

What do women want?

The Women's National Coalition is preparing to go out into the field and find out what women want in the "new South Africa". That's what the Women's Charter Campaign is all about. Glenda Daniels reports



Photo: Gill de Vlieg

Transvaal Rural Women's Movement members act out their demands in a play

Nenki Matlhare of the Transvaal Rural Women's Movement explains why the Women's Charter Campaign is important: "Rural women want to be represented in parliament. We want to be equal to men. We want the power and the right to own our houses. We want the government to legalise our marriages."

Matlhare points out that husbands of rural women often get married in the cities. If the husband dies, the rural marriage is usually not recognised.

Cosatu Gender Co-ordinator, **Dorothy Mokgalo**, says the burning issues for women include parental rights, the

demand for child care facilities, an end to sexual harassment at work and the right to belong to trade unions.

Faith Gasa of the IFP Women's Brigade says IFP women are keen to address domestic and political violence, children's rights, polygamy (a man married to more than one wife), divorce laws and the lack of legal abortions.

The Women's National Coalition (WNC) launched the Charter Campaign on March 8, International Women's Day.

Fieldworkers will be trained and sent to find out about the conditions of women and their demands. Towards the end of the year, booklets and tapes

will be made to report back the findings of the research in all languages.

Then regional meetings and a national conference will be held to adopt the Charter. The Charter and the recommendations of the conference will be given to the body elected to draw up a new constitution for South Africa.

Women's voices must be heard in the building of a new constitution. ☪

If you want to take part in the Women's Charter Campaign, contact the Women's National Coalition at:
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