



AL3066 - The TRC Faith Hearings Collection

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Use Restrictions: Copyright restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions.
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Abstract: The records that comprise this collection are written submissions and transcribed testimonies of approximately thirty faith communities that were either presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) "Special Hearings: Faith Communities" that were held in East London from 17 to 19 November 1997 or which were a response to the letter of invitation sent to the faith communities by the TRC on 27 May 1997.

Introduction

The Research Institute for Christianity in Southern Africa (RICSAs) is based at the University of Cape Town (UCT). In 1997 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commissioned RICSAs to advise it on setting up special hearings for the diverse faith communities of the country. The purpose of these hearings was to establish the position of religious communities during the mandated period of investigation of the TRC. Additionally, the Commission tried to establish in how far religious communities contributed to the entrenchment or the demise of Apartheid. Professors John de Gruchy and James Cochrane produced the required document based on more than thirty submissions of the various faith communities of South Africa. RICSAs was also commissioned by the TRC to draft a report on the faith communities. The report – TRC FAITH COMMUNITIES REPORT – forms part of this collection.

RICSAs was also tasked with drafting a report for inclusion in the TRC Final Report of 1998. The report is in Volume 4 Chapter 3 of the Final Report and is entitled "Institutional Hearing: The Faith Community".

De Gruchy, Cochrane and Stephen Martin, who had assisted with the drafting of the report, have subsequently jointly edited a book entitled "Facing the Truth: South African Faith Communities and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which includes the full RICSAs report as well as interpretative and analytical essays on the subject. The volume is published by David Philip Publishers, Cape Town in 1999.

Notes

The records that comprise this collection are written submissions and transcribed testimonies of approximately thirty faith communities that were either presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) "Special Hearings: Faith Communities" that were held in East London from 17 to 19 November 1997 or which were a response to the letter of invitation sent to the faith communities by the TRC on 27 May 1997."

Materials collected from TRC Archival Audit.



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The TRC Archival Audit

Between 2003 and 2006, SAHA and Historical Papers, University of Witwatersrand embarked on a project to locate, retrieve and make available records relating to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). The project entailed conducting an archival audit of all existing TRC records in order to identify and locate documentation in danger of being lost.

In the process of conducting the archival audit, SAHA and HP located many collections from individuals and organizations that participated in the TRC process, including this collection. Selections from these materials as well as TRC related material found in the freedom of Information Collection and other pre-existing SAHA and HP collections, were digitized and can be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at http://www.saha.org.za/pdf/trc_directory.pdf

Inventory

A: Submissions

- A1: African Traditional Religions
[18.11.1997]
Presented by D.K. Koka.
- A2: Bahai'i Faith
 - A2.1: Presented by Z. Zitandele
[18.11.1997]
 - A2.2: Submission signed by Brett Hone
[15 August 1997]
- A3: Baptist Union and Baptist Fellowship
[18.11.1997]
- A4: Belydende Kring
[18.11.1997]
Presented by Dr Mokwebo.
- A5: Catholic Church
 - A5.1: Submission: The Catholic Church and Apartheid
[September 1996]
 - A5.2: Supplementary submission
[18.11.1997]
- A6: Church of England in Southern Africa
[18.11.1997]
Written submission signed by Joe Bell, presiding Bishop.
- A7 : Council of African Instituted Churches
[18.11.1997]
Presented by Archbishop Ntongana.
- A8: Dutch Reformed Church
 - A8.1: "Journey with Apartheid. A testimony of a confession".
[21 July 1997]
Extract from the Afrikaans document.



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- A8.2: Personal testimony from Rev. Swanepoel
[18.11.1997]
- A9: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal)
[19 March 1998]
Written submission signed by Bishop Lilje.
- A10: Institute of Contextual Theology
A10.1: Submission presented by Rev. W. Mabuza
[17.11.1997]
A10.2: Second/further submission
[18.11.1997]
- A11: Justice, Reconciliation and the TRC
[no date]
Presented by Imam A.R. Omar.
- A12: Muslim Judicial Council
[18.11.1997]
Submission presented by Imam G. Solomons.
- A13: Office of the Chief Rabbi
[30 June 1997]
Submission signed by Chief Rabbi C.K. Harris.
- A14: Open Letter to Pastors
[19.11.1997]
Read at TRC Hearing and signed by Rev. N. Smith and Rev. M. Nthla.
- A15: Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa
[18 August 1997]
Submission signed by Rev. Douglas Bax.
- A16: Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
[9 July 1997]
Partial submission to the TRC signed by Jeremy Routledge.
- A17: Baptist Convention of Southern Africa
[19.11.1997]
Presented by Rev. D. Hoffmeister.
- A18: Methodist Church of Southern Africa
[August 1997]
Submission signed by Bishop Dandala.
- A19: Reformed Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
A19.1: Submission presented by the Right Rev. G.M. Khabela.
[19.11.1997]
A19.2: Submission of the Black section
[19.11.1997]
- A20: Seventh Day Adventists
[19.11.1997]
Statement of Confession.
- A21: South African Council of Churches
[Written August 1997; presented 17.11.1997]
Submission signed and presented by the General Secretary Dr B. Bam.
- A22: United Congregational Church of Southern Africa



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- A22.1: Submission signed by Rev. B. Maluleka
[8 August 1997]
- A22.2: Second submission signed by Rev. D. van der Water
[October 1997]
- A23: Baptist Union of Southern [Africa]
[26 June 1997]
Submission signed by Terry Rae.
- A24: Women's perspective
[no date]
Submission from women's perspective. No author.
- A25: Church of England
[17.11.1997]
Testimony by Bishop Retief.
- A26: Church of the Province of Southern Africa
[17.11.1997]
Submission presented by Bishop Nuttall.
- A27: South African Hindu Maha Sabha
[19.11.1997]
Submission presented by A. Trikamjee.
- A28: United Reformed Church in Southern Africa (Messina Congregation), formerly Dutch Reformed Church Africa (NGKA Messina)
[no date]
Submission prepared and presented by the Church Council of the Congregation with a request for repossession and recovery of expropriated church property.
- A29: Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference
[17.11.1997]
Submission presented by Bishop Kevin Dowling.
- A30: Personal testimonies
- A30.1: Presented by Moulana Faried Essack
[18.11.1997]
- A30.2: Testimonies presented in private and personal capacities by Professors Van der Walt and Venter
[18.11.1997]
- A31: Personal witness
[no date]
Witness of Dutch Reformed Church delegates who had attended the International Global Consultation of world Evangelism.
- A32: World Conference on Religion and Peace (South African chapter)
[no date]
Submission
- A33: Zion Christian Church
[19.11.1997]
Submission presented by Bishop Lekganyane.