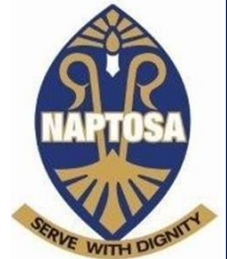


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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

Women's rights are human rights. This statement has been echoed throughout history by activists, politicians, and advocates for gender equality. It is a simple yet powerful statement that recognizes the inherent value and dignity of all women, and the fundamental principles of human rights.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, and inalienable. They are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person, regardless of their gender, race, religion, or any other characteristic. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of person; the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; the right to work, education, and healthcare; and the right to participate in political and public life.

Despite the universality of human rights, women have historically been excluded from enjoying these rights fully. Discrimination, violence, and inequality have been deeply entrenched in societies around the world, denying women their rightful place as equal and valued members of society. Women have been denied the right to education, the right to work, the right to vote, the right to own property, and the right to make decisions about their own bodies and lives.

The struggle for women's rights is a long and ongoing one. It has been driven by countless women and men who have fought tirelessly for gender equality and justice. From the likes of Frances Baard, Helen Joseph, Lilian Ngoyi and Bertha Mashaba who fought for women's liberation, to the activists who have fought against domestic violence and sexual harassment, to the politicians who have passed laws protecting women's rights, the struggle for women's rights has been a collective effort.

Today, we still have a long way to go to achieve true gender equality. Women continue to face discrimination and violence, and their voices are often silenced in public and political life. However, the recognition that women's rights are human rights is a critical step forward. It is a reminder that women are not second-class citizens or objects to be controlled, but rather full and equal members of society who deserve the same rights and opportunities as men.

In conclusion, women's rights are human rights, and the struggle for gender equality is a fundamental part of the fight for human rights. NAPTOSA calls on the international community to work towards a world where women are truly free and equal, where their voices are heard, and their rights are respected. Only then can we achieve true justice and equality for all.

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director