

AUGUST 1990

## COMMISSION REPORT ON GENDER

## MEETING WITH CONSULTANTS:

The commission has not met, however, work has begun. On the 11th of August there was a meeting of consultants to discuss a programme of action. Frene Ginwala has decided not to work for the constitution committee in protest against the under-representation of women on the committee. Mavivi was also unhappy about the fact that women are under-represented on the committee. She said that sensitivity to the gender question should have necessitated that more women are represented on the committee. She further said that adequate representation of women on the committee would have been an act of affirmative action enabling women to be represented on all or most of the commissions. The meeting then discussed a programme of action. The following agreements were reached.

- a) Mavivi is to adapt part of her thesis (M.A.) to serve as resources material.
- b) Jacklyn Cock is presently looking at the subject of Ecology.

## NADEL WORKSHOP ON GENDER:

A meeting was held with governors of the Nadel Women's desk on the 25th of August 1990.

The Agenda was as follows:

- a) Briefing from A.N.C. Constitution Committee.
- b) Briefing from A.N.C. Women's League.
- c) Briefing from Nadel Women's desk.
- d) Networking.

1. BRIEFING FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.  
The meeting was informed that there are nine commissions was explained.
2. BRIEFING FORM WOMEN'S LEAGUE:  
The programme of action of the women's league was explained and discussed. In particular the campaign on the Women's Charter.
3. BRIEFING FROM NADEL WOMEN'S DESK.  
The meeting was informed that Nadel Women's desk had recently been formed and had not as yet established a programme of action.
4. NETWORKING  
The meeting discuss the input from the ANC constitution committee, the Nadel Women's desk, and that of the women's league, on basis of the discussion the meeting agreed to co-ordinate the work done on gender and constitutional issue. It was therefore agreed that, Nadel involves itself in research of well as issues related to the women's

Charter. Gender issue relevant to the Women's Charter were identified as follows:

- a) Abortion
- b) Sexual harassment in the family and at the place of work.
- c) Child care and maintenance.
- d) Property and housing.
- e) Labour.
- f) Women in prison.
- g) Health
- h) Education
- i) Taxation.
- j) Contractual capacity.
- k) Marital status.
- l) Rape and violence.

The meeting allocated each of the eight regions of nadel with the task of undertaking research in the area of all the commissions of the constitution committee. It was agreed that each region should take one or more gender issues identified for the Women's Charter.

The Nadel women's desk convenors would put the proposals before their branches. It was agreed that the research should not be seen as the responsibility of nadel women's desk but should be seen as a responsibility of the branches as a whole. The women's desk will act as a facilitator, encourage women to initiate and take part in the research as well as ensure that the research done in all the areas of constitution making are gender sensitive. The meeting agreed that each region shall have completed a frame work on subjects of research by the 5th of September, that a follow-up meeting will be held on the 15th September and that research will be concluded about the 30th of October, with reference to the latter decision the motivation for such a decision was that research is already being done in many of the areas under discussion. The allocation of work was as follows:

- 1) JHB-TRANSVAAL: Electoral systems and on gender issues property and housing.
- 2) DURBAN: Judiciary on Gender, Education and abortion.
- 3) PRETORIA: Bill of rights, on Gender, Taxation marital status / contractual capacity.
- 4) WESTERN CAPE: Economy & Land on gender women prisoners.
- 5) BORDER: Labour on gender child care and maintenance.
- 6) PIETEMARITZBURG:- Local government on gender rape and violence.
- 7) P. ELIZABETH: Structure of Government on gender labour and health.
- 8) TRANSKEI: The civil service military and police on