

CA/2/2

3rd February, 1956.


Miss M. Mc Larty, M.P.C.,
31 Majorca Court,
Cavendish Road,
Yeoville,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Miss Mc Larty,

Thank you very much indeed for the copy you gave me of your article "Education in South Africa with special reference to Girls and Women and their opportunities". You have collected and most ably summarized a great deal of most useful and interesting information. I am so glad to have a copy.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,


Mariel Horrell (Miss)
TECHNICAL OFFICER.

the slight

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

(INCORPORATED)

To: Technical Officer,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

From: The Regional Representative,
S. A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box ~~731~~ 803,
DURBAN.

21st May, 1956.

Dear Miss Horrell,

MAY 24 1956

SURVEY OF NEEDS OF AFRICAN WOMEN : MRS. BRANDEL.

I am very interested in the above Survey as I am thinking in terms of African Womens' Clubs as a possible project for members in some of the smaller towns in Natal.

I am wondering whether you have a spare copy that could be loaned to me at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Draper

Mary Draper.

Field Organiser : Natal.

Q/4/2/2
Miss M. Draper,
Field Organiser,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
DURBAN.

28th May, 1956.

Dear Miss Draper,

I am replying to your letter to Miss Horrell dated 21st May, 1956 in connection with a Survey of Needs of African Women. When I came down to Durban in January I handed to Dr. Hilda Kuper a copy of the Survey of the Needs of African Women and I suggest that you ask her for a loan of her copy. It is impossible for me to lend a copy from Head Office.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,
DIRECTOR.

TELEPHONE: UMBUMBULU 5

COMMUNITY CENTRE
P.O. UMBUMBULU
NATAL

8th June, 1956.

Dr. Edgar H. Brookes,
c/o University,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Dear Dr. Brookes,

Won't you be so kind as to send me three copies of
your "MEMORADUM ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF AFRICAN (NATIVE)
WOMEN".

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sibusisiwe Makhanya
Sibusisiwe Makhanya.

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File
Miss Horrell,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

C/A/2/2
JUNE 28 1956

COPY

for your information

Our telephone conversation of the 25th June refers. I am deeply grateful for your prompt and kind assistance.

Thelma Gutsche

TG/

26th June 1956

Advocate Mrs Bertha Solomon M.P.,
c/o John Cohen Esq;
240b Almoner's House,
St James Court,
LONDON S.W.I..

Dear Mrs Solomon, Memorandum on the Legal Status of African Women

Referring to our discussion of the 14th June, I regret that neither the National Adviser for African Affairs, Mrs Jessie Hertslet, nor the Honorary Editor of the "N.C.W. News" were able to trace the article by Senator Edgar Brookes of which I spoke and I therefore turned in despair to Miss Horrell of the Institute of Race Relations.

Through the kindness and cooperation of Miss Horrell, I have pleasure in enclosing herewith both the article concerned and relative correspondence with the Department of Native Affairs, for your immediate information and trust that they will be of assistance in the discussion following your address.

This material derives from the Reference Library of the Institute and is ordinarily not available on long loan. I should therefore be very grateful if you would be so kind as to return it to me as soon after use as possible.

Please accept our best wishes for your success at the Conference you are attending and for benefit from your holiday.

Yours sincerely

Thelma Gutsche
THELMA GUTSCHE
National President

44 file
C/12/2/

National Council of Women of South Africa Nasionale Vroueraad van Suid-Afrika

HEADQUARTERS—HOOFKANTOOR

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN — 1911 — GEAFFILIEER MET DIE INTERNASIONALE VROUERAAD

HONORARY PRESIDENT/ERE-PRESIDENTE: HER EXCELLENCY/HAAR EKSELLENSIE MEV./MRS. E. G. JANSEN.
HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS/LEWENBLANGE ERE-ONDERPRESIDENTES: MEV./MRS. E. R. MCILWRAITH, THE COUNTESS OF CLARENDON, MEV./MRS. N. B. SPILHAUS, MEV./MRS. B. SOLOMON, M.P./L.V., MEV./MRS. W. A. D. RUSSELL, MEV./MRS. A. B. LOW.
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HONORARY TREASURER/ERE-PENNINGMEESTERES: MEV./MRS. M. F. POOLE.
PUBLICITY OFFICER/PUBLISITEITSSKAKELBEAMPT: MEV./MRS. I. GODFREY.
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE/LID VAN DIE PARLEMENTERE KOMITEE: MEJ./MISS S. KUSSEL.
CONVENOR OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE/SAMEROEPSTER VAN DIE PARLEMENTERE KOMITEE: MEJ./MISS E. DELBRIDGE.
HONORARY EDITOR/ERE-REDAKTRISE "N.C.W. NEWS": MEV./MRS. J. M. GRIEVE.

TELEPHONE/TELEFOON:
JOHANNESBURG 23-1595

TELEGRAMS/TELEGRAMME:
"WOMEN" JOHANNESBURG
TG

MAANDAE TOT VRYDAE
KANTOORURE:
9 — 12.30
OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

AUTOMUTUALGEBOU 308
DE VILLIERSSTRAAT 57.
JOHANNESBURG.

308 AUTOMUTUAL HOUSE,
57 DE VILLIERS STREET.
JOHANNESBURG.
13th July 1956

The Technical Officer,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

JULY 16 1956

Dear Miss Horrell,

Legal Status of African Women

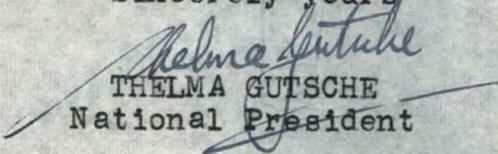
Advocate Mrs Bertha Solomon M.P. has written me a lengthy letter expressing the warmest gratitude and appreciation for the timeous availability of the information which you so kindly made available and which I return herewith with renewed gratitude.

She stayed at Newnham College with delegates of many races and obviously greatly profitted by the experience. Her address, she thinks, was successful and she was indeed asked questions about the legal status of African women, notably by West African delegates, being correspondingly grateful for your kind coöperation.

Although it is not at present available, I will show her letter to you on the soonest occasion.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours


THELMA GUTSCHE
National President

FROM

DR. EDGAR H. BROOKES

TELEPHONE 2-2714

12 Chamberlain Road

~~88 Broomfield Street~~

PIETERMARITZBURG

21st July, 1956.

The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

JULY 23 1956

My dear Quintin,

not enclosed
Just returned from leave, I have found waiting for me the enclosed letter from Sibusisiwa Makhanya. Would you please pass it on to whoever on your staff deals with these matters. As far as I know you have the only full and authentic copies of my memorandum on the legal status of African women. If you could do anything to help Miss Makhanya, I should be grateful. Incidentally if you are having copies made, I should be grateful if you would have one additional one made for myself.

Miss Makhanya was kind enough to send me a postal order for 5/-. I should hardly think this would be enough to cover the expense of typing copies of the memorandum, but such as it is I am sending you a cheque for the amount.

I look forward to seeing you and to having a long chat one of these days.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

E.H. BROOKES.

per. [Signature]

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Dr. Brookes regrets not being able to sign this letter personally, but has been called away from Pietermaritzburg and does not wish to delay the letter.

24th July, 1956.

Dr. Edgar H. Brookes,
12 Chamberlain Road,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Dear Dr. Brookes,

The letter from Miss Sibusisiwa Makhanya was unfortunately not enclosed in your letter of 21st July to Mr. Whyte. Mr. Whyte is on holiday at present but if you will send on Miss Makhanya's letter we will try to help her. We are holding your cheque for 5/3 meanwhile.

Yours sincerely,

K. Glynn (Miss)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

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FROM

DR. EDGAR H. BROOKES
TELEPHONE 2-2714

12 Chamberlain Road

~~88 Rismansing Street~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
PIETERMARITZBURG

6th August, 1956.

Miss K. Glynn,
C/o South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

AUG 8 1956

Dear Miss Glynn, *(Your letter of 24/7/56)*

I am sorry that I omitted to enclose Miss Makhanya's letter. What she is asking for is the "Memorandum on the Legal Status of African (Native) Women". This is a memorandum which I prepared myself and of which I sent copies to the Institute. I have not been able so far to put my finger on any copies of my own and thought that the Institute would probably have this filed and would be able to make copies for Miss Makhanya. Please let me know if you are able to trace it and are in a position to help her.

Yours sincerely,

Edgar H. Brookes

Ref. No. C/A/2/2

10th August, 1956.

Dr. the Hon. E.H. Brookes,
12 Chamberlain Road,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Dear Dr. Brookes,

Thank you for your letter - we have your memorandum on file
and are having further copies made.

When these are ready I will send one down to you and three
to Miss Makhanya.

Yours sincerely,

K. Glynn (Miss),
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

W. Whyte
A.O. Felo
C/A/2/1
SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC.)
SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYSF)

W.O. 219.

Telephone: 3-2318.

To: The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

From: Regional Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
203, Bree Street,
C A P E T O W N.

25th February, 1957

FEB 27 1957

Dear Mr. Whyte,

As requested by you, two copies of the letter sent to the Chairman of the Native Affairs Committee, Cape Town Municipality, were sent to you. As these don't seem to have been received, I enclose two more (your letter of 21st February). If you want any further information, will you let me know?

Yours sincerely,

Tockie Plaistowe

(Mrs.) G.C. Plaistowe
REGIONAL SECRETARY.

PERMITS FOR AFRICAN WOMEN.

Dear Sir,

Following a deputation from the S.A. Institute of Race Relations and the National Council of Women, which met representatives of the Native Affairs Committee on 6th December, 1956, the following points brought up by the deputation are set out for your information and consideration:

1. Is it the policy of the Council to regard as purely temporary the residence of all African women who do not qualify to remain in the Municipal area in terms of sub-section (1) (a), (b) and (c) of Section 10 of the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act? (Act No. 25 of 1954).
2. Could permits not be given for longer periods as the necessity for frequent renewals causes hardships and insecurity? This applies particularly to women entitled to be in the urban area in terms of Section 10, and who are in residence under an exemption certificate.
3. Is it not possible to evolve a definite basis for the grant of permits which would (a) lessen the work of the Native Affairs Department by reducing the necessity for renewals; (b) give the applicants more security for the period covered by their permits. If such a basis were evolved, the terms should be widely published through all available channels.
4. The practice of sending women who apply for permits back to the Inspector for letters, etc., often involves the applicant in hardship and expense and allows permits to be granted or withheld on an arbitrary basis. It is suggested that a new system of investigation be considered and devised by the Council.
5. Permits should be more readily issued:
 - (a) to women who come to Cape Town for the purpose of medical treatment not available at their homes. Such permits often seem to be issued for an unduly short period and necessitate too frequent renewal by women already handicapped by their own illness or that of their children.
 - (b) to women who wish to leave the Municipal areas for a short period for domestic or other reasons, and then return here.
6. To what extent is proof of marriage insisted on for women wishing to qualify under Section 1 (1) (c)? In the case of a Customary Union they are often sent to make a sworn declaration at the Native Affairs Department. Through misunderstanding, perhaps on the part of the Africans concerned, and sometimes on the part of Native Affairs Department officials, it often appears that the marriage contract is made for the purpose of obtaining a permit, and is so interpreted by the officials. In any event, such applicants are then legally entitled to be in the area and should be given the benefit of the law.
7. Do women at present living in "black Spots" receive the same consideration as those living in recognised African townships?
8. What consideration is given to the destination of women ordered to leave Cape Town when they no longer have any links with rural areas?
9. It is felt by the deputation that the position with regard to permits for women should be made very clear and made known to the African people both rural and urban.

10. /.....

(Continued on Page 2 of Agenda)

Continuation: copy of letter to Native Affairs Committee, Cape Town City Council.

10. That in view of the effect of Influx Control and permit regulations on the family life of human beings, these should be applied in as liberal a spirit as is possible.

PERMITS IN OTHER AREAS.

With regard to statements made that permits to seek work were required in other areas besides Cape Town, on enquiry we find that -

(a) the reference book system (Proper) is already in operation in approximately forty small towns, two of which are in the South-West Transvaal, eight in the Orange Free State, and the remainder in the Cape, mainly Midlands and the South.

(b) A voluntary system exists in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The documents used are called "letters of privilege". These differ from permits in that they do not have to be produced for the police. They have to be produced, however, if the women want municipal housing or help in finding employment.

(c) A permit system similar to that in operation in Cape Town exists only in Bloemfontein, and, as far as permission to be employed is concerned, in Boksburg, Transvaal.

Sgd. by Regional Chairman,
Prof. B. Beinart.

Collection Number: AD1715

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