

**The Role of the Chapter 9 Institutions in  
the Promotion and Protection of Gender  
Equality in South Africa**

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HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUT

3728

# Introduction

■ Human rights,  
gender equality,  
and  
multiculturalism



# **Women's Equality: The Constitution and the Law**

- **Section 9 and Chapter 9**
- **Civil and Political Rights (e.g. DVA, 1998)**
- **Social and Economic Rights (e.g. PEPUDA, 2000)**
- **International Law (e.g. CEDAW)**

# **Women's (In)Equality: The Facts**

- **Civil and Political Rights (e.g. GBV)**
  - see Rasool, et al. 2002. *National Survey on Violence Against Women*. ISS
- **Social and Economic Rights (e.g. Poverty)**
  - see Bentley, K. 2004. *Women's Human Rights and the Feminisation of Poverty in South Africa. Review of African Political Economy*, 100 (31): 247-261

# CHAPTER 9 INSTITUTIONS

- HRC, CGE, CRL & PP (IEC & AG)
- CGE (part of NGM with OSW, PJMC, GFPs and CS)
  - see Gouws, A. 2006. “The State of the National Gender Machinery: Structural Problems and Personalised Politics” in *The State of the Nation 2005-6*. HSRC Press

AND

- Manjoo, R. 2005. South Africa’s National Gender Machinery. *Acta Juridica: Advancing Women’s Rights*: 243-272
- What they do
  - Role and Functions (monitoring, reporting, research, activism)
  - Bridge between state and civil society
- Where they are (National and Provincial)

# **LIMITATIONS**

- **Funding**
- **Breadth of mandate**
- **Competition (external and internal)**
- **Skills, Politics and Autonomy**

**(See Gouws, 2006 and Manjoo, 2005)**

# Conclusion



***“While enabling conditions and environments for gender equality have been put in place in the past decade, certain conditions are needed to shift the South African NGM into the category of successful gender machineries ... These conditions include the honouring of process, agreements and respect for consultation; a move away from personalised politics; and a move towards strategic leadership”***  
***(Gouws, 2006: 164).***