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Press Release

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AL JAMA-AH calls on government to fast-track the recognition of Nikah marriages.

The Al Jama-ah Party is calling on government to speed up the process of recognising the Nikah marriages of Muslim women to have their dignity restored.

It is unacceptable that in today's democracy Muslim women continue to be insulted by the entry of 'never married' on death certificates and their children regarded as 'illegitimate'. A Magistrate at the Wynberg courts confirmed that of the cases the court is dealing with, 75% of Muslims suffer due to their marriages not being recognised.

"The non-recognition of the Nikah is an infringement of fundamental rights of every Muslim woman, man, and children. We cannot remain a nation only celebrating National Days without bringing about fundamental changes. We say recognise the Nikah marriage which will legally give Muslim women the right to access the Divorce Act to contest marital disputes in the case of a third estate," says party leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks.

The party has further submitted a Maintenance Bill calling for amendments to eradicate clauses in the Maintenance Act which are discriminatory towards women." We are putting in all efforts to change the situation of all women in South Africa," he says.

The party says rape, Gender-Based Violence, gangsterism, drugs and other criminal activities are a sad reality in this beautiful country. We call on the nation to turn around this horrific trend of mass murder, gang rapes, gangsterism and drugs by changing what is happening in our neighbourhoods and communities. We further call on the nation to keep government responsible.

We call on this government to show compassion in National Women's Month – recognise the Nikah; increase resources for shelters, fast track projects aimed at bringing about economic sustainability for women and to restore the dignity, safety, and security of all women.

Let the call "Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo!" (You strike the women; you strike a rock.") made by thousands of women in 1956 not be in vain!

The Al Jama-ah party will be honouring women in Sandvlei on Women's Day and further uplifting and empowering projects and information sessions on Al Jama-ah's Private Members Minimalist Bill on Muslim Marriages will be taking place throughout Women's Month.

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