

Youth Committee Report

April 1985

A Youth Campaign was originally seen as constituting the bulk of E.C.C. work this year and as involving the E.C.C. as a whole and its sub-committees and affiliates. The role of the youth committee was originally conceived on two levels, namely E.C.C. representation on and participation in I.Y.Y. structures and activities, and coordinating E.C.C.'s own youth campaign. Strategizing and planning on both levels would take place within the Youth Committee. This would be facilitated by the representation of members of the sub-committee's on the Youth Committee - Youth Culture, Media, and Cultural Roadshow.

The Youth Committee has thus consisted of reps from other E.C.C. subgroups and from C.A.G., as well as by E.C.C. members who have represented E.C.C. on the Western Cape I.Y.Y. committee, the Churches I.Y.Y. Coordinating Committee and the Grassroots Media Committee.

A programme of activity for the year was drawn up and a schools sub-committee was established to work specifically with the school student constituency. After a few months of functioning in this way with considerable emphasis on report backs from the I.Y.Y. structures, it was felt that it was time to assess the role and function of the Youth Committee. After an exciting start the committee was losing momentum and lacked direction. Moreover the Youth Committee as such had no particular focus - most of the work regarding youth being carried out in the different sub-committees. There has been no specific E.C.C. youth campaign and no real targeting of areas. Also there has not really been a concerted youth campaign for I.Y.Y. in which E.C.C. could insert itself. So the Youth Committee's function has been limited to one of coordination.

The focus of the assessment was the consideration of whether or not there was a role for the youth committee beyond that of coordination. It was agreed that because of the representative nature of the youth committee it was particularly well placed for in-depth discussion. More-over youth remained a major constituency for E.C.C. work and there was still a need for planning and strategizing. This could be facilitated by cutting down on reports which tend to be dull and by emphasising the assessment of the different sub-committees and affiliates eg, C.A.G., youth programmes, as well as E.C.C.'s participation in I.Y.Y. related structures.

It was suggested that the Youth Committee embark on a specific youth focus which would involve participation from all E.C.C. sub-committees eg. a youth focus on Republic Day or 16th June.

It was agreed that there remained a positive role for the Youth Committee. It's coordinating role should involve less frequent reportbacks and focus more on assessment that could lead to strategizing and planning. The composition of the Youth Committee as representing the different aspects of E.C.C.'s activities allowing for a cross-fertilization of ideas and the development of a realistic perspective on the youth campaign.

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