

# **Draft Women Development Strategy**

## **1. Draft Women Development Strategy**

### *Context and background*

Earlier this month (July), the City concluded the formulation of a draft Women Development Strategy. The City's Human Development Strategy (HDS) provides the context for the draft Women Development Strategy through "addressing gender and generational inequalities" – a key sub-theme within the "Championing Rights and Opportunities" component of the HDS. The draft Women Development Strategy re-affirms Council's commitment of not only continuing with initiatives started during the last term of office, but to now consolidate and enhance the impact of its work through the more optimal implementation of programmes and projects aimed at promoting the development and the empowerment of our city's women citizens. This in turn would have value-added effects on the Six Mayoral Priorities, as women's issues are crosscutting by their very nature and impact upon each of the mayoral priority areas.

The City's Women Development Strategy, once finalised, would provide for a specific and dedicated city strategy that coherently binds existing and new initiatives that address women's development issues. Key to the Women Development Strategy is addressing the nexus of the 'triple oppression' of many South African women caused by a) apartheid-induced oppression of African women, b) gender stereotypes and gender bias towards women and c) the suppression of women based on 'class'.

### *Key beneficiaries and target group of the Women Development Strategy*

All women of Johannesburg, particularly those who had been socially and economically disadvantaged in the past and women who have been unfairly prejudiced in our society because of gender stereotypes and/or because of a lack of respect accorded to them because of gender stereotyping.

### *Key components of the Draft Women Development Strategy*

a. Skills Development for Women through the Expanded Public Works Programme, Support for Women Entrepreneurs and Accessing a city-based Labour Market Intelligence Database. Key initiatives would include:

- Career guidance for women through the EPWP and employment and mentorship for entering the formal job market after the EPWP contract has ended.
- Skills development plans for women contractors to enable them to secure better jobs after the contract.
- Ensuring that main contractors are committed to train new and semi-skilled women sub-contractors providing for quality control and promoting the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) strategy.

- An appropriate/applicable entrepreneurial education programme (it is suggested that links be made to the Entrepreneurial Institute who are developing such a programme targeting women entrepreneurs).
- Promoting access to credit and procurement opportunities.
- Promoting the development of women's cooperatives.
- Offering mentoring and business support for women-led SMMEs.
- Promoting women's access to employment opportunities through a city-based Labour Market Intelligence Database.

#### b. Promoting Women's Safety

- Safety improvements at transport termini, parks and other vulnerable public areas (this includes applying the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines that has been developed by the City).
- Developing and implementing a lighting master plan for the city (this would initially be piloted in the Joubert Park precinct as it has been identified as a 'hotspot' for crimes against women).
- Developing a safety awareness programme for school-going teenage girls.
- An Informal Businesses Against Crime initiative that is aimed at using informal traders to create a safer street-environment for women.
- Improving women's awareness of safe houses.
- Convening an annual Women's Safety Assessment Focus Group.

#### c. Improving Women's Health

- Work towards the provision of comprehensive antenatal care at all fixed health facilities in the city by 2011.
- Improve access to Choice on Termination of Pregnancy (CTOP) services.
- Improve access to voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) by ensuring provision of rapid on-site testing at all fixed health facilities in the City.
- Implement the Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme at all health facilities providing comprehensive antenatal care services.
- Improve cervical cancer screening coverage (by 5% annually).
- Implement one Youth Friendly Service per Region to improve access to Health Services for youth and young women by 2011.

#### d. Promoting Women's Arts, Culture and Heritage

The promotion of arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of women would include:

- The provision of Arts, Culture and Heritage infrastructure.
- Development of new markets and audiences for Arts, Culture and Heritage with greater advocacy for women.
- Creation of awareness and appreciation of the arts, culture and heritage especially amongst women who have been deprived of this appreciation in the past.

#### e. Promoting Women in Sport

- Implementing the "Women in Sport" programme to vigorously promote the participation of women in traditional as well as non-traditional sport.

- Prioritise the training and empowerment of women in as far as technical, administrative and managerial skills are concerned and ensure the channeling of talented women into the academy system of the various sports federations.
  - Initiate an accredited volunteer training programme that will provide practical experiential on-the-job training for women to render them employable in the Sport and Recreation field.
- f. Consolidating and initiating new programmes targeting identified groups of vulnerable women
- Abused Women
  - Illiterate and Poorly-Literate Women
  - Elderly Women
  - Female and Girl-headed Households
  - Foreign Migrant Women
  - Women With Disability
  - Domestic Workers
  - Sex Workers

Programmes targeting these vulnerable women would be conducted with the appropriate sphere of government, where applicable.

## **2. Timeframes**

### **2.1 Regional Workshops to Discuss the Draft Women Development Strategy during the month of August.**

The draft Women Development Strategy would be discussed with organised women's groups as well as with women members of ward committees through a series of regional workshops during the month of August (see attached schedule of Regional workshops). The input from these workshops would help the City in finalising the strategy as well as enable it to develop an implementation plan and a monitoring and evaluation tool for the strategy as it is being implemented.

#### **Expected Timeframe for completion of the Strategy**

After the completion of the workshops, it would take a month to finalise the strategy and to develop the implementation plan and the monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This work is expected to be complete by the end of September 2006 after which it would be discussed at the relevant Council Committees before seeking the final approval of Council.

## **3. Key City events celebrating Women's Month**

The City is also supporting key events in celebrating and in acknowledging the role played by its women citizens during Women's Month. These include supporting the Usizo Ulwethu Senior Citizens Women 's Week; supporting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women 's march to the Union building in 1956 through a week long event in Alexandra; a Women's Day celebration in partnership with SAPS; and the launching of a women sewing enterprise in the city.