

**Findaid 2/95**

**AACRLS.158**

**Women's Movement**

**Compiled by Werner Hillebrecht  
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**National Archives of Namibia**  
**Findaid 2/95: AACRLS.158 Women's Movement**  
**Compiled by Werner Hillebrecht**  
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## **Archives of Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Liberation Struggle Accession AACRLS.158: Women's movement**

### **Introduction**

This collection comprises of photocopies of documents of Namibian Women's Voice 1985-1988, the SWAPO Women's Council conference in 1991, and project proposals for the "Namibia Women's Centre" (which was eventually established under the name "Sister Collective Resource Centre").

The material gives an insight into the internal dynamics of the "Namibian Women's Voice", a social and political movement with a feminist agenda but without direct party-political affiliation. The Women's Voice must be seen in the context of the diverse grassroots mass mobilisation of civil society against colonial rule in the 1980s, which also comprised of the student movement NANSO, the trade unions under the umbrella of NUNW, and cultural initiatives such as BRICKS, all of which were more or less closely related to the Council of Churches in Namibia and its role as a conduit for foreign assistance.

In the highly politicised climate of the late 1980s, the refusal of the movement to enter into a formal political affiliation ultimately led to its disbanding under political pressure. This process is not documented in the available papers.

### **Provenance**

The material was collected in 1990-1991 as part of Heike Becker's research for her doctoral dissertation "From anti-colonial resistance to reconstruction, Namibian women's movement 1980-1992", defended at the University of Bremen in 1993.<sup>1</sup>

The documents had been copied from originals in the custody of various activists of the women's movement and from the "Bricks Resource Centre" in Katutura, which has meanwhile been discontinued, and its archival materials regrettably destroyed. Therefore, these copies are presumably the only surviving record of the Namibian Women's Voice, unless further copies exist in private custody.

The material was handed over to the National Archives of Namibia by Dr Heike Becker in January 2007.

### **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this accession.

*Werner Hillebrecht, January 2007*

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<sup>1</sup> The dissertation is available at the National Archives Library under **BB/0312-0313**; the published version "Namibian women's movement 1980-1992 : From anti-colonial resistance to reconstruction" (Frankfurt 1995) is available at the National Library of Namibia under **97/0141 B**.

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### A. Namibian Women's Voice (NWC)

(organized in approximate chronological order)

1	Report of the first national consultation for Namibian women which led to the founding of Namibian Women's Voice [undated]	4 p.
2	Structure [undated]	2 p.
3	What is the Namibian Women's Voice? [undated]	2 p.
4	Executive Committee of Namibian Women's Voice elected at the First Namibian Women's National Consultation 23-29 June 1986 [corrected: 1985] at the Roman Catholic Centre in Katutura / prepared by Nashilongo Elago, September 7, 1986	4 p.
5	Komitee Vergadering 87/03/04 (3 March 1987)	1 p.
5a	Huiswerkersvergadering 87-03-07 (7 March 1987)	3 p.
6	Update on activities to January 1987	3 p.
	<b>Materials from Annual General Meeting - July 1987</b>	
7	Presidenterverslag, Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering, 06 Julie 1987	6 p.
8	[Minutes] Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering Notules, 7 Julie 1987	9 p.
9	[Untitled lecture, apparently on 7.7.1987] by Dr. T.T. Tueumuna	3 p.
10	[Minutes] Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering Notules, 8 Julie 1987	7 p.
11	[Minutes] Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering Notules, 9 Juli 1987	2 p.
12	[Minutes] Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering Notules, 10 Juli 1987	1 p.
13	[Resolutions] Resolusies [Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering 1987]	2 p.
14	[illegible] de dag van Julie 1987, Namibian Women's Voice jaarlikse algemene vergadering, 5 Julie-10 Julie 1987	8 p.
15	Report of Secretary-General presented to the Annual General Meeting 6-10 July 1987	4 p.
16	Women's Voice, Vol.1, October/November [1987]	8 p.
17	News from the Namibian Women's Voice branches [1988]	1 p.
18	Annual report 1987-1988	17 p.
19	Behoefde bepaling by takke [undated questionnaire with handwritten additions]	3 p.

### B. SWAPO Women's Council (SWC). 2nd Congress 1991

1	Invitation to first congress in independent Namibia 8-10.11.1991	1 p.
2	Programme of the Congress	5 p.
3	Report by the Secretary of SWAPO Women's Council on its activities since its first congress held from the 20 to the 26 January at Raca Cio [...]	7 p.
4	Address [ ... ] by the Soviet Representative	4 p.
5	Address by Comrade Ruth Mopati on behalf of the ANC	3 p.
6	Address of the Hon. Hage G. Geingob, Prime Minister [ ... ]	4 p.
7	[Address by Moses Garoeb]	6 p.
8	Resolutions	2 p.

### C. Namibia Women's Centre Project

1	Project proposal, August 1991
2	Namibia Women's Centre Research Unit