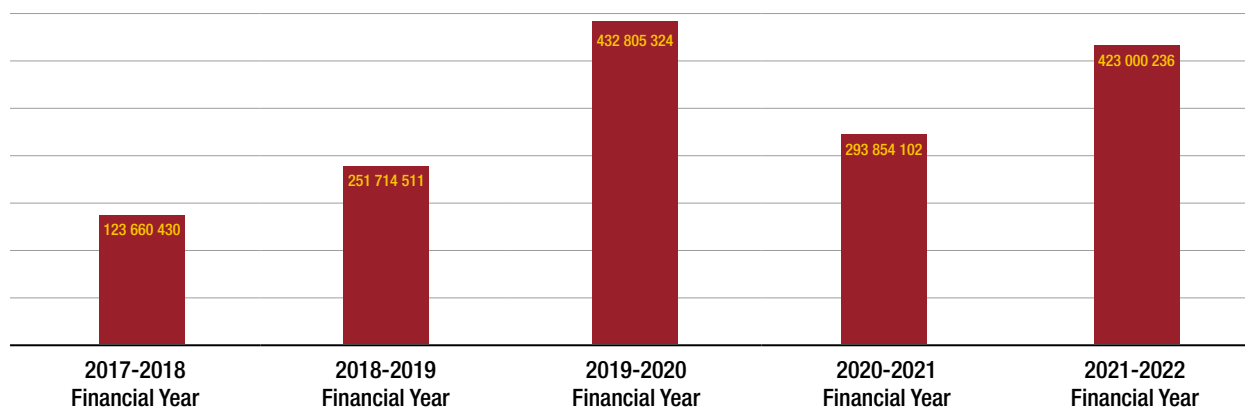
- Circulation (Print), this is generally the number of hard copies printed for circulation of a particular newspaper or magazine, with most major publications subject to independent audit by the ABC.
- Readership (Print), this figure is usually a much bigger number than the number of printed hard copies and estimates that more people read a single hard copy; with the assumption that though there may be one copy of a particular newspaper, for instance up to 10 or more people may read that copy.
- Listenership / Viewership (Broadcast), measures include listenership in the last day, week, or month for a particular broadcast channel. The Commission's media monitoring service provider uses a monthly figure.
- Daily Unique Browser (Online media), the service provider uses website visitor figures measured for the online media industry wherein cookies are embedded on member sites which makes visitor numbers accurate.

Table: Media Coverage of the Commission in 2021-2022

VOLUME, AUDIENCE, VALUE AND SENTIMENT OF COVERAGE OF THE COMMISSION 2020/2021						
MEDIA TYPE	NUMBER OF ITEMS	AUDIENCE REACHED	AVE	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE
Print	2114	674 127 215	R 65 528 113.85	20.05%	79.47%	0.28%
Broadcast	3586	2 666 385 840	R 154 790 555.40	34.43%	65.28%	0.25%
Online	6602	13 778 329 133	R 202 681 566.50	29.64%	69.78%	0.36%

During the period under review the Commission's media reach and visibility through strategic communications on human rights comprised 12 302 media items published, broadcast, or communicated electronically on the work of the Commission. The Average Value Equivalent (AVE) of the total media coverage of the Commission amounted to R 423 000 235.80. This is an increase in AVE as compared to the AVE of R 293 854 102 reached the prior financial year, which was less than that of the previous financial year's AVE of R 432 805 324.60. This amount reflects the total cost the Commission would have paid had it purchased the media space.

GROWTH OF AVE VALUE PER FINANCIAL YEAR



3.1.3 MEDIA BRIEFINGS

The Commission held 6 media briefings or press conferences in the 2021-2021 financial year. These were held online, via video conferencing and with the events subsequently uploaded to the Commission's YouTube channel to support continued access to the briefings. The following media briefings were held:

- SAHRC admission to intervene as a third party in the matter of Semenya v Switzerland (Application no. 10934/21) on 2 September 2021
- First Monthly Media Briefing on 30 September 2021
- Second Monthly Media Briefing on 29 October 2021
- Launch of the National Investigative Hearing into the July 2021 Unrest on 11 November 2021
- Final Monthly Media Briefing for the Year on 21 December 2021
- Release of the 2019-2020 Trends Analysis Report on 15 March 2022.

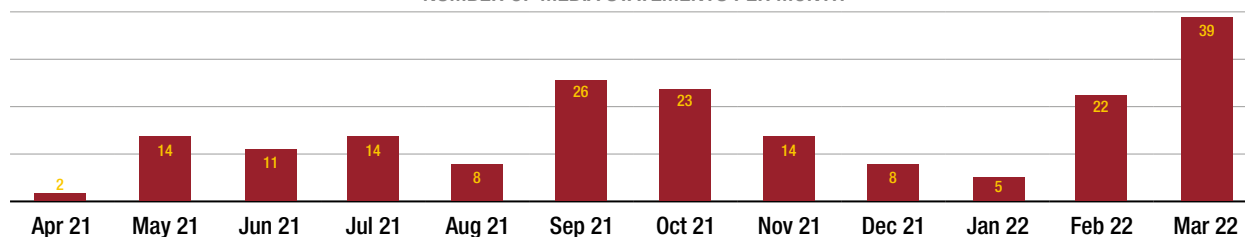
3.1.4 MEDIA STATEMENTS

The SAHRC released 186 media statements during the 2021/2022 financial year as

follows: *Table: Number of media statements*

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
2	14	11	14	8	26	23	14	8	5	22	39

NUMBER OF MEDIA STATEMENTS PER MONTH



3.2. MEDIA COVERAGE BY MEDIUM – PRINT, BROADCAST, ONLINE

The Commission's coverage continues to shift towards online and broadcast media. Media has largely gone digital, and as such, stories don't wait for the next day to be published. Online media continue to grow year on year as compared to traditional print media. Owing to technological advancement, subscribers can access news on electronic devices as compared to before when people relied on newspaper printed articles for information. During the 2021-2022 financial year, print media articles accounted for 17% media coverage, down from 21% as compared to the prior financial year, while online media accounted for 54% which is down from 60% for the previous financial year and broadcast media increased to 29% as opposed to accounting for 19% in the previous financial year.

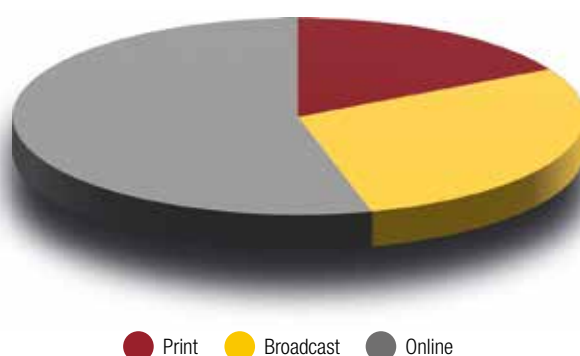
Share of Commission's medium of coverage:

Print 2114	Broadcast 3586	Online 6602
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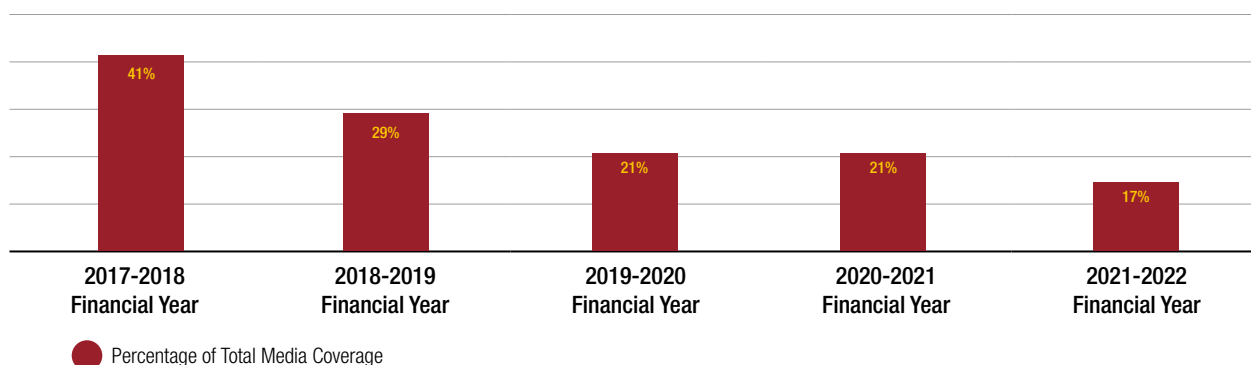
3.2.1 PRINT MEDIA

Coverage of the Commission was carried across all types of print media including daily and weekly newspapers, community newspapers, journals, and magazines. In line with global trends and the rise of online platforms, coverage in print media has been reduced over the years. The reduction is noted from 41% in the 2017-2018 financial year to 29% in 2018-2019, to 21% in 2019-2020, remained at 21% in the 2020-2021 financial year and has declined to 17% in the 2021-2022 financial year. The decline in print media is taking place globally.

SHARE OF VOICE OF SAHRC VIA TYPES OF MEDIA FOR 2021-2022



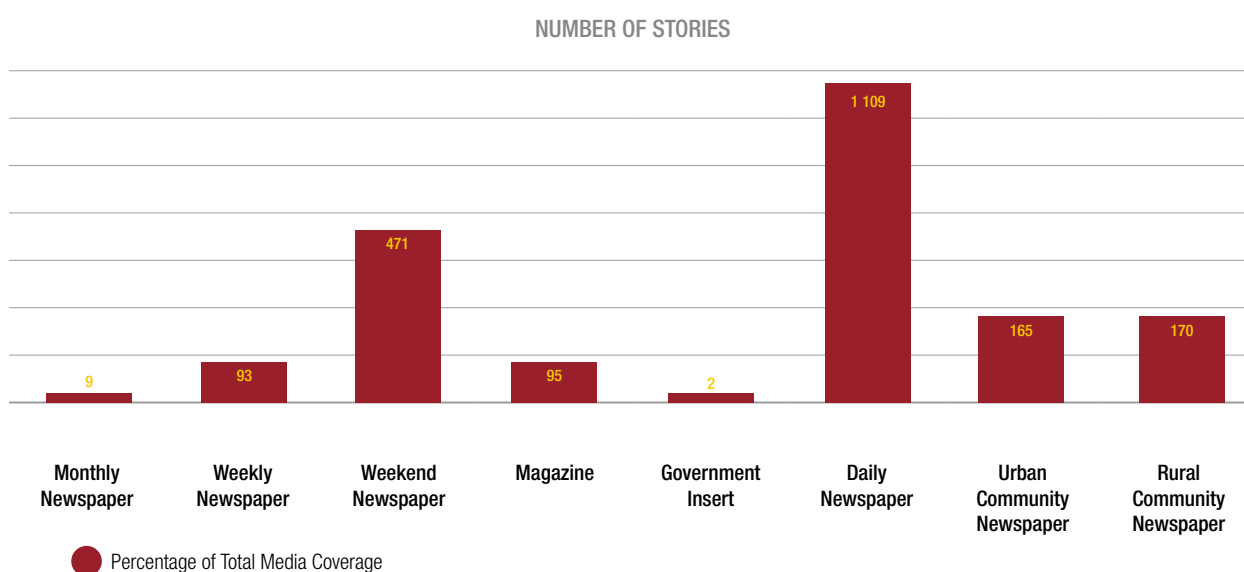
DECLINE IN SHARE OF PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE PER FINANCIAL YEAR



Coverage of the Commission in print media during the 2021-2022 period accounted for 2114 items, across all provinces and reached a combined audience of 674 127 215 and an AVE value of R 65 528 113.85

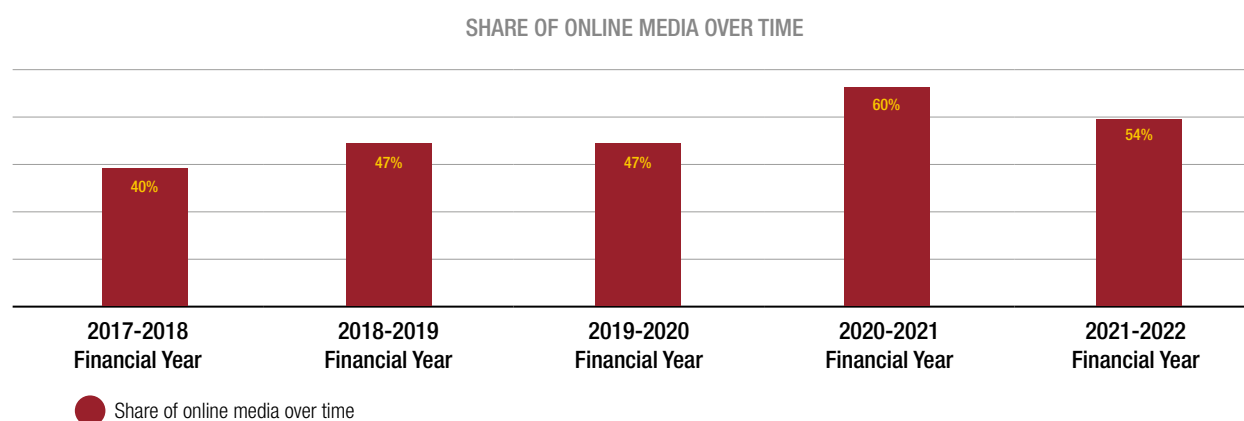
Table: Type of print media and Number of Stories

PRINT MEDIA TYPE	NUMBER OF STORIES
Rural Community Newspaper	170
Urban Community Newspaper	165
Daily Newspaper	1109
Government Insert	2
Magazine	95
Weekend Newspaper	471
Weekly Newspaper	93
Monthly Newspaper	9



3.2.2 ONLINE MEDIA

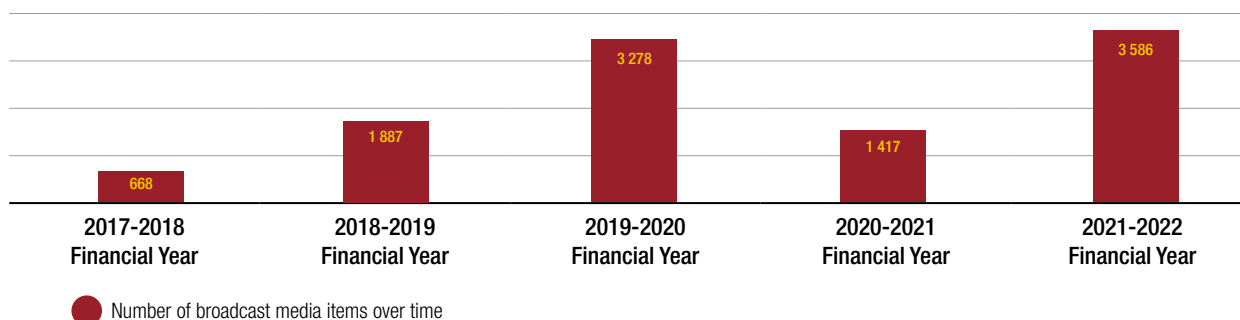
The greatest impact of online news platforms is the presentation of the Commission to a wider global audience. Online coverage of the Commission was carried on several credible news websites during the 2021-2022 financial year, accounting for 6602 individual news items, marking an increase of 45% from the prior financial year's 4545 individual news items. However, due to a significant increase in broadcast media for the current period under review, online media only represented 54% of the Commission's total coverage, down from 60% from the previous financial year. Online news items during the 2021-2022 financial year reached a combined audience of 13 778 329 133, and a total AVE value of R 202 681 566.50.



3.2.3 BROADCAST MEDIA – RADIO AND TELEVISION

Broadcast media coverage of the Commission accounted for 3586 news items during the 2021-2022 financial year, as opposed to 1417 news items from the previous financial year, representing an increase of 153%. The significant increase can be attributed to the Commission having conducted the National Investigative Hearing into the July 2021 Unrest, which received a tremendous amount of coverage through live crossings and follow-up interviews. The Commission's broadcast media presence reached a combined radio and television audience of 2 666 385 840 and generated an AVE of R 154 790 555.40 for the period under review.

NUMBER OF BROADCAST MEDIA ITEMS OVER TIME



3.2.4 BROADCAST MEDIA – RADIO COVERAGE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission has appeared a total of 2375 times on radio, through interviews, sound bites and mentions. The Commission managed to reach a total audience of 2 518 966 000 and generate an AVE of R 55 052 429.40 through the radio medium. The table below illustrates all of the radio stations - constituted of community, public and commercial radio stations - on which the SAHRC has conducted interviews or received coverage of its activities during the 2021-2022 financial year.

Table: The radio stations which interviewed the Commission during 2021-2022:

RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES	RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES	RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES
SAFM	196	5 FM	34	Impact Radio	16
Power FM	128	Radio 786	33	Izwi Lomzansi FM	16
702	121	Channel Africa	31	Maluti FM	16
Lotus FM	107	Radio Al-Ansaar	29	Overvaal Stereo	16
RSG	99	Capricorn FM	27	Voice of the Cape	16
Cape Talk	89	East Coast Radio	27	Heartbeat FM	15
Tru FM	63	Ekurhuleni FM	27	Heart 104.9 FM	14
Pretoria FM	61	Kaya FM 95.9	25	Helderberg 93.6 FM	14
Lesedi FM	59	Radio 2000	25	Radio Namakwaland	14
Umhlobo Wenene	59	Radio Islam	23	Jacaranda 94.2	13
Motsweding FM	48	Radio Khwezi	23	PE FM	13
Munghana Lonene	48	Magic 828 AM	22	Zibonele FM	13
Ligwalagwala FM	43	Radio Tygerberg	21	Bok Radio	12
Algoa FM	42	YFM	21	Channel Islam Radio (Cii Radio)	12
Metro FM	39	Eden FM	20	Gagasi 99.5 FM	12
Chai FM	37	Phalaphala FM	20	OFM	12
Ikwekwezi FM	36	Good Hope FM	19	Vuma FM	12
Ukhozi FM	36	Thobela FM	18	Jozi FM	11
Kfm	35	Energy FM	17	Link FM	11
Smile FM	35	Hot 102.7 FM	17	LM Radio	11

Table: The radio stations which interviewed the Commission during 2021-2022 (continued)

RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES	RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES	RADIO STATION	NUMBER OF APPEARANCES
Rise FM	11	Valley FM	8	Paarl FM	3
VOW 88.1 FM Mhz	11	VCR 90.6 FM	8	Radio Cape Pulpit	3
Caledon FM	10	Whale Coast FM	8	Life & Style Radio	2
Radio Disa	10	DYR 105.1 FM	7	Radio KC	2
Wild Coast FM 98.6 MHz	10	Groot FM 90.5	7	Radio Pulpit	2
Bay FM 107.9	9	Lichvaal Stereo 92.6 FM	7	Alex FM	1
Kasie FM 97.1	9	Salaamedia	7	Classic FM	1
Luister FM	9	Eldos FM	6	EK FM	1
Radio NFM	9	Radio Rosestad	5	IFM 97.9 FM	1
Radio Teemaneng	9	VOC FM (Voice of the Community)	5	Imbokodo 96.8 FM	1
You FM	9	947	4	MFM 92.6	1
Bush Radio	8	CCFM (Cape Community Radio)	4	Voice of Tembisa	1
Mix 93.8 FM	8	Fine Music Radio	4	Waterberg Stereo 104.9FM	1
Radio Laeveld	8	Intokozo FM	4	Revival FM	1
Rainbow FM 90.7	8	Kingfisher FM	4		

3.2.5 COMMUNITY RADIO

Pursuant to its strategic goal of broadening its reach to communities, for 2021-2022, the Commission reached 721 community radio stations, with a total radio audience of 49 228 000 and an AVE of R 3 921 646.38.

Given the limitations of COVID-19, the Commission's provincial offices continued to focus on mass communication through the medium of community radio, which significantly improved the Commission's reach into rural and far-flung communities. The Commission has further prioritised communication in all the official languages as a reflection the country's diversity and to deepen access. Staff in the provincial offices conduct human rights education in the respective dominant languages of each province, including through community media platforms. In addition, the Commission's current linguistic capacity covers all official languages as delivered by Commissioners and staff. The Commission also makes every effort to provide translation services where required.

The Commission's provincial offices continue to progressively strengthen relationships with national and provincial commercial and community radio stations. Provincial office staff regularly conduct interviews on a range of human rights on community radio stations and significantly contribute to the Commission's increased visibility in the local media.

English remains the dominant language of mainstream media coverage of the Commission and of human rights in South Africa. This is attributable to the fact that mainstream media has an advanced digital infrastructure and value chain that includes digital and online portals on which stories are given different forms such as radio station websites, podcasts, Facebook posts and tweets than the community media sector. Mainstream media's digital advantage allows for more accurate monitoring of coverage through online media monitoring which is predominantly produced in English.

3.3. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEDIA COVERAGE

As indicated above, the July unrest and resultant National Investigative Hearing by the SAHRC dominated as the leading issue in the 2021-2022 financial year. Media coverage of the unrest hearing was positive as the media concentrated primarily on witnesses who came to share their stories of agony and pleas for the SAHRC to assist them to restore their dignity. The second phase of reporting was on responses by Government and other role players who are tasked with protecting the rights of the people and providing safety and security. The hearing itself was covered by daily media presence at the sittings for the full duration of the hearing. These items accounted for a total of 4035 news stories and constituted 33% of all the Commission's coverage.

Equality attracted the second highest amount of news coverage, constituting 2490 individual news stories. This amounts to 20% of the total amount of the Commission's news coverage for the period under review. Race, as a subcategory of equality, constituted a total of 1329 stories, amounting to 53.37% of all equality stories and 10.79% of all media coverage of the Commission.

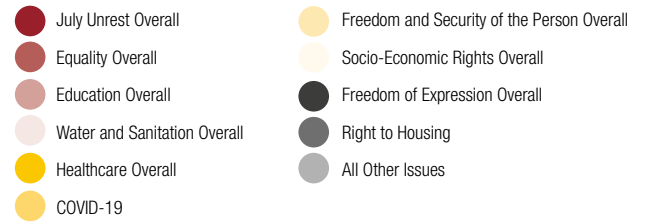
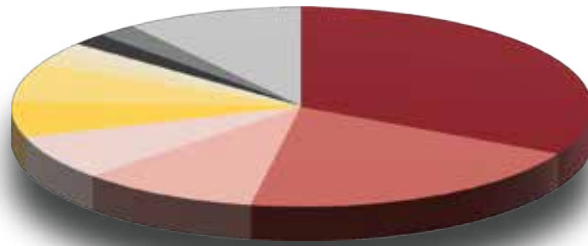
Next in line in terms of prevalence, was the education focus which attracted 1264 individual stories, and constituted 10% of the Commission's total coverage for the period under review. A major focus relating to education was the Commission's announcement of legal action against various provincial Departments of Education for non-action in eradicating pit latrines. This issue led to 144 individual stories.

The fourth category was the right to water and sanitation, with 903 individual stories and, constituting 7% of the Commission's total coverage. This category of news was of high interest following the Mpumalanga provincial office's release of the Investigative Report: Access to Water in Thembelele Hani Local Municipality in November 2021. The fifth most prevalent issue related to news items concerning the Commission was healthcare. This category accounted for 726 individual news items, constituting 6% of the Commission's total coverage for the 2020-2021 financial year.

The focus on the global COVID-19 pandemic also shifted during the 2021-2022 financial year. Whereas the prevalence of the pandemic was the most prominent issue in the prior financial year, it slid to sixth place in terms of media prominence during 2021-2022. The issues most reported during the period were largely around access to vaccinations, limitations on the rights of those who are not vaccinated and generally on issues around the return to places of education and work amidst the waning pandemic. The issues recorded 702 individual stories, constituting 6% of the Commission's total coverage for the 2020-2021 financial year.



PERCENTAGE OF STORIES



3.3.1 JULY UNREST

The Commission issued a media statement on 10 July 2021, following the incarceration of former President Jacob Zuma, having had regard to the potential for dissatisfaction with the sentence by large numbers of people. The statement called for calm amidst already emerging sporadic incidents of unrest. Shortly after the July unrest, the Commission hosted an Imbizo/ dialogue on 23 July 2021 with a view to creating a platform for engagement with the public, experts, and civil society. The Imbizo was well attended and marked the beginning of further steps to be taken by the Commission in response to the unrest. One of the key responses by the Commission following the Imbizo, was the convening

of a National Investigative Hearing to address some of the concerns emerging from the July unrest. The July unrest and resultant National Investigative Hearing accounted for a total of 4035 news stories. Media items based on the July unrest, constituted 33% of all the Commission's coverage. Media items based on the July unrest accounted for an AVE of R 1 282 222 967.00 and reached an audience of 3 889 193 295.

Table: Breakdown of the number of stories related to the July unrest:

ISSUE	NUMBER OF STORIES
Jacob Zuma Imprisonment	115
July 2021 Unrest – Hearing	3428
July 2021 Unrest – Unrest overall	492



3.3.2 EQUALITY - RACE

The Commission's 2019-2020 Annual Trends Analysis Report reflects that violations to the right to equality were most reported to the Commission and were consistently high on the number of news items the Commission engages about in the media. However, for the 2021-2022 period, the issue of equality was eclipsed by the July unrest. Media stories related to the right to equality, as a broader category, accounted for 2 490 individual items, accounting for 20% of all the media items covered on the Commission, for the period under review. Race, however, in the context of the events which are alleged to have taken place in the largely Indian community of Phoenix in KwaZulu-Natal, was raised by media in the context of the hearing.

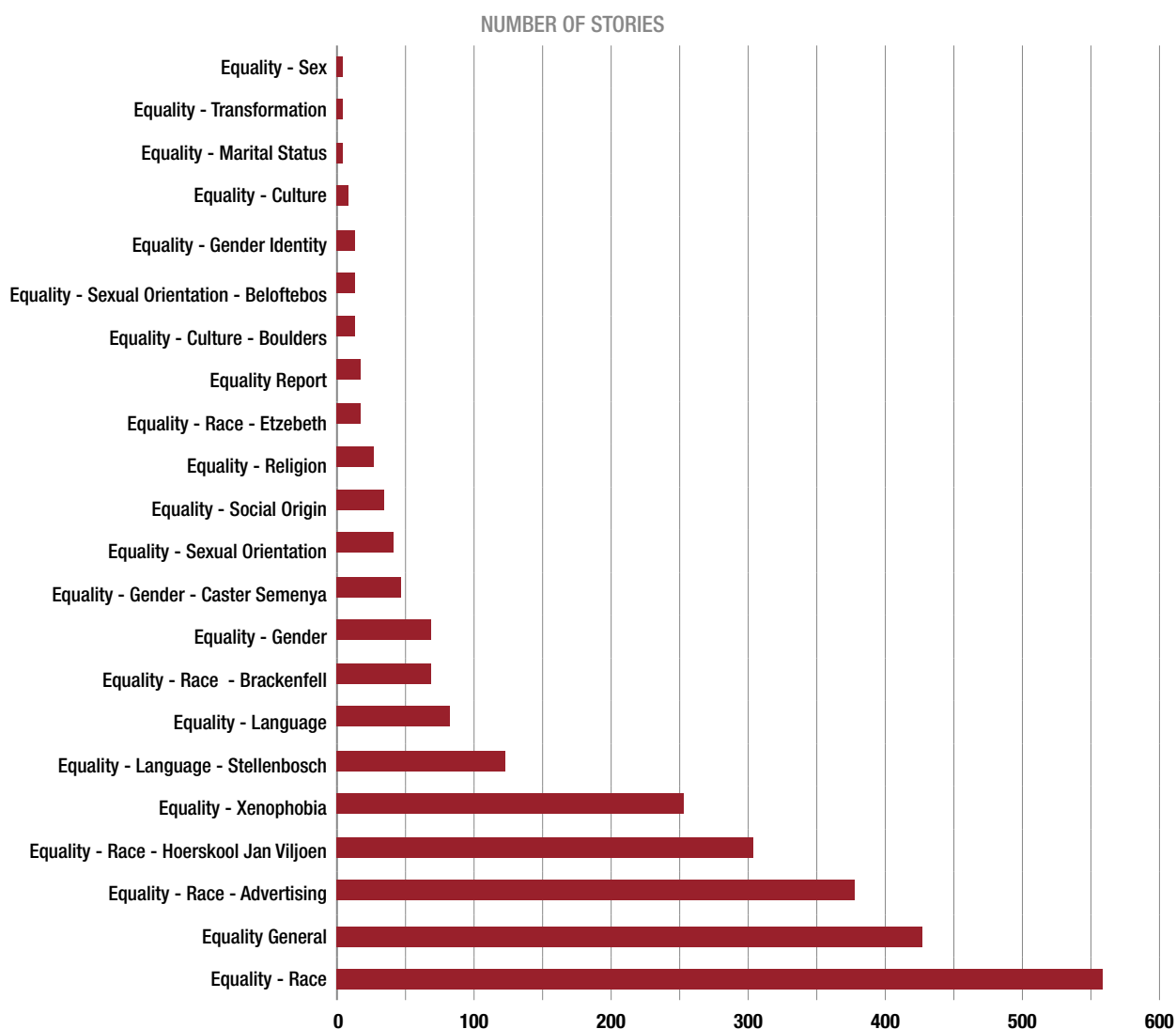
The Gauteng provincial office's Investigative Hearing into Racism in the Advertising Industry featured prominently, attracting 376 individual stories. As in the preceding financial year when racism allegations were levelled against the Brackenfell High School in the Western Cape, the trend continued in the 2021-2022 financial year in response to another allegation of racism at Hoërskool Jan Viljoen in Gauteng. This issue resulted in 305 individual stories. The SAHRC made a finding regarding the aforementioned Brackenfell High School incident, which attracted 73 individual stories.

The Constitution provides for the protected grounds for equality and prohibits unfair discrimination. Section 9 of the Constitution lists the following -race, age, gender, disability, sex, religion, pregnancy, conscience, marital status, belief, ethnic and social origin, culture, colour, language, birth, and sexual orientation. Of the listed protected grounds, race constituted a total of 1 329 stories, amounting to 53.37% of all equality stories and 10.79% of all media coverage of the Commission.

It should be noted that the next most prevalent issue as it relates to equality was xenophobia. The emergence and actions of anti-foreigner movements such as Operation Dudula brought to the fore allegedly popular sentiment that non-nationals were responsible for the deaths of a number of children after they had consumed instant noodles which were alleged to have past their sell-by dates. These issues, together with increasing socio-economic stressors, inequality, and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, brought keen focus to intolerance and xenophobia related reporting, which amounted to 257 in number.

Table: The most prevalent equality media items:

EQUALITY SUB-CATEGORY	NUMBER OF STORIES
Equality – Race	560
Equality General	418
Equality - Race - Advertising	376
Equality - Race - Hoërskool Jan Viljoen	305
Equality - Xenophobia	257
Equality - Language - Stellenbosch	121
Equality - Language	82
Equality - Race - Brackenfell	73
Equality – Gender	70
Equality - Gender - Caster Semenya	55
Equality - Sexual Orientation	46
Equality - Social Origin	35
Equality – Religion	24
Equality - Race - Etzebeth	15
Equality Report	12
Equality - Culture - Boulders	11
Equality - Sexual Orientation - Beloftebos	11
Equality - Gender Identity	10
Equality – Culture	4
Equality - Marital Status	2
Equality - Transformation	2
Equality – Sex	1



3.3.3 EDUCATION

A range of issues related to education featured prominently, including the Commission's interventions around school readiness for returning learners during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the end of rotational timetables and schedules. A major focus under education was the Commission's announcement of legal action against various provincial Departments of Education for non-action in eradicating pit latrines. This issue led to 144 Individual stories. Overall education attracted 1264 individual stories and constituted 10% of the Commission's total coverage for the period under review.

3.3.4 WATER AND SANITATION

Water and sanitation remain serious issues of concern for the SAHRC. The release of the Investigative Report: Access to Water in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, in November 2021 as well as references and comparisons to the preceding financial year's release of the Investigative Report on Pollution of the Vaal River System, the issue garnered 903 individual stories and, constituting 7% of the Commission's total coverage, during the 2021-2022 financial year.

WATER AND SANITATION SUB-CATEGORY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STORIES
Water and Sanitation	716
Water and Sanitation - Vaal	27
Water and Sanitation - Tshwane	160

3.4. OVERALL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE COMMISSION

The top four broad themes of the July unrest, equality, water and sanitation and education attracted the most media coverage and constituted more than a third of the Commission's total media coverage at 70%. All other rights and themes cumulatively constitute 30% of the remaining coverage of the Commission for period under review.

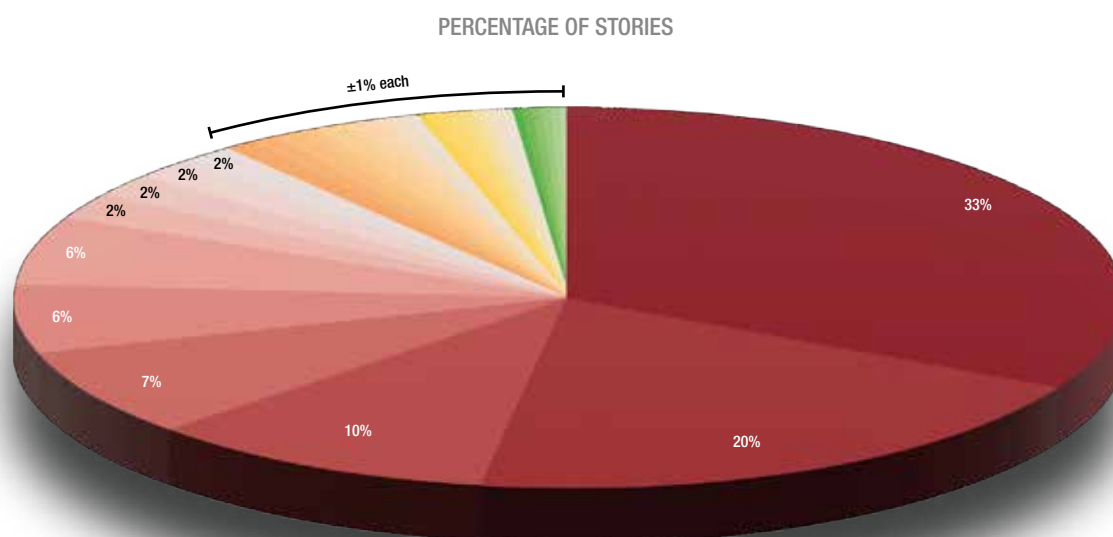
As aforementioned, the Commission saw 12 302 media items published, broadcast, or communicated electronically in the 2021-2022 financial year. The items are thematically categorised as set out in Chapter Two of the Constitution- the Bill of Rights and include the focus areas of the Commissioners.

Table: The most prevalent media items:

ISSUE	NUMBER OF STORIES
July unrest Overall	4035
Equality Overall	2490
Education Overall	1264
Water and Sanitation Overall	903
Healthcare Overall	726
COVID-19	702
Freedom and Security of the Person Overall	262
Socio-Economic Rights Overall	233
Freedom of Expression Overall	228
Right to Housing	198
Environmental Rights Overall	4035
Human Rights Day	2490
Impact of Corruption on Human Rights	1264
Land	903
Access to Information	726
Migration Overall	702
Human Dignity	262
Human Rights	233
Farming Communities	228
Appointment of New Commissioners	198
Political Rights - Elections	4035
Persons with Disabilities	2490
Appointment of Chief Justice Raymond Zondo	1264
Trends Analysis Report 2019-2020	903
Passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu	726
Passing of former President FW De Klerk	702
Chapter 9 Institutions	262
SAHRC Budget	233
Constitution 25th Anniversary	228
Attacks on Judiciary	198
Mining Communities	4035
Accused Persons Rights	2490
Older Persons Rights	1264
Children's Rights	903
Right to Life	726
Just and Administrative Action	702
Passing of Max Coleman	262
Right to Food	233

Table: The most prevalent media items: (continued)

ISSUE	NUMBER OF STORIES
SOPA 2022	228
Freedom of Religion, Belief and Opinion	198
Right to Protest	4035
Freedom of Movement	2490
Indigenous Peoples Rights	1264
Passing of Prof Christof Heyns	903
SONA 2022	726
Freedom of Association	702
Labour Rights	262
Property Rights	233
Provincial Visit	228
Youth Day	198
Commissioner Chris Nissen	4035
SAHRC	2490
Fourth Industrial Revolution	1264
International Human Rights Day	903
Passing of Hlengiwe Mkhize	726
SAHRC Press Briefing	702
Africa Day	262
Budget Speech	233
Freedom Day	228
Passing of Deputy Chair Priscilla Jana	198
World AIDS Day	4035

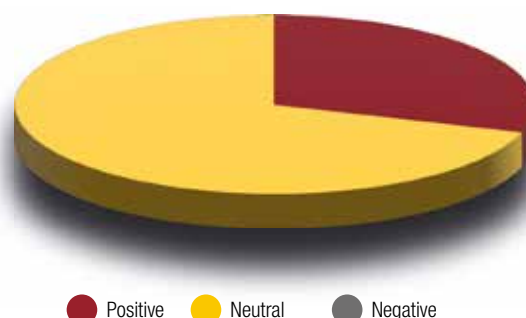


3.5. MEDIA SENTIMENT

The Commission monitors sentiment in order to gauge how the media understands and reports on human rights and its work. Sentiment is measured through qualitative analysis by an independent external service provider and is based on a lay person's understanding of the article and the overall perceptions gleaned from the articles.

Positive news coverage amounted to 3616 items, translating to 29.39% coverage of the Commission, 8628 items translating to 70.13% was neutral, and 39 items translating to 0.3% was negative, during the 2021-2022 financial year, as shown below:

SENTIMENT OF MEDIA REPORTS



3.5.1 SOCIAL MEDIA

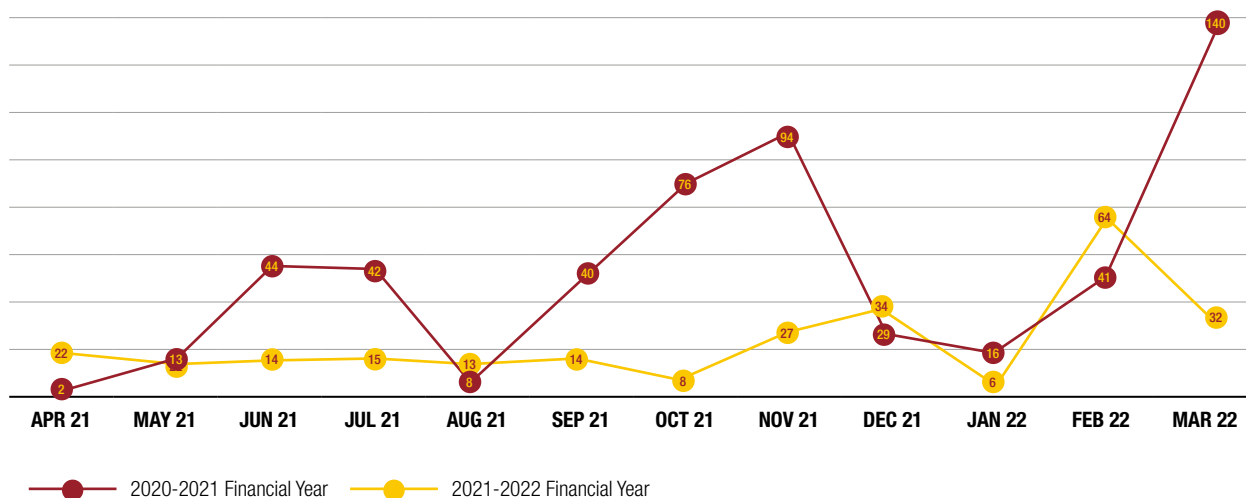
Engaging through social media as a widely used means of communication is a crucial part of the Commission's strategic imperative to inform and educate on human rights, and to build a culture of human rights. The use of social media platforms provides the Commission exposure and enables the wider dissemination of key positions, messages, information, and context regarding human rights to a wide audience.

During the 2021-2022 period under review, the Commission's Facebook activity comprised of 575 posts. During the prior financial year, the Commission had 261 posts, therefore the current period under review saw a 120% increase in Facebook activity by the Commission.

Table: Facebook posts by month

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
2	13	44	42	8	40	76	94	29	16	41	140

COMPARISON OF FACEBOOK ACTIVITY IN 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR VERSUS 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

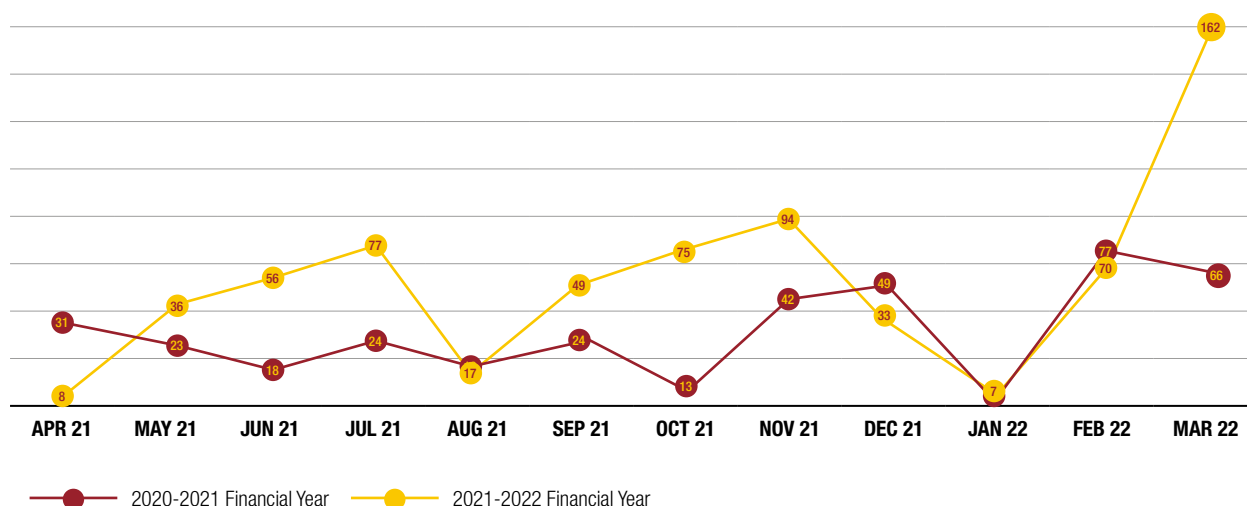


During the 2021-2022 financial year, the Commission's Twitter activity comprised of 684 tweets. During the prior financial year, the Commission issued 392 posts on Twitter, increasing Twitter activity by the Commission by 72% for the period under review.

Table: Twitter posts by month

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
8	36	56	77	17	49	75	94	33	7	70	162

COMPARISON OF TWITTER ACTIVITY IN 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR VERSUS 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

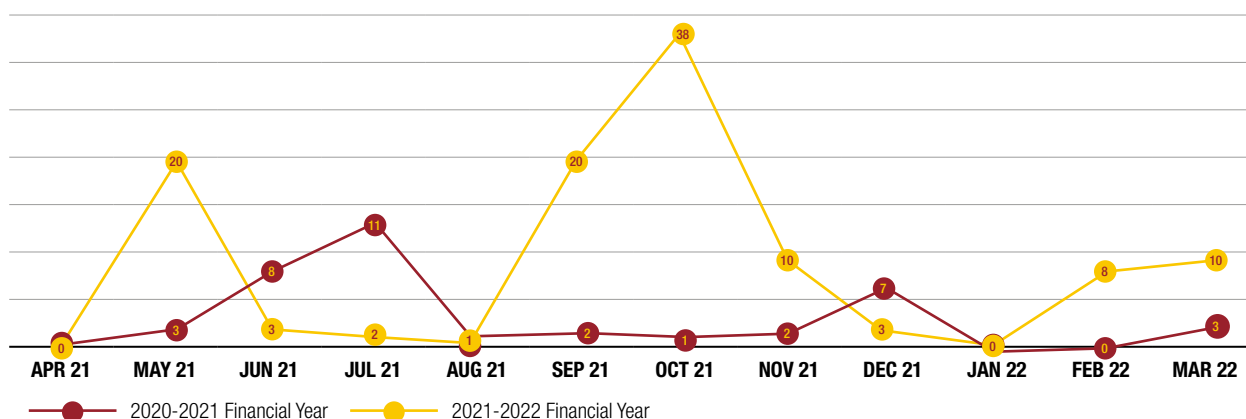


During the 2021-2022 financial year, 115 videos were uploaded on the Commission's YouTube page (SAHRC1) as compared to 38 videos the previous year. Usage of YouTube increased drastically by 203% in comparison to the previous year owing to the SAHRC's shift to hosting events online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Online platforms like YouTube became a handy tool to hosting events for the Commission to reach stakeholders as compared to traditional face to face awareness raising method.

Table: Number of SAHRC YouTube Uploads

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
0	20	3	2	1	20	38	10	3	0	8	10

COMPARISON OF YOUTUBE ACTIVITY IN 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR VERSUS 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR



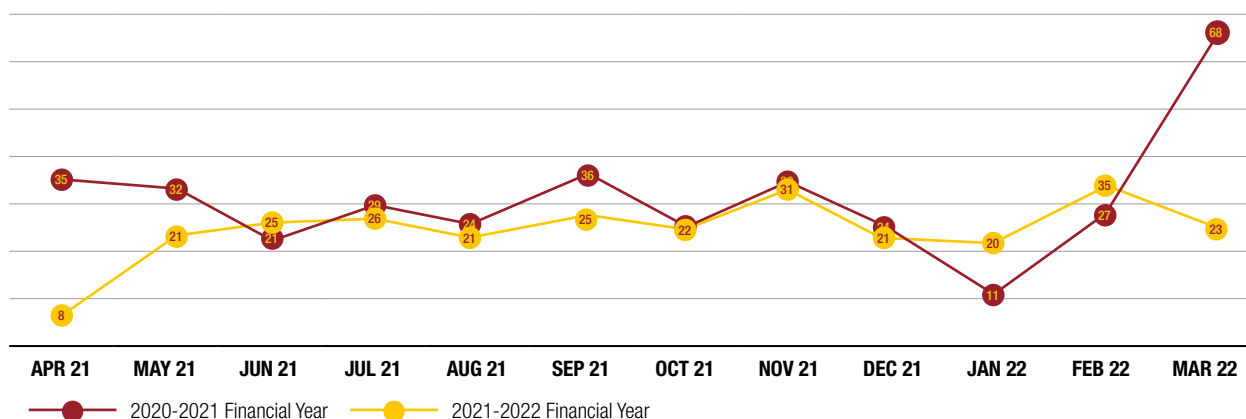
WEBSITE

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the Commission's website (www.sahrc.org.za) was regularly updated with a total of 278 updates. During the prior financial year, the website had been updated on 363 occasions, with reduction in website activity amounting to a 23%. However, the website updates remained high and consistent, reflecting the continued high number of activities, reports and human rights products produced and undertaken by the Commission, all of which were communicated via, and published on the website.

Table: Number of Web Uploads

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
8	21	25	26	21	25	22	31	21	20	35	23

COMPARISON OF WEBSITE ACTIVITY IN 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR VERSUS 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR



WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

The SAHRC website recorded 749,512 page views as compared to 710,334 the previous year, an increase percentage of 5.52%. The website is a useful information hub to South African and users around the world that access it. In the top 10 annual user category for the year 2021-2022, the website had 136,248 pages viewed in the USA, followed by 110,949 in Great Britain and 94,909 in South Africa. However, it must be emphasised that the 94,909 page views by South Africans demonstrate that the website is still an effective source of information in the country.

Demographics	Language	Users	% Users
Language	1. en-us	136,248	37.57%
Country	2. en-gb	110,948	30.59%
City	3. en-za	94,906	26.17%
System	4. (not set)	7,020	1.94%
Browser	5. en	4,413	1.22%
Operating System	6. en-au	1,972	0.54%
Service Provider	7. zh-cn	1,101	0.30%
Mobile	8. en-ca	699	0.19%
Operating System	9. en-in	351	0.10%
Service Provider	10. fr-fr	349	0.10%

The website recorded a consistent high number of users through-out the year, with the total number of users for the year as 385,949. Constant management of the website and updating contributed to making the Commission's website a preferred source of online human rights information.

Table: Total Number of Web Users

APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22
26,417	57,752	71,640	26,770	31,136	28,235	22,446	23,697	19,552	18,515	23,181	36,478

ONLINE COMPLAINTS

The website recorded a total of 2538 online complaints. Of the total complaints received, 93 were complaints on behalf of organisation, 443 on behalf of another and 2002 own complaints. The advancement of digital technology makes online complaints a user-friendly tool to lodge complaints. Users are able to lodge complaints on cell phones and computers without having to print complaints forms.



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Restoring Dignity

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Own Complaint Form

Thank you for lodging a complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission. Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) are compulsory and should be completed. This will ensure that the Commission receives your complaint and can deal with it efficiently and appropriately. All information is treated with confidentiality and data requested is intended to assist us to attend to your complaint comprehensively and efficiently. Manual complaints should be directed to complaints@sa-hrc.org.za

Name (*)

3.5.2. OPINION PIECES

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the Commission authored 6 opinion pieces which were published in daily and weekly newspapers and online publications.

Table: Opinion pieces authored and published

DATE	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION	ONLINE LINK
9 June 2021	COVID-19 and the right to basic education: The SA Human Rights Commission's position	Daily Maverick	https://www.sahrc.org.za/index.php/sahrc-media/opinion-pieces/item/2715-COVID-19-and-the-right-to-basic-education-the-sa-human-rights-commission-s-position#:~:text=The%20court%20stressed%20that%20the,basic%20education%20is%20immediately%20realisable
14 June 2021	The Human Rights Commission explores why race remains a major issue in South Africa	Mail & Guardian	https://www.sahrc.org.za/index.php/sahrc-media/opinion-pieces/item/2692-the-human-rights-commission-explores-why-race-remains-a-major-issue-in-south-africa
27 July 2021	The role social media plays in inciting riots- Commissioner Gaum and Allan Tumbo	SABC Online	https://www.sahrc.org.za/index.php/sahrc-media/news-2/item/2751-opinion-recent-looting-and-destruction-show-that-crime-violence-remain-a-disease-in-sa
10 August 2021	Action on gender equality: The past, present and future are weighted against women- Allan Tumbo	Daily Maverick	https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2021-08-10-action-on-gender-equality-the-past-present-and-future-are-weighted-against-women/
28 January 2022	Quantifying the Right to Read and Write	Mail & Guardian	https://mg.co.za/education/2022-01-30-quantifying-the-right-to-read-and-write/
17 March 2022	Failing local government systems: Alexandra's perpetual affliction - Commissioner Philile Ntuli	Mail & Guardian	https://mg.co.za/opinion/2022-03-16-failing-local-government-systems-alexandras-perpetual-affliction/

In summary, the communications section of this report has highlighted the various media and communication tools that the Commission utilised to reach out to not only the South African, but global audience in promoting a human rights culture.





4. CONCLUSION

This report illustrates that in the main, the Commission made significant strides in executing its promotion mandate to create awareness and understanding of human rights in society, through advocacy and communications related activities. The strategic partnerships with community human rights champions enabled the Commission to expand its footprint and extend its presence and services into communities. The champions significantly promoted access to justice through awareness of constitutional values, the Equality Toolkit and Equality Courts to the communities they represent.

The Commission strengthened and cemented relationships with a broad range of partners in the dissemination of advocacy messages and commemoration of key calendar days and other engagements. The organisation utilised innovative methods in executing its mandate to educate through the successful implementation of the virtual National Schools Moot Court Competition. The Commission's engagements with the leadership at local and provincial government level highlighted key areas for intervention in the provision of basic socio-economic rights and other stakeholder engagements revealed key areas for intervention around equality, with particular emphasis on race and sexual orientation, among others.

The Commission substantially expanded its overall visibility, raised its profile across the country through varied mediums of communication by reporting on the work of the Commission,

generating substantive coverage of the Commission's position on a range of topical human rights issues and contributing to social conversations on human rights. This consistent real-time engagement reflects increased public interest and engagement in human rights. Whilst coverage of the Commission could never be overwhelmingly positive due to the negative nature of human rights violations, most of the reportage on the Commission has been positive in that it has reflected the Commission in action, in executing its mandate.

Despite working in a context of systemic and structural inequality, endemic poverty, a lack of cooperative governance and uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission significantly adapted and adjusted its outreach formats to fulfil its promotion mandate.

Whilst the Commission made significant progress in promoting awareness and understanding of human rights, the continued human rights violations, barriers to the enjoyment of basic socio-economic rights and the general fragility of human rights as aptly reflected in the July civil and social unrest remain cause for concern. However, these factors and events can only spur the Commission to assess and evaluate its approaches and strive to do better. The Commission acknowledges the tireless efforts of the broad range of partners it works with and will continue cultivating relationships for a coordinated approach in entrenching a culture of human rights in the Republic.



NOTES

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NOTES

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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