

FSAW  
Campaign Nurses

African National Congress Womens League  
Federation of South African Women  
P.O. Box 10876,  
Johannesburg.

204.1

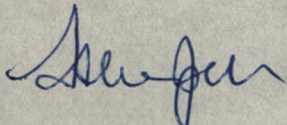
8.5.57

The Federation of South African Women together with the African National Congress Women's League views with deep concern the Nursing Act Amendment Bill, which seeks to introduce apartheid into the nursing profession.

As women and mothers we condemn this further attack upon the non-white women of South Africa and we protest against the callous indifference of this government which deliberately sacrifices the health of the nation to achieve the perpetuation of white supremacy. The standards of the nursing profession has been worthily maintained by its members in South Africa; despite poverty and the struggle for education, the African women particularly have responded magnificently to the call to womanhood to come forth and nurse the sick, to restore to health the people of South Africa. There is no evidence to support the claims of the white dominated South African Nursing Council that the non-white nurses cannot absorb the training common at present to all nurses. On the contrary, the non-white nurses have proved a valuable and an indispensable asset to the nursing profession, and yet the South African Nursing Association is prepared not only to sacrifice its own profession upon the altar of apartheid, but to violate its own integrity by proposing lower standards of training for non-white nurses, with the inevitable result of the lowering of nursing standards in the hospital and in the home.

As mothers of all races, we condemn outright this attempt to reduce non European nurses to a position of permanent inferiority and this endangering of the health of non European children by inferior nursing as a result of discriminatory training and we pledge our support to the non European nurses in their gallant struggle against this Bill, in their stand against the arbitrary attitude of the S.A. Nursing Board which seeks to crush all opposition to its shameful apartheid policy.

Mary Ranta - National Secretary A.N.C. Women's League.



Helen Joseph - National Secretary Federation of South African Women.



FSAW 511

The Federation of South African Women and the African National Congress Women's League protest most strongly against the vicious bans imposed upon Mrs. Helen Joseph, National Secretary of the Federation of South African Women, prohibiting her from attending any gatherings or leaving Johannesburg for a period of five years. The aim of the Federation of South African Women is to unite women of all races in the struggle for the rights of women, for the defence of our children and for the peace and happiness for all people, which can only arise from true racial harmony. The women of South Africa recall with pride the historic demonstration of 20,000 women of all races to the Union Buildings in August 1956, when, as women and mothers, we went together to protest against the issuing of passes to African women. As one of the leaders of the women on that memorable day, Mrs. Helen Joseph played a vital part in uniting women of all races, and we denounce the action of the Minister of Justice in restricting her to Johannesburg for five years on the ~~allegation~~ allegation that she has been promoting feelings of hostility between Europeans and non-Europeans.

The Federation of South African Women and the African National Congress Women's League call upon progressive women throughout the country to rally to the struggle of the people, to intensify their opposition to the degrading pass system and to the Group Areas Act which will bring suffering to thousands of families, and to the Native Laws Amendment Bill which seeks to prevent the mothers of South Africa from uniting. For this must be the answer of the women to Swart's bans, bans which only serve to measure the fear of the Nationalist Government of the growing strength and unity of the men and women of South Africa.

WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE WON FOR OUR CHILDREN THEIR  
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND SECURITY.

National President, Federation of South African  
Women.

Lillian Ngoyi

National President, African National Congress  
Women's League.



**Collection Number: AD1137**

**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.