

# #VoiceandChoice

## Gender Audit of the South African National and Provincial Elections

May 2024



ANC and EFF supporters share a hug outside a voting station during the 2024 elections in Cape Town, South Africa.  
*Credit: Ashraf Hendricks/GroundUp*

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# Acronyms

ACDP	African Christian Democratic Party
AIC	African Independent Congress
AL JAMA-AH	Al Jama-ah
ANC	African National Congress
ATM	African Transformation Movement
COPE	Congress of the People
DA	Democratic Alliance
EFF	Economic Freedom Fighters
FFP/VFP	Freedom Front Plus/ Vryheidsfront Plus
GBVF	Gender Based Violence and Femicide
GL	Gender Links
GOOD	GOOD
IEC	Electoral Commission of South Africa
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
IPU	Inter Parliamentary Union
LGBTI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, other sexuality, sex and gender diverse
MKP	Umkhonto Wesizwe Party
MMA	Media Monitoring Africa
MP	Member of Parliament
MPL	Member of the Provincial Legislature
NCOP	National Council of Provinces
NFP	National Freedom Party
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
PR	Proportional Representation
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UDM	United Democratic Front
WEMP	Women's Election Mechanism for Peace

# Executive Summary

Democracy was the big winner in the watershed 2024 South African elections that witnessed the African National Congress (ANC) dip below the 50% mark for the first time in thirty years, and the emergence of a Government of National Unity (GNU). But the gains made for gender parity in politics over the last three decades took a knock on almost every front - parliament, cabinet, premiers, and the media. While women in South Africa constitute the majority of voters, they remain under represented in virtually all areas of political decision-making.

Women now constitute 43% of parliamentarians, which is three percentage points down from the last administration. South Africa also drops from twelfth to twenty-second place in the global ranking of women's political participation (WPP). In the SADC region, South Africa drops from first to third place, with Namibia leading the way, followed by Mozambique.

The 2024 election was the most contested since the advent of democracy thirty years ago, when the ANC won 63% of the vote. As predicted, following power cuts, load shedding, growing unemployment and a sluggish economy, the party lost significant ground, attaining just 40% of the vote and losing its outright majority. This shifts the country from a one-party dominant state to a multi-party democracy.

The ANC has now formed a Government of National Unity (GNU) with ten other political parties, including the centrist Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Inkatha Freedom Party, which has its roots in KwaZulu Natal. Other parties in the GNU include the Patriotic Alliance (PA); GOOD; Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC); Vryheidsfront Plus FF+; United Democratic Movement (UDM); Rise Mzansi and Al Jama-ah.

Table 1: Women in Politics in South Africa, 2004 - 2024

	2004	2009	2014	2019	2024	Comment
Women MPs	33%	43%	40%	46%	43%	Decline back to 2009 level. ANC lost absolute majority.
Women in the NCOP	41%	30%	28%	36%	44% <sup>1</sup>	Only increase in all metrics. Increase since 2019 (8 percentage pts).
Women MPLs	30%	41%	37%	46%	38%	Decline of 8 percentage points since 2019. Lower than 2009 levels.
Women in cabinet	42%	41%	41%	50%	44%	Decline from a high of 50%; 40-45% range since 2004.
Women deputy ministers	60%	39%	44%	46%	40%	Decrease since 2019, but 20 percentage point decrease since 2004.
Women premiers	44%	55%	22%	22%	22%	Biggest decline since 2004 and 2019.
Women voters	55%	55%	56%	55%	55%	Has been consistent for 30 years.
Women as news sources	22%	24%	25%	20%	18%	Lower than global average and previous elections.

Source: Compiled by GL with data collected for the WPP Africa Barometer.

<sup>1</sup> 54 Permanent members, source: <https://nationalgovernment.co.za/units/management/2/national-council-of-provinces-ncop>

Table 1 shows the trend of women's representation in politics in South Africa across eight metrics **over the last 30 years**. In the 2024 National and Provincial Elections (NPE), women's representation in political decision-making declined at all levels except the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and women as voters.

In the National Assembly, women's representation dropped from 46% in 2020 to 43% following the 29 May 2024 elections, which witnessed the ANC losing a number of seats, winning less than half (40%) of the votes for the first time since the first democratic elections in 1994. The ANC is one of the few political parties that has implemented a 50-50 quota for women. This, combined with the Proportional Representation (PR) system at national and provincial level has helped to guarantee a high level of women's representation. There is therefore a strong correlation between the ANC's performance in elections, and women's representation.

Ironically, women now comprise the majority of the ANC parliamentarians, at 53%, but the overall drop in the ANC's majority contributed significantly to the decline in women's representation. The Economic Freedom Front (EFF), a breakaway from the ANC, also surpassed the fifty percent mark, with 54% of its parliamentarians being women.

Five smaller parties have 50% or more women. These include Patricia de Lille's GOOD Party (which won just one seat, a woman), Build One South Africa (BOSA), the African Transformation Movement (ATM), and the Patriotic Alliance (PA). GOOD is the only South African political party led by a woman.

Other more conservative parties did not observed the principle of equality. In particular, the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MKP) have 32% and 34% women, respectively. The IFP has just 29% women in parliament. Six small parties, with one to three seats, have no women at all.

Despite the change in the electoral system to allow Independent candidates to stand for election, none of the six independent candidates won a seat in parliament.

Once boasting 50:50 in Cabinet, the proportion of women ministers and deputy ministers has declined. Of particular concern is the decline in women's voice in the media: from 20% of those whose views and voices are heard in the political topic category in the last elections to 18% in the 2024 elections. Globally and in South Africa, online violence against women journalists as well as women in politics

Women have however been finding their voice in other forums. A coalition of individual women and women's organisations from across South Africa made a *Submission to represented Political Parties On The Outcome Of The Elections And Future Governance In South Africa*, calling on political parties to deliver on their mandate "to exercise leadership that is responsible, accountable and ethical, and that enables the country to move forward in a more united and reconciled way, in which the President and political parties put the citizens and country first.

Gender Links (GL) conducted this audit of the 2024 South African elections as part of its partnership with the Swedish funded International Idea-led consortium: *Enhancing the Inclusion of Women in Political Participation in Africa*. The six other organisations in the consortium are FAWE, FEMNET, Gender Links, IFAN Gender Laboratory, PADARE, and WLSA. The consortium focuses on eight African countries: Botswana; DRC; Eswatini; Tanzania; Zimbabwe; Kenya; Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

The report covers the electoral system; women as voters; the conduct of the elections (violence; media coverage); the election results at both national and provincial level; women in tis an audit op leadership post the elections; as well as women finding their voice in civil society. Attached at Annex A is an audit of political party manifestos. The report offers several conclusions and recommendations for future elections.



# Electoral system

South Africa's electoral law has been amended. In 2019 the New Nation Movement and Chantal Revel, princess of the Koranna Royal Household of the Khoi and San First Nations people, challenged the Electoral Act in the Constitutional Court. The court ruled that the Electoral Act was unconstitutional because it did not allow independent candidates to stand for national or provincial elections. The law was changed in time for the 2024 elections.

In terms of the Electoral Amendment Act, the two-tier multimember compensatory proportional system is preserved, i.e., there is

no change to South Africa's electoral system. The 400 seats in the National Assembly will be split - 200 seats are reserved for the **National** list (to be contested only by political parties), and the remaining 200 seats are divided up among the nine **regions** (provinces), which parties and independent candidates contest). The number of seats reserved for each region will be different and determined by the Electoral Commission before every national and provincial election, taking into account the number of voters per region.<sup>2</sup> Only six independent candidates made it onto the regional list; two are women, and Chantal Revel is not on the list.

## Women as voters

Almost 28 million of the 42 million eligible voters registered to vote in the 2024 elections. Since 1994, women have constituted the majority of voters, and the 2024 elections were no different.

Figure 1 shows that women make up 55% of registered voters. However, voter turnout data are not disaggregated.

Figure 1: Women and men voters by sex

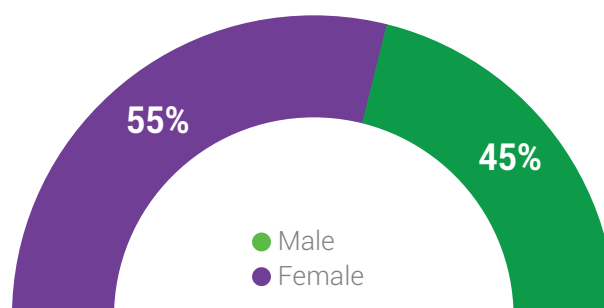


Table 2: Voter registration by age and sex

Age	Male	Female	Total	Male	% Female
18-19	234	308.85	543.17	0.85%	1.12%
20-29	1969908	2412163	4382071.00	7.12%	8.72%
30-39	3146519	3653841	6800360.00	11.37%	13.2%
40-49	2849851	3139341	5989192.00	10.3%	11.35%
50-59	2060933	2501929	4562863.00	7.45%	9.04%
60-69	1319098	1806500	3125598.00	4.77%	6.53%
70-79	583	945	1528.34	2.11%	3.42%
80+	206	506	712.19	0.74%	1.8%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>12,384,101</b>	<b>15,288,163</b>		<b>44.75%</b>	<b>55.25%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,672,264</b>				

Source: IEC.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

Table 2 disaggregates voters by sex and age. Women aged 40-49 are the largest proportion of registered voters, while men 80+ are the

lowest proportion of voters. Of the 27,672,264 registered voters, only 16,290,760 cast their vote, a 59% voter turnout.

Table 3: Voter turnout by province

Province	Registered Population	Registered Voters in Completed VDs	Total Votes Cast in Completed VDs	% Voter Turnout
KwaZulu-Natal	5,738,249	5,738,249	3,575,434	62.31%
Gauteng	6,541,978	6,540,567	4,051,053	61.94%
Northern Cape	656,826	656,826	404,030	61.51%
Western Cape	3,317,072	3,317,072	2,009,311	60.57%
Free State	1,456,927	1,456,927	842,989	57.86%
Mpumalanga	2,025,070	2,025,070	1,174,589	58.00%
Eastern Cape	3,438,924	3,438,924	1,836,398	53.40%
Limpopo	2,779,657	2,779,657	1,448,365	52.11%
North West	1,768,576	1,768,576	909,475	51.42%
Out of Country	58,802	58,802	39,116	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,782,081</b>	<b>27,780,670</b>	<b>16,290,760</b>	<b>58.64%</b>

Source: IEC 2024.

Table 3 shows voter turnout by province. KZN, Gauteng, Northern Cape, and Western Cape had a 60% or above voter turnout. North West had

the lowest voter turnout, where just over half of those registered cast their vote. There is no sex or age-disaggregated data for voter turnout.

## Addressing violence in elections

In 2020, South Africa adopted a Nation Action Plan (NAP) on Women Peace and Security (2020-2025). This NAP calls for greater participation of women in peace and security decision-making, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and governance. The **Women's Election Mechanism for Peace (WEMP)** is a conflict prevention instrument that trains women in conflict analysis, management and mediation and deploys women as peace monitors pre-, during and post-elections. It is designed to have women engaged in early warning, preventative diplomacy, mediation, and election observation and, in so doing, contribute towards a peaceful national election.

WEMP also recognises that women are under-represented in leadership, especially in politics and its processes. Empowering women in communities to participate as monitors and advocates is an opportunity to be involved and a springboard to future leadership roles.

WEMP successfully trained 300 Peace Monitors with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). The monitors were deployed across five provinces: Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal.

The monitors established Peace Rooms in the respective provinces, working collaboratively with the IEC on conflict prevention mechanisms, enhancing its capacity from a civil society vantage point and providing it with real-time information and support.

During the period 8 May 2024 to 16 May 2024, a total of 167 weekly reports were received. A total of 24 incidents were reported, largely in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, and Western Cape. These were: incidences of intimidation, substance and drug abuse among the youth (a trigger for violence), political intolerance, and the defacing of political party campaign posters.

Incidents related to violence and conflicts in their communities, and also observing aspects of inclusion of marginalised groups, such as women, youth and persons living with disabilities in various processes related to the elections.<sup>3</sup>

The WEMP got good media coverage, referenced in examples in the section below.

## Women even less visible in the media

The role of the media in elections is to **provide information and analysis** to the public about the candidates, issues, and events surrounding the election. The media plays a crucial role in informing voters about the candidates' positions, backgrounds, and policies, as well as covering campaign events, debates, and other key moments in the election process

In addition to providing information, the media also helps to **educate voters** on the issues at stake in the election, fact-checking candidates' statements and claims, and offering analysis and commentary on the candidates' performance and the potential impact of the election outcomes.

The media also serves as a **watchdog**, holding candidates and elected officials accountable for their actions and decisions, and serving as a check on government power. By reporting on campaign finance, corruption, and other issues related to elections, the media helps to ensure transparency and accountability in the political process

South Africa's mainstream media has witnessed notable changes since the 2019 elections. In 2019, traditional media outlets, such as newspapers, television, and radio, dominated the dissemination of election-related information. However, digital media and social networking platforms have reshaped the communication ecosystem, providing alternative channels for political discourse and citizen engagement by 2024.

The media plays a crucial role throughout the electoral cycle - before, during, and after elections.

**Before elections** the media plays a crucial role in **informing the public** and disseminating essential information - traditionally through mainstream print, television and radio. In 2024 there was more use of Digital Media including online news platforms, social media, and mobile apps that provide timely and accessible election information, reaching a broader audience.

The Daily Maverick's (DM) coverage of the elections is an exemplary illustration of how the media can provide accessible, credible, nonpartisan information. In the build-up to the elections, the DM reported on and summarised political party manifestos in an accessible format so voters could make informed choices. The DM also countered fake news with a segment debunking misinformation, an increasingly important role for the media.



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eisa.org/conflict-prevention-gender-and-elections-deploying-the-womens-election-mechanism-for-peace/>



During elections the media's role is **real-time reporting**, including live coverage of voting stations or and monitoring. Social media platforms and news apps offer live updates, user-generated content, and interactive maps. Citizen journalists and **election monitors** use social media to report incidents instantly, enhancing transparency. Social media campaigns, influencers, and targeted ads **encourage voter turnout**, particularly among younger demographics.

After elections the media covers and reports on the **vote counting and results**. Results are shared instantly online, with interactive features to explore detailed data. The media provides expert analysis in all formats. The media also plays a role of holding officials accountable through investigative reporting. Media also reports on public reaction through Vox pops, interviews and opinion pieces, as well as instant public reactions through social media posts, comments, and trends.

## Women as sources



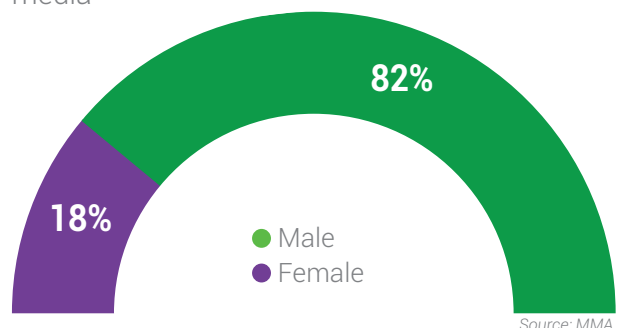
"Women as sources" in media coverage refers to women as quoted experts, commentators, news subjects, and voices within news stories and other media content. This encompasses a variety of roles, such as politicians, analysts, activists, and everyday citizens. Representing women as sources is a measure of gender balance in media reporting and reflects the diversity of perspectives presented to the public.

MMA monitored the performance of South African news media during the election period, from 29 February to 24 June 2024. A total of 10,483 items were monitored across print, online, and broadcast media using a combination of human media monitors, especially for small community media and African language content, and semi-automated monitoring using MMA's media monitoring tool, Dexter.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Media Monitoring Africa, Media Performance: National and Provincial Elections 2024, July 2024

They found that women are grossly under-represented as sources in the news and media coverage of elections. Women's voices generally constitute about 19 - 22% of sources in the media globally and news media in South Africa are usually in line with this average, however, women as sources dropped in media coverage of the 2024 NPE elections.

Figure 2: Women and men as sources in the media



Source: MMA.

Figure 2 shows that only 18% of the media sources were women. This reduces their visibility and influence in public and political discourse, potentially marginalising their contributions and perspectives. This is lower than in the 2019 election when women constituted 20% of sources. The imbalance may perpetuate stereotypes and reinforce gender roles that undervalue women's expertise and leadership capabilities. Closely linked is the role the media plays in shaping public perception. When women are underrepresented, it can affect how the public views women's roles and capabilities in politics and society.

## Reinforcing stereotypes



On election day, some media outlets went out onto the streets to collect the views of the electorate. One of the observations of these 'voxpops' was a disparity in how questions were asked. For first time female voters questions focused on their emotions and personal experiences, asking questions like how they felt about voting for the first time. While first-time male voters were asked about their thoughts on the electoral process and their political views.

This disparity in questioning reinforces traditional gender roles, where women are seen through an emotional lens while men are viewed as more rational and opinionated, despite women constituting a larger proportion of voters. It perpetuates the notion that women's political engagement is less about their views and more about their feelings. Focusing on emotions rather than opinions can undermine the perception of women as serious political actors, both as voters and candidates. It suggests that their participation is less substantive compared to men. Such coverage can shape public perceptions and political discourse, leading to an underrepresentation of women's views on policy and governance issues. It can skew the narrative towards a more male-dominated perspective on political matters.

Another way the media undermines women is by referring to them in reference to their male family members. For example the headline "Zuma's daughter wreaks havoc in MKP" - This headline is problematic in many ways - why is Duduzile Zuma defined as the daughter of Zuma and not as a politician in her own right? The same thing happened with Dr Dlamini Zuma - she was referred to as Zuma's ex-wife rather than a highly experienced politician. It is very sexist and undermining.



## Female journalists

A global survey of women journalists conducted by International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) for UNESCO between 2019 and 2022 found that one in five respondents had experienced offline abuse, harassment and attacks that they connected with online violence.<sup>5</sup>

Female journalists covering the politics beat in South Africa face unique challenges, as

highlighted by reports of severe online violence directed at prominent figures such as the Daily Maverick reporters and editors Ferial Haffajee, Pauli van Wyk, and Rebecca Davis. The experiences of Haffajee, Van Wyk, and Davis with online violence reflect the broader pattern of attacks against women journalists in South Africa.

## Online abuse against journalists

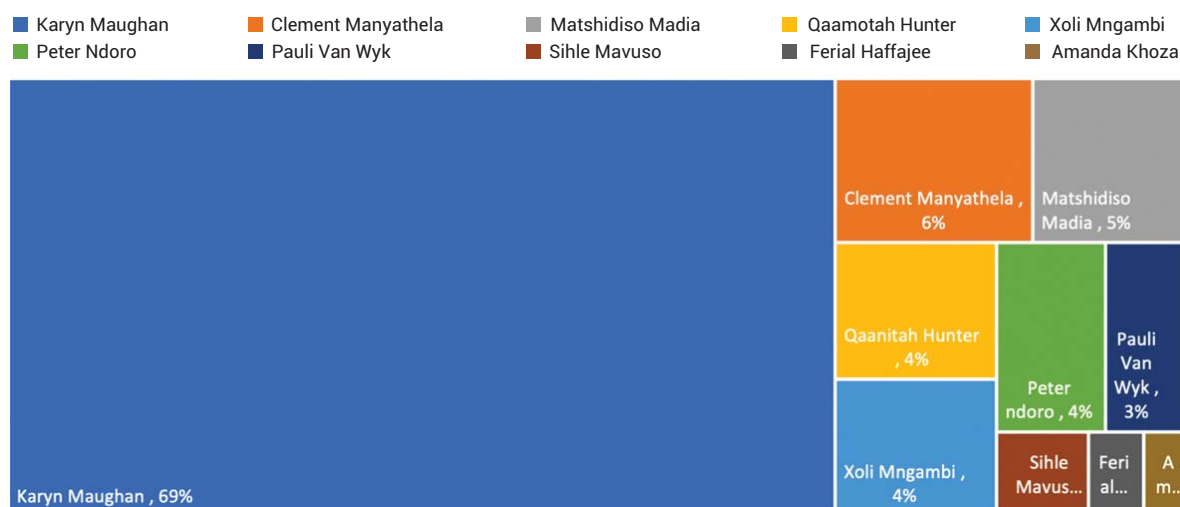


The case of these three journalists was highlighted in the study by the ICFJ, which describes how these women have been *The women journalists of South Africa's Daily*

*Maverick: - Sexualised, Silenced and Labelled 'Satan'.*<sup>6</sup> For Pauli van Wyk, this has involved threats of having her throat slit, being raped, being necklaced, and "shot in the pussy". She has endured demonisation by EFF party leader, Julius Malema, who called her "Satan" on Twitter(X) and torrents of abuse from EFF supporters.

Media Monitoring Africa recorded a total of 1 025 online attacks against journalists during the election period. This was an increase from the 793 attacks recorded in the interim report results, showing that attacks against journalists continued after the results had been declared.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 3: Attacks on journalists: Top ten journalists attacked online



Source: MMA 2024.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists  
<sup>6</sup> The women journalists of South Africa's Daily Maverick: - Sexualised, Silenced and Labelled 'Satan'.  
<sup>7</sup> Media Monitoring Africa, Media Performance: National and Provincial Elections 2024, July 2024  
<sup>8</sup> Media Monitoring Africa 2024 Media Performance Review Interim Report



Figure 3 shows that women constitute six of the top ten journalists who received threats, with Karyn Maughan receiving the bulk of the abuse. Attacks are generally personal, racialised

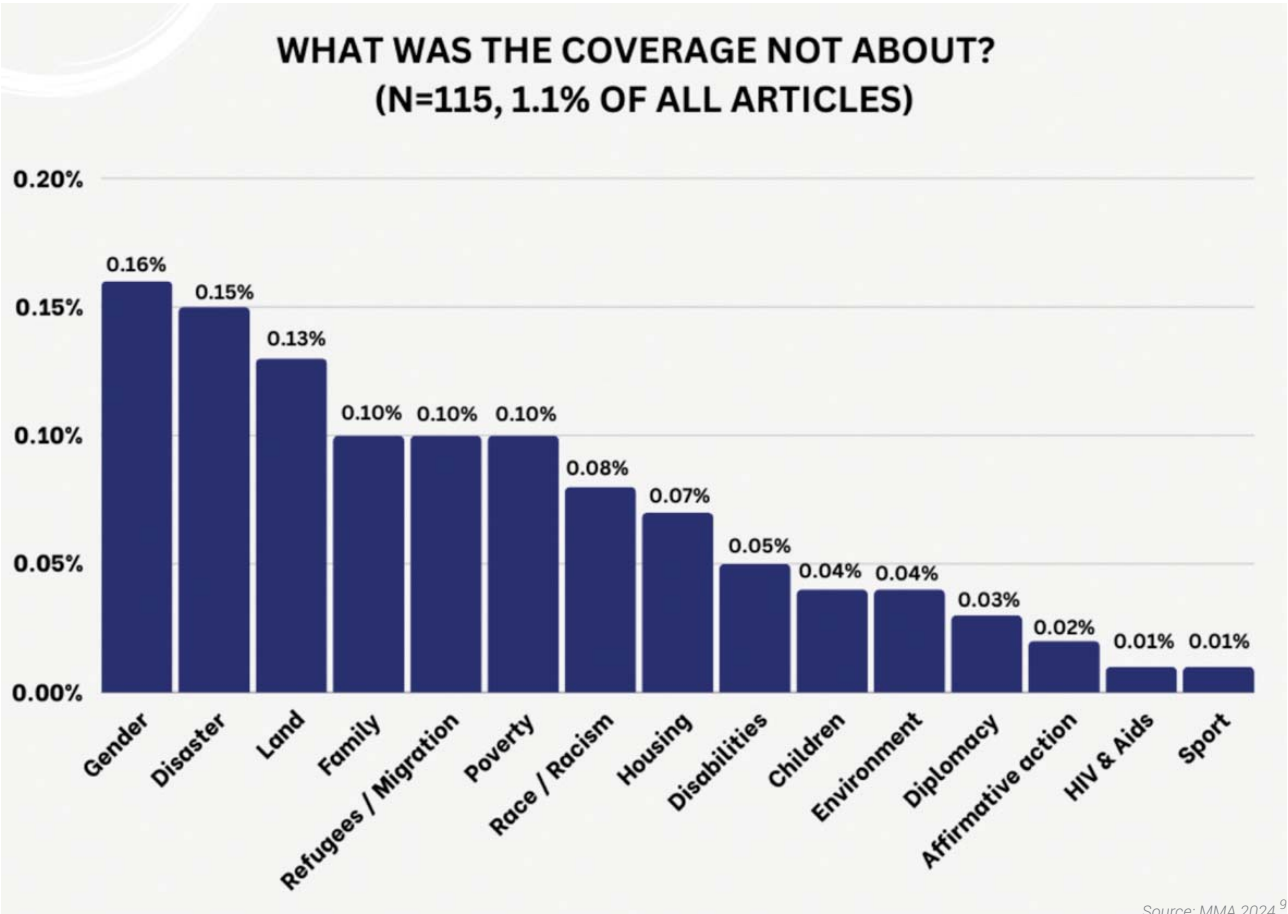
and the use of profanity is widespread. Most of the reports of the attacks originate from Twitter/X.

## Gender content

According to MMAs monitoring, the top five topics covered included Election logistics (19%), party campaigning (19%), political party politics (18%), Political party manifestos (10%) and

justice system (8%). These topics represent 45% of all topics covered. Key issues affecting citizens including climate justice, human rights and gender barely featured.

Figure 4: Topics that received less than 1% of elections coverage



The graph illustrates the significant absence of media coverage on crucial election topics. There is a glaring lack of analysis on important issues such as gender, children, climate change, and

human rights, all of which received less than 1% of media attention. Issues on gender were covered in some media.

<sup>9</sup> MPR Interim Report

## Television and Radio

Channels like SABC and eNCA hosted debates and talk shows where gender issues were a significant part of the discussions. Female candidates and activists were invited to share their perspectives, and audience members were encouraged to ask questions related to gender equality.

For example SABC's Dibeela Mothupi shone the spotlight on gender equality in politics and Salaamedia interviewed Nana Nxumalo Special Envoy for Limpopo Peace Room about the Women's Election Mechanism for Peace (WEMP) to promote peaceful and inclusive elections in South Africa.

## Print and Online Newspapers

Newspapers such as News24, Daily Maverick, and Mail & Guardian published in-depth articles, op-eds, and interviews focusing on gender issues. These pieces provided analysis and commentary on the gender dynamics of the election and the policies and manifestos proposed by various parties.

The Daily Maverick for example covered new areas such as the intersection of gendered violence and corruption in an election year; a critique of how manifestos are tackling GBV

and profiling young leaders in the Under 45's Club.

Newzroom Afrika included a segment on the Women's Election Mechanism for Peace (WEMP) with Prof. Margaret Hendricks who explained what the mechanism is and what they had found in their observations. Despatch LIVE also covered the peace mechanism in their piece - *Joint effort to ensure women's rights are protected during elections*.

## Political parties

Political parties are the entry point for aspiring politicians and form the foundation of democracy. They hold immense influence and power over decision-making. As such, party structures and systems play an essential role in increasing women's political representation for several reasons.

Political parties can create mechanisms such as quotas, training programs, and mentorship opportunities that support women in running for and holding office. Parties can serve as a platform for mobilising support for women candidates and ensuring their visibility in the political arena. Party endorsements and resources can help women overcome barriers such as fundraising challenges and lack of name recognition.

Crucially, political parties influence candidates' selection and nomination processes, in the PR

electoral system used in South Africa this is evidenced by where women are placed on the party lists. If political parties apply the zebra list system, which alternates women and men on the list, it guarantees women secure positions. By promoting gender balance in candidate recruitment and selection, parties can help improve the overall diversity and representation within the political system.

Beyond the representation of women, parties have the power to shape policy agendas and priorities and can advocate for issues that are important to women. By including more women in leadership positions and decision-making roles, parties can ensure that women's perspectives and interests are considered in the policymaking process. One way they can do this is through their party constitutions and manifestos.



There were 381 registered political parties for the 2024 NPE elections, the most since 1994. This indicates the discontent citizens are feeling with the ruling party. Only 18 political parties

made it into the National Assembly (NA) and 19 to the provincial legislature. Only one elected political party is led by a woman.

## Gender analysis of political party manifestos

A political party manifesto declares the party's principles, values, goals, and policies that guide their actions and decisions. It outlines the party's stance on various issues, such as economy, education, healthcare, environment, foreign policy, and social issues, and serves as a roadmap for what the party intends to achieve if elected into power.

A review of party manifestos demonstrates varying levels of commitment to gender equality.

GL conducted a gender audit of party manifestos to assess parties on their gender commitment across eight indicators:

- Quota for women's political participation
- Gender as a standalone issue
- Gender mainstreamed across the manifesto
- Commitment to LGBTI+ and diversity issues
- Addressing gender-based violence (GBV)
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Laws and policies
- Economic empowerment

Table 4: Assessment of gender in top five party manifestos

Party	Quota for women's political participation	Gender as standalone issue in the manifesto	Gender mainstreamed in all areas of the manifesto	LGBTI+ and diversity	GBVF	SRHR	Law, policy & practise	Economic Empowerment
ANC	Not in Manifesto but Rule 6 of their constitution covers this - 50% quota	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
DA	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
EFF	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MKP	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
IFP	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No

Source: Gender Links.

Table 4 shows how the top five political parties have addressed gender issues in their Manifestos. All parties mention GBVF as a crucial issue to tackle, which is encouraging, given the high levels of GBVF in the country.

The EFF has the most comprehensive proposals to address gender inequality in the country. One chapter of the manifesto is dedicated to women and gender with commitments across eight key areas, including equal representation, economic empowerment and care work, GBVF,

SRHR, Sex work, laws, policy and practice, gender education and awareness, and family rights. The manifesto also contains a chapter on the LGBTQI community.

The ANC's Manifesto has specific proposals to address GBVF and promote economic and human rights for all. The party also commits to mainstreaming gender equality and the needs of people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQI community into all facets of planning, budgeting, monitoring, and accounting, including

performance indicators and targeting government programmes. While their Manifesto does not explicitly mention quotas for women's political participation, this is included in their constitution and implied by their application of the zebra list system.

The other three of the top five parties' proposals only address GBVF and do not address broader gender and women's rights issues. A detailed analysis of the manifestos is included in Annex A.

## Quotas and party lists

There is no legislated quota mandating political parties to ensure gender parity in the party leadership and national and provincial candidate

lists. However, two parties, the ANC and EFF, have explicitly called for or committed to gender parity on their lists.

Table 5: National and Regional lists per party by sex

Political Party	Quota policy	NPE NA list		NPE regional	
		Female	Male	Female	Male
African National Congress	Voluntary 'zebra stripe' system in place	52%	48%	50%	49%
Economic Freedom Fighters	Voluntary 'zebra stripe' system in place	48%	52%	51%	49%
United Democratic Movement	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	45%	55%	28%	72%
Rise Mzansi	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	44%	56%	39%	61%
Inkatha Freedom Party	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	42%	58%	23%	79%
Build One South Africa	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	39%	61%	33%	67%
GOOD	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	37%	63%	33%	67%
Democratic Alliance	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	37%	63%	27%	73%
African Christian Democratic Party	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	36%	64%	39%	61%
Patriotic Alliance	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	35%	65%	45%	55%
Umkhonto Wesizwe Party	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	30%	70%	33%	67%
Congress Of The People	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	24%	76%	33%	67%
Vryheidsfront Plus	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	21%	79%	27%	73%
ActionSA	No voluntary quota, does not support a legislated quota	17%	83%	21%	79%
<b>AVERAGE ALL</b>		<b>39%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>

0%

1-20%

21-39%

40-49%

50+

Table 5 shows that women constitute less than 40% of candidates on both the party national and regional candidate lists of 14 political parties. It shows mixed results across parties; representation ranges from 17% to 52% on national lists and 21% to 51% on regional lists. The overall female-to-male split is 39%:61% on the national list and 36%:64% on the regional list.

The **ANC** has respected and exceeded parity, with 52% and 50% of candidates on the national and regional lists being women.

The **EFF** also applied the zebra list and has achieved close to parity on the regional list and just below (48%) on the national list.

Four parties are in the range of 40-49% women and the remaining nine range from 17% to 39%.

The poorest performers, those with less than 30% women on their lists, are the political parties with more conservative ideologies. This suggests that when left to the will of the party, there are mixed results. On the other hand, it highlights that with deliberate efforts and the implementation of policies aimed at achieving gender parity, significant progress can be made in increasing the representation of women in these parties.

## Women in political party leadership

**GOOD** is the only political party with a **woman leader**. Patricia de Lille is a veteran politician with liberation movement credentials who first came to Parliament in 1994 under the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania ticket. Before forming **GOOD** in 2017, De Lille led a party called the Independent Democrats and served as the Mayor of Cape Town.

Even though the **DA**, opposes quotas they are one of the very few political parties that have had a female leader. Under Hellen Zille's leadership, the **DA** got 22% of the vote in the 2014 elections. Zille opted not to go to the

National Assembly but continued as Western Cape Premier, the post she held from 2009 to 2019. Two men have since led the **DA** and there are no women in the top five. These examples go to show that even in one of Africa's most progressive democracies, women's leadership of political parties remains rare.

Our analysis of the **top 5** on 14 parties' lists shows that women constitute just 31%. **BOSA** is the only political party that has achieved and exceeded parity in the top five, with three women (60%). The **DA** is the only party with no women in the top 5.

## Women's representation in parliament

### National Assembly/Lower House

The 400 seats in the National Assembly (NA) are now split between national and regional - 200 seats are reserved for the National list (contested only by political parties), and the remaining 200 seats are divided up among

the nine regions (provinces), contested by parties and independent candidates). Women's representation in the NA declined by three percentage points from 46% in 2019 to 43% in the 2024 elections.

Figure 5: Women in the National Assembly 1994-2024

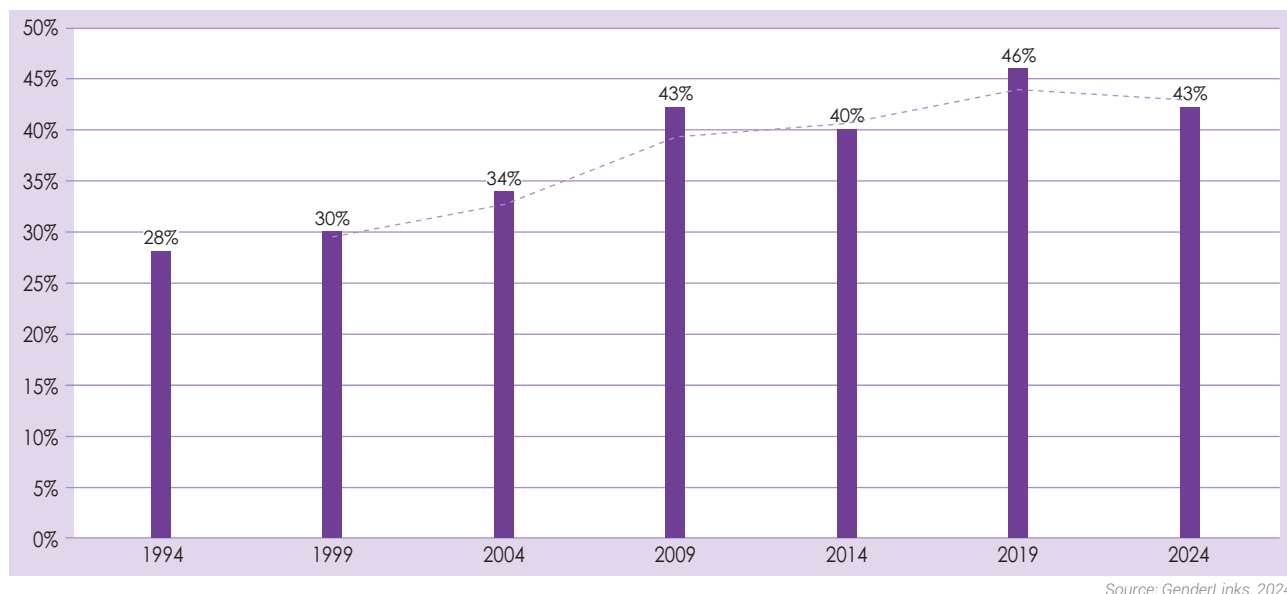
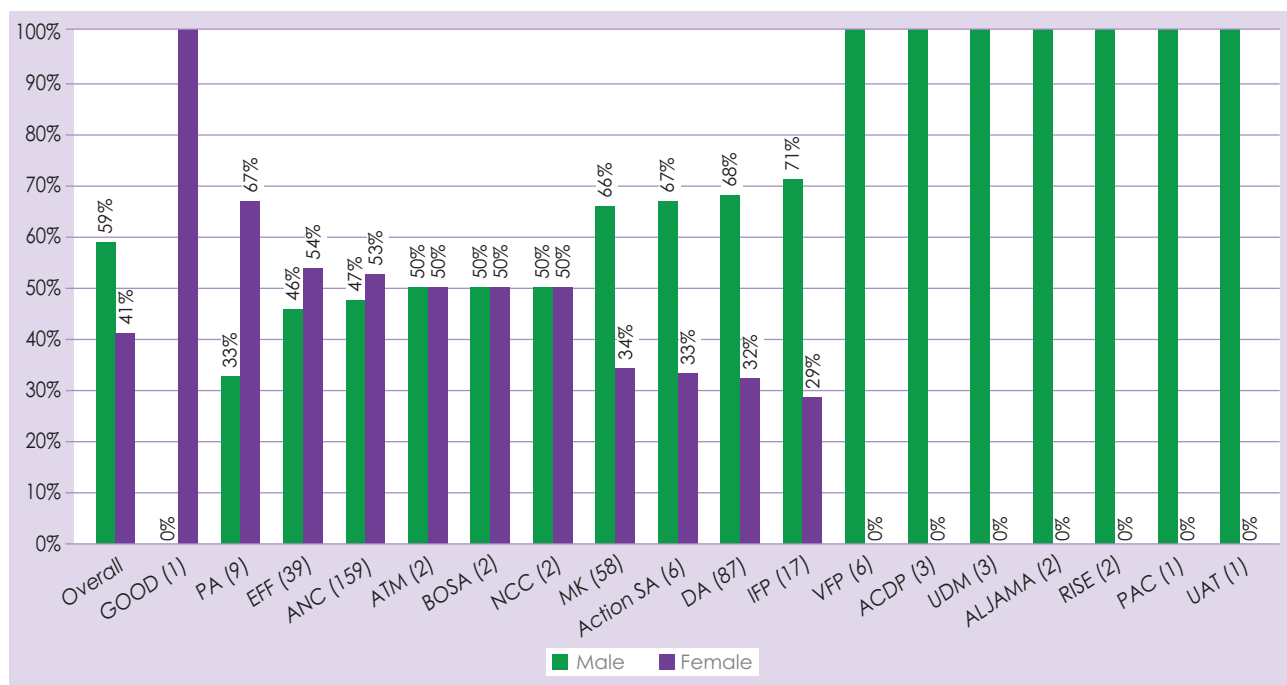


Figure 5 shows that the 2024 election results signalled a regression of the country's progress by 15 years. Specifically, in 2009, there was significant advancement in women's

representation, with figures reaching 43%. However, this progress was followed by a decline, as women's representation dropped to 40% by 2014.

Figure 6: Female and Male MPs by political party (number of seats)



Women now comprise the majority of the ANC and EFF parliamentarians at 53% and 54% respectively. Surprisingly the PA has six women out of nine members of the NA.

Five smaller parties have 50% or more women. These include Patricia de Lille's GOOD Party (which won just one seat, a woman), Build One South Africa (BOSA), the African Transformation Movement (ATM). Other more conservative parties have not observed the principle of equality. In particular, the DA and Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MKP) have 32% and 34% women, respectively. The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has just 29% women in parliament. Six small parties, with one to three seats, have no women at all.

This worrying drop can be partly attributed to the ANC losing its long-held majority. As only one of two political parties that have consistently applied some form of quota, they have had the highest proportion and number of women on their list. The loss of their majority and 71 seats in parliament mean that, if the zebra lists were applied, there are 35 fewer women in parliament.

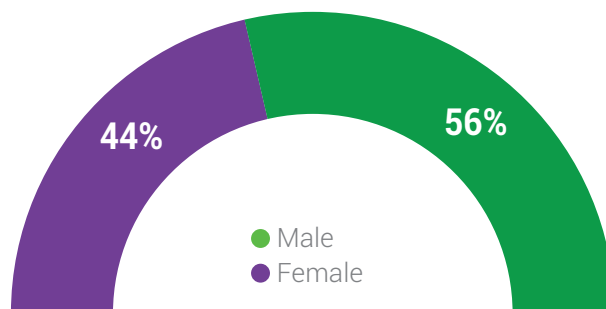
## The National Council of Provinces (NCOP)/Upper House

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) is comprised of ten representatives from each province, resulting in a total of 90 members. The ten members from each province are broken down as follows:

- Six permanent members from each province selected from party lists resulting in a total of 54 members.
- The premier from each province.
- Three additional special members selected on the basis of expertise.

Figure 7 shows that 44% of the permanent members of the NCOP are women. This is the only level at which women's representation has increased, by eight percentage points, since 2019.

Figure 7: Permanent members of the NCOP by sex



## Independent candidates

Despite the change in the electoral system to allow independent candidates to contest elections, only six contested, and only two were women. None of the six independent candidates won a seat in parliament. Chantal Revel, who

challenged the Electoral Act in the Constitutional Court, did not run for office despite her mark in history as an Indigenous woman who changed South Africa's electoral system.

## Provincial Legislatures

One of the largest declines took place at the provincial legislature level.



Figure 8: Women's representation in Provincial legislatures by elected political parties



Source: Gender Links 2024.

Figure 8 shows women’s representation in provincial legislatures. Women comprise just 38% of MPL. Two parties, which only have one seat, Rise Mzansi and BOSA have women in those seats, while the other eight parties with just one seat have men in those seats. No other party achieved parity in this area.

Table 6 shows the representation of women in provincial legislatures by province in 2019 and 2024. There has been an eight percentage point decline in women MPLs. The Western Cape, governed by the DA, and KZN, generally a traditional and conservative stronghold, and which do not apply any quota, have the lowest proportion of women.

Table 6: Women's representation in Provincial legislatures

Provinces	%W overall 2019	%W overall 2024
Northern Cape	52%	47%
North West	41%	43%
Eastern Cape	48%	42%
Free State	47%	37%
Mpumalanga	47%	41%
Gauteng	47%	40%
Limpopo	47%	39%
Western Cape	40%	31%
KwaZulu Natal	43%	30%
Proportion women overall	46%	38% (-8%)

Source: Gender Links, 2024.

## Top leadership

### Cabinet

The President appoints the deputy president, ministers, and deputy ministers, assigns their powers and functions, and may dismiss them.

Typically, where one party has a complete majority, the President can appoint ministers solely from their own party.

The results of the 2024 elections have necessitated that the ruling party work together, with negotiations in which parties of the GNU jockeyed for key cabinet posts, taking more than a week. The new Cabinet includes members from five of the GNU members.

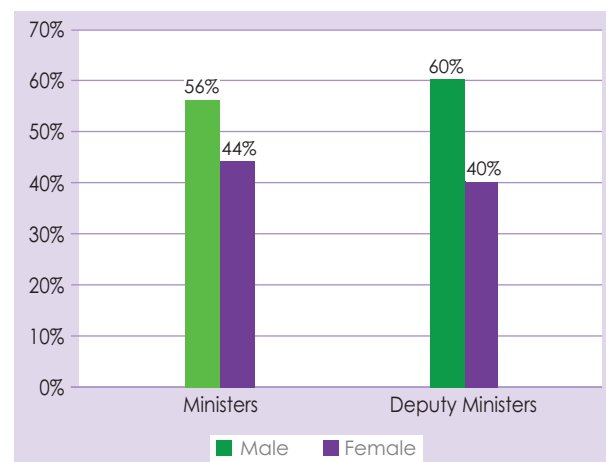
The enlarged cabinet now has 32 Ministers (18 men and 14 women) and 43 Deputy Ministers (26 men and 17 women).

Figure 9 shows that women constitute 44% of ministers and 40% of deputy ministers, both of which have declined since 2019. In the last Cabinet, President Ramaphosa appointed equal numbers of women and men to Cabinet posts.

This time around it was not solely at the discretion of the GNU President, as the other

parties had to be considered. Following lengthy negotiations, a large cabinet was announced, so as to accommodate members of the GNU.

Figure 9: South Africa Cabinet



Source: GenderLinks, 2024.

Table 7: Cabinet positions by political party

Party	Seats won	Ministers			Deputy ministers			Full cabinet		
		Total	Female	% Female	Total	Female	% Female	Total	Female	% Female
ANC	159	20	12	60%	34	14	41%	54	26	48%
DA	87	6	1	17%	5	3	60%	11	4	36%
IFP	17	2	0	0%	2	0	0%	4	0	0%
PA	9	1	0	0%	0	-	-	1	0	0%
FF+	6	1	0	0%	0	-	-	1	0	0%
UDM	3	-	-	-	1	-	0%	1	0	0%
Rise	2	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Aljama	2	-	-	-	1	-	0%	-	-	-
PAC	1	1	0	0%	0	-	-	1	0	0%
Good	1	1	1	100%	0	-	-	1	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41%</b>

Source: Gender Links.

Table 7 shows that the ANC hold the bulk of ministerial and deputy minister positions, they hold 54 of the 75 positions in cabinet. Six of the none other parties to the GNU hold at least one position. The DA holds 11 positions, while IFP has four positions.

The ANC has more female ministers and fewer deputy ministers, while the DA is the reverse. The IFP have no female ministers or deputy ministers.



Party Agents at a voting station, South Africa.

Photo: Gender Links

Table 8: Ministries by cluster and Minister's political party

Finance, economic, planning and development		Foreign, justice, defence, security, governance		Resources and infrastructure		Social protection and human development	
Agriculture	DA	<b>Justice and Constitutional Development</b>	ANC	Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	DA	Health	ANC
<b>Employment and Labour</b>	ANC	Correctional Services	FF+	Mineral and Petroleum Resources	ANC	<b>Higher Education</b>	ANC
Finance	ANC	Police	ANC	Land Reform and Rural Development	ANC	Basic Education	DA
Small Business Development	ANC	International Relations and Cooperation	ANC	Electricity and Energy	ANC	<b>Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities</b>	ANC
Science, Technology and Innovation	ANC	Public Service and Administration	IFP	<b>Transport</b>	ANC	Tourism	GOOD
<b>Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	ANC	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	IFP	<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	ANC	<b>Social Development</b>	ANC
Trade, Industry and Competition	ANC	Home Affairs	DA	Communications and Digital Technologies	DA	Sport, Arts and Culture is Gayton McKenzie.	PA
		The Presidency	ANC	Public Works and Infrastructure	DA	Human Settlements	ANC

Source: Gender Links.

Gender balance - male/female minister/deputy minister - **bold is woman minister**

Male minister and deputy minister

Female minister and deputy minister

Table 8 shows the 32 Ministries in four clusters, with the political party of the Minister. In 19 of the ministries, the President appointed a female minister and male deputy minister or vice versa. These ministries are shaded in green in the table; and the bold text indicates that the Minister is a woman. Blue highlight shows ministries where both minister and deputy are men and pink shows ministries that have a female minister and deputy. It shows that women dominate in the social protection and human development cluster, while men dominate in the other clusters

Continuing with a growing tradition in South Africa of women being appointed to non-traditional posts, the Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Development and Defence and Military Veterans have women ministers. Both of the ministries have a male DM.

However, key ministries such as Public Works and Infrastructure; Science and Technology and Innovation and Finance are in the hands of male ministers, as well as having male DMs.

The infusion of young blood is the most encouraging aspect of the new cabinet. The average age of South Africa's new cabinet is down by seven years, from 61 to 54.<sup>10</sup> Of the 32 Ministers, six are 40 years old or younger.<sup>11</sup> Of these, five are from the DA, the other is from the ANC. Including young people in important ministries, especially ones that directly impact them, is long overdue and is essential to bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to the government, reflecting the diverse needs and interests of younger generations in society. Appointing young cabinet ministers can help empower and inspire other young people to get involved in politics and public service. Only one new cabinet member is over 70 years old, whereas five of the last cabinet were in their seventies.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.biznews.com/leadership/2024/07/02/sas-2024-cabinet-average-age-drops-from-61-to-54-four-thirty-somethings-to-run-ministries>

<sup>11</sup> <https://techcentral.co.za/whos-who-in-south-africas-new-cabinet/247108/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.biznews.com/leadership/2024/07/02/sas-2024-cabinet-average-age-drops-from-61-to-54-four-thirty-somethings-to-run-ministries>

At 34, the DA's Siviwe Gwaruba is the youngest minister, surpassing the record previously held by the ANC's Ronald Lamola, who became a minister at 35. She takes over the beleaguered Ministry of Basic Education from Angie Motshekga who held the post for 15 years. The position holds significant power with the largest budget and high visibility and many consider this to be one of the most difficult roles in the new administration. The minister will have to address the myriad challenges in the education system, including poor reading ability, literacy and numeracy skills, deaths in pit toilets, violence and overcrowded classrooms and a growing dropout rate.

Before assuming her new role, Gwarube had served as the DA's chief whip in the National Assembly where she displayed her strong leadership and strategic skills. Throughout her political career within the DA, she has held several key positions, including deputy chief whip, national spokesperson, and shadow minister of health. Gwarube told the Daily Maverick that "It's high time young South Africans start to see themselves represented in the people that lead them. I do not think it's a weakness; I think it's an absolute maturing of our democracy that we are realising young people have a voice and they must be represented in who leads them."<sup>13</sup>

## Speaker

The Speaker is the principal office bearer and acts as representative, spokesperson and chief executive officer for Parliament. They preside over the sittings of the House and maintain the rules and order. During sittings, the Speaker's official role is to moderate debate, make rulings on procedure, announce the results of votes, decides who may speak and has the powers to discipline members who break the procedures of the house.

Women speakers have the opportunity to shape their parliaments, both in the way they operate and in their outputs. They can enhance parliaments' role in overseeing the work of government in the area of gender equality, provide space for effective women's parliamentary caucuses, and foster partnerships between men and women parliamentarians in effecting legal and institutional reforms on gender equality. They also serve as role models for fellow women who aspire to top decision-making positions.

The Speaker of the National Assembly is elected to and removed from office in terms of S52 of

the Constitution. The House must elect the Speaker from its members during the first House sitting. The South African parliament has a history of female speakers since 1994, five of the six speakers in the NA have been women. In the new administration, both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are women. Speaker Angela Thoko Didiza is a veteran ANC politician and minister who has held significant positions in parliament since 2006. The Deputy Speaker Annelie Lotriet is from the DA, she previously served as the Shadow Minister of Higher Education and was elected as DA's Deputy Chief Whip.

As part of the GNU, this will be the first time in South Africa's democracy that a Speaker and Deputy speaker are from different political parties. They have the important task of unifying parliament and modelling cooperation between political parties in the GNU. This presents a unique opportunity to ensure a more impartial and balanced approach in running the proceedings of parliament, which can help in fostering trust and confidence among all political parties and members of parliament.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-07-04-the-myrriad-challenges-of-south-africas-youngest-cabinet-minister-siviwe-gwarube/>

## Premiers and speakers at the provincial level

Table 9: Women Premiers and Speakers by provinces

Provinces	Premiers	Speakers
Eastern Cape	Male	Female
Free State	Female	Male
Gauteng	Male	Female
KwaZulu Natal	Male	Female
Limpopo	Female	Female
Mpumalanga	Male	Female
Northern Cape	Male	Female
North West	Male	Female
Western Cape	Male	Male

Source: Gender Links, 2024.

Table 11 shows that the majority of Premiers are men, just two premiers being woman in the Free State with a male speaker and Limpopo where the speaker is also a woman. To compensate for the predominance of male premieres, in almost all provinces there is a female speaker, the only The Western Cape, which is run by the DA is the only province where both the premiers and speaker are men.

## Civil society - Women using their collective voices

Following the announcement of the results of the election and formation of the GNU a high powered group of individual women and women's organisations from across South Africa convened to discuss concerns about the increased tensions in society pre and post-elections, the lack of a focus on the issues that concern women throughout the campaigning of political parties, and the decrease in women's representation in national and provincial government.

In their Submission to Represented Political Parties on the Outcome of the Elections and Future Governance in South Africa, they call on political parties to "ensure women's equal, effective, transformative participation in all structures and processes" in the ensuing negotiations (for the GNU).

They reminded elected officials that the election results reflect the will of the people and as the majority of voters, women in particular, have provided a mandate for the sharing of power. Their statements reads: "As women we now raise our voices during this watershed moment in the life of our country, to state that we see

the election result as an opportunity to reset and rejuvenate governance in alignment with the South African Constitution, which is premised on human rights, gender equality, democracy, transparency and the peaceful resolution of conflict."

South African women have demonstrated a rich history of working across parties, such as the Women's National Coalition in the run-up to the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. Thirty years down the line women are recommitting to shaping the nature of democracy in our country. The statement calls on "political parties to exercise the necessary maturity and vision to collectively lead our nation to peace, stability and prosperity for all."

The collective supports the call to convene a Multi-stakeholder National Dialogue in the first quarter of the 7th Administration in 2024 as a constructive way of pulling the country together, collectively developing strategies to deal with South Africa's socio-economic and social cohesion challenges, and for ensuring that peace and stability.



The statement concludes that: “their task is to hold those in power accountable for their decisions and omissions, and to organise

ourselves into a women's movement that can support the continued pursuit of gender equality and human security for all.”<sup>14</sup>

## Conclusions

The results of the 2024 elections show that increasing women's representation and sustaining progress is challenging. While South Africa has shown good progress over the last thirty years since the first democratic elections in 1994, the representation of women in all areas of political decision-making remains in the 40-45% range, short of the 50% target.

Women's representation decreased in all but one of the decision-making levels we measured in this report, since 2019. This illustrates that the path to equal representation of women is not necessarily an upward trajectory. Several factors contribute to this, including political party policies on quotas and equal representation; tradition and patriarchy, especially in conservative parties. The 2024

elections have shown when left to the will of political parties, women's representation is likely to decrease when parties with quotas lose a significant number of seats.

The media still has a long way to go to ensure that their media coverage is representative of the views of the majority of the population and voters.

These results show that small gains cannot be taken for granted. Civil society, especially women's rights and feminist organisations and movements have an essential role in collectively holding the new GNU and political parties to account for and guaranteeing that gender equality and women's rights are not eroded.

## Recommendations

South Africa is a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development adopted by Heads of State in August 2008 and updated in June 2016. The Protocol commits SADC member states to a target of 50% women in all areas of decision-making by 2030. The 50% target is in line with African Union targets. South Africa has one election to achieve gender parity in all levels of government.

In their submission to represented political parties on the outcome of the elections and future governance in South Africa, women of South Africa demanded that the new government:

- Ensures that party coalition building and the representatives that they deploy be based on

the values, principles, behaviour and ethical considerations upon which South Africa's democracy is founded.

- Ensures that the incumbents of the next administration are competent, selected on merit, and inclusive of women and youth in strategic positions.
- Ensures that the socio-economic conditions raised in political manifestos are subjected to a rigorous gender- and conflict-sensitive lens and is addressed.
- Ensures that the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide and the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security are implemented and the Basic Income Grant Adopted.
- Commits to the equal representation of women in all their diversity in the National Assembly, Cabinet and the Presidency, regardless of the coalition formation.

<sup>14</sup> Submission to Represented Political Parties on the Outcome of the Elections and Future Governance in South Africa

## GOVERNMENT

**Implement gender quotas:** Gender parity cannot be left to voluntary party quotas: As this report shows, when quotas are left up to political parties alone, regression is possible, especially when more conservative parties that don't apply equality principles win more seats. There is a need to push for a legislated 50/50 quota. GNU parties should commit to gender equality in elected and appointed positions. If the main parties do not improve their performance there could be a further decline in coming elections.

**Beyond the numbers to gender-responsive governance:** Overall the Political parties' Manifestos see gender in a narrow way, most of their 'promises' just focus on ending GBV. The EFF is the only party that addresses gender in an intersectional manner in their manifesto. South Africa has myriad policies that show their commitment to achieving equality and ending GBV societies, however, implementation is lacking. The GNU should prioritise updating and implementing policies that address gender issues in an intersectional way - it needs to move from talking to action.

**Support women in leadership roles:** Provide support and resources for women in leadership roles, encouraging more women to take on positions of power and influence in politics.

**Invest in programs that provide women with access to education and training** in political leadership, empowering them to participate more actively in political processes.

**Conduct awareness campaigns:** To raise awareness about the importance of women's empowerment and participation in political decision-making. This can help change societal attitudes and norms that may hinder women from participating in politics.

**Gender mainstreaming in policies and programs:** Mainstream gender in all policies and programs, ensuring that women's perspectives and needs are considered in decision-making processes.

**Work with and support women's rights organisations (WROs):** Civil society and WROs play several roles, in particular to hold government accountable to their commitments. Civil society serves as a vital link between citizens and the government, helping to bridge gaps, amplify voices, and drive positive social change. The government can support and promote women's participation in civil society organisations, giving them a platform to voice their opinions and advocate for gender equality in political decision-making.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND ALLIANCES

**Monitoring and accountability:** More systematic monitoring of government actions and holding officials accountable for their decisions and policies.

**Work closely with government:** While civil society play a critical watchdog role, they all have an important role to play in working with government to provide capacity building and gender expertise and finding solutions to the lack of implementation of policies.

**Advocacy with range of stakeholders:** Politics continues to be a male dominated space, rife with stereotypes. Societal attitudes and norms hinder women from participating in politics.

Advocacy and raising awareness about the importance of women's rights, empowerment and participation in political decision-making with stakeholders including government, political parties, media, communities and traditional leaders is critical.

**Capacity building:** Build the capacity of communities, empowering individuals to participate in decision-making processes and take control of their own development.

**Policy development:** Contribute to the development of policies and laws by providing expertise, research, and recommendations to government bodies.

## MEDIA

### Increase representation of women in the media:

This can involve hiring more women journalists, editors, and producers, as well as actively seeking out female experts and commentators to contribute to election coverage.

### Report on issues that directly affect women:

Highlight issues that disproportionately affect women, and consider how manifestos and policies impact women specifically. For example, reproductive rights, financial inclusion, pay equity, and access to healthcare, as well as considering how female voters may be influenced by different factors than male voters.

**Include women's perspectives:** When covering elections, the media should make an effort to include diverse perspectives, including those of women. This can involve seeking out women who have unique insights or experiences related

to the election, as well as actively seeking out female voices to balance coverage.

**Challenge gender stereotypes:** The media should be cognisant of gender stereotypes and biases when covering elections and actively work to challenge them. This can involve avoiding language or framing that reinforces traditional gender roles, as well as actively seeking out and amplifying stories that showcase women in positions of power and influence.

### Promote gender equality in political coverage:

The media should strive to give equal coverage to female candidates and politicians as their male counterparts. For example highlighting the achievements and accomplishments of women in politics, as well as ensuring that female candidates are given a fair platform to present their ideas and policies.

# ANNEX A: Analysis of political party manifestos

PARTY	GENDER SPECIFIC REFERENCES	GENDER MAINSTREAMED
ANC	<p><b>TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBV), THE ANC WILL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.</li> <li>• Expand victim support services, like the Thuthuzela Centres and GBV desks in police stations.</li> <li>• Undertake public campaigns against toxic masculinity, sexism and homophobia.</li> <li>• Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.</li> <li>• Promote adherence, working with trade unions and businesses, to ILO Convention 190 to eradicate violence and harassment in the workplace.</li> </ul> <p><b>Human rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and defend the rights of all South Africans against racism, sexism, gender-based violence, homophobia, discrimination and other intolerances.</li> <li>• Advance the rights and dignity of children, youth, older persons, persons with disability and members of the LGBTQI community, and continue the fight for women's emancipation and a truly non-sexist society.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase support for small enterprises, entrepreneurs and cooperatives, especially in townships and villages, providing additional one million work opportunities, with set-asides for women, youth and persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Continue to promote and monitor employment equity to ensure that black people, women and persons with disabilities are represented in the public and private sectors, in the professions and artisanal sectors towards the growth of a vibrant, non-racial and non-sexist middle stratum, critical to national development.</li> <li>• Address the gender pay gap and ensure equal opportunities for all.</li> <li>• Support at least 2000 black industrialists, especially women, persons with disability and young people.</li> <li>• Strengthen youth health services, including access to sanitary towels for girls and young women, including making them available in schools, universities and other public spaces.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.anc1912.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ANC-2024-Elections-Manifesto.pdf">https://www.anc1912.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ANC-2024-Elections-Manifesto.pdf</a></p>	<p>Mainstream gender equality and the needs of people with disability and members of the LGBTQI community, into all facets of planning, budgeting, monitoring and accounting, including performance indicators and targets in government programmes.</p>
DA	<p>Apex priority: Halve the rate of violent crime, including murder, attempted murder, and gender-based violence.</p> <p>The fight against the scourge of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) will be a priority of a DA government. The DA will combat GBV by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training staff at police stations for GBV-specific services so that victims receive justice whilst their dignity is maintained.</li> </ul>	

PARTY	GENDER SPECIFIC REFERENCES	GENDER MAINSTREAMED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that healthcare facilities and staff are equipped and trained to use the necessary screening tools to identify GBV cases, report them to the SAPS, and support victims.</li> <li>• Ensuring that survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) can easily access the help they need. This includes the provision of healthcare, legal services, safe houses and dignity kits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants and support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending the child grant to cover pregnant mothers to support child nutrition goals.</li> <li>• Women and their unborn children are at heightened vulnerability during pregnancy. They are, therefore, in need of nutritious foods as well as other health care services.</li> <li>• Streamlining disability-specific grants by creating a system to screen applicants at the beginning of the process to identify those who do not qualify. This will reduce the burden on the main assessment. Making it faster for people with disabilities to get medical assessments required for accessing disability grants by allowing private doctors to do the checks.</li> <li>• Effectively targeting vulnerable groups for protection during food price shocks.</li> <li>• Ensuring there are sufficient social workers who can access the necessary resources to conduct their work and improve remuneration packages to make the profession more attractive.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://cdn.da.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/16143750/DA-Election-Manifesto-2024.pdf">https://cdn.da.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/16143750/DA-Election-Manifesto-2024.pdf</a></p>	
EFF	<p>The Manifesto is the most comprehensive in covering gender issues. The manifesto has a full chapter on gender and women with 52 commitments related to addressing gender and women's issues, across all sectors, women representation; gender education and training at school, work, within the family, church, in the legislative, justice, executive, and civil society.</p> <p><b>Economic empowerment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will strive to realise women's liberation through a variety of interventions, with the starting point being to prioritise women in economic emancipation benefits.</li> <li>• Create more employment opportunities for women.</li> <li>• Improve government support for early childhood development centres to allow women to return to work.</li> <li>• Provide incentives to businesses and industries that provide childcare at work, a service accessible for both mothers and fathers.</li> <li>• Provide incentives for care work by paying and protecting those in the care economy more.</li> <li>• Introduce a special inspectorate in the Department of Labour to monitor, report on, and enforce gender parity and equality in the workplace. jobs-for-sex, and gender-based violence in the workplace.</li> <li>• Comprehensive research project aimed at recognising work performed by women in the household as formal labour, which contributes to the national economy, GDP, and the formal tax system.</li> </ul>	



PARTY	GENDER SPECIFIC REFERENCES	GENDER MAINSTREAMED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a 40% preferential procurement plan for women-owned businesses.</li> <li>• Integrate economic emancipation programmes with psychosocial services.</li> </ul> <p><b>GBVF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a unit within policing and social development to efficiently respond to GBVF cases,</li> <li>• Protection, and Sexual Offences units (FCS) to every police station.</li> <li>• Implement a new mechanism for reporting gender-based violence.</li> <li>• Develop prevention strategies which will address the root causes of violence against women.</li> <li>• Promote accountability in the SAPS with respect to rape investigations and intimate partner violence cases</li> <li>• Adopt strategies aimed at capacitating the police, ensuring that the police are</li> <li>• The EFF government will empower community-based crime prevention and policing forums to curb the scourge of GBV and femicide and prevention.</li> <li>• Establish a unit within the police that will work with social development and justice, to provide a safe space for victims and to pursue justice without fearing for their lives.</li> <li>• Employ and empower more police and decentralise all FCS units to be allocated in each police to ensure successful prosecution and secure the harshest conviction for each GBVF crime.</li> <li>• Strengthen and resource Forensic laboratories for the provision of quicker and more efficient DNA testing for GBVF crimes</li> <li>• Ensure that social development is fully responsible for the provision of safe houses for women to find shelter immediately when their lives are under threat.</li> <li>• Strengthen the laws and prosecute anyone who practices ukuthwala, and will repeal all laws that allow any girl child under the age of 18 to be married through any means.</li> <li>• Implement multi-pronged solutions in addressing GBVF</li> <li>• Institutionalise GBVF as a standing item in planning, budgeting, and reporting processes at district and local levels.</li> <li>• Ensure that the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and labour courts are trained on the protection of rights of victims/survivors of GBV.</li> <li>• Ensure that religious institutions develop mutually accountable mechanisms to hold leaders and followers accountable for historical and active cases of abuse timeously.</li> <li>• Ensure universal access to standardised GBVF minimum services for all victims/survivors and their families, and provide adequate funding for shelters, including fast-tracking the special needs housing policy.</li> <li>• Develop a category of common law and statutory offenses that constitute GBVF-related offenses in order to establish a national repository for GBVF cases.</li> <li>• Ensure fully functioning forensic laboratories and efficient and timely processing of DNA samples.</li> <li>• Accelerate the establishment of statutory sexual offences courts and improve their functionality</li> </ul>	

PARTY	GENDER SPECIFIC REFERENCES	GENDER MAINSTREAMED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms on GBVF across the three tiers of government.</li> <li>• Gender markers and inclusion by the Department of Home Affairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>SRHR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive approaches to address the maternal mortality ratio (MMR).</li> <li>• Train more midwives and doulas to provide maternal support before and after a woman gives birth, as well as introducing home visits for all pregnant women as part of primary healthcare.</li> <li>• Prosecute, stop licenses, and remove names of all doctors from the medical council that violate women when they seek medical care in health facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure the protection of women during pregnancy and childbirth.</li> <li>• Provide training and capacity building for LGBTQIA+ organisations and service providers as sensitised service providers of affirmative healthcare, education, and employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Equal representation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% women representation in all spheres representing economic benefit, political participation, managerial, and leadership responsibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gender education and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory gender education and training for all (schools, business etc.)</li> <li>• Education of the police on gender justice and the establishment of specialised law enforcement units to deal with women-related crimes.</li> <li>• Strengthening education of men on patriarchy, sexism, and misogyny; Engaging custodians of tradition, faith leaders, and other.</li> </ul> <p><b>Family rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing effective, accessible, and responsive child maintenance court systems.</li> <li>• Develop a seamless and effective child maintenance system.</li> <li>• Ensure the effective enforcement of maintenance orders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sex work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a law that will decriminalise sex work and regulate sex work.</li> <li>• Establish concrete timeframes for the development and finalisation of the Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill into law.</li> <li>• Integrate sex workers' rights into mainstream services for all workers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Laws and policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop proactive policies that will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.</li> <li>• Develop policies that will enforce a 50% gender representation, targeted at closing the gender gap in all sectors, public and private.</li> <li>• Finalise the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill for the decriminalisation of Sex Work by the end of 2024.</li> </ul>	

PARTY	GENDER SPECIFIC REFERENCES	GENDER MAINSTREAMED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen DNA evidence collection by fast-tracking the enactment of the Criminal Law (Forensic procedures) Amendment Bill (No. 25 of 2021).</li> </ul> <p>There is also a <b>full chapter on LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><a href="chrome-extension://oemmndcbldboiebfnladdacbdadm/">chrome-extension://oemmndcbldboiebfnladdacbdadm/</a>  <a href="https://effonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/A5-EFF-2024-Manifesto-full-version.pdf">https://effonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/A5-EFF-2024-Manifesto-full-version.pdf</a></p>	
MKP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide specific support for women/women -owned business.</li> <li>Set aside in procurement.</li> <li>Discourage pay Discrimination.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://mkparty.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MK-Manifesto-The-Peoples-Mandate-Paths-Final-2.pdf">https://mkparty.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MK-Manifesto-The-Peoples-Mandate-Paths-Final-2.pdf</a></p>	None
IFP	<p>Section on crime, corruption and <b>GBVF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit legislation to ensure that bail is denied to perpetrators of violence against women and children, particularly murder.</li> <li>Ensure that special courts to deal with Corruption and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) are fully operational.</li> <li>Ensure that dedicated SAPS officers are specially trained to deal with GBVF and are stationed at all police stations where GBVF is rampant.</li> <li>Ensure that survivors of GBVF can easily access the services they need.</li> </ul>	None



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