

TRANS FORM ATION

critical
perspectives
on
Southern
Africa

15



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Analytical articles: 7 000 words

Debates and review articles: 3 000 words

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Durban was the setting in January for the first large conference on gender issues in a South African university. As PATRICIA HORN points out, one outcome was the airing of major differences in an as yet highly-divided movement. Nonetheless she felt that it represented

a milestone in creating the possibilities for overcoming divisions later. HORN is also the author of one of a series of articles in this issue on the relationship of feminism to liberation in South Africa. Her piece focusses particularly on organisational needs. ANDREW CHARMAN, COBUS DE SWARDT and MARY SIMONS take as their touchstone the 1990 ANC Malibongwe Conference and the question of ANC discourse on gender. While noting the openings created by the advance in position in recent papers and declarations, they concentrate on the weak conceptualisation of key issues and the need for a stronger theoretical grasp of the problem of gender in this society. SHIREEN HASSIM critiques the history and practise of gender politics in the liberation context and suggests some of the issues at stake in mobilising women. The space is now there, she suggests, for feminist politics if the right strategies are pursued.

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