

## Addendum G

**COMMENTS ON LETTERS AND SUBMISSIONS TO CODESA REGARDING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTED BY FT SITHOLE.**INTRODUCTION

From the sum total of all the correspondence received by Codesa in connection with the participation of women in the process, a loud cry is perceived from women and women's organisations about meaningful representation in the convention.

LETTERS TO CODESA

Approximately 95% of the letters written to Codesa in relation to the gender issues state the following:

1. SA women form 53% of the population and they are represented by 7% in the negotiating process.
2. This implies that the non-racial, non-sexist objective being strived for by Codesa is not purposefully pursued.
3. Women who have been in the struggle for the recognition of women as equally human and thus deserving of (human rights) equal human right and certain gender issues are more qualified to negotiate or advise about these issues more than women who are not gender conscious.
4. Most of these letters have a profound tone of protest.

SUBMISSIONS TO CODESA

Certain organisations sent in written submissions to respond to the Terms of Reference of the various Working Groups. The holistic views of these submissions are the following:

- \* Codesa's Working Groups attention is drawn to the awareness of the fact that women, especially black women, are the most disadvantaged in the SA society. As such certain steps should be taken by Working Groups 1-4 in formulating processes and decisions on their Terms of Reference.
- \* Equality of gender must acknowledge difference.
- \* Affirmative action for women
- \* Enshrining gender equality as a primary right in a Bill of Rights
- \* Giving effect to gender equality in the Bill of Rights
- \* Adequate representation for women in the constitutional and political process.
- \* Interim arrangements needs a structured participation of women to ensure that the interests of women and other gender issues are represented in the interim matters:
  - defence
  - budget
  - foreign relations
  - media

- land
- local government and development

\* Free participation of all women in the political process:

- Exercise of civil liberties
- The Peace Accord
- The role of the police force
- The role of the media and education about Codesa

These do facilitate or prohibit the participation of women in the political process, or, the just preserve the status quo which mitigates against women's participation.

- \* Repeal discriminatory laws and the position of black rural women.

Addendum H

**REPORT BY F ADAM SUMMARIZING THE MAIN POINTS OF SOME OF THE SUBMISSIONS TO CODESA ON THE ISSUE OF GENDER.**

WOMEN FOR PEACE writes:

**Working Group 2:** \* The constitution must include a stipulation on gender equality;

- \* It is suggested that a bill of rights be appended to the new constitution as an annexure to the clause relating to gender equality;
- \* Affirmative action to redress imbalances undertaken by both government and the private sector.

**Working Group 4:**\* A special concern is that women in the TBVC states be consulted with regard to their future - that their needs, rights and aspirations be protected and respected.

**Working Group 5:**\* The National Women's Coalition is preparing a "Women's Charter" for consideration at CODESA. They are endeavouring to include inputs from all women's groups. This may well take a while to prepare and it is suggested that Working Group 5 take this into consideration.

THE WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Jenny Hobbs writes that she would like to see:

1. A fully enforceable **Bill of Rights** for women;
2. Provision for a detailed investigation of the violence that is racking our country, by impartial international experts provided by the United Nations
3. Indications of a strong and immediate action being taken over the provision of housing, education, social services and decent medical care for everyone;
4. The lifting of VAT on more basic foods, books, health care and medicines. The shortfall could be made up by double-taxing luxury goods, cigarettes and alcohol.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF S.A.

Lack of accommodation for the middle income aged.

(Rent-controlled flats have been made sectional title schemes)

In General: concern for the Aged - to become aware of the growing number of aged persons, to preserve their dignity and to become knowledgeable about their specific needs and difficulties.

SA ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

"Will all women be allowed to own land?" ie: will not be discriminated upon in terms of land ownership.

GENDER RESEARCH GROUP UND

- \* "Equality" must acknowledge "difference".
- \* "Affirmative action" for women, priority for programmes directed at black women - the most

disadvantaged sector of women.

- \* Women's rights in the family, especially provisions relating to marriage, guardianship, and the right to privacy.
- \* Women's rights in relation to relation and custom
- \* Women's rights in relation to the "right to life"
- \* Codesa should take its lead from Article 2 of the UN resolution on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
- \* Women's rights structures at all levels of the constitutional structures that are developed (eg constitutional court); standing human rights commission and office of ombudsperson; permanent women's rights section of a human rights commission; standing committee on women in the legislature.
- \* Ongoing educational programmes on gender oppression.
- \* Adequate representation of women in constitutional and political process.

#### THE WOMEN'S LEGAL STATUS COMMITTEE

The WLSC has submitted a proposed Bill of Rights of Interim Bill of Rights with specific reference to women for inclusion in the new S.A. constitution.

#### UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (Adopted by all partaking nations by the General Assembly in Nov 1967 and Dec 1979)

- Article 2:** states that parties should embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions.
- Article 5:** States that parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.
- Article 11(c):** To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child care facilities
- Article 12:** ...appropriate services in connection with pregnancy...  
...adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation...
- Article 14:** ...take into account the particular problems faced by rural women...  
...to enjoy adequate living conditions...electricity and water supply...