IT'S a message said with the same dignity but firm and measured tone as that of a scientist: “We have a gender crisis on our hands and we need to address it with urgency.”

Professor Abdool Karim, one of South Africa's most respected scientists, says that if gender issues were rated on a scale of one to ten, they would get a one. “We need to work on our gender issues,” he says.

He is not alone in voicing his concern that gender issues are often neglected. “We have a gender crisis on our hands and we need to address it with urgency,” he says.

The issue of gender equality is one that affects all sectors of society, from education to health, and from the workplace to the home. It is an issue that affects women and girls in particular, but also men and boys.

Karim believes that the key to addressing gender issues is through education and awareness-raising. “We need to educate people about the importance of gender equality, and about the impact of gender inequality on society,” he says.

He points out that gender inequality is a fundamental problem that affects all aspects of society. “We need to address gender inequality at all levels, from the community level to the national level,” he says.

Karim also highlights the importance of leadership in addressing gender issues. “We need leaders who are committed to addressing gender issues, and who are willing to take action to make a difference,” he says.

He believes that gender equality is not just a matter of justice, but also of economics. “We need to address gender equality because it is about improving the lives of all people, and about improving the economy of the country,” he says.

Karim calls for a multi-faceted approach to addressing gender issues, involving all sectors of society. “We need a comprehensive approach, involving government, the private sector, civil society, and the community,” he says.

He believes that by working together, we can make a real difference in addressing gender issues. “We need to work together to make a real difference in the lives of women and girls,” he says.

Karim's message is clear: we need to address gender issues with urgency, and we need to do it together.