

MEMORANDUM

FSTW CB 11-5-8  
Passes - Misc.

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR OF SPRINGS BY THE WOMEN OF  
PAYNEVILLE AND KWA THEMA ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD,  
AT 10 a.m. AT THE SPRINGS TOWN HALL

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We, the women of Payneville and of Kwa Thema, have come here today to make our protest to you, the Mayor of Springs, against the permit system which has been so shamefully imposed upon the African women of Springs.

We come as workers, as women, to make it clear to you that we are totally opposed to these permits, for we regard them as no protection to any woman, but as the vicious forerunner of the pass, the badge of slavery which no African woman will willingly and knowingly accept. We realise that many of our African women in the countryside have been tricked into taking these passes, but we are women of the towns and we know the pass to be an evil and a shameful thing, an insult to womanhood.

We oppose and condemn these "permits" for we say that every woman has a right to work and to seek work, and need not ask permission. We bear our children and ours is the right to work for them.

We know that these permits will bring upon us the horrors of the pass system; will expose us to raids by the police; to brutal arrests; will tear us from our little children and leave them helpless.

We have lived long in your town of Springs; we and our husbands our sons and our daughters, have lived and worked here. It is our labour that has helped to build Springs, to bring prosperity to the people of Springs, a prosperity which we do not share.

We call upon you, the Mayor of Springs, to see that this permit system is withdrawn, to restore to us, the women of Payneville and of Kwa Thema, the freedom to work and to seek work.

We demand this for ourselves and for our children, for we shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental right to freedom, justice and security.

Misc.  
Passes  
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**Collection Number: AD1137**

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

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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