

Winning Speeches for Leadership and Gender 2009

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Shelagh M’Gonigle Gender Speech Award

1st Prize Nomalema Tshabalala St. Charles High School (female)

Since gender is all about males and females and rights that each one of them have. Firstly, I would like to narrate about gender inequality and gender equality in men and women and third for most I would like to summaries.

To embark on the points I have mentioned above, in the past, men and women were not treated equally because men were stronger than women so the work they did was different, because they were to be the heads of the families. For example, here in Lesotho men were taken to the initiation school so that they may be strong and stand up for their families, just like one of the most popular Kwaito star in Republic of South Africa Mdu Masilela who was taken there because his parents believed that he would be brave and be a responsible father to his family. That really helped him because I suggest that even now he is a good father to everyone.

According to Basotho tradition there was a saying that education is only meant for boys because they were to be the heads of the families and girls were not considered to be educated, but since we are all equal and there is freedom. Everyone is to be educated and has to attend school and pass regardless of gender. Everyone has to obtain the highest marks so that he may have a better future and get a good salary at the end. But now that we are equal we obtain the same opportunities and get employed.

From Exodus chapter two, verse sixteen it says “one day when Moses was sitting by a well, seven daughters of Jethro, the priest of Midian came to draw water and fill their troughs for their father’s sheep and goats but some shepherds drove Jethro’s daughters away.” This shows that even girls as well can look after animals just like our late Queen mother ‘M’e Mamohato Bereng Seeiso who was once looking after cattle.

Freedom- On 4 September 1997 there was an Independent Election Commission chosen by Lesotho Election which were Mr. Moriee Khaebana, Mr Letiea Qhobela and Mr. Chair person Sekara Mafisa. That commission

was chosen to be males only because males were trusted in the past unlike now when there is independence women are chosen to be in the parliament, Example 'M'e Mathabiso Lepono, 'M'e Mapontso Sekatle and 'M'e Malimaka Mokhothu. This shows that freedom is taking place day by day so as gender equality and women empowerment.

More jobs- In the past we had fathers working in the mines because they were considered mightier than women but since there is democracy even women do work in the mines like men. For instance when the mother is not at home the father does everything in the house, like sweeping the house, washing the dishes and changing the baby's nappies as well, he won't just leave the house in a mess and go and drink himself to death he will make sure that everything is in apple pie order.

Nelson Mandela and late Walter Sizulu we imprisoned for fighting for freedom , and on top of that a well known actor Bongeni Ngema even made a song about it (freedom is coming tomorrow) which means that every women is free to get a job just like men.

To sum up, men and women are equal. There is no job meant for each of them. Everyone is free to do what ever he or she pleases them to do. We work hard in hand to achieve our goals so there is no reason of saying men and women are not equal. Honourable Mr Pakalitha Mosisili always says, "unity is the power we can all achieve our goals if we work co-operatively with one another, no one is monopolizing others, we are all the same because we are united by love of human kind.

2nd Prize (tied) Mothonyana Seithhekonyana Bokoro High School (male)

With a great respect, I would like to pass my gratitudes to Help Lesotho members for giving me this opportunity to compress myself about Gender.

To start with, there is an issue that women and girls must be forced to have sex and this leads to a high rate of rape. So women and girls should not be manipulated or forced to have sex. Their thoughts and feelings towards sex must be respected, thus increasing their responsibility to make thoughtful decisions with men through love and kindness.

In our society, cleanness is said to be associated with girls not boys. The girls are also bought cosmetics while boys are not. This is a gender bias. Boys especially herdboys, have the same rights as girls. They must be valued and live in a healthy environment.

Furthermore, there is an issue that boys are faster learners than the girls and that, girls are often causing mistakes. So girls are given less opportunity to learn. For instance, most families allow the boys learn driving cars rather than allowing girls. Consequently, girls find university courses such as mechanical engineering difficult when compared to their male classmates. It is because they have never seen engines or the inside of a car. They do not know gears and things that a lot of men already are familiar with. They are being stereotyped. Therefore girls should be taught with patience and kindness so that they will respect and tolerate different views.

There is also the issue that man can marry as many wives as he can but a woman is not allowed to be married to more than one husband. This is because men say the women are following them in the family leadership, so they cannot make their own decisions. That is a gender inequality, a wife must be valued and heard by her husband in the family.

In our society, a man must take off his hat while talking to the chief. But women are not being told to take them off. This is a gender bias, women should take the hats off if men do or men put them because women do.

In sum up, stereotypes, gender inequality and gender bias will lead to poverty because some people's rights are not taken care of. So all of them must be avoided.

2nd Prize (tied) Phumzile Moloji St. Charles High School (female)

These gender issues being affairs related to distinguished sexes in Lesotho are most bound to the law, procedures laid by incident customs or habits.

I will first elaborate effectively on marriage attributes around my country. If there is betrothed couple, the bride-grooms family is obligated to pay Lobala (bride prize) unless there is settled deliberation to exclude it. I am a bit anxious because even if the groom's family suffered a great deal for appealing groom's good fortune such as education, the price is still fixed despite the bride is educated.

Moreover, if Lobola is payed all the children born are bound to their father by the law. However, a person who plays an important role to their development is the women. There is an evidence on which the husband and his wife divorced each other. The wife had to renounce the children to their father because Lebola was paid. This is very unfair because the man may be the root of the separation and the children share the fate.

In spite of that, when dealing with formal occasions such as courts, funerals and churches there are base considered for both sexes. They males are forbidden to put on their hats on such occasions. In these sessions in Lesotho the females rarely be supervisors because they are not considered worthy. This greats for me the second the second thought that human rights are not yet balanced.

Apart from that, there are habits related to language and sports that are mainly meant for a particular sex. Each of this group has a particular format of addressing matters. The same procedure is followed under sports activities. This really torments me because I realize that these two sides are not open to each other.

In Lesotho the females suffer a great deal on practices such as mourning. If either a married man or a child dies, the woman wears sack-cloth for a specific period of time that may sometimes set to maximum four to eight months. Unlike woman, if either a wife or a child dies the husband does not wear sack-clothes. This worries me because during this period the woman is not permitted to mary but for the husband the choice is broad.

I will lastly embark to family affairs such as inheritance. If the parents do not sign the will during their life time when they die all the family properties belong to the male first born. I really do not take side with this because there is an incident when both parents died. They had two children, one son and one daughter. When they were sick the first son did not bother himself but the daughter beared all she could effort with a view that they would be well but the doom of their life came. The first son came home and owned every property.

Kathleen Lauder Leadership Scholarship

1st Prize Rethabile Molumaela Leribe High School (female)

Leadership is a state whereby a single person, a party or a group of people are in the position of being executives in running the daily lives of people that contribute to peace and stability, dignity and justice for all regardless to status and their success.

Justice and dignity for all regardless of status is the nature attempt set for the rise and fall for many people so it must therefore be the first priority in the life of human kind. The well organised leadership is adjoined to the preamble of universal declaration of human rights which states that recognition of the inherent dignity and of equal rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Moreover leadership must be a “people persons” that is, must be eager to be helping people not considering their status so that human right protection should be taken into account. Infected people, illiterate and people with disabilities should be entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in the declaration. They must be freedom of opinions and expression, social security and must not be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Leaders are said to be uninitiative, they must cohen with people of their society, region of nation. They must be able to organise land and labour to turn them into a successful daily operation for in that way human needs will be satisfied.

Being a leader or an expert in a certain operation a person must have endurance and perseverance. A leader must always be alert for unbearable challenges but never quit if the situation is not tolerable. Must be strong to face difficulties when leading a certain group to success. A leader never allows temptations of life to overpower him/her. She or he or it if it's an organisation is every time ready to fights for peace and stability for it's followers. Challenges of twists and turns of life are never difficult but a game to play for good leader.

A goal is the priority that is first set in a certain operation to achieve. In order to achieve that target, a leader must be ambitious so as to work hard to attain the target. In leadership there is always something that is aimed to score. Leadership is always looking for the satisfaction of human needs and wants so that life could proceed with unhindered.

And lastly for all of these things to happen, leadership must be well behaved so that it could be a good example to its followers and as a result good quality fruits will be obtained. Behaviour is one of the ten commandments of God so its regulations should be abid and in that way hopefully leadership will be successful with less difficulties.

2nd Prize Mosa Mosotho Molapo High School (female)

Leadership is a very big serious, important idea in our lives, so people take care of each and every step you are taking.

When someone is a leader of the team, group or organisation and the quality of being good at leading a country or society

A leader is a good role model at her village, society and community because all the good and nice things are done by her, and she take self confident in all the things she met.

Being a leader first of all you have to respect yourself take care of yourself properly so that you should do all of those things to people whom you will be leading. There have to be equal relationship between you and them, meaning love them the same.

She have to have courage. She must be brave when it comes to the decision making because some of the people may try to challenge her searching her some of the thing.

Persistence and patience. Even if troubles and problems occur she must not give up easily. She must be patient when dealing with different people (LEADERS NEVER GIVE UP)

Planning ability she must have good ideas and planning skills for future use. (Ambition) Power and successful in order to achieve difficult things but good and great.

Honest and creativity meaning she must be good at thinking not to take the solutions without looking why/how good and bad are those opinion or ideas.

Listening and taking advises of other people could make best solutions and relationship between them.

LEADERS NEVER GIVE UP