

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVISE AGREED UPON BY THE GAC AT THEIR MEETING ON 27, 28 AND 29 APRIL

1. THE FREE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN TO WORKING GROUP 1

- A) The rights of access of women to public facilities and meeting venues should be ensured, as should their right to meet with political organisations. This recommendation is necessary so that women can participate without fear and on an equal footing in the political process. The right of access of political organisations to public facilities, and their right to meet with potential voters, is meaningless if women are excluded from the venues and meetings whether by community or private oppression.
- B) That the roles mentioned here (Item 1.1.4 (o) of the Terms of Reference of Working Group 1) concerning educative and informative campaigns should be broadened to include specific educational campaigns informing women of, inter alia, their right to vote, particularly in areas where women are unlikely to be reached by usual media.

2. The Funding of Programmes for Women

The GAC urges that Working Group 3 reach an agreement on the principle of funding and programmes to ensure the meaningful participation in, and education about the democratic electoral process. In order that women be timeously informed about the franchise, and thus enabled to participate in interim elections without fear of pressure or intimidation, it is suggested that such agreement be expeditiously concluded.

3. Gender Discriminatory Legislation

The GAC recommends the repeal of all legislation in South Africa and the TBVC states which discriminates on the basis of race, creed or gender which circumscribe and impede free political, economic or social activity. We suggest that this be attended to by a general law asserting certain basic civil and political rights, combined with an omnibus law repealing all legislation in accordance with a schedule of Acts to be provided by the GAC.

We advise Working Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to assist in the identification of such legislation.

4. Women and Local Government

The GAC advises that special mechanisms be created to promote the participation and representation of women in local government structures, so that these structures more closely reflect the gender composition of the populace.

Any projects undertaken during the life of CODESA and the Interim or Future Governments should be aimed at the interests of all groups in local communities including women.

5. The Technical Report to the Steering Committee of Working Group 3

5.1 In addition to Item 7.1 of the report:

"* Shall include women in its composition."

5.2 Item 10 of the report should state:

"The transitional executive structure will be constituted by legislation agreed to by Codesa, will have a multi-party character, including women and be . . ."

5.3 The reference to "persons" in line 14 of Item 10 of the report should be replaced by a reference to "men and women".

5.4 Line 5 of Item 14 of the report should read:

"Save for agreement that the TEC must have multi-party character, including women, the precise criteria . . ."

5.5 It is also recommended that the proposed TEC should include a Gender Structure, the exact nature of which is still to be determined.

6. On the composition and role of the security forces

6.1 The many acts of violence committed against women allegedly by the security forces are a source of grave concern. In this regard the GAC recommends that:

6.1.1 any such crime be immediately investigated;

6.1.2 violent crime against women be treated with stricter and more stringent disciplinary action;

6.1.3 when searches of homes are conducted, women police must accompany male police;

6.1.4 the position of high ranking officers who are unable or unwilling to maintain adequate control over their forces be urgently reviewed;

6.1.5 any peace keeping force should include women within their structures at all levels;

6.1.6 the gender sensitivity of these forces (as in item 6.4.1.5) be monitored;

6.1.7 all individuals be informed of their rights with regard to the role and functions of these forces (as in 6.4.1.5);

6.1.8 these forces (as in 6.4.1.5) be trained to be gender sensitive and to ensure that they do not violate the rights of women.

6.2 It is also recommended that any Security Force established in the country, including the TBVC states, must begin to immediately redress race and gender imbalances both in their composition and functioning at all levels and introduce a Code of Conduct and norms which will create confidence among all the people of South Africa.

7 Non-Sexist Language in CODESA documentation

It was recommended that CODESA documents should explicitly define the word "person" as referring

to both men and women.

8. Political Intimidation and Women

- 8.1 With regard to the agreement reached by sub group 2 of Working Group 1 on the Definition of Political Intimidation, the meeting recommended that the following additions be made to the activities which would, as per the aforesaid agreement, be considered, in particular, as forms of political intimidation (refer to Item 4.2 of the Minutes of the meeting of Sub-Group 2 of Working Group 1, 2 March):
- 8.1.1 To compel women, both within and outside the home, by virtue of the "power" vested in men with whom they may associate, to adopt a particular political position; or to similarly prevent women from engaging in free political activity.
 - 8.1.2 To use political patronage in any form that threatens or denies an individuals political, social and economic rights, especially noting that women are frequently the victims of such practices.
 - 8.1.3 To sexually harass any individual and thereby prevent him/her from the freedom of the right of expression/opinion, association and movement.
- 8.2 With regards to agreements reached by Sub-Group 2 of Working Group 1 about the implementation and interpretation of the National Peace Accord, the meeting recommended that the following additions be made (refer to Item 6.1.6 and Item 6.4.1, respectively, of the minutes of Sub-Group 2 of Working Group 1, on 7 April):
- 8.2.1 That the reference to "Business representatives" in clause 7.4.4.3 of the NPA be interpreted to include representatives from professional and women's organisations.
 - 8.2.2 The NPA make special efforts to include representatives of relevant local and tribal authorities as well as local women's structures into all RDRC and LDRC structures.
- 8.3 With regards to item 8.2.2. above (and with specific reference to items 6.1.6, 6.3.2, 6.4.2, 6.5.2, 6.6.2, 6.6.3 and 6.8 of the minutes of the meeting of WG1 SG2,7 April) it was recommended that as part of its input on the interpretation and implementation of the NPA Working Group 1 recommend that women be included in all structures created by the NPA, RDRC's and LDRC's to ensure that gender implications of all decisions and functions of these structures, are considered.

9. Women and the Foreign Service

Noting that South Africa's foreign relations have mainly been conducted by men, in the future period women should be trained, employed, promoted and recognised on an equal basis with men within the diplomatic service. Any existing discriminatory regulations and practices with respect to gender and race in South Africa's foreign service need to be removed.