

THE WOMEN'S LOBBY

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The Chairman
The Facilitating Committee
NEFSA/CODESA
World Trade Centre
Fax 387-2211

Dear Sir,

The Women's Lobby is extremely disturbed that political parties negotiating the new SA appear to be ignoring the representation of women - the major population group.

The present ratio of men to women on political delegations is totally unacceptable to the women of this country.

If political parties refuse to increase their delegations to include more women, then women demand a voice of their own.

A women's committee or caucus comprising women from political parties across the spectrum and non governmental organisations must be formed to represent women's fundamental interest in deciding our future. This caucus would negotiate and judge the effectiveness and impact on women of all issues being debated.

Women will not accept an advisory capacity relegated to the background and sidelines. Women are the majority of the voting public.

From past experience women have found men inadequate to represent their interests. Women demand a changed system-in racial and in gender terms. Women must interact with men in the negotiating forums of South Africa.

The manner in which women are being treated by the new negotiating forum makes a travesty of the idea of non-sexism.

It is imperative that women be an integral part of these negotiations.

We expect action on this issue now.

Yours cordially,

Babette Kabak

Babette Kabak-Chairman

Doris Ravenhill- Vice Chairman *pp*

Melissa McCurdie- Member of TWL Executive

Melissa McCurdie