

World Student Christian Federation:

Despite the Government of Swaziland's purported commitment to implement human rights and the vast technical assistance provided over the years, there is no political will to actually do so.

The Constitutional recognition of freedom of association and assembly in relation to political parties is rendered completely useless by the absence of legislation specifically regulating their registration and operation; Unjustifiable proscription of certain political entities under the Suppression of Terrorism Act; Prevention and disruption of political activities in particular meetings and rallies ; and Government's insistence on conducting the 2013 elections on the basis of individual merit are but some of the problems haunting us.

We urge Swaziland to enact legislation enabling registration and operation of political parties and to amend Section 79 of the Constitution to enable the 2013 national elections to be conducted beyond the basis of individual ~~merit~~^{ment} and include political parties.

In relation to freedom of expression, the media and access to information, draconian legislation and state intimidation continues to restrict enjoyment of these rights. Labour, civil society and political parties are denied access to the electronic media.

We urge Swaziland to repeal all restrictive legislation and to stop political interference on free expression and the operation of the media and access to information; remove restrictions and grant licences for private and community radio stations, and guarantee access by non-state actors and political parties to the public electronic media.

In relation to women's rights, wide-spread discrimination and violations continue both in law and practice with impunity. The Constitution and proposed Citizenship Bill deny women equal citizenship rights;

We urge Swaziland to implement a law reform programme to eliminate legislative discrimination against women; abolish discriminatory practices; establish mechanisms to enforce women's rights, make redress for violations accessible and punish perpetrators.

In conclusion, **we urge Swaziland to domesticate international human rights instruments to which it is party, ratify the Protocols thereto, and compile and submit all outstanding State party reports.**