



PWMSA

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SOUTH AFRICA
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"WOMEN MARCHING FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE"

DATE: 29 MAY 2026

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA (PWMSA) MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE LEFT 29–31 MAY 2026 | BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE, BOKSBURG

Dear Comrades,

The Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa (PWMSA) brings revolutionary greetings to the Conference of the Left and affirms our commitment to building coordinated Left capacity at this decisive juncture in our nation's history.

We stand in solidarity with the SACP, the Steering Committee, and all progressive forces gathered here in the shared understanding that the fragmentation of the Left has become a gift to capital and to reaction. The time for unity, clarity, and collective action is now.

CONVERGENCE AROUND THE DECISIVE QUESTIONS

PWMSA aligns fully with the Conference's framework: that true transformation requires confronting the decisive questions of **ownership, power, and structural inequality**.

Three decades after 1994, political freedom has not translated into economic ownership for the majority of South African women. Land, capital, and productive assets remain concentrated and largely inaccessible. Women—particularly working-class and poor women—continue to bear the heaviest burden of unemployment, poverty, violence, and exclusion.

Women's emancipation must therefore move beyond participation to real control over resources and decision-making systems. This requires restructuring the economy to ensure women have equitable access to land, finance, markets, and technology, while breaking their confinement to informal and low-wage work.

At its core, this is a struggle over **power**—who owns, who governs, and whose voices define policy and development priorities. Without transforming leadership across the state, the economy, and society, gender equality will remain incomplete.

Structural transformation demands dismantling patriarchal and capitalist systems that reproduce inequality, and advancing deliberate measures of **redistribution, representation, and accountability**.

This is not a women's issue alone—it is a class issue, a Left issue, and a question of whether we are serious about building working-class and popular power.



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PWMSA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST-PHASE WORK PROGRAMME

In alignment with the Conference's third objective—to agree on a focused first-phase work programme with specific campaigns and measurable outcomes—PWMSA proposes the following **Priority Campaigns for Working-Class and Poor Women**:

1. Land & Productive Asset Ownership Campaign

- "One Woman, One Hectare" rollout at scale
- Secure land rights and agricultural support for rural women
- Campaign for women's access to property and housing ownership
Focus: Shifting structural ownership of land and production

2. 40% Public Procurement & Economic Justice Campaign

- Enforce the 40% procurement set-aside for women
- Monitor government and private sector compliance
- Build cooperatives and women-owned enterprises
Focus: Economic redistribution and market access

3. Equal Pay & Decent Work Campaign

- National drive for equal pay audits and wage transparency
- Organise women workers in informal sectors
- Push for maternity protection, childcare, and labour rights
Focus: Workplace power and income equality

4. Women in Leadership (50/50) Campaign

- Enforce parity (50%) in political and economic leadership
- Establish mentorship and leadership pipelines for young women
Focus: Decision-making power and representation

5. Anti-GBV Structural Justice Campaign

- Establish specialised GBV courts in all provinces
- Strengthen community accountability and prevention programs
- Expand shelters, legal aid, and survivor support
Focus: Safety, justice, and bodily autonomy

These campaigns are not aspirational—they are **concrete, measurable interventions** that can be coordinated across Left formations, trade unions, community structures, and women's movements over the next twelve months.

CALL TO ACTION: FOR WORKING-CLASS AND POOR WOMEN

Comrades, this is a moment for decisive, united action.



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We call on all progressive forces represented at this Conference to **rebuild and re-energise a militant women's movement** rooted in the struggles of working-class and poor women. Our commitment must go beyond slogans—it must translate into **organised power, material change, and structural transformation**.

We must organise in workplaces, communities, farms, townships, and rural areas to ensure that women are not spectators in the economy, but **owners, producers, and decision-makers**. This requires confronting exploitation wherever it exists—whether in the labour market, in the home, or within our own structures.

Let us unite behind pro-worker and pro-poor demands:

- Decent work, equal pay, and protection for all women workers
- Redistribution of land, wealth, and productive resources to women
- Universal access to healthcare, education, and social protection
- Zero tolerance for gender-based violence and systemic injustice

We must build **strong grassroots structures**, deepen alliances, and develop a new cadre of women leaders who are accountable to the masses—not elites.

The struggle ahead demands courage, discipline, and unity. We must **organise, mobilise, and act**—to dismantle patriarchy, challenge economic injustice, and build a society where the liberation of women is inseparable from the liberation of the working class.

CLOSING

Comrades, the Conference of the Left is the rebuilding of a united, militant, and ideologically grounded Left. As we deliberate over the next three days, let us remember: **declarations must be transformed into organised practice**. The working class and the poor are watching. History is watching.

Forward with the struggle of working-class and poor women.

Forward with equality, dignity, and justice.

Amandla!