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## **Democratic Alliance Submission to the 2025 P20 Women's Parliament**

*Submitted to the P20 Secretariat*

*Date: 10 August 2025*

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### **1. Introduction**

The Democratic Alliance (DA) of South Africa welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 2025 P20 Women's Parliament. As South Africa's second largest party, we are rooted in the values of Freedom, Fairness, Opportunity, and Diversity, we view this engagement as vital in strengthening democratic participation, amplifying youth voices, and shaping inclusive and sustainable global development agendas. The DA recognises the Youth Parliament as a platform to elevate progressive ideas and policies that can shape a fairer, more prosperous future.

This submission outlines our political and policy standing and details our recommendations and proposals aligned with the six key thematic areas of this year's P20 Women's Parliament.

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### **2. Political and Policy Standing of the Democratic Alliance**

The DA stands as a centrist, liberal-democratic political party that champions constitutionalism, the rule of law, non-racialism, a capable state, and market-friendly policies. We believe in a social market economy that provides the space for individual enterprise and initiative while ensuring a safety net for the most vulnerable.

In our governance role at provincial and local levels—most notably in the Western Cape, and numerous well-run municipalities across the country—the DA has consistently demonstrated clean governance, innovation in public service delivery, youth-focused initiatives, and pragmatic economic policy frameworks that prioritise both growth and inclusion.

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### **3. Contributions Toward P20 Women's Parliament Priorities**

#### **A. Inclusive Economic Growth**

##### **DA Policy Context:**

We promote an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, investment, and innovation, underpinned by regulatory reform, fiscal discipline, and support for small businesses.

##### **DA Proposals:**

- The Democratic Alliance rejects the ANC's Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) model, because it benefits the connected few, and instead supports the United Nations Best practice UN Sustainable Development Goals model.
  - We propose inclusive, evidence-based framework that supports all disadvantaged South Africans, more especially women and persons with disabilities.
  - We further propose the Introduction of Economic Empowerment for the Disadvantaged to focus on real need not political connections.
  - Incentivise job creation through tax credits and reduce the "black tax" burden with targeted support for families.
  - We must create a conducive environment for women to access jobs, skills training and entrepreneurship opportunities.
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## **B. Tackling Gender Based Violence**

### **DA Policy Context:**

The DA supports comprehensive GBV strategies and programmes.

### **DA Proposals:**

- The establishment of Femicide Watch to publish annual, disaggregated data on gender-related killings – detailing victim – perpetrator relations, age, etc.
  - A National Council on Gender-Based Violence, including representatives from government, civil society, and private sector, to oversee a cohesive policy framework. The DA also proposes reallocating funding from the Ministry for Women to the Commission for Gender Equality and the new council.
  - We underscore the need to address hate crimes like corrective rape and LGBTQI+ violence, treating these as aggravating factors during sentencing.
  - Enforce 100% compliance with the Domestic Violence Act, with electronic tracking of cases and protection orders served within one month.
  - Expand Sexual Offences Courts to properly resource National Prosecuting Authority's NPA's Sexual offences and Community Affairs Unit.
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## **C. Health, Wellbeing, and Mental Upliftment**

### **DA Policy Context:**

We believe women must be active agents in democratic processes and global decision-making structures. Hence, to be able to fully part-take health systems be ensure access and equity.

## **DA Proposals:**

- We must facilitate the commitment to free, universal access to reproductive and maternal healthcare.
  - Our state healthcare system must strive to reduce preventable maternal deaths to zero.
  - By bringing schools, academia, civil society, government departments and traditional leaders together, we must re-educate society and break harmful gender norms, which must guide the following:
    - Engagement with men, boys, pastors and traditional leaders.
    - Positive societal portrayal of women in media and culture.
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## **D. Universal Access to Education**

### **DA Policy Context:**

We advocate for a foundational learning revolution, the depoliticisation of education systems, and the strategic funding of higher education that balances sustainability and accessibility.

### **DA Proposals:**

- Every girl child should be supported to complete school and enjoy equal access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), digital skills and high-growth industries. We must expand bursaries and mentorship for women in fields where they remain underrepresented. This must be equally rolled out to rural provinces, who often lag behind urban provinces such as Gauteng and the Western Cape.
  - No girl should miss school due to lack of sanitary products. Every effort should be made to ensure the distribution of sanitary products to schools that need them.
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## **4. Conclusion**

The Democratic Alliance remains committed to advancing women-centric policies that empower, include, and uplift. The P20 Women Parliament represents an important platform for constructive dialogue, innovation, and collaboration on global challenges. Our proposals are firmly rooted in our track record of governance and our vision for a prosperous, inclusive, and dynamic South Africa within a strong and thriving African continent.

Gender-based violence in South Africa is estimated to cost the economy between R28.4 billion and R42.4 billion annually, according to a 2014 [KPMG report](#). This represents 0.9% to 1.3% of the country's GDP. The costs associated with GBV include healthcare, legal proceedings, and lost productivity. Ultimately, GBV represents an existential threat to our country, that everyone, but more especially men must be tasked with addressing.

We look forward to meaningful engagement with our international counterparts and pledge to work with the P20 Secretariat to ensure the success of this year's deliberations.

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**Submitted by: DA P20 Women's Parliament Delegation**