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BLACKSASH
MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS REAL

2009

**An overview of the work
of the Black Sash**

Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996

As adopted on 8 May and amended on 11 October 1996 by the Constitutional Act 108 of 1996

One Law for One Nation

Preamble

We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this

Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to-

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

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God seen Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

Black Sash Vision and Mission

Our vision is making human rights real.

Our mission is to work towards a South Africa in which:

- Human Rights are recognised in law and respected in practice;
- The government is accountable to all its people and attends to their basic needs;
- Members of society (individuals and the private sector) also take responsibility for reducing inequality and extreme poverty;
- The Constitution is upheld by all;
- Social and economic justice is recognised as fundamentally important.

Our belief is that:

- Through individual and collective non-violent action, people have the power to change their own situation and impact on society as a whole.

Our aim is to enable all, with the emphasis on women and children, to:

- Recognise and exercise their human rights, particularly their social and economic rights;
- Create a society that has effective laws and delivery systems, including comprehensive social protection for the most vulnerable.