

black hand best goes to the white hand. We must fight together, Europeans, Indians, Africans, Coloureds. Laws like the Native Settlement of Disputes Act affects all women, even white women.

At a telegram ^{of thanks} was read from the Presbyterian Church, Fort Beaufort.

7. M(?) Thompson, Food and Clothing Workers, Kimberley

The Cape Town ~~for~~ delegate had spoken of children dying of starvation. Malan had said the non-Europeans must do things for themselves ~~but~~ and the mothers wanted crèches for their children. In 1952 the N.C.W. in Kimberley had asked the City Council for a home and had asked all Non European women to contribute. All had given, sugar wood, everything. Now 40 children were being looked after. She could not see enough nurses at this conference. She saw 4, but there ought to be 40. She was a nurse herself in Kimberley, but as she could not tolerate the conditions of employment ⁱⁿ the City Council, ^{for Non European} she had given 24 hours notice and now worked on her own, and did not need to fear the Government. Florence Nightingale had sacrificed herself and devoted her life to the nation. What were the women of the Red Cross going to do about South Africa? "Wake up, women!"

8. Hetty du Preez (Garment Workers Union, no 2 Branch)

Congratulated the stand taken by the African women and the Indian women, who were no longer purchasables. She regretted that the Coloured women were not here in the forefront for they had a bitter lesson to learn; too many were "play whites" and followed Malan, disregarding the struggles of the Africans. Thinking the disabilities were not the same. Before the Native Settlement of Disputes Act, the Coloured had worked and struggled side by side with the African women in the clothing factories.

but now our African friends are told that they must form an African women's ~~union~~ organisation. The employers have already taken advantage, saying that the Coloureds won't sit with African women, that Govt inspectors want separate cloakrooms for Coloureds and Africans, and African women are being dismissed. Lucy Mubete the African organiser and a delegate to this conference, knows how the Garment workers' Union tries to keep the African women employed. The Government is slashing the people, and what are the mothers going to do about it? It is time that the husbands prepare food for the women when they ^{the women,} come from work, if the women are no longer their slaves; we have thrown off the cloak of slavery. We must not forget that European women suffer some of the same disabilities as the non-European. The Government is a snake which will bite the playthings and the Europeans as well as the non-Europeans. The ~~tar~~ belongs to the G.W.U. which is mostly women, which knows the disabilities of women. ^{Non-European} Women demands the vote to put the right people in Parliament, to get nursing homes and crèches. "Women of Africa, do we promise to stand together, to go forward into unity?"

CHAIRMAN Stella MacLeod, (Cape Factory Workers' Committee, Newlands)
took the chair of the remainder of the conference.

9. Winifred Sigwana (Women's Vigilance Committee, Langa, C.F.)
Other delegates had said most of what she wanted to say, so she would not take up much time. Women must act not talk, and must leave the conference with a decision for action. Ray Alexander would be as powerful as the atom bomb, and the elections to be held on Wednesday would show that the people wanted Ray.

10. G. Mafeking (Food Caring Workers Union (Huguenot or Kimberley?))
 Proud to speak although nothing new to say. She had thought that at the conference they would be told to act, not make speeches. The ^{great} people were going to be elected on the list and would defy the Government by electing Ray Alexander.

The treasurer announced that the collection amounted to £7.

11. Martina N Gxeha (African Food and Caring Workers ^{East London})
 The conditions in East London were well known to everybody. The wages ^{were} very shameful for these times and could hardly support life for people with families. The present position ^{in S. Africa} was like that in old China. Now Schoenberg wanted to bring in his diabolical law for factory workers, but the people would not congratulate him on it. Ray Alexander had achieved something for when she was removed from her post in her Trade Union, she had gone on fighting. When she reached East London, she would see all the women of East London engaged in the struggle for freedom. Women must work for the rights of their children, for food, for clothes, for maternity homes.

12. (NB. I do not have the name or Portrait Elizabeth of the original form as she arrived in the afternoon). This speech was not well interpreted so it would like to talk in English, but as she had never been to school, she must talk in her own language. This was the first time she had been to such a gathering and she was happy to be there. This gathering would bring her to Dr Malan, because he did not want the women of S. Africa to be united. He should be able to control on father's land and to progress with our children. In P.E. the ^{women} ~~people~~ had worked hard, and but now they had things as never before, passes for women. But the women

I am sure he made equally good sense

had taken the passes and put them in a bag & took
back to the Superintendent who had issued them, saying
"Take your rubbish!" Now they were still writing for
the next thing, but they would not carry passes, they
would rather have death or gas. There was no
help from the Gov. for if you complain about anything
you will be locked up as a Communist. The police
said the children for passes, even children of the year
children of other lands can sit peacefully, but our
children cannot. We are imprisoned without reason,
but we shall fight. In P.E. there are not enough
nurses and they must walk as far as from Jhams-
berg to Vereeniging. Now the women will have an
organisation that will fight with the African National
Congress against the Native Settlement of Disputes Act.
Other organisations are dead and buried but the
African National Congress will fight to the last woman.
The land was taken from us without reason, and if
we ask for it we are Communists. But even if we
are shot, we shall die happy if we fight. Many
women are following. Ray Alexander must come to
Parliament because she understands our difficulties.
If she does not sit in Parliament, then Malan should
not sit. We must kill Malan as he is living here in
the Ciskei. In P.E. our rents have been increased and
but Schoeman, Dreyer and the Cabinet say we must
pay. Harasamp teaches us to be wise, and we shall
fight till death. Malan should take a map of the
beautiful determined African women. We cannot
surrender. I say to you "Have enough courage. We
will not retreat. We want to go to war with Malan.
We have no guns for an war but we shall fight until
he goes in. When we had a breakdown on the
road, we cried because we thought we could not get

to the meeting, but God brought us here. Have courage, women of all nationalities of South Africa! We have been told to speak for only three minutes, but I spoke for more because I am a defier!

13. Louisa Mtshana (Nyanga Vigilance Association, Cape Town)

Many delegates have brought complaints of their difficulties. Nyanga is also a small place in great difficulties. Our rents fluctuate at the time, and it is all because of Malan's policies. The officials send papers for information about our husbands' expenses when they want to put up the rent, but they do not ask for ours. We have to fight with our husbands when they accuse ^{us} of waste. I have come to contradict that traitor of Nyanga who said the people of Nyanga are not against the regulations of the Government. The delegates have covered all the points so there is really nothing more for me to say. I too am liable to be a prisoner because our location Superintendent came into my home when Ray was there. He invited him to lunch and told him it was a birthday party! The Superintendent says I am a bad influence in the location and wants me to be taken away. Perhaps when I get back, I shall find, like other people, that all my possessions have been taken out of the location. It is good to be here and to see everybody cooperating. Before we appeared we did not cooperate.

14. C. Rosier (SACOD, Cape Town)

Speaking as a housewife, a woman, a short-hand typist, a member of SACOD, feels that irrespective of skin or economic status, women are workers and must fight for the right to be South African citizens.

We must make up our minds that we shall ~~not~~ not just talk, but we shall go home and work and carry out every resolution. Women must lead the men in the fight against unjust laws: the Banks Education Act, the Industrial Conciliation ^{act} Amendment Bill, the Pass laws and the Population Registration Act which affects African, Indian, Coloured and European men and women. The Women's Federation would have a strong and united platform and we must make up our minds to fight the malicious fascist acts. Let the women lead and have no fear. We should be proud of the attendance at this conference and we must have no fear of goats; we should feel no shame in goat for we shall come out proud. The next conference of women will have five times the attendance of today, but we shall have to come and report on the work we have done in the houses, the villages the locations - and the Kitchens!

The Chairman closed the discussion in view of the lack of further time and said that delegates would be able to ~~to~~ speak of it the social in the evening. It was time to adopt resolutions which tell the women what to do, and to frame the Charter which would tell them what to fight for.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Native Land/Trust ^{act} Amendment Bill and the Natives Resettlement Bill.
 Proposed Dora Tamana
 Seconded Fatima Ismail

2. Banks Education Act
 Prop^a
 Sec^a

- (c) ~~at~~ Separate Representation of Voters Act.
 Prop^d: Gladys Smith Cape Town
 Sec^d: K. Ryghoff Cape Town
- (d) Keesee.
 Prop^d: Joan Palmer Johannesburg
 Sec^d: C. Rozier Cape Town
- (e) Native Labour Settlement of Dapulo Act.
 Prop^d: Lucy Mubude Johannesburg
 Sec^d: Martha Ngizela B. Kwaan
- (f) Kenya.
 Prop^d: Sheila Stomitz Johannesburg
 Sec^d: M. Thompson Kimberley
- (g) Freedom Congress.
 Prop^d: Maggie Morris ?
 Sec^d: Beale Lipman Johannesburg
- (h)

FREEDOM CHARTER. ~~Chairman~~ ~~Secretary~~
Women's

Ray Alyson read the Charter in English and Don Tamara spoke to it.

~~The~~ ~~Chairman~~ ~~stated~~ ~~that~~ the principles of the ~~Free~~ Women's Charter had been agreed to by the Conference. The work of the ~~Conference~~ would not be complete without a committee to carry ^{out} its decisions. She made the following suggestions.

1. Copies of the Draft Constitution would be circulated to all ~~representative~~ ~~and~~ organizations + discussions should be organized and changes suggested and forwarded to the new Committee.
2. Suggestions should be made from the Committee to strengthen the women's sections in

organisations to and to how to work on the resolutions during the coming year.

3. a yearly conference should be held
4. ~~The~~ The place of the Head Office should be decided by the conference ^{for the coming year}
5. a President should be elected and 4 Vice-Presidents, one each for the Eastern Province, the Western Province, Natal and the Transvaal. A Committee of 20 should be elected, 11 of whom should reside in the ~~provinc~~ district of the Head Office.

It was proposed by Maggie Norris () seconded by () that the Head Office be in Cape Town for the following year that a Committee of 20 be elected, 11 of whom should be resident in the Cape.

The Charter was adopted on a motion by () seconded by Betty du Preez.

Ida Mtswana was elected President (proposed by Idla who, seconded by Graep Smith)

- Vice-Presidents
- 1) Graep Smith.
 - 2) Lilian Govi.
 - 3) Fatima Sedat?

Committee	Ray abraham	?	N Tongue
	B. Tafeking	Anne Selinga	Betty du Preez
	Betty Nkomo	Louisa Mtswana	Mrs. Siobhan
	Don Tamena	Cecilia Rorer	Idla Watts
	Marie White	Christine Jenson	Faluna Hill
	Fran Chude	+ others in the Cape.	Helmi Joseph
			Franco Buerd
			M. Macela

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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