

**SUBMISSION ON THE CHILDREN'S
AMENDMENT BILL (B 19-2006)
TO
THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL
PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**From Gender Advocacy Programme (GAP) in conjunction
with Karoo Gender Education Programme**

**Presenters: Ms. Nontsikelelo Mangaliso
Ms. Nosipho Matai**

**Date: 23 February 2007
Venue: Multi – Purpose Centre
Time: 10:00-12:00**

1. Introduction

The Chairperson and honourable members,

We are very grateful for this opportunity to participate in the public hearings on this important **Bill** that will govern and regulate children's social welfare rights and services. Most of the services that the **Bill** provides will be delivered by civil society organisations especially those at the community level. The participation of such civil society organisations in the drafting of this **Bill** cannot be over emphasised. We appreciate for your effort to enable us to contribute in shaping the Children's Amendment Bill.

Karoo Gender Education Programme

Karoo Gender Education Programme is a Regional Structure consisting of the following towns: Beaufort – West, Murraysburg, Nelspoort, Laingsburg and its surroundings areas. The structure was initiated in Beaufort – West in a Consultative meeting consisting of women structures in May 2003 and other follow up meetings. In October a structure was formed, it later expanded in the whole area. We are operating from Beaufort – West where the office was situated with 4 volunteer staff members. A regional committee was established with a two year office.

2. AREAS OF CONCERN

Chapter 14: Shelters and Drop – in – Centres

2.1 Section 1 of Act 38 Of 2005 in terms of section 136 of the following definition :

- (a) A social, Religious or other Non – Governmental Organisation or
- (b) A group of individuals, acting as care givers of children, and managed by a Provincial Department of Social Development or a designated child protection organisation.

Motivation: As the civil society organisation who's activities of programme is as follows: Drive and develop programmes plans eradicate all forms of inequality, including equality in terms of poverty.

- Economic Empowerment of women
- Ongoing skills training and capacity building for women such as parenting skills, life – long learning.

- Bring all Gender machinery closer to the community
- Research on the impact of services
- Co – ordinate of services especially services to improve the lives of women

We propose: that within this clause there should be a section that states that there shall be an intergrated approach to civil society organisations and Government Departments concerned to partner in implementing Children’s Bill. Furthermore, there is a need to establish Memorandum of Understandings with other Government Departments as well not only Social Development.

Motivation: Currently Department of Social Development seems like the only Department giving resource and building partnerships with civil society in implementing the Social Policy issues which is addressing the Child Support Grant, Child Abuse, Foster Care and many other issues affecting children. Other Government Departments are still reluctatn in that regard.

Furthermore, there is a need for other Departments like, Department of Education to intergrate with civil society to address issues like, misuse of child support grant, Networking of Schools, communities, and Social Workers to address issues affecting children. Government to do monitoring and evaluation to such intergration. Where civil society to submit reports as well.

Motivation: Currently in South Africa, there is a lack of institutional mechanism process in Government which is guiding Local Government to involve civil society in implementation of services. Such challenges result difficulties to the implementation of solving problems facing communities including Children’s Bill issues.

3. Chapter 12, page 29: Foster Care

3.1 In Clause 180 (1) we find the provision that says a child is in foster care if the child has been placed in the **care of a person who is not the parent...**

In Clause 180 (2) (a) in court-ordered kinship care. There is a need of education to communities regarding Children’s Bill.

Lack of understanding of Children’s Bill to community members makes children to be victims of violence.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

