

Acknowledgement of Almighty God (Exodus 20:3; 2 Chron 7:14; Psalm 9:17 & 127:1)

1. The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) believes that South Africa is one nation under Almighty God. Government is ordained by God to preserve the dignity and rights of all the people to establish justice and to maintain peace and order." - ACDP Policy Principles
2. The African National Congress (ANC) voted to eliminate "In humble submission to Almighty God" from the new constitution and declared South Africa a "secular" nation.
3. The Christian Democratic Alliance intends to include the affirmation "In humble submission to Almighty God" in any future constitution of South Africa (Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
4. Congress of the People (COPE) supports the current constitution, which excluded the affirmation "In humble submission to Almighty God". "We recognize our responsibility to protect and defend our Constitution as the only thing of value that we collectively own as South Africans" (COPE Policy Documents).
5. The Democratic Alliance (DA) voted for the new constitution that excluded "In humble submission to Almighty God" and fails to acknowledge God in any Policy Document or Founding Principle.
6. The Freedom Front Plus (FF) makes reference and acknowledgment of God in various statements. E.g. "Marriage is an institution of God solemnized between a man and a woman". Quoted from Legalising of Same Sex Marriages. From Press Release. 1/12/2004
7. In response to the Christian Action Network Policy Survey, the Independent Democratic party said that they intend to include an affirmation "In humble submission to Almighty God" in any future constitution of South Africa. However, they support the current constitution, which excluded this affirmation.
8. Inkatha (IFP) voted for the constitution that excluded "In humble submission to Almighty God".

The Legalisation of Abortion (Exodus 20:13; Ex 21:22-24; Prov 6:17 & 31:8-9)

9. ACDP - "We believe that life begins in the womb and that unborn babies should be constitutionally protected... We deplore abortion as a grave evil and a national tragedy." (Policy Document: Abortion and Euthanasia). Voted against abortion legalisation.
10. ANC - "We are committed to reducing levels of unexplained and unwanted pregnancy." (ANC Parliamentary speech 29/10/1996). Initiated and voted for abortion on demand legalisation.
11. CDA - "An unborn child has a right to life" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
12. COPE - Mluleki George, National Organiser of COPE, voted for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill (1996), when he was an ANC MP.
13. DA - "To be pro-choice does not mean we are pro-abortion. It is the constitutional right of women to make choices about the very private matter of reproduction." (DP Parliamentary speech 29/10/1996). Voted for abortion on demand legalisation.
14. FF - Voted against amendments that would make abortion easier. 19/08/2004 Media Release: Choice on Termination.
15. ID - In response to the Christian Action Network Policy Survey, the ID said they "recognise the right of every woman to exercise their rights to freedom of choice."
16. IFP - "Unrestricted access to abortion is not considered by the IFP to be in the best interests of society... the IFP believes abortion should be available in the following cases: Rape; Scientifically determined deformity to the foetus; Danger to maternal health; Pregnant children, with the consent of their parents and medical practitioners." (Health Policy)

Educational: Parent or State Controlled? (Deut 6:1-7; Psalm 78:4-7; Col 2:8)

17. ACDP - "We reject State interference in religious observances in state or state-aided institutions (schools). This should be controlled by parents and the community, not by the State." (ACDP Policy Document: Reasons for rejecting the Constitution)
18. ANC - "The state has the central responsibility in the provision of education and training." (ANC Policy Framework for Education and Training)
19. CDA - The CDA believes "Children's education is a parental responsibility and they therefore have authority as a tax payer to ensure they receive the education they wish to receive and pay for." (Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
20. COPE - COPE believes that the state should train teachers and that all schools should be required to continue using Outcomes Based Education (Policy Documents and 2009 Election Manifesto).
21. DA - "Devolution and decentralisation will lead to more partnerships with communities, parents, NGOs and pr a enterprise School governing bodies should have the authority to decide on the religious orientation of the their school in terms of the Constitution and the Schools Act" (Policy Document: Liberation Through Education)
22. FF - "School and education is an extension of the parents' responsibility in raising their children. The governing body at a school thus becomes very important to make the right decisions representing the parents. Because parents pay taxes, they see it as their money that the government makes available to the school and their right to make decisions on the ethos of the school." (Parliament Education Debate - 20 May 2003)
23. ID - In response to the Christian Action Network Policy Survey, the ID said they support the right of parents to supervise the teachers and textbooks that will mould and fill their children's minds. However, the ID supports state intervention in and funding of education (Election Manifesto 2004).
24. IFP - "Parents must accept their responsibility to work in partnership with schools to develop the full potential of the children of South Africa" (22nd Women's Brigade Annual General Conference) "Education is an extension of the social and training function of the family, therefore parents and communities must be the primary custodians of the education system. The state, parents, communities and employers should assume joint responsibility for education... Education should be financed from state budgetary allocations." (IFP Education Policy)

Economy: Free Market or Socialism? (Prov 10:2 - 4; Matt 25:14 - 27; 2 Thess 3:10)

25. ACDP - "A vibrant open market economy, creating opportunities for all to prosper... Job creation and economic growth through an open-market policy with as little government interference as possible" (ACDP Policy Document: Economy)
26. ANC - "We have set for ourselves a competitive, fast growing economy which creates jobs for all, the redistribution of income and opportunities for the poor." ANC Parliamentary speech 14/16/1996 "We have refused the path of unprincipled abandonment of our communist values, our communist organisation, and our commitment to a communist future" (Socialism is the Future, Build it Now! SACP Strategic Perspectives, April 1995)
27. CDA - The CDA stands "for the right to private ownership, and a society that has a right to demand an accountable free market" (Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
28. COPE - Believes in state intervention to "stabiliz[e] the economy" (COPE Policy Documents). Several of COPE's leaders were at one time members of the South African Communist Party.
29. DA - "The DA subscribes to a market economy which respects the principles of private ownership and initiative which offers rewards to risk-takers and entrepreneurs, but which also recognises that the State has an important role in the development and upliftment of all South Africans (Policy Document: It's All About Jobs)
30. FF - Upholds value of free market but does not rule out potential intervention as a solution. "In a free market governments sometimes have to intervene..." Speech by Mr. Willie Spies, MP in the National Assembly, Tuesday, 7 September 2004
31. ID - The ID believes in a social welfare system: "a free market economy where the market is directed to support society" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).

The Christian Action Network interprets the party positions not only by their pronouncements and policy statements, but by analysing their voting patterns and their actions (Matthew 7:20). We have requested and would appreciate more official source documents from the parties on these issues. Please send relevant policy documentation to the Christian Action Network.

32. IFP - "Less government and less regulatory involvement in the economy - including extensive privatisation" (IFP Economic Policy)

Capital Punishment for Murders (Gen 9:6; Ex 21:12 - 16; Num 35:33 & Rom 13:4)

33. ACDP - "The ACDP is on record as advocating the death penalty for serious offences such as murder and rape and particularly the rape of babies and children" (Media Release; Steve Swart; 19/9/2003)
34. ANC - "Oppose in its entirety this highly irresponsible motion (referring to the reinstatement of the death penalty)." (ANC Parliamentary speech 19/6/1995)
35. CDA - "The death penalty should be reintroduced to from part of the criminal justice system" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
36. COPE - Does not advocate the death penalty in their policies on crime prevention. (COPE 2009 Election Manifesto).
37. DA - "To call for a referendum on the death penalty is dangerous." (DP Parliamentary speech 19/6/1995). Deliberate omission of Capital Punishment in Policy Documents.
38. FF - "The ANC should ...bring back the death penalty" - Pieter Groenewald. Quoted in "Murder of Leigh Matthews justifies the death penalty" (Press Release) 22/07/2004
39. ID - The ID "does not support the death penalty" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
40. IFP - "Support for the death sentence should be tested in a referendum." (IFP Justice Policy)

Pro Self-Defence (Firearm Ownership) (Prov 25:26; Neh 4:14 & 1 Tim 5:8)

41. ACDP - "... the ACDP has and will continue to support the right of law abiding citizens to own and bear arms in self-defence and in defence of their families..." (Manifesto 2004) Voted against Firearm Control Bill (FCB) 12/10/2000.
42. ANC - "... a gun control programme to minimise the number of guns in the hands of individuals" (ANC 1994 Election Manifesto). Voted for FCB 12/10/2000.
43. CDA - The CDA "supports the right of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms for the purposes of self-defence" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
44. COPE - Mluleki George, National Organiser of COPE, voted for the FCB, when he was an ANC MP.
45. DA - DA Voted against FCB 12/10/2000, but called for Firearm Free Zones in City of Cape Town. Inconsistent.
46. FF - Voted against FCA. "The new Firearms Control Act will contribute to illegal firearms coming into circulation and will cause an increase in crime" 28/09/2004 Minister and police are slack with new firearms. www.vryheidsfront.co.za
47. ID - The ID does support the right of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms for the purposes of self-defence (Election Manifesto 2004).
48. IFP - IFP Voted for FCB 12/10/2000.

Opposes Homosexual "Marriage"/Civil Unions (Matt 19:4 - 6; Rom 1:24 - 32 & 1 Cor 6:9 - 10)

49. ACDP - "We do not believe that sexual orientation which promotes a homosexual lifestyle is a right that requires specific constitutional protection." (ACDP Policy Document: Sexual Orientation)
50. ANC - As early as 1987, the ANC promised it would protect "gay rights" (Defiant Desire). "The ANC's support for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the equality clause of the Constitution" (50th National Conference in Mafikeng). "The right of all to freedom in regard to sexual preference" (Socialism is the Future, Build it Now! SACP Strategic Perspectives, April 1995)
51. CDA - The CDA opposes the demands of homosexual and lesbian groups to recognise homosexual "marriages" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
52. COPE - Supports a "society where discrimination...based upon...sexual orientation...[is] condemned and where government moves aggressively to end such discrimination..." (COPE Policy Documents).
53. DA - Right to "sexual orientation" (DA Vision, Core Values and Principles)
54. FF - Opposes gay "marriage". Media Release: Legalizing of Gay Marriages. 1/12/2004. www.vryheidsfront.co.za
55. ID - The ID supports homosexual "marriages" in accordance with the constitution (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
56. IFP - "All citizens of the Federal Republic of South Africa shall share in equal rights of sexual orientation." (IFP Constitutional Assembly Submission)

Opposes Discrimination Based on Race (Leviticus 24:22)

57. ACDP - "The ACDP chose to abstain from voting on the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Bill in Parliament...ownership of the economy should reflect the full demographic extent of our population and that an empowerment policy should be based on allowing competent South Africans equal access to resources... a Bill that might have unintended consequences, placing too much emphasis on group preferences long after economic empowerment has been achieved." (Media Release; 3 September 2003)
58. ANC - "In order to redress our legacy of discrimination the (AA) Bill unavoidably recognises groups." (ANC Parliamentary speech 20/08/98). "It was the ANC who put affirmative action on the agenda" (Affirmative Action and the New Constitution)
59. CDA - The CDA supports "an equal opportunity system that is not based on race" (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
60. COPE - COPE supports putting measures in place to "...strengthen the implementation of the Employment Equity Act (Affirmative Action) and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment..." (COPE 2009 Election Manifesto).
61. DA - "Group-based thinking, as proposed by this Bill formed the cornerstone of apartheid, and we have a duty to bear witness against its reintroduction in the guise of getting rid of apartheid" (DP Parliamentary speech 20/8/98)
62. FF - Opposes affirmative action. Media Release: ANC Policy Redistributes Poverty, not Wealth.
63. ID - The ID supports affirmative action (response to Christian Action Network Policy Survey).
64. IFP - "...The IFP supports affirmative action so long as efficiency and standards are not compromised. Affirmative action should be implemented by adopting appropriate recruitment practices." (Correctional Services Policy)

For further documentation and other relevant articles visit:

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"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15



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Biblical Issues Voters' Guide 2011

"But select capable men from all the people - men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials..." Exodus 18:21

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THE ISSUE	SCRIPTURE	ACDP	ANC	CDA	COPE	DA	FF	ID	IFP
Acknowledgement of Almighty God in the Constitution	"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" Psalm 33:12	Yes ₁	No ₂	Yes ₃	No ₄	No ₅	Yes ₆	No ₇	No ₈
Against Abortion	"Rescue those being led away to death... those staggering toward slaughter" Proverbs 24:11	Yes ₉	No ₁₀	Yes ₁₁	No ₁₂	No ₁₃	Yes ₁₄	No ₁₅	No ₁₆
Education: Parent Controlled and for Religious Freedom	"Fathers... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4	Parent ₁₇	State ₁₈	Parent ₁₉	State ₂₀	State/ Parent ₂₁	Parent ₂₂	State/ Parent ₂₃	State/ Parent ₂₄
For Free Market (Against Socialism)	"You shall not steal... You shall not covet your neighbor's goods." Exodus 20:15-17	Yes ₂₅	No ₂₆	Yes ₂₇	No ₂₈	Yes ₂₉	Yes ₃₀	No ₃₁	Yes ₃₂
For Capital Punishment against Murderers	"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed." Genesis 9:6	Yes ₃₃	No ₃₄	Yes ₃₅	No ₃₆	No ₃₇	Yes ₃₈	No ₃₉	No ₄₀
Pro Self-Defence (Firearm Ownership)	"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked." Proverbs 25:26	Yes ₄₁	No ₄₂	Yes ₄₃	No ₄₄	Y/N ₄₅	Yes ₄₆	Yes ₄₇	No ₄₈
Opposes Homosexual "Marriage" / Civil Unions	"If a man lies with a man... both of them have done what is detestable." Leviticus 20:13	Yes ₄₉	No ₅₀	Yes ₅₁	No ₅₂	No ₅₃	Yes ₅₄	No ₅₅	No ₅₆
Opposes Discrimination Based on Race	"You are to have the same law for the alien and the native-born. I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 24:22	Yes ₅₇	No ₅₈	Yes ₅₉	No ₆₀	Yes ₆₁	Yes ₆₂	No ₆₃	No ₆₄