WE DEMAND:

Access to Quality Education and Training

• Prioritise the subsidy of quality pre-primary institutions and provide adequate training for staff.
• Promote the development and implementation of gender policies in all educational institutions, which include affirmative action measures for the promotion of women, and fair and effective policies and procedures for dealing with teenage pregnancy, sexual harassment and violence.
• Increase technical and vocational training opportunities for women and girls, and promote broader subject choices among them.
• Strengthen the capacity for gender research and training in tertiary institutions, and develop their effective collaboration with other research institutions and NGOs working in the fields of gender research and training.
• Provide for regular curriculum reviews in consultation with relevant civil society organisations to ensure that the substantial resources spent on education lead to quality education for all our children.
• Provide adequate childcare and income support for women participating in training courses.
• Provide inclusive education for women with disabilities through access to mainstream schools and further education, and provide diversity training for teachers.

This brochure is supported by members of the following organisations:
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RATIFY THE SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL GENDER POLICY

Political Parties Take Note!

We, the women of Namibia are equal citizens!

We represent 52% of the vote!

We demand the implementation of all gender laws and policies now!

20 years after independence women are still seen as second-class citizens, with less access to resources, income, land, decision-making power and personal freedoms than men. Enough is enough!

Political parties take note of our demands. We are holding Government accountable for adhering to all of the national and international gender laws and policies it has signed over the past 20 years.

WE DEMAND:

Freedom from Violence and Discrimination

• Implement the Rape Act and the Combating of Domestic Violence Act by providing intensive training to service providers including police officers and judges.
• Assist communities and NGOs to provide more shelters and programmes for survivors of violence, as well as programmes to address alcohol and drug abuse and their effects on self-control and abusive behaviour.
• Respect the human rights of all people including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex.

Freedom from Harmful Cultural Practices and Beliefs

• Review customary laws and enact laws that protect women and girls from harmful and oppressive cultural practices and beliefs that infringe on the rights and dignity of women and children, such as sexual readiness testing/forced sex, violent initiation practices, polygamy, child marriages, widow inheritance and widow cleansing.
• Set a minimum age for customary marriage as has been done for civil marriage.
• Speedily pass the Customary Marriages Bill.
• Require regional and traditional authorities in all regions of Namibia to uphold the Constitution and implement the gender laws.
WE DEMAND:

Freedom from Hunger and Poverty

- Ensure that Black Economic Empowerment programmes benefit the poor people of Namibia, particularly women.
- Provide a basic income grant of N$100 per month to every Namibian under the age of 60.
- Increase the old-age pension to at least N$1,000 per month and increase it regularly after that.
- Provide food relief programmes for unemployed people living with HIV and Aids.
- Implement the new Maintenance Act by providing intensive training for service providers, and for law enforcement and judicial officers.
- Implement poverty reduction programmes, particularly in rural areas and urban squatter camps.
- Introduce a living wage for all sectors, and implement and monitor reasonable conditions of employment for domestic workers and farm labourers.

Access to Resources and Services

- Prioritise the provision of adequate and affordable housing, water and electricity for all.
- Promote employment for all, particularly young people, women and people living in rural areas.
- Provide skills training centres in small towns and rural areas to encourage all people, including women and youth, to acquire skills and training that will raise their living standard.
- Speedily pass the Property Rights and Inheritance Bill that will protect the rights of women and girls to own and inherit land and property.
- Provide adequate services and benefits for people living with disabilities and illness in a timely manner, including people living with HIV and Aids.
- Promote women’s access to land, live stock, credit, technical and business training, and appropriate technology, and ensure women’s representation on land boards.
- Root out corruption in government and parastatals.

WE DEMAND:

Freedom from Preventable Diseases and Access to Quality Healthcare for All

- Provide a comprehensive, high-quality public health system - particularly in small towns and rural areas - that includes dental and mental health services.
- Reintroduce and pass the Sterilisation and Termination of Pregnancy Bill of 1996, and provide access to safe abortion as part of a comprehensive family planning framework that provides safe, accessible and affordable contraception, including female condoms.
- Provide adequate facilities in towns and villages for early screening of breast cancer and cervical cancer, and raise women’s awareness of the importance and availability of these services.
- Make clinics accessible to all people, ensure that clinics are well-stocked at all times, and provide ambulance services in rural communities.
- Provide treated mosquito nets to poor people living in areas affected by malaria, educate the public on the importance of using the nets, and to recognise symptoms of malaria to prevent deaths from this disease.

Freedom from HIV and Aids

- Provide comprehensive education on human rights, women’s rights, sexuality and gender in schools, and in informal and adult education settings.
- Provide ongoing education for women and girls on the use of female and male condoms and increase the distribution of female condoms.
- Provide access to anti-retroviral treatment to all pregnant women living with HIV in order to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies.
- Provide Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) treatment to all rape survivors to prevent transmission of HIV from infected rapists.
- Provide all people living with HIV and Aids with affordable treatment when needed, and train medical and nursing staff to counsel and treat all patients with dignity and respect.
- Ensure that maintenance and child support grants are readily accessible to women and men caring for orphans.
- Provide home based care-givers with the information and psychological support they need, give them access to the resources they require, and remunerate them for looking after the elderly, orphans and the sick. Encourage more men to share in this important work.