

# The Future of Work

## TIME TO REDRESS GENDER EQUALITY

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It is 52 full years since Lesotho became independent but the country is far from winning the battle against gender biases or sexism. Some Basotho men are still caught up in the mentality that women are nothing but their subordinates. The Government of Lesotho has done a lot to tackle gender inequality and biases. What is clear is that we still have not done enough. As a country we are nowhere near achieving gender equality. True, the traditional laws still consider women as the inferior.

Although urban women can be said to be a bit enlightened about their rights, they are still very much oppressed. They are victims of a society that has entrenched the notion that men are a superior kind. Violence against women is still rampant. Women are still being abused emotionally. They are deprived economically and socially. I have no doubt that there are still women who have been sexually violated but have remained silent because they fear the repercussions from society.

But nowhere is this suppression of women more prevalent than in rural areas. This is because rural women do not know their rights. Away from the newspapers, radios, books and social workers, information about their rights reaches them last, if at all it does get to them. The results are communities insulated from the changes around the world by collective ignorance. Such societies cling on to their old ways. It's not entirely that they are hostile to change. No.

In most cases they just have not been made to see the light. They have not been taught the goodness of doing things differently and appreciate that the role of women in today's world has changed. Generally, women find it normal for men to dominate them because of their sex.

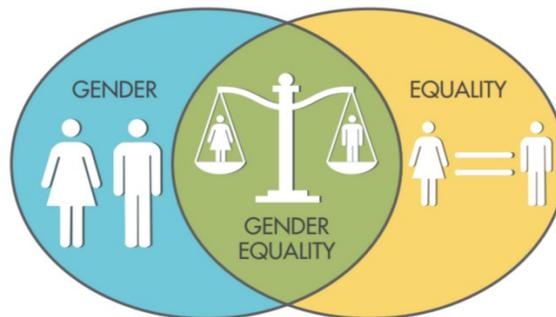
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Gender equality is not only a women's issue, it is everyone's issue. Men also need to understand and participate to promote gender equality. It is not women taking men's role. Women must be bold and raise voices on gender issues.

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