

# COUNTDOWN TO DEMOCRACY



Support women in  
South Africa – campaign  
for free and fair elections!



**M**ORE THAN HALF of those eligible to vote in South Africa's first ever non-racial election on 27-28 April are women. For the election to be free and fair every woman must know how to use her vote. She must be able to cast it for the party of her choice without pressure from her husband, chief or employer and without fear of violence.

But over 70% of African women live in rural areas or bantustans and more than half of rural women cannot read or write. Some women have been told they will lose their pensions or jobs if they vote the wrong way and in some areas they are afraid of being attacked or killed.

South Africa is a deeply sexist society. Women who are employed do the worst paid jobs. Women who live in rural areas have no legal access to land. African women married under customary laws have the legal status of minors. Women have little control over their bodies; contraception is hard to get, abortion is illegal and rape and violence against women are commonplace.

South Africa's new constitution pledges equal rights for all. The electoral code of conduct places an obligation on political parties to ensure that women can use their votes freely. The ANC has made a start by nominating women as more than 25% of its candidates for the National Assembly. Its Manifesto promises women equal rights to land, opportunities as traders, access to education and maternity and child care rights.

**Y**OU CAN HELP by supporting the AAM's Countdown to Democracy campaign and the ANC's Vote for Freedom appeal. We must also look to the future - after the election. South African women are already organising, both within their political parties and in women's organisations. They are asking for our support - to help them win real change and build better and freer lives.



- I would like more information about women in South Africa
- I would like more information about the AAM's Countdown to Democracy campaign
- I would like to support the ANC's Vote for Freedom campaign. I also enclose a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ cheque payable to AAM (ANC Election) please
- I would like information about the AAM's plans for future solidarity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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