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WOMEN'S NATIONAL COALITION OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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FAX FOR ATTENTION:

THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
WORLD TRADE CENTRE
KEMPTON PARK.

FAX NUMBER: 011 -3972211

The Women's National Coalition of the Western Cape urges the committee to give this submission regarding the status of women urgent attention in order to ensure that rights, demands and needs of all South African women are not ignored or neglected in the new dispensation.

The Steering Committee represent the following organizations: Anc Women's League, SACP Gender Committee, Democratic Party, Soroptimists International, Executive Women's Club, Kaapse Vroueklub, Women 2000, Call of Islam, National Party.

The Steering Committee represents our membership of 198 women's organizations in the Western Cape, including political party women's groups, church groups, service organizations, unions, community organizations, professional bodies and representatives of the squatter communities.

The submission by the Women's National Coalition of the Western Cape is submitted by AMANDA BOTHA.

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Amanda Botha

JULY, 20, 1993.

*Number of pages faxed
including this note: (4)*

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WOMEN'S ALLIANCE -- WESTERN CAPE

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The Technical Committee on Fundamental Rights

World Trade Centre
Kempton Park

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20.7.93

THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE - WESTERN CAPE WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT
IT FULLY SUPPORTS THE SUBMISSION MADE TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ON THE 20TH JULY 1993 ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN IN A FUTURE CONSTITUTION.

THE ALLIANCE URGES THE COMMITTEE TO GIVE THIS SUBMISSION URGENT
ATTENTION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT RIGHTS, DEMANDS AND NEEDS OF
SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN ARE NOT IGNORED OR NEGLECTED IN THE NEW
DISPENSATION.

FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE
Call of Islam, ANC Women's League, SACP Gender Committee,
Democratic Party, Seroptinists International, Black Sash, UWC
Women's Commission, Women 2000

The Steering Committee represents our membership of more than 40
women's organisations in the Western Cape, including political
party women's groups, church groups, service organisations,
unions, community organisations.

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WOMEN'S NATIONAL COALITION OF THE WESTERN CAPE

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE DRAFTING OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUCH A SUB-COUNCIL BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE TEC

We understand that legislation is being drafted to establish a Transitional Executive Council with certain objectives and powers. We further understand that sub-councils will be appointed to the Transitional Executive Council, e.g. sub-councils on Foreign Affairs, Finance, Police and Defense Force, Regional and Local Government.

From the 7 th to the 9th May 1993, the Women's National Coalition of South Africa, in co-operation with the Law Committee on Civil Rights under Law presented an international conference in Johannesburg on the status of women, international models regarding the promotion of the status of women and gender issues generally. Various models were discussed, including executive and advisory models.

It is a common fact that women in South Africa have been a disadvantaged group for so long. We, therefore, strongly urge you to establish a sub-council on the Status of Women.

We are of the opinion that the promotion of the status of women plays an important role in creating and promoting a climate for free political participation and conditions conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

It is recommended that the Technical Committee on the Transitional Executive Council considers drafting terms of reference for a sub-council on status of women and gender issues generally. Such a sub-council on that status of women should have various powers including the following:

1. To scrutinize and advise on existing and proposed legislation.
2. To scrutinize and advise on all executive acts and proposed executive acts.
3. To endeavour to develop a national strategy and policy in regarding the promotion of the status of women and research into gender issues generally.
4. To liaise with all organisations, government, administrations, traditional leaders and soforth with a view to promote the status of women.
5. To ensure that women are advised of their voting rights and are given full opportunity and to enable them to exercise such rights freely and independently without intimidation and harassment.

6. To ensure that women are able to hold political and administrative positions in all areas and reach equity in appointment, promotion and soforth in all structures at all levels.

7. To ensure that an adequate budget is allocated and resources are made available by the Transitional Executive Council for the promotion of that status of women and gender issures generally, the social economic upliftment of women, the implementation of national, regional and local mechanisms for women's participation in government and the effectuation of policies adopted by such mechanisms.

8. To research, formulate policy, conduct educational campaigns and programmes regarding that status of women particularly in regadrd to, but not limited to land issues, violence, equal pay for work of equal value, equal employment opportunities, health, education, and soforth.

Submitted on behalf of the Steering Committee of the National Coalition of the Western Cape by Amanda Botha. Women's July, 20, 1993.

Amanda Botha