

1. THE BANNING OF CHIEF LUTHULI:

This conference declares its shock and alarm at the banning of Chief Luthuli under the Suppression of Communism Act and the Riotous Assemblies Act, under the pretext that he is promoting hostility between Black and White.

Conference records that no-one in South Africa has done more to promote racial harmony than Chief Luthuli and that there is no justification whatsoever for banning and confining him to Groutville Reserve.

This conference calls upon the people of South Africa, organisations and individuals, to protest and demand the lifting of the ban on Chief Luthuli and to call a halt to this type of arbitrary action.

2. THE PASS LAWS:

This conference declares that the inhuman police persecution and arrests of thousands of people annually, the intolerable low wages paid in industry and the semi-slavery system prevailing on the farms and are all due to the pass system, which has contaminated the life of the peoples of South Africa.

This conference accordingly proclaims the intention of those gathered here today and all those we represent, to campaign to the limits of our ability against the pass laws, for their total abolition and for the restoration to all people of their human rights, including the right to move about freely, to sell their labour where they please and to protection from arbitrary police raids, arrests and petty persecutions.

In accordance with the decision, conference resolves as follows:-

1. To demand of the Government an immediate end to the system of mass arrests for petty technical offences against pass, permit and tax regulations;
2. To organise for mass demonstrations against the pass laws on June 26th, the demonstrations to take the form of self-denial, including abstention from all shopping and attendance at cinemas, beerhalls and other places of entertainment;
3. To embark upon such forms of struggle as may from time to time be decided upon until the pillar of our oppression and exploitation is shattered.

3. FARM LABOUR:

This National Anti-Pass Conference resolves that a full investigation into the conditions of the work on the farms, in particular in the districts of Bethal, Nigel, Standerton, Trichard and Heidelberg be carried out and demands that an impartial commission which should include Africans be appointed without delay.

Conference further resolves:

1. To intensify the campaign against the pass laws and for a national minimum wage for farm workers;



2. To fight for the right of farm workers to organise to protest for their rights;
3. To organise Africans to know and use their rights and to refuse to be kidnapped for, or forced to take up, farm labour;
4. To call on all organisations and individuals to join hands in the campaign against the abuses of the farm labour system.

4. THE BANNING OF MEETINGS:

Conference strongly condemns the banning of the protest meeting in Sophiatown on Sunday 31st May, 1959 and the meeting subsequently arranged for Saturday afternoon.

It strongly repudiates the suggestion implied in these bannings, that these peaceful meetings would lead to violence.

Current allegations of a "plot" are the cloak behind which the people are deprived of their liberties.

Conference also deplores the interference which delegates from Natal suffered on the way to attend the meetings.

5. GROUP AREAS ACT:

This mass conference convened by the A.N.C. and its allies on the 30/5/59 at the Gandhi Hall Johannesburg regards the implementation of the Group Areas Act as a basic violation of human rights.

Since its implementation in 1950 and onwards the Group Areas Act has been used :-

- a) To ruin our people economically, financially;
- b) As an instrument to perpetuate the policy of Apartheid;
- c) To further lower the living standard of our people and reduce them to the status of hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Conference calls upon the Government to repeal their iniquitous Act which has brought untold suffering and misery to the peoples of South Africa. It further calls upon the people to reject it and to further strengthen their efforts to have this fascist law removed from the statute book of South Africa.

This conference also condemns the vicious and treacherous actions of the landlords who take advantage of the restrictions on the people by this Act by exploiting, and demanding goodwill and high rents.

-----

**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.