

Mother, mother of all She was also a prophetess and goddess of death. Mythological stories tell that GAEA produced Uranus (Heaven or Sky) as well as mountains and the sea.

Sky, rain, earth and fertility were sources of wonder to primitive agricultural peoples and a black lamb was sacrificed to honour the life-giving powers of the Supreme Goddess Gaea.

Migrating tribes in Greece at this time brought with them new ideas. One of these was that Mother Earth was dominated by her son - Uranus, the sky god -, eventually bearing other gods by him. The idea of the origin of life then changed from a matriarchal to a patriarchal view.

From being sole creator of the universe, the position of the

## words to learn

- › heritage: anything that has been handed down from the past by tradition
- › entrenched: to establish something firmly
- › deity: a goddess or a god

Mother Goddess changed to that of co-creator with a male god, until eventually it was believed that a male Deity was responsible for the whole of Creation.

▼ It is interesting to note that the children born to Gaea were often enemies of the gods. In each of these stories, we see the force of her anger when offences were committed against her or her offspring. In one particularly dramatic moment, all but one of her sons rise up against their father - Uranus - for acts of cruelty against his other children.

This blood is said to have created the Three Furies - Restlessness, Jealousy and Vengeance.

► Next: The Fertility Goddesses.

---

› mythology: a collection of stories from an earlier age

› matriarchal: matriarchy - a social organisation dominated by women

› patriarchal: patriarchy - a social organisation dominated by men

---

# THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP + DECISION MAKING POSITIONS in Namibia today

The role which women play in leadership and decision making positions within the different political parties can be directly connected to the status of women in society, and the extent to which democratic participation and true human liberation is practiced.

Here are the positions of some of the political parties in Namibia on the role of women in society.

---

## THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (Now affiliated to the UDF)

The WRP feels that a society itself is not liberated if its women are not liberated.

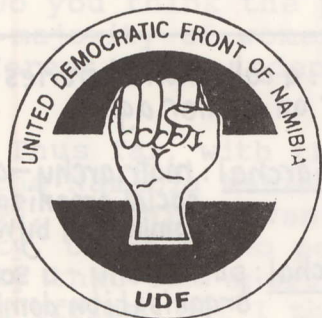
According to the WRP spokesperson the teaching of dialectical materialism (\*) is the only philosophy central to

the liberation of both men and women. Women are fully integrated into the party structures of the WRP and there are a number of women on the Central Committee.

(\*) Dialectics is motion - the changes in society, what is true today may not be true tomorrow, e.g. the cells of our bodies are constantly being replaced. Objective conditions are constantly changing and one must be guided by these changing conditions. (As defined by the WRP).

★ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

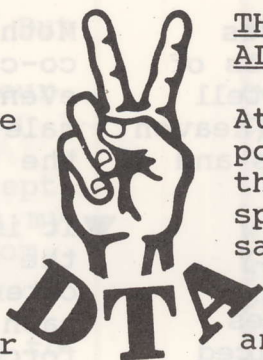
Erica Beukes - Leader of the Workers Revolutionary Party.  
Ndamona Kali - Political Commissar  
Panduleni Kali - Secretary for Political Education



THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

The UDF believes that women should have equal rights in all spheres of private and public life but the state should implement a programme of action to eliminate improper inequalities and discrimination between men and women.

When asked for comment on women within the leadership structures of the UDF, the spokesperson Mr Reggie Diergaardt said that before they affiliated with the WRP there were no women within leadership positions. He said that within their party they had to make progress quickly and thus had to leave out women initially, however there was now place for them to be included.



THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA)

At present the DTA have no policy on paper concerning their position on women. A spokesperson for the party did say that there was no

distinction made between men and women and that they were regarded as equals. There is a DTA Women's League which has the role of politicising women and informing them of their rights in society, the motto of the league being - EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

★ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Anna Frank - Election co-ordinator of the Windhoek region.  
Annchen Parkhouse - Representative for "Bushmen" women.



SWAPO

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (SWAPO)

According to Ms Pandukeni Ithana the Secretary of the Swapo Women's League, the guiding principles of the Swapo manifesto stipulate that women must be present in every decision making position in order to put forward their position, be that in governmental or non-governmental machinery. Women should be there to represent women in Labour unions. She went on to add that in terms of general policy women are viewed as a very important sector of the population and must be taken into consideration notwithstanding the fact that the colonial situation has caused women to lag behind in education and suffer economically. The position of women has to be changed and an awareness opened in all fields so that women can benefit by reaching the goal of equality.

★ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

DR. Libertine Amadila - Member of the Central Committee of Swapo and Deputy Minister of Health.

Ms Pendukeni Ithana - Secretary of the Swapo Women's Council.

Ms Pashukeni Shoombe, Ms Airah Schikwambi, Ms Gertrude Kandanga and Ms Netumbo Ndiitwa are also on the Central Committee



NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT (NNF)

(See interview with Nora Chase included in this issue)

★ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Ms Nora Chase - Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Vice President of Swapo.

Otilie Abrahams - Secretary General of NNF - and Secretary General of the Namibian Independence Party.

Ms R Simana - Deputy National Organiser of the NNF.

Ms R Muundjua - National Deputy Treasurer.

According to a spokesperson there are many other women in leadership positions.



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT (NPF)

Mrs Petra Hamman an executive member of the NPF said that it was the policy of her party not to discriminate against women, and that special attention is to be focused on the areas of development, urbanisation and unemployment. The NPF has also established a Women's league. RECONCILIATION, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT is the motto of the NPF.

★ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Mrs Petra Hamman is a member of the NPF executive.

For more information you can contact the various political parties at these numbers:

NNF	34813
UDF	34176
SWAPO	38364
NPF	38100
DTA	38530

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

★★★★

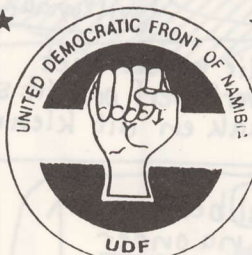
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



?



?



● ONTHOU DIE NOVEMBER VERKIESING.  
Vir wat sal jy stem?



?

● REMEMBER THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.  
What will you vote for?

SWAPO

more rights for women

