

# Government continues to shut the door on women in South Africa

By Angel Khanyile MP – DA Shadow Minister of Home Affairs

Honourable Speaker, today, I stand here to raise my voice alongside the women of this country. I raise it together with my fellow sisters across political parties, today, in this Parliament, because our voices matter.

I raise it for our little girls at home;  
For the women who continue despite it all;  
For the women who couldn't continue;  
This is for all women.

Hon Speaker, I was born in the dusty streets of Sakhile located in Lekwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. Born to a mother with a hearing and speech impairment, I spent my childhood watching my mother being denied an opportunity to go to school, to work, to make her own choices. Twenty-six years into democracy, many women in our country find themselves trapped in a situation similar to my mother's, where women of South Africa are not only murdered, but are denied an opportunity to be included in the economy.

We have begged in front of the door of this government, we have cried in front of the door of this government, and we are dying in front of the door of this government.

Our lives have simply been turned into slogans,  
Sikhathele ukumemeza sithi "wathint'abafazi, wathint'imbokodo"  
Kuyoze kube nini sikhala, sifa, sibulawa?

The government has turned a blind eye to the criminality we face.  
South Africa should be considered a failed state if it cannot protect the women of this country.

Hon Speaker let me draw your attention to farm murders. I am saddened that President Ramaphosa said in New York "*there are no farm murders in South Africa*" when in fact just to mention a few cases, in 2014 the Muller family was attacked on their farm near Nelspruit and a woman was raped twice by the gang members.

In 2019 in another attack in Port Elizabeth, a woman was raped in full view of her 12-year-old daughter and the government, again turned a blind eye.

The pandemic has also exposed the ANC for who they truly are – a party that can deplete R500 billion within three months by awarding tenders to its cadres, while forgetting about child-headed households and the women of this country.

The ANC must be told; while they were enriching their friends and families it was the women and children of this country who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Others had to endure long cold nights on empty stomachs, waiting for food parcels which were also allegedly delivered to the homes of ANC cadres.

Hon Speaker, we need to be individuals who selflessly dedicate their voices, their time, their hearts, into helping South Africa see that we are seriously endangering our future, which is our children.

I thank you.