



## **Women's Parliament 2025: IFP Submission**

***Theme: "Accelerating Equality, Sustainability and Shared Growth: Correcting the Gender Re-distributional Bias of Growth and Development – through the Women's Charter, the MTDP and the 2025 G20 Development Priorities."***

**Submitted by:** Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)

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### **1. Introduction**

The IFP welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consolidation of the Women's Development Agenda in preparation for the 20th Women's Parliament. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the voices, needs, and leadership of women are placed at the centre of all national policies and development frameworks. We view this platform as a critical space for not only transformative dialogue but accountability and collective action in achieving gender justice and sustainable development.

### **Key Focus Themes & IFP Proposals:**

#### **1. Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion**

- More women-owned businesses need to be included in government procurement and enterprise development programmes.
- Access to finance for township and rural women entrepreneurs.

- Tailored financial education and digital skills training for women and girls.
- Collaboration between the government and banks to lower barriers to credit for women.

**Proposal: Expand targeted support for women-owned SMMEs, including access to low-interest funding, skills development, and market access.**

- IFP Position: Advocate for the establishment of a Women's Economic Participation Fund focused on township and rural-based enterprises.

### **Empirical example: IFP Leadership at the Provincial Level: A Model for Women's Empowerment**

At a provincial level, the IFP is demonstrating bold and practical leadership in accelerating women's socio-economic empowerment. In the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we have committed to launching a ring-fenced R200 million Women's Economic Empowerment Fund to ensure direct access to capital for women-led businesses. This fund, expected to be operational by 30 August, is a tangible step in closing the financial inclusion gap and will provide critical support to women seeking to participate meaningfully in the economy. With this, we are acting on our commitment to ensure that policy translates into measurable impact at the grassroots level.

## **2. The Care Economy**

- Formalise and invest in the care economy (e.g., childcare, elder care, community health work) through policy and budget allocations.
- Push for the recognition of unpaid care work in national GDP indicators and ensure labour protections for care workers.
- Medium-Term Oversight Focus: Ensure equitable social protection for caregivers, particularly in rural communities.

### **3. Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)**

- Strengthen the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF with measurable timeframes and enforceable commitments.
- Support the rollout of specialised GBV courts, trauma centres, and accountability for enforcement failures.
- Revisiting legislation to ensure that bail is denied to perpetrators of violence against women and children, particularly murderers.
- Monitor interdepartmental budget allocations and ensure grassroots GBVF prevention programmes are funded.
- Ensuring that dedicated SAPS officers are specially trained to deal with GBVF and are stationed at all police stations where GBVF is rampant.

### **4. Climate Justice and the Environment**

- Promote women's leadership in climate adaptation, green economy jobs, and environmental stewardship.
- Support community-led initiatives that empower rural women to respond to the climate crisis through sustainable agriculture and resource management.
- Push for gender-responsive budgeting in climate financing.

### **5. Education, STEM, and the Digital Divide**

- Bridge the digital and STEM gender gap through scholarships, mentorship, and digital literacy campaigns.
- Call for a National STEM for Girls Programme, with particular focus on rural and under-resourced schools.

- Track the inclusion of gender-sensitive metrics in the Department of Basic and Higher Education performance plans.

## **6. Health Equity**

- Address the disparities in women's access to sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and maternal care.
- Push for mobile clinics and community health outreach in underserved rural and peri-urban areas.
- Greater investment in mobile clinics and sanitary dignity programmes.
- Monitor implementation of universal health access policies with a gender lens.

## **7. Women, Land, and Agriculture**

- Prioritise women in land redistribution, tenure security, and agricultural support services.
- Support the establishment of a Rural Women in Agriculture Empowerment Strategy.
- Monitor land reform and agricultural extension service delivery for gender parity.

## **Conclusion:**

The IFP believes that gender equality cannot be a symbolic agenda – it must be a measurable, resourced, and monitored priority. Through the P20 Women's Parliament, we seek to advance a responsive and accountable governance culture that enables the empowerment of all women, particularly those in marginalised and rural communities.

We look forward to robust deliberations and to contributing towards a gender-just, inclusive future.