

# WOMEN'S NATIONAL COALITION

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## STATEMENT TO THE NEGOTIATING COUNCIL

We the Women's National Coalition, representing over 60 National women's organizations across the country, in an effort to articulate the needs of all the women of this country and help to pave the path to effective equality for all, call upon the Negotiating Council to ensure that the country's laws recognize equality for all the country's citizens.

We believe that equality is indivisible, and thus unequivocally urge the negotiations council to deliver equality to all women irrespective of race, colour or creed at the same time.

We reject completely the notion of the promise of immediate equality to white, coloured and indian women to the exclusion of african women under customary law.

The delivery of equality to african women at the same time as all other women in a new constitution is even more urgent in light of decades of their triple oppression under apartheid.

While we support the right of people to exercise their choice we believe that in terms of women's legal position, customary law should be subject to the principle of equality.

Frene Ginwala and Anne Letsebe

For the Women's National Coalition

Convenor: Frene Ginwala • Co-Convenor: Anne Letsebe • Secretary General: Thoko Msane  
 Deputy Secretary General: Sandra Botha • Co-Treasurers: Miriam Stein; Jennifer Kinghorn