



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**RESEARCH UNIT**

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: 27 (21) 403 8273 Fax: 27 (21) 403 8118  
www.parliament.gov.za

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**Issues from 2015 Women's Roundtable Report for Referral to Parliamentary Committees**

**1. Introduction**

The Multi-Party Women's Caucus was tasked with adopting the report of the 2015 Women's Roundtable, following which it will be announced and tabled in the National Assembly. The report contains the deliberations and resolutions of the roundtable discussion. In terms of the report, a number of issues must be referred to committees in Parliament. The Multi-Party Women's Caucus was further tasked with collating a report on the actions executed by committees in this regard. This report must be reported back on at the 2016 Women's Roundtable.

**2. General resolutions**

The 2015 Women's Roundtable resolved the following:

- That the 2015 Women's Roundtable report must be adopted by Parliament.
- That the key deliberations contained in the report must be channelled through the relevant committees in Parliament.
- That subsequent to the roundtable, that a monitoring and evaluation plan must be developed to ensure that the resolutions are implemented.
- That the resolutions are tracked through the year, with quarterly reports to the Multi-Party Women's Caucus.
- That the 2016 Women's Roundtable begins with a progress report on the implementation of the 2015 Women's roundtable

**3. Actions for committees**

**31. Actions for the Multi-Party Women's Caucus**

Action	Note	By when
Ensure that the Women's Roundtable report is adopted and that the resolutions are acted on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on this at the 2016 Women's Roundtable.</li> </ul>	August 2016.
Ensure that Multi-Party Women's Caucuses are established and fully functional at provincial and local government level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All MPWCs must be fully capacitated, trained and provided with adequate resources.</li> </ul>	Ongoing.
The MPWC must resurrect the gender-responsive budgeting initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPWC must develop a plan to ensure that all parliamentary</li> </ul>	August 2016



	<p>committees monitor departmental budgets from a gender perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliament must develop tools that enables committees to monitor the gendered implications of departmental and public entity budgets.</li> <li>Parliament must engage with National Treasury to ensure that budgets for gender-based violence are ring fenced.</li> </ul>	
The MPWC should host a dialogue with civil society organisations on strategies for the prevention of gender-based violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resolutions of this dialogue should be referred to the related parliamentary committees.</li> </ul>	To be determined by the programme of the MPWC.

### 3.2 Standing Committee on Finance

Ensure that the National Treasury, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, SAPS, Department of Health and Department of Social Development ring-fence their budgets for gender-based violence so that it is possible to track expenditure in this regard.	Develop the requisite tools to make this possible.	By August 2017
Explore removing VAT from the purchase of all sanitary towels		

### 3.3 Actions for the PC on Women

The PC on Women in the Presidency should conduct oversight on the extent to which the Gender Focal Points are functioning effectively in all Government departments.	This exercise could be administered through a questionnaire to all the GFPs that seeks to elicits information on their capacity, role, activities, the extent to which	August 2016.
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	gender is mainstreamed in their respective departments, their budget, staff, resources and the challenges that they experience in giving effect to their mandate. The information in the questionnaire should be collated and the committee should then host a meeting with GFPs to discuss key findings contained therein.	
The National Gender Machinery does not seem to be functioning as effectively as it should be. The reasons for this need to be established and addressed.	The PC on Women in the Presidency should host a joint meeting with the Commission on Gender Equality and the Department of Women to establish ways in which communication between structures in the NGM can be improved upon.	August 2016

#### 3.4. PC on Justice and Constitutional Development

Review and address support provided to victims of domestic violence.	There are significant challenges with adequately resourcing and implementing the Domestic Violence Act (Act No of 116 1998). These must be tabled and addressed.	August 2016.
Review and address support provided to sexual offences victims.	Of particular concern is the fact that so few rapists are convicted as compared to the total number of cases reported to SAPS. The DOJCD needs to examine the reasons for this and develop a strategy for a addressing.	August 2016.
Develop and enhance strategies to combat violence against LGBTI persons.	Strategies in this regard must be clearly articulated within the MTSF period.	August 2016.
Decriminalise sex work	Explore the decriminalisation of sex work.	Start the process by August 2016.
Examine sentences given to women for crimes as compared to those given to men who commit the same crimes for parity, e.g. for killing	Department to report on this.	August 2016.



their partners.

### 3.5. PC on Health

Department of Health to report on current services provided to victims of gender-based violence in rural areas in all provinces. Department of Health to ensure that there are mobile/satellite clinics that provide health services to victims of gender-based violence in rural areas with poor access to services.	Department to report on what funding has been made available for gender-based violence services in rural areas. Funding for the satellite clinics to be made available over the rest of the MTSF period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 2016 – Department of Health to report on service provision in rural areas.</li> <li>2017-2019 – roll out of satellite clinics.</li> </ul>
Department of Health to run more targeted awareness campaigns that seek to address and prevent gender-based violence exacerbated by alcohol abuse.	Department to report on plans in this regard.	August 2016.

### 3.6. PC Trade and Industry

Prevent violence by restricting access to alcohol through proper enforcement of the Liquor Act (Act No 59 Of 2003)		Commence by August 2016 and ongoing.
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### 3.7 PC on Basic Education

Integrate school-based gender equality and gender-based violence prevention education into the school curriculum.	Develop monitoring strategies for ensuring that this is acted upon.	Commence by August 2016.
Reduce exposure to harsh physical punishment by implementing a full ban on corporal punishment in the home and enforce the existing ban in schools.	Develop monitoring strategies in this regard.	August 2016
Ensure that schools are accessible and user-friendly to learners with special needs.	Department to report on plan and progress in this regard.	August 2016.
Inclusive education should be compulsory and should look at the issue of age restriction in	Department to report on plan and progress in this regard.	August 2016.



special schools for learners with disabilities as this is currently contributing to children not being in school.		
Make sanitary towels available in schools in poor communities.		August 2016

### 3.8 PC on Social Development

Finalise and implement the Integrated Programme of Action Addressing Violence Against Women and Children (2013-2018)	August 2016	
Address the counselling crisis in providing adequate services to victims of gender based violence through more support to NGOs providing this service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan in this regard with specific focus on support services provided in rural areas.</li> </ul>	
Improve support to shelters for victims of domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan in this regard.</li> <li>Currently, no funding is provided to support children in shelters. This must be addressed.</li> </ul>	
Provide psycho-social support to children exposed to gender based violence at home through a combination of school and community-based social workers and lay counsellors.		

### 3.9. PC Police

Improve services to victims of gender-based crime, including interaction with victims, investigation of cases, follow-up of cases and documenting of cases.	PC on Police to engage with SAPs in this regard and to explore the issues in relation to available research work in this regard.	August 2016.
Increase budget allocated to community safety and improve upon community safety		Ongoing.



strategies.		
Improve upon gun control strategies.		Ongoing.

### **3.10 PC on Correctional Services**

Examine the conditions of women in prisons, especially those incarcerated with their children. Address any challenges in this regard.	Department to report on this.	August 2016.
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### **3.11 PC on Rural Development and Land Reform**

Accelerate the support provided to women farmers to develop women in agriculture.	Department to report on progress in this regard.	August 2016.
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