

## COMMENT

The month we have all been waiting for is finally here — April 1994. In this month all the hopes and dreams that we have fought for, for so many years, can come true — if we vote in the first election for all South Africans.

The question is, though, are women's demands going to be taken seriously by the political parties that women will be voting for?

We hope so. Still, we have to make sure that the parties we vote for keep their promises.

It is very easy for politicians to make empty promises when they want your vote.

We have to make sure our voices are not only heard but listened to.

At the same time, women really have to push political parties to say, in public, how far they are willing to take the demands of the women who support them. Women need to know so that, when they vote, they are informed and are therefore able to make the right choice.

Our vote is not the end of our struggle. We have to let politicians know we will still raise our banners and fight for our rights.  
**SPEAK WITH YOUR VOTE!**

# Talk Back

## Thank you SPEAK

Thank you very much for the nice and comfortable T-shirt you sent me in November last year. Each time I wear the T-shirt I feel great and proud because SPEAK is the magazine that puts women first.

My message to other women is that they must buy SPEAK Magazine so that they can read the stories written for them. All along women were afraid to stand up for their rights. Now that they have a magazine like SPEAK and attend meetings, they know their rights.

*Paseka Moloele  
Bloedfontein*

## Women have a right to choose

A friend has just shown us a copy of SPEAK (November 1993). We had not come across this magazine before and we were impressed with the directness and reality of your approach, particularly on abortion.

Most publications try to show a "neutral" face, which in fact adds to the power of those opposed to choice over reproduction.

We rejoice in the honesty and courage of SPEAK's editor, who firmly states support for "choice". The Abortion Rights Action Group (ARAG) has worked for 20

**Thanks to all our readers who have written in. Please keep your letters flowing. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:  
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South Africa**

years to enable women to decide for themselves when and if to bring a child into the world.

When we started, we had mainly women's health and children's well-being in mind. But, in recent years, it has become clear that the quality of life in South African — and ultimately the world — rests on women having total control over the number of children they have.

South Africa remains one of those countries which do not have abortion laws. Our efforts, which are supported by many concerned women and women's organisations, to get the right to abortion included in the Bill of Rights have been rejected.