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DEAR MADAM

WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CLAUSE ON CUSTOMARY LAW. IT CONFLICTS DIRECTLY WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN. WE URGE YOU TO PLEASE INFLUENCE YOUR PARTY NOT TO INCLUDE IT.

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A NEW, NON-SEXIST, NON-RACIST AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA, WE CANNOT HAVE THE SITUATION IN WHICH PROVISIONS OF CUSTOMARY LAW ARE GIVEN GREATER WEIGHT THAN THE PROVISIONS OF EQUALITY. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT EQUALITY, WHICH IS EVERY PERSON'S (AND THEREFORE EVERY WOMAN'S) INALIENABLE RIGHT, SHOULD BE CONTESTED BEFORE A COURT OF LAW. WE CANNOT ALLOW THE SITUATION TO EVOLVE WHEREBY WOMEN HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE WHIMS OF THE COURT. HOW CAN WE ALLOW THE SITUATION WHEREBY THE COURT DECIDES WHEN EQUALITY BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN CUSTOMARY LAW?

WHAT WOULD THIS NEW SOUTH AFRICA MEAN TO WOMEN IF THEIR EQUALITY IS NOT GUARANTEED?

YOURS IN INSISTERHOOD

Gertrude Fester

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G.A.P. is a non-aligned women's lobby project which aims to enable women's organisations to learn from each other about our common needs; study how to link these to public policy and develop strategies to lobby for effective change. This project is sponsored by the South African Giril.