

Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists

P. O. Box 7315
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Cape Town
South Africa

OLGA



27 April 1990

Zola Skweyiya
ANC Legal and Constitutional Affairs Department
Lusaka.

Dear Cde Skweyiya and Comrades,

re: OLGA SUBMISSIONS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINES.

We write to you as members of the Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA), a Cape Town-based non-racial grouping of progressive lesbians and gays, affiliated to the UDF in the Western Cape.

In January this year one of our members held discussions with cde Albie Sachs in London on the subject of the ANC Constitutional Guidelines. Cde Albie indicated that input on the particular concerns and proposals of progressive lesbian and gay organisations in South Africa would be most welcome, and that he would ensure that same were passed on to your Legal and Constitutional Affairs Department for consideration. Since then we have corresponded with cde Albie on progress made in our work on the subject.

Comrades, we thought it both courteous and appropriate to inform your department of our work on the Guidelines and this is why we are writing directly as per this letter. We have begun an exciting process of consultation and deliberation, including two discussion forums of lesbian and gay activists and the setting up of a working group to formulate our proposals for amending the Guidelines. We have also begun consulting nationally with other progressive lesbian and gay organisations.

A key aim of our project is to involve the broader lesbian and gay sector in some of the important debates around a future constitution, and to draw them into the democratic movement itself. Together with securing future constitutional protection for lesbians and gays, we hope to create a greater awareness of the negative attitudes and discrimination faced by lesbians and gays, in order that the many lesbian and gay activists to be found in our organisations are able to be open about their sexual orientation and to feel free to participate openly in all spheres of the struggle.

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At this stage of our work, we have a first draft of our constitutional proposals as well as a lesbian and gay charter, while we have begun work on a motivating document to substantiate our submissions. We would greatly appreciate it if you could give us some indication of whether there are any relevant time-deadlines for a possible redrafting of the Guidelines, of which we should be aware, so that we could make our submissions timeously.

Comrades, we realise that you must all have your hands full in dealing with the many important issues surrounding your pending return home! We are proud to say that a number of OLGA members have already signed up as ANC members and that we will certainly be playing our part in helping to build strong branches.

We look forward to being able to welcome you all home and, in the meantime, would appreciate a response to give us direction in our work on the Guidelines. For your information, we enclose copies of a pamphlet setting out some of the aims and projects of OLGA.

Yours in the struggle,

Afine

PP OLGA.