

Day 1 and Day 2

Proposed Annotated Agenda

Women, children and family in a future constitutional order

1 Opening Session

The session will be opened by the Head of the Women's Section, Cde Gertrude Shope on Friday 8 December 1989 at 9.00 hours.

The session will be presided over by the Head of the Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Cde Zola Bona, who is also a member of SASPRO, the sponsor of this seminar. The DLCA is best placed also to brief the participants on the work accomplished so far with regard to the Constitutional Guidelines generally and as they refer to the subject of women, children and the Family.

- A Keynote address by the President. (to cover ANC guiding principles, national concerns about women, children and family; and NEC expectations from the seminar)

Documentation

- Annotated Agenda
- Programme of Activities
- List of Participants
- List of resource persons present for the consideration of various items
- The Preparatory Committee
- Note on arrangements for each session

2. Plenary Commission on Women in South Africa

The participants will be asked to examine in depth the situation of women in South Africa and to develop recommendations which will help advance the emergence of a cogent policy document.

To facilitate the deliberations and to enable participants to make a comprehensive assessment, the Preparatory committee has invited a number of Comrades to act as resource persons to present their views and suggest possible courses of action towards achieving our objectives.

All resource persons were advised that they would speak for no more than 20 minutes and to be available for questions from participants. They were further invited to submit their views in writing so that the available time may be fully used for an exchange of views.

Each item will be introduced as follows:-

-Situation of Women in South Africa to-day: Cde Frene Ginwalla

-What do South African Women want?: Cde Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri

-The Patriachal Nature of South African Society: Cde Penwell Maduna

-Post-Independence experience of women in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Algeria : Cde Baleka Kgositsile

-Opinion on the U.N. Convention On the Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women: Cde Kader Asmal

-Proposals for ANC Policy Guidelines on the gender question in the South African struggle. : Panel of Cdes Mavis Nhlapo, Jack Simons, Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, Albie Sacks, Frene Ginwalla.

Documentation

-Situation of Women in South Africa to-day: Frene Ginwalla

-Papers prepared by the Resource Panel: Mavis Nhlapo
Frene Ginwalla
Ivy Matsepe-Cassaburi
Albie Sacks
Jack Simon

-The patriachal Nature of South African Society: Penwell Maduna

-What South African Women want: Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri

-Opinion on the U.N. Convention : Kader Asmal

Background Material

-Cosatu Women's Conference Recommendation April 1988

- Perspectives Of The South African Democatic Struggle from the 1987 Arusha Conference documents

-Constitutional Guidelines

3. Plenary Commission on Women in the ANC

In addressing the all-important question of the position of women in our Movement in 1981, Cde President, O.R. Tambo said :-

"If we are to engage our full potential in the pursuit of the goals of our revolutionary struggle, then, as revolutionaries, we should stop pretending that women in our movement have the same opportunities as men. There is little evidence of it.....On the other hand, women in the ANC should stop behaving as if there was no place for them above the level of certain categories of involvement. They have a duty to liberate us men from antique concepts and attitudes about the place and role of women in society and in the development and direction of our revolutionary struggle."

He further advocated for an integrative approach on gender issues when he said that the mobilisation of women is the task, not of women alone, but of all of us, men and women alike, comrades in struggle.

With this background in mind participants are invited to undertake an in-depth examination of the situation of women in the ANC; to evolve an integrative approach on gender issues and to develop recommendations which will ensure increased women's participation in ANC structures and help advance the emancipation/development of women.

Deliberations will be informed by a report on the organization of the work of the Women's Section; a baseline survey report on the situation of women in ANC departmental work, but most of all by a candid exchange of views.

Presentations:

- The organization and work programme of the ANC Women's Section (Baleka Kgositsile)
- A Report on the Situation of women in the ANC (Tessa Marcus)

Documentation

- Structure of the ANC Women's Section
- Baseline Survey Report

Background

- Statement by Cde President, O.R. Tambo's at the Closing Session of the Conference of the Women's Section, ANC (SA) 15 Sept 1981.

4. Plenary Commission on Children

Since the Soweto uprising in 1976, black children have suffered unprecedented child brutality at the hands of the South African regime. Numerous children have been arrested, imprisoned, tortured and murdered by police in an attempt to suppress their anger and frustration at the system of apartheid.

The post-apartheid constitution undertakes to protect the rights of the child.

Participants are invited to give serious consideration to the situation of children in South Africa and to develop more detailed recommendations for their welfare including constitutional protection. Special attention should be paid to further improvement of the welfare of children in exile.

The following presentations will be made based on pre-circulated documentation:

- Situation of Children today in South Africa (G. Macfaddens)
- Legal provisions and their application for the protection of children in South Africa (Bridgette Mabandla)
- Provisions of the draft UN Convention for the Rights of the Child (Bridgette Mabandla)
- The welfare of children in exile (Lydall/Nomazizi)

Background material

U.N. draft Convention on the Rights of the Child

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the South African State (Gavin Macfadden)

Skemerkinders in Suid-Afrika (a translation)

Mazimbu Social Worker's report (Sept 1987)

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5 Plenary Commission on the Family

Participants are asked to examine the family as a primary unit in nation building; as a privatised arena of women's oppression; and also to develop recommendations for the recognition and protection of the family in all its forms, at home and in exile.

A few comrades have been requested to prepare papers and to lead the discussions with plenary presentations as follows:

-What are our concerns about the family (Barbara Masekela/Lulu Gwagwa)

-Family Law in South Africa: Provisions, limitations and proposals in support of the family

-Recommendations for strengthening the general text and the Sector on the Family (Women's Section, Arts and Culture and legal department)

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