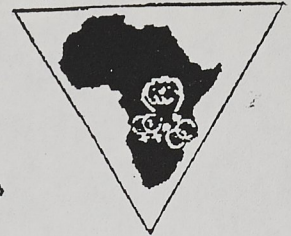


# Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists

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# OLGA



The Chairperson  
ANC Constitutional Committee

17 April 1991

*Kee.*  
*18/4*

*MCH91-109-1-5*

Dear Comrades

re: Draft Bill of Rights

We would like to take this opportunity of responding formally, albeit briefly, to the draft Bill of Rights.

As reported in public statements made by OLGA, we welcome the draft Bill and in particular Article 7 insofar as it makes provision for the protection of gender rights, including non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, in the private and public spheres. This provision is deeply appreciated within the progressive lesbian and gay movement and sends an important signal to a broader non-aligned constituency.

At the same time, we are mindful of the fact that, as with many other important rights envisaged in the draft Bill, there is a long battle ahead to win recognition of all such rights at the negotiating table, and, more importantly, to secure and implement rights such as the proposed gender rights in practice, not least within the liberation movement itself.

As regards public implementation mechanisms, we welcome Article 16's proposed Constitutional Court, Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman. We would like to reiterate the suggestion made in our submission to the Constitutional Committee, namely that serious consideration be given to representation on such bodies of members of hitherto disadvantaged and oppressed sectors.

We remain confident that the ANC will put its case strongly at the negotiating table on important issues of principle, such as non-discrimination as outlined in Article 7.2. In this regard, we would like to confirm that OLGA remains willing to provide assistance on aspects of the motivation for or implementation of these provisions, should this be needed.

Kindly note that OLGA will also be lobbying other political organisations and parties on the principle of non-discrimination, with a view to broadening support for the kinds of rights envisaged in the ANC draft Bill.

We look forward to maintaining regular contact with the Constitutional Committee.

Yours in the struggle

*Derrick*

Derrick Fine for Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists.