



# ROADMAP TO EQUALITY

Southern Africa Gender and Development Barometer



Issue 1 | 15 July 2009

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### Editor's Note



So you have been missing the Gender Justice Barometer and have been feeling left out on developments around the Protocol ... well it was WORTH THE WAIT!

In line with the signing of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, Gender Links has improved its e-newsletter, 'The Gender Justice Barometer' to Roadmap to Equality: Gender and Development Barometer and with this issues sees the launch of the improved e-newsletter.

Unlike the predecessor which mainly focused on tracking implementation of National Action Plans to End Gender Based Violence, the new and updated Barometer will focus on the articles of the Protocol. Themes will include Gender Based Violence; Constitutional and Legal Rights; Gender and Governance; Education and Training; Economic Justice; Health; HIV and AIDS; Peace Building and Conflict Resolution; and Media, Information and Communication.

In order to remain fresh and relevant to the issues in your



### About the Barometer

The Roadmap to Equality: Southern Africa Gender and Development Protocol Barometer is a regional e-newsletter that tracks the ratification and implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Emphasis is on tracking gender based violence

It is produced by the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance, and coordinated by Gender Links and the Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) Network with support from DFID and UNIFEM.

The Barometer will enable state and non-state actors to track progress on whether governments are set to meet targets in the Gender Protocol which provide a roadmap for achieving gender equality in the region.

### Fact Box



Even though 12 SADC Member States signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, three countries have yet to sign. These are Botswana, Malawi and Mauritius.

## Gender Events

## Governance and Peace Building

[Botswana: Gender representation in Botswana's upcoming elections](#)

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country and our region WE NEED YOUR INPUT! So to make contributions and comments and get information please write to both: [alliance@genderlinks.org.za](mailto:alliance@genderlinks.org.za) and [justice@genderlinks.org.za](mailto:justice@genderlinks.org.za). All contributions must be in latest by the 1st of each month in order for us to get it out on time. Do note that the e-newsletter will go out on the 15th of every month.

Note that there is more to come as we work on making this e-newsletter interactive for you and as we link it to the vast resources such as the SADC and Gender Protocol website.

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South Africa is edging closer to the 50% women in decision making target set out in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. This sets the benchmark for the rest of the SADC countries still to hold elections within the next two years. In essence has set the pace for achieving gender equality in the region.

The April 2009 elections results show that:

- Representation of women in parliament has increased from 33% to between 43-44%
- Representation of women Members of the Provincial Legislature has increased from 30% to 41%.
- 14 out of 34, or 41%, of the new ministers announced by President Jacob Zuma on 10 May are women. This is roughly consistent with the

- On 4-5 June, the Southern Africa Gender Responsive Budgeting Network was established. To read more, visit ZWRGN and/or UNIFEN website.
- On 30 June 2009 - SADC CNGO Reference Group met to discuss and plan for the 5th SADC Civil Society Forum Programme.
- 14 July - SADC Parliamentary Forum goes on an Advocacy and Lobbying Mission to Botswana. The Mission will also meet President Khama.
- 15-16 July 2009 - Regional Workshop on Women's Empowerment Project
- WLSA - Zimbabwe, in partnership with Oxfam will be launching the Red Light Campaign on 31 July 2009.
- Heads of State Summit meeting to be held in September in the DRC. Dates to be confirmed.

[elections](#)

## **Integrated Approaches/ Monitoring and Evaluation**

[Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance conducts a baseline study in the region to be presented during the upcoming HOS Summit](#)

## **Gender Resources**

- [Roadmap to Equality DVD](#)
- [Protocol Pamphlets in indigenous languages Setswana \(Bots\); Afrikaans and Oshivambo \(Namibia\); Creole and French \(Mauritius\); Kiswahili \(Tanzania\)](#)

## **Gender Evangelist**

From HIV victim to AIDS activist  
By Rose Thamae

I am the founder of a community based organization in Orange Farm called Let Us Grow that provides home based care and support to people living with HIV. We also train peer educators among the youth who work night and day to reduce the spread of HIV in this desperately poor community.

Two years ago, during the month of August- Women's Month in South Africa- we staged a vigil every night that a woman died as a result of an AIDS-related illness in our community as a way of demanding the roll out of anti retroviral drugs or ARV's. We were out there every night: in other words, at least 31 women died during that period.

But our campaign succeeded and now we

42% women in cabinet under President Thabo Mbeki and 43% under the seven month caretaker administration of President Kgalema Motlanthe. [Click here](#) to read more about gender in the South African Elections.

## **Malawi: Gender gains during the May Polls**

On 19 May 2009, Malawi held its fourth (4th) post independence multi-party elections. The SADC Parliamentary Forum Mission observed that there was a considerable increase in the number of female candidates for the Malawi Presidential and Parliamentary Elections of 2009, when compared to the 2004 Elections. Out of 1,184 candidates for Parliament, 237 candidates were women. Out of 7 Presidential candidates, 1 candidate was a woman, the first of its kind in Malawi.

The election results saw the representation of women in Parliament increase from 14% to 22%. About 125 women competed for the 193 seats, with 43 successfully gaining ground. For the first time since independence in 1964, Malawi also has a female vice-president, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joyce Banda.

## **Regional: Human Trafficking**

SADC ministers responsible for combating human trafficking have adopted a ten-year Regional Strategic Plan of Action, aimed at increased cooperation and adoption of national policies to curb the practice. The strategic plan, is however still to be submitted to the SADC Council of Ministers for approval in August, 2009. The SADC ministers together with other regional and international partners on 30 May in Maputo, Mozambique, noted that the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, especially women and children is growing in the SADC Region.

## **Regional: Gender Advisory Team for SADC PF meets**

The Gender Advisory Team (GAT) of SADC Parliamentary Forum met on 11 - 12 July 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa. GAT is a think-tank established to guide the work of the SADC PF on gender mainstreaming and the political participation of women. During the meeting, activities of SADC PF were reviewed, strategies devised to engage political parties and programme planning on the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and beyond, amongst others.

have an ARV site. The number of deaths has been reduced to about two a month. I care for others, as I care for myself.



This is the difference that Mam Rose makes daily.

## Country Highlights

	Angola
	Botswana
	DRC
	Lesotho
	Madagascar
	Malawi
	Mauritius

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## Gender-based Violence



### Mozambique: Assembly passes Bill against Domestic Violence

The Mozambican Parliament in June passed the first reading of a bill on domestic violence on women, severely increasing the penalties for such violence. Up until now, there has been no such crime as domestic violence on the Mozambican statutes. The bill states that any case of domestic violence, the minimum and maximum prison terms established for crimes such as assault and causing grievous bodily harm will be increased by a third. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

### South Africa: Study shows that migrant women continue to live in fear, one year later

It has been a year since the few weeks of seemingly madness in May 2008, when xenophobic violence broke out across South Africa, shocking the nation and attracting international condemnation. However, migrant women in South Africa consider that period as an example of what they experience daily as foreigners in South Africa.

Research recently conducted by CSVR on migrant women in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban – before, during and after the xenophobic attacks in May 2008 – found migrant women's daily experiences of xenophobia far-reaching. While both men and women experience some forms of xenophobia - such as lack of housing, healthcare and unemployment, and discrimination at the hands of the police and the Department of Home Affairs – some manifestations of xenophobia are particularly gendered. [Click here](#) to read the full report .

### Regional: Several countries are embarking on consultations on Sexual Offences Bill and/or GBV Bill

Namibia: Sexual Offences Bill has been tabled in Namibia and it is currently being discussed.

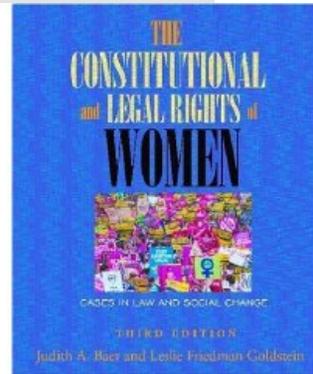


Zambia: The Ministry of Justice has tabled what is currently being called the Gender Based Violence Bill and consultations which involves key stakeholders such as WLSA are ongoing. The current Bill has been cross-referenced to the country's Penal Code.

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## Constitutional and Legal Rights

### **Swaziland: A woman takes her fight for Land Rights to Court**



Three years after adoption of the Swazi Constitution, the realisation of women's human rights does not seem to be in sight. Problems around ownership, access and control go a long way in perpetuating their wanting socio-economic status.

I am of the view that it is time we Swazi women are legally enabled to register title to land regardless of the marital status and the type of marriage contracted. I am very passionate about ensuring that women enjoy security of tenure to land which sustains their under-development. It is against this background that I decided to approach the Courts insisting on my land rights and those of other women married in community of property in our names.

The arguments to be advanced will create awareness to the government, MPs, civil society and academia for the need to align laws with the Constitution and various sub-regional and other gender instruments, such as the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The case is currently before the full bench of three High Court judges.

### **Zimbabwe: Women call for Truth, Justice and**

## Reconciliation

Women's rights groups have urged the establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in Zimbabwe as part of bringing to justice people who committed human rights violations- including sexual abuse against women during the run up to a second round presidential vote in June 2008. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

## Botswana: Poverty wrecks havoc among women - BIDPA

The incidence of poverty is still high among women-headed households, according to the 2008 report of the Botswana Institute for Development and Policy Analysis (BIDPA). The report says that although Botswana has advanced gender equality at the workplace, women are still disadvantaged in family roles, inheritance, incomes and access to loans and acquisition of assets. [Click here](#) for the full story.

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## Governance and Peace Building



## Botswana: Parties block women candidates for upcoming elections

As Botswana prepares for general elections in October 2009, gender activists are protesting against the lack of female parliamentary candidates. The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and its key opposition, Botswana National Front (BNF), have each fielded only three female candidates for the 57 contested parliamentary constituencies.

In most cases, women have received nominations in regions where they have little chance of winning, gender activists argue, as they will compete with seasoned male politicians with substantial financial backing. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

## Africa: UN Experts tackle 'Conspiracy of Silence' Over Sexual Violence in Wartime

Women's rights activists, senior military figures and top UN officials met in June to discuss what has been described as "one of the biggest conspiracies of silence in history" - the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

The talks focused on the lack of female involvement in peace negotiations and on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1820, passed in 2008 which for the first time acknowledged the use of sexual violence in conflict as a deliberate tactic of war. According to UNIFEM, women comprise on average less than 10 per cent of peace negotiators and less than 2 per cent of mediators. Out of approximately 300 peace agreements reached in 45 conflicts since the end of Cold War, only 10 peace processes even mentioned sexual violence. [Click here](#) for the full report.

### **Africa: Human Rights Watch calls on UN Security Council to demand governments to hold soldiers responsible for war crimes**

Human Rights Watch urged the Security Council to condition UN support for Congolese military operations on the removal of known human rights abusers from command positions. Since late January 2009, soldiers from the Congolese armed forces, the FARDC, on military operations in eastern Congo, have attacked villages and killed civilians in North Kivu province. Army soldiers have also raped more than 143 women and girls in the same period, more than half of the 250 cases of rape documented by Human Rights Watch. Some women were taken as sex slaves by soldiers and held within military positions. To read more and access selected witness accounts, [click here](#).

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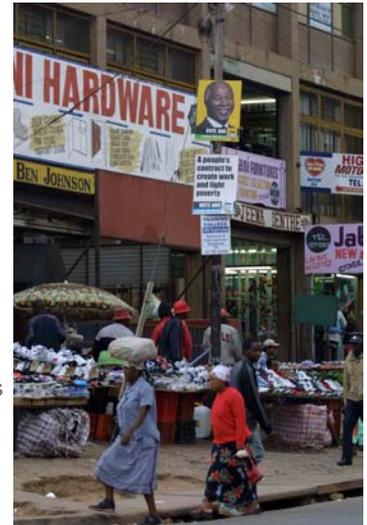
## **Economic Justice, Education and Training**

### **Malawi: Women's economic opportunities will curb poverty**

The recent 29 May polls in Malawi saw the number of women members of Parliament rise from 14% to 22%. About 125 women competed for the 193 seats, with 43 successfully gaining ground. For the first time since independence in 1964, Malawi also has a female vice-president, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Joyce Banda. [Click here](#) for full story.

### **Regional: Workshop on Women's Economic Empowerment Project, 15-16 July 2009**

The SADC Gender Unit is convening a regional workshop for Women in Business Associations, from the 15 -16 July 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Gender Unit is cooperating with InWEnt, Capacity Building International, Germany, to embark upon a regional programme for women's economic empowerment. The program aims to strengthen and empower women entrepreneurs to fulfil their role in the economic environment of Southern Africa and South Asia. The objectives of the workshop are to: a) brief the participants about the SADC-InWEnt Project; b) discuss the project roadmap and give inputs were needed; and c) discuss the outcome of the training needs assessment that will inform the capacity building programme.



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## **Health, HIV and AIDS**

## Africa/ Ethiopia: An African Campaign reduce maternal mortality in Africa HIV/AIDS

The very survival of women and children in Africa may depend on the newly launched Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). According to latest estimates by the African Union (AU), over the next ten years there will be 2.5 million maternal deaths, another 2.5 million child deaths and 49 million maternal disabilities in Africa alone urgent actions are not taken. Around the world, a woman dies every minute from pregnancy related causes. Globally, there are more than 500,000 maternal deaths per year, the majority of which are in Africa. [Click here](#) to read more about this initiative.



### Zambia: Is the role of care workers in the AIDS fight appreciated?

Community-based care givers and organisations are leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Significant evidence shows how they have relieved overburdened healthcare systems and provided valuable psycho-social support to people living with HIV/AIDS. However such duties come with their costs and risks that are often times overwhelming to the family. To read more on this, [click here](#).



### Regional: The Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) Network

In light of the emerging research and policies in the *Making Care Work Count* Campaign, GEMSA is conducting a "situational analysis" of care work since April 2009 in the following 12 countries: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the study is to assess the current policy provisions/guidelines for care workers. [Click here](#) to read more and follow developments in your country.

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## Media, Information and Communications



### Regional: Glass Ceilings in Southern African Media Houses

The aim of the Glass Ceiling study is to probe the gendered dimensions of the institutional composition and practices of media houses in Southern Africa and the impact of these on the final output, if any. The study is being conducted in 14 countries namely Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The study is a first of its kind in Africa.

## South Africa: 2009 Election Coverage - Media's role in assisting citizens make an informed

## decision

Media Monitoring (MMA) conducted a widespread monitoring of media across South Africa. This has resulted in the collection of a large amount of data enabling both media's performance as a whole to be analysed, and individual media to be compared in relation to each other.

The focus was on the overall performance of media in terms of their role in enabling South African citizens to fully and effectively participate in their democracy through the provision of relevant and timely information in the lead up to the elections on April 22. [Click here](#) to read full report.

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## Integrated Approaches/Monitoring and Evaluation

### Alliance develops a tracking tool for the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development



The Southern Africa Protocol Alliance has embarked on a regional research project for the inaugural SADC Gender Barometer to be launched at the upcoming HOS Summit taking place in the DRC.

The Barometer is a tracking tool that civil society and other state and non-state actors can use to hold their governments accountable regarding their delivery (or lack thereof) on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. In-country researchers have been collecting quantitative data and documentary evidence in the form of Acts, policies and relevant reports on the various articles in the Protocol. The Barometer will be reviewed and updated annually in time for the annual HOS Summit.

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