

FEMINIST VIEW OF POLITICAL PARTIES

MAY 2019

EFF: The Red berets a 'Jack of all trades or Master of none?'

The EFF is successful in addressing issues of concern in a social-justice sense. They are less successful in giving a fair and well thought out analysis from a gender perspective and although an attempt is made at gender mainstreaming; they are inconsistent and miss the mark on critical issues impacting their constituency. They do not seem to value gender parity beyond very limited specific targets in the financial sector, and a vague mention of a quota system across the board.

They do generally well with social justice analysis and diagnosis and the party has been consistent in championing their flagship issues around land and economic justice but lacked a strong gender mainstream approach. Overall, the EFF have done well in taking advantage of the popularity of the feminist movement among young people by ensuring that they give platform and space for young womxn to influence and lead the party across structures, and their list is no different to this growing trend among and within the party.

The 170-page long manifesto appears to be in a league of its own when it comes to the culture of electioneering and over promising. It lacks clarity on policy positions and commitments and does not state how these will be implemented. The EFF's manifesto offering and policy proposition focuses on Land and Jobs - two critical socio-economic and political issues which have a gendered narrative, but which is missed or deliberately ignored in the manifesto.

Even where they do extend a sufficient feminist-leaning analysis, this is undermined by their lack of budgeting considerations, which would lend their stance to the side of genuine commitment as opposed to more political rhetoric, as is the expectation with most parties. The EFF also unfortunately still largely view issues concerning womxn as matters of 'empowerment.' This narrative continues to undermine womxn's struggles in so far as patriarchy is not rightly understood and responded to as a system of domination which is pervasive to the lives of people who are not white, heterosexual males or somewhere along that spectrum.