

Gender Advisory Committee
National Party

I refer to your letter dated 23 November 1994 with regard to the legislation affecting Gender Equality or The Status of Women.

On behalf of the National Party Women I wish to submit the following recommendations:

4.1 REASONS FOR THE INCLUSION OF A COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FINAL CONSTITUTION.

There is a need for a Commission on Gender Equality in order to uplift women from a position of triple discrimination, e.g. Apartheid, Tribal and Customary Law, and Double Workload of home and job.

It should not be a matter of purely legislation because you also have to remove discrimination from the hearts and minds of men.

4.2 STATUS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The commission must be composed of women and gender sensitive men from all political parties who are outside of Parliament. This commission must have legal status: in other words it must be a statutory body and must be headed by a person with experience in Human Relations and Gender Affairs.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

- 4.2.1 It needs to examine proposed legislation and should have the right to suggest an input or make amendments to proposed legislation.
- 4.2-2 It must have powers of investigation and must be able to take cases to court.
- 4.2.3 It must examine existing legislation and propose amendments.
- 4.2.4 It must be able to do research and gather evidence from institutions and make suggestions Parliament as how to deal with problems arising from this.
- 4.2.5 It must have an educational function. The public in general must be made more aware of the rights.

Tribal and Customary laws should be a special function of this Commission and it should investigate and make recommendations on undesirable practices as practised under Tribal, Customary and Black Laws.

4.3 THE CONSTITUTION MUST ABIDE BY THE 34 PRINCIPLES AGREED ON AT KEMPTON PARK

5.1 METHODOLOGY TO REACH THE PUBLIC

Special teams will have to be chosen and trained by the Commission and sent out to the Rural areas. These teams must be able to communicate in the Rural languages.

These teams must not only inform the people with regards to their rights but must also investigate their needs.

The radio and/or TV as communication media can play an important roll in this regard.

5.2 INSTITUTIONS TO BE CONSULTED

All Political Parties

Women's National Coalition

Women's Lobby

H.S.R.C.

Law Commission

The relevant Departments of all Universities.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you,

Joan Hunter for the Gender Advisory Committee.