

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA
(Affiliated to the International Council of Women in 1913)

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE

1. The National Council of Women of South Africa have for many years worked very closely with the African Council of Women, an organisation very similar to NCW and have given assistance wherever possible with their initiatives and endeavours in the townships.

Several members of NCW who were retired teachers assisted a small group of women to establish a school in the inner city for needy children. The school has been very successful and with much help from the private sector has recently opened a boarding establishment.

Members regularly attend conferences and participate in our pertinent issues, eg The UN Conference, held in Durban on Racism and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg.

The meetings of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation which promotes cultural interaction are regularly attended, as are the Race Relations meetings to which we are often invited.
2. Although the present government has done much to promote peace and harmony and our National Constitution does much to protect all human rights much prejudice and distrust still prevails in both the black and white communities, especially in rural areas.

The NCW is often still regarded as a white women's organisation, when in actual fact it has always been a multi-racial organisation.

Distance between the living areas of the different cultural groups may in some way be responsible for the slow pace of greater integration.
3. The eight areas have been addressed constantly for many years by the NCW prior even to 2001, as many of our resolutions prove.
4. Through political change much has been done via the statute books towards promoting the culture of peace. Much, however, remains to be meaningfully implemented into society.
5. The major obstacles for the promotion peace are poverty, unemployment, poor living conditions, especially in rural areas. The lack of education of the so-called "lost generation" (the young people who were encouraged to abandon their education in favour of freedom fighting and are now illiterate and unskilled).

6. No.
7. Long standing association with ANC. Charity work done by our affiliate church groups and assistance given by groups such as the Black Sash for many years.
8. NCWSA have worked very steadily towards the protection of children from child abuse, trafficking and neglect and have done much to have laws passed against these atrocities, hopefully in this parliamentary sitting.
9. The topic of our recent conference was “Achieving Women”. Women who had achieved and were instrumental in improving the lives of their fellowmen, were acknowledged and lauded. It is the intention of NCW to do all they can to assist these women in their most valuable work.
10. The priority domains in South Africa are
 - a) that quality education must become more equitable
 - b) children of the very poor communities should be better nourished – perhaps the introduction of a feeding scheme such as was inaugurated during the war years. (This particularly in communities ravaged by HIV/AIDS).
11. Outreach programmes have been implemented by many independent and government schools – where resources are shared and their pupils give assistance to indigent or disadvantaged students.
12.
 - i. A culture of caring and sharing to be inculcated.
 - ii. Children and adults to be encouraged to respect all cultures in our society.
 - iii. Everybody in society to be nurturing and protective to our children.
 - iv. NCWSA has worked very hard towards getting laws onto our statute books against the trafficking of women and children, and will continue to monitor and promote this ideal.

Janet Louis – National President
Phillis Lloyd – Board Member
Catherine McGhie – Board Member