

Advancing women's rights through public infrastructure procurement law

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Define tomorrow.

UNISA



Why is this necessary?

- Poverty, unemployment & economic empowerment:
 - Women are 25% more likely to be in extreme poverty
 - Poverty exacerbates gender inequality and negatively affects empowerment
 - Unequal income generation and labor opportunities – lower decision-making power in households
 - Rural and migrant women more vulnerable
 - Inequitable access to basic services and resources
 - Largest share of unemployment due to COVID-19
 - Unemployment rate in general globally higher for women

Why is this necessary?

- Safety & well-being challenges:
 - Mortality rate due to unsafe water, sanitation, hygiene concerns higher than men
 - Lack of women-centred needs eg. pregnancy and birth services, menstrual hygiene
 - Rural women exposed to higher levels of air pollution
 - High levels of GBVH
- Political empowerment challenges:
 - Women under-represented in decision-making

Why infrastructure?

- Infrastructure can play large role:
 - Access to better and safer sanitation
 - Greater availability of transport
 - Well-lit bathrooms and public transport areas
 - Access to information technology

Procurement as a tool for advancing women's rights

- Approximately 22% of a country's GDP
- Most infrastructure in SA procured through public/government procurement
- High public spend - thus public interest

How can this be done?

- Stakeholder engagement – engaging with the end-users of the product
- Involve women in the creation of specifications for goods, works and services
- More women in decision-making
- Increased number of women in the procurement and infrastructure space – currently only 30% of construction workers are women
- 25% of contracts are awarded to women-owned businesses

Immediately achievable solutions

- Involve women stakeholders in tender processes by:
 - Consulting on the needs in the end product/service (pre-tender stage)
 - Engage women in creation of specifications of a product/service
 - Monitoring of gender-responsive and inclusive procurement – data tracking (tender stage)
 - Accessible tender documentation – workshops and social inclusion meetings
 - Improved data collection of women-owned businesses, their products, works and services and inclusion of them on procurement databases – advertisements by municipalities
 - Inclusion in SCM policies
 - Training for officials on gender sensitivities and how to implement gender-responsive procurement measures

Long term achievable solutions

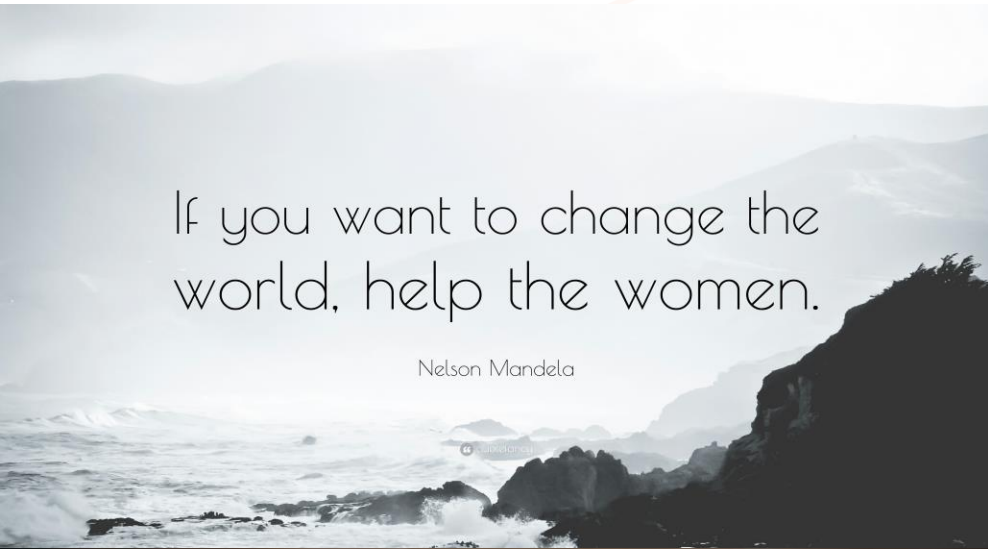
- Write and interpret all legislation through a gender lens, starting with the Public Procurement Bill:
 - Currently only 29% of OECD countries have long-term gender-responsive infrastructure plans
 - Grounds for exclusion for lack of women in contractor businesses
 - Grounds for exclusion on lack of equal pay implementation
 - Qualification incentive for empowerment of women in contractor businesses
 - Qualification incentive for women-owned or women-led subcontractors
 - Documentary proof of gender-based needs assessments prior to publication of tender advertisement as in Canada
 - Set-asides: single mom households in Columbia

Long term achievable goals (2)

- Equal pay legislation:
 - requirement for procurement in Iceland – certification to be submitted by contractors
 - Global Gender Gap Report 2022 – 98 years to close gap
 - Logib: electronic tool to assess compliance with equal pay
- Mandatory policies for GBVH protection in workplaces
- Improved data collection and reporting:
 - “social witnesses” in Mexico
- Rebuilding transport in SA
- Female policy and decision-makers

Long term achievable goals (3)

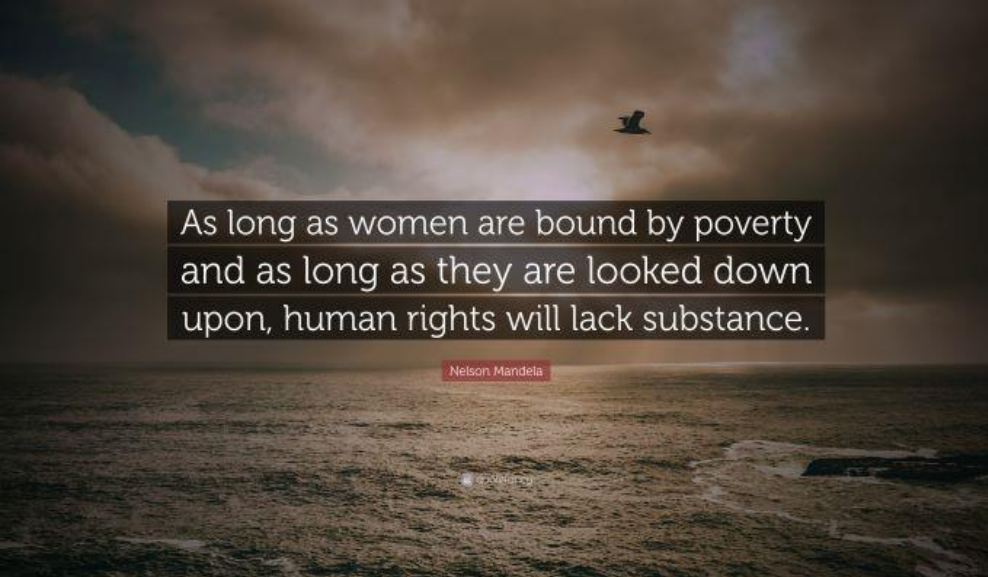
- Evaluate contractor's contribution to gender equality:
 - Number of women employed
 - Zero-tolerance GBVH policies
 - Training/empowerment of women
 - Gender sensitive recruitment policies
- PPPFA inclusion – Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Scorecard
- Extra points for women-owned businesses – “compliance points”
- Use criteria as tie-breaker between two contractors



If you want to change the world, help the women.

Nelson Mandela


@UN Women



As long as women are bound by poverty and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance.

Nelson Mandela

@UN Women



When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.

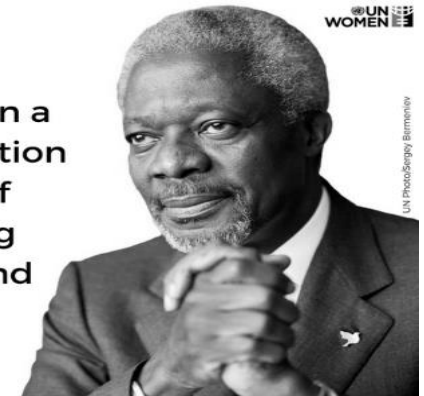
Kofi Annan

@UN Women

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Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.

- Kofi Annan



Thank you

Define tomorrow.

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