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ME

THE WOMEN'S LOBBY

P O Box 130721
Bryanston 2021
Johannesburg



Tel: (011) 442-8985
(011) 463-2068
Fax: (011) 442-8985

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Technical Committee on Fundamental Rights
During The Transition
Att: Dr Tiaan Eloff
World Trade Centre
Kempton Park
FAX 397 2211

Dear Sir,

SEVENTH PROGRESS REPORT

The Women's Lobby (TWL) presents the following comments:

GENERAL

TWL considers the Bill too lengthy and too detailed. These factors may lead to unnecessary litigation.

DEFINITIONS

There is a need for definitions.

The word "person" must be defined. See Clause 2 and other clauses.

The word "child" requires definition. See clause 25.

The word "basic" in Clause 25 referring to nutrition and health services must be clear-otherwise this right should be eliminated as it may not be justiciable.

The word "basic" in Clause 27 referring to education must be defined.

What is basic education?

The word "dignity" in Clause 4 is very loose.

The word "media" should be defined in Clause 9.

GENDER

EQUALITY

It is of particular concern to The Women's Lobby that women be protected with absolute equality in the new constitution.

Clause 2(2) should include "pregnancy".

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Clause 11 should include "and gender" after "ground of race" in Clause 11 (2).

EDUCATION

In the section on Education, Clause 27 (c) should add "or gender" after "on the ground of race or colour".

INTERPRETATION

TWL is very anxious that the constitution be very clear that equality of men and women will override any indigenous laws, customs or traditions that have militated against women in the past. We refer to Clause 30 (3) which has no place in a modern constitution.

LIFE

TWL is also concerned about Clause 3 concerning "the right to life" as we feel this may void any chance of a woman's right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. The right to choice in this personal matter should be enshrined in the constitution.

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We do hope that our views will be taken into consideration by you and your Technical Committee and conveyed to the framers of the constitution.

Yours cordially,

Babette Kabak

Babette Kabak Chairman

Doris Ravenhill- Vice Chairman