

# **SERVICE FOR CONSCRIPTS**



**St Paul's Church  
February 3rd 1990**

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**HOSTED BY:  
THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVERS' GROUP -  
SERVICEMEN WHO ARE DOING COMMUNITY WORK  
INSTEAD OF SERVING IN THE S.A.D.F.**

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1.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation,  
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health & salvation  
Come ye who hear,  
Brothers and sisters draw near,  
Praise him with glad adoration.

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Praise to the Lord, who o'er all thing so wondrously  
reigneth  
Shelters thee under his wings, yes, so gently  
sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen,  
All that is needful hath been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

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Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper they work and  
defend thee,  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee,  
Ponder anew  
All the Almighty can do,  
He who with love doth befriend thee.

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Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him,  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises  
before him,  
Let the amen  
Sound from his people again,  
Gladly for ay we adore him.



## WELCOME

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION [all kneel]

**LEADER:** We're all different, Lord.  
Different from each other, and different within ourselves:  
sometimes joyful, sometimes sad, at times malicious,  
at other times kind, often angry, rarely at peace,  
usually trusting, yet shaken by doubt.

We thank you that we know you will come to us  
in different ways, at different times

You will help us to look at our anger, and use it for good;  
you will take our peacefulness to calm others.

You will give us strength in our grief,  
and provide an unshakeable rock beneath all our doubts.

You will meet us in our worst moments of pride and egotism,  
challenge us, and pick us up, and set us again in the path of love.

You will follow us to the darkest places of our lives,  
rescue us from our deepest sin,  
and bring us to your presence and your love.

Again and again you will be to us the very spirit of love  
and joy, and companionship. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus.

### HYMN [all kneeling]

**SOLO:** When I needed a neighbour, were you there,  
Were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

**ALL [chorus]** And the creed, and the colour  
And the name won't matter -  
Were you there?



**SOLO:** I was hungry and thirsty, were you there ...  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
**chorus**

**SOLO:** I was cold, I was naked, were you there ...  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
**chorus**

**SOLO:** When I needed a shelter, were you there ...  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?  
**chorus**

**SOLO:** When I needed a healer, were you there ...  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
**chorus**

**SOLO:** Wherever you travel, I'll be there ...  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

**All:**           **And the creed and the colour  
and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there!**

### **GENERAL CONFESSION**

**I confess to Almighty God, and to you,  
my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned  
through my own fault,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done, and in what I have  
failed to do. And I ask God for forgiveness  
for the sake of his Son, our Lord. Amen.**

**Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our  
sins and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**SOLO**

**BIBLE READING**

**SERMON [Bishop Norman Hudson]**

**HYMN [all stand]**

For the healing of the nations,  
    Lord, we pray with one accord,  
For a just and equal sharing  
    of the things the earth affords.  
To a life of faith in action  
    let us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,  
    from despair your world release;  
That, redeemed from war and hatred,  
    all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness,  
    fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living  
    let it from the earth be banned;  
Pride of status, race or schooling,  
    dogmas that divide our land.  
In our common quest for justice  
    may we hallow life's brief span.



You, Creator-God have written  
your great name on humankind;  
For our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

### LITANY OF INTERCESSION

LEADER: Great and Almighty God: you hear our prayers  
before we speak, and answer before we know our need.  
Though we cannot pray adequately, may your Spirit  
pray in us, drawing us to you, and towards our  
neighbours on earth.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

LEADER: We pray for the whole creation: may all  
things work together for good, until, by your design,  
humanity shall inherit the earth and order it wisely.

PEOPLE: **Let the whole creation praise you,  
Lord our God.**

LEADER: We pray for the church of Jesus Christ, that  
begun, maintained, and promoted by your Spirit, it  
may be true, engaging, glad and active, doing your will

PEOPLE: **Let the church be always faithful,  
Lord our God.**

LEADER: We pray for peace in the world. Disarm  
weapons, silence guns, and put out ancient hate that  
smoulders still or flames in sudden conflict. Create  
goodwill among men and women of every race and nation.

PEOPLE: **Bring peace to the earth, O God.**

LEADER: We pray for those who must go to war, and  
for those who will not go: may they all retain their  
individual convictions and have charity toward one  
another.



**PEOPLE:** Guard those who are brave,  
everywhere, O God.

**LEADER:** We pray for those involved in world government, in agencies of control or compassion, who work for the reconciling of nations: keep them hopeful, and work with them for peace.

**PEOPLE:** Unite our broken world, Gracious God!

**LEADER:** We pray for those in positions of authority over conscripts guard them from abusing their power and give them a compassionate concern for those in their care.

**PEOPLE:** O God, govern those who govern us.

**LEADER:** We pray for the loved ones of conscripts and those for whom conscripts are responsible: keep love alive in separation and help them to be constant in prayer and remembrance.

**PEOPLE:** O God, give courage to wives, parents,  
children and special friends.

**LEADER:** We pray for all people being conscripted at this time: may their response spring from a well-formed and well-informed conscience.

**PEOPLE:** O God, help us to obey the loving  
demands you place on our consciences.

**LEADER:** We pray for the safety of all conscripts: may they know your protection and grace.

**PEOPLE:** Guard them from all danger and protect  
them from every evil, Lord God.

**LEADER:** We pray for all people everywhere: may they come into their own as daughters and sons of God, and inherit the kingdom prepared in Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, and Saviour of the world.

**PEOPLE:** Hear our prayers, Almighty God,  
in the name of Jesus our Lord, who  
prays with us and for us, to whom be  
praise forever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father...



**THE PEACE** : Soloist    The Prayer of St Francis

LEADER:    Peace be with you!

PEOPLE: **And also with you!**

**CLOSING HYMN**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
Bid my anxious fears subside  
Death of death and hell's destruction  
Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee.

**DISMISSAL**:            Go in peace and serve the Lord

PEOPLE:                **In the Name of Christ, AMEN.**

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*N.B. Do join us for a cup of tea!*



## Religious Objection:

# A legal alternative to service in the SADF

The Defence Act provides for 'community service' as an alternative to military service, for those persons categorised as 'religious objectors'. The Board for Religious Objection has been established to consider applications for categorisation as a religious objector.

- **Mr Justice J W Edeling**, who is the Board's Chairperson, will present the **workings of the Board** for Religious Objection.
- A **Religious Objector** will present his experiences of **Community Service**.
- This will be followed by an opportunity for **questions** and discussion about the Board and Community Service.

Date: **Tuesday 24th March**

Time: **7.30 pm**

Venue: **St Thomas' Church Hall**, Musgrave Road, Durban.

All are welcome to attend. Come and hear about this legal alternative to military service.



**The Defence Act:** Those who have religious objections to service in the South African Defence Force are faced with the following choices:

**1. Applying for Non-Combatant Service.** This may be granted if you are classified as "a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render service in a combatant capacity in any armed force" (Section 72D(1)(a)(i)). If granted, the period of non-combatant service in the SADF is the normal period, i.e. 2 years initial service plus 720 days of camps over 12 years.

**2. Applying for Non-Uniformed Non-Combatant Service.** This may be granted if you are classified as "a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render service in a combatant capacity in any armed force, to perform any maintenance tasks of a combatant nature therein and to be clothed in a military uniform." (Section 72D(1)(a)(ii)). If granted, the period of service in the SADF is 1.5 times the normal period, i.e. 3 years initial service plus 1080 days of camps over 12 years.

**3. Applying for Community Service.** This may be granted if you are classified as "a religious objector with whose religious convictions it is in conflict to render any military service or to undergo any military training or to perform any task in or in connection with any armed force" (Section 72D(1)(a)(iii)). If granted, the period of service is 1.5 times the normal period served in one continuous period, i.e. up to 6 years. You will have nothing to do with the SADF. Your service is administered by the Department of Manpower and you will work in a municipal or government department.

**4. Refusing to serve.** Those refusing to serve in the SADF are "liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period one-and-a-half times as long as the whole period of service still to be rendered ... or for a period of 18 months, whichever is the longer" (Section 126A(1)(a)).



The address of the Board for Religious Objection is Private Bag X20521, Bloemfontein 9300. Applicants should apply in writing and should state the category into which they wish to be classified, the facts and grounds on which their application is based, and the books of revelation and articles of faith on which their religious convictions are based. Applicants may include with their application affidavits from witnesses who they intend to call in support of the application.

Applicants are advised to seek guidance before submitting their applications. There is a free **counselling service** available to any person who is experiencing difficulties or problems regarding military conscription. Contact any of the following people:

Paul W ☎ 816 2010 or ☎ 31 7616

Anita or Richard H ☎ 45 6574 or W ☎ 301 5663

Sue H ☎ 78 4752 or W ☎ 31 2609



STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DEFENCE AMENDMENT ACT, 1983, TO BE IMPLEMENTED  
JANUARY 1984

We wish to make known our rejection of the new legislation on conscientious objectors as embodied in the Defence Amendment Act, 1983.

We believe that this legislation has been designed, not so much to give recognition to genuine conscientious objectors, as to ruthlessly crush all democratic expression of conscientious objection.

We reject this legislation because the period of service which religious pacifists are required to serve (6 years continuous) is more than twice the longest period of alternative service demanded by any democratic state in the world. A period of 6 years implies that a university trained teacher would not be able to teach until after his 27th birthday. A scientist trained to doctorate level would be 31 before he completed his studies.

By contrast people undergoing military service can complete similar training before they are 23 and 27 respectively. Thus this legislation not only discriminates against objectors in the severity of its period but also removes the most productive years of a person's life and gives no guarantee that the 6 years will be spent constructively in activities relevant to the objector's qualifications or experience. It effectively makes objection, even for a religious pacifist, a crime.

We reject this legislation because it places the religious pacifist doing alternate service under a virtual banning order, with its prohibitions and severe penalties relating to the publication of the objector's writings and his political activities. This serves to further reinforce our view that the legislation views all objectors, including religious pacifists, as criminals.

We reject this legislation because it seeks to distinguish between 'religious' and other objectors, both of whose opposition to war is based on equally genuine ethical and moral foundations.

We reject this legislation because it imposes penalties on moral, humanist and political objectors that are in excess of those applied in any other country, including the Soviet Union. These men of integrity will be imprisoned for a period longer than many sentences for manslaughter, drug dealing, common assault, car theft and hijacking.

The new legislation is in our opinion characterised by unreasonable punitiveness, gross discrimination and downright unfairness. It is a retrogressive step and represents on paper harsher treatment of conscientious objectors than the old legislation in practice. It will force many young South Africans, who love their country and wish to serve it, to go into exile from it. This would constitute an unnecessary drain of already scarce skilled manpower.

We believe our country is capable of better than this and therefore call on the Government to withdraw this legislation and enter into consultation with objectors and concerned religious and secular bodies in order to formulate more practical, more reasonable and more just legislation.

Durban Conscientious Objector Support Group.



Do you mind advertising this right at  
the end - just - who  
- where  
- when.

\* Info sheets available at the door  
afterwards.

I am giving Jill Brown  
an opportunity to do so at the  
end of the meeting.



# DIGGER UPDATE #3

-AN INFORMAL REPORT ON PEACE ACTIVITIES IN-  
BLOEMFONTEIN  
ROUNDAABOUT SEPTEMBER 1986

DEAR FRIENDS

OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR THE HUGE GAP BETWEEN  
UPDATES 2 AND 3. WE HAVE MANY REASONS BUT NO  
EXCUSES.

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## OUR ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

☆ ANGELA GARZOUZIE  
23A WHITES ROAD  
WAVERLEY  
BLOEMFONTEIN  
9301

☆ GIDEON  
87 ALIWAL STREET  
ARBORETUM,  
BLOEMFONTEIN  
9301



## RESULTS OF BOARD HEARINGS: MAY-AUGUST

AS YOU WILL NOTICE, WE DO NOT RECORD INFORMATION ON THE JEHOVA'S WITNESSES. THAT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THEM: THEY VERY MUCH LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN PEOPLE. HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE ON THEM: AT THE AUGUST HEARING 21 JW'S APPLIED FOR CATEGORY 3. AS FAR AS WE KNOW IT WAS GRANTED TO THEM ALL.

### ◦ MAY HEARING

OUR INFO ON THIS HEARING MIGHT BE INCOMPLETE.

B. JACKLIN - HARE KRISHNA: GRANTED CATEGORY 1

DIRK KLOPPER - ANGLICAN CHURCH: REFUSED RECLASSIFICATION FROM 1 TO 3

WAYNE MORGAN - CHURCH OF ENGLAND: WITHDREW HIS APPLICATION

### ◦ JUNE HEARING

HAPPENED IN PRETORIA - WE HAVE NO INFO.

### ◦ JULY HEARING

A.V.D.C. GUERREIRO - ASSEMBLIES OF GOD: WITHDREW HIS APPLICATION

DON EDWARDS - ANGLICAN CHURCH: APPLIED FOR CATEGORY 3. DECISION POSTPONED TILL AUGUST.

GUNTHER WINKLER - EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH: GRANTED CATEGORY 3

P.M. QUEENAN - ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: CATEGORY 3 REFUSED

P.H. GREENWOOD - CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH CHURCH HE'S FROM: RECLASSIFICATION FROM 2 TO 3 GRANTED.



o AUGUST HEARING

DON EDWARDS : POSTPONED AGAIN, TILL SEPTEMBER

MORE INFO IN THE NEXT UPDATE.

★ B. JACKLIN

MR. JACKLIN IS THE FIRST PERSON FROM THE HARE KRISHNA RELIGION TO APPLY FOR CLASSIFICATION AS A RELIGIOUS OBJECTOR. HIS APPLICATION WAS GRANTED IN CATEGORY 1. APPARENTLY HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BRAHMIN CASTE, WHO HAVE TO KEEP THEMSELVES PURE FROM LUSTS AND EMOTIONS - INCLUDING WAR. A MAJOR RELIGIOUS DUTY IS CHANTING, AS IS VEGETARIANISM. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE HARE KRISHNA RELIGION HOLDS NO IDEA OF SIN, ALTHOUGH IMPROPER PRACTICES WOULD BE A SETBACK IN TERMS OF FUTURE REINCARNATIONS.

★ WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

ONCE AGAIN IT SEEMS AS IF NO ADEQUATE COUNSELING FACILITIES EXIST IN THE ARMED FORCES. IN THE CASE OF MR. MORGAN HE WITHDREW HIS APPLICATION DUE TO PREFERING CONTINUED PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT IN MILITARY FACILITIES, AS FAR AS WE COULD FIND OUT. MR. GUERREIRO APPARENTLY DIDN'T HAVE AN OBJECTION TO MILITARY SERVICE AS SUCH, BUT WAS APPALLED AT THE IMMORALITY IN THE ARMY. NEITHER OF THEM WERE ADEQUATELY INFORMED ON EVEN THE PURELY LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION.



## ★ UNDERCURRENTS

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE BOARD IS COMING DOWN MORE AND MORE ON POLITICAL MENTION IN APPLICATION. ALTHOUGH WE ARE OPPOSED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT, WE WOULD ADVISE FUTURE APPLICANTS TO STEER CLEAR OF POLITICS IN THEIR APPLICATIONS. IT SERVES NO PURPOSE AND VASTLY COMPLICATES THE APPLICANT'S CHANCES FOR CLASSIFICATION. A CASE IN POINT IS DON EDWARDS.

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### ★ DON EDWARDS

DON HAS APPEARED BEFORE THE BOARD TWICE, IN JULY AND AUGUST, AND THE BOARD WILL ONLY ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION IN SEPTEMBER. ALL THIS SEEMS TO BE THE RESULT OF DON'S HONESTY IN DESCRIBING HIS OPINION AND BACKGROUND IN A HEFTY TOME WHEN HE APPLIED. AS FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT DON'S CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT. HE HAS HAD INCREDIBLE TROUBLE WITH THE BOARD BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, THOUGH. MORE IN OUR NEXT UPDATE

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### ★ DAVE HARTMAN

MR. HARTMAN, A BUDDHIST WHOSE CASE WAS TAKEN TO THE APPEAL COURT, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN GRANTED STATUS AS A CATEGORY 3 CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE COURT RULED CASES RELATING TO NON-THEISTIC RELIGIONS, SUCH AS BUDDHISM, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD. THIS WE BELIEVE NOT ONLY PREPARES THE WAY FOR BUDDHISTS, BUT COULD CAST DOUBT ON CURRENT DEFINITIONS OF "RELIGION" USED BY THE BOARD, AS WELL AS THE EXCLUSION FROM OBJECTOR STATUS AND ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OF NON- OR NOT SO-RELIGIOUS PACIFISTS.

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PS. ANGIE AND GIDEON ARE GETTING MARRIED IN BFN. ON 16 DECEMBER 1986. GIDEON IS DOING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE IN THE DEPT. OF MANPOWER SINCE JULY.

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August 11, 1989

Dear fellow Community Server

## JOIN your ORGANISATION

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Community Servers' Group (NCSG) in order to invite you to belong to your organisation. If you already are a member but have not renewed your membership this year, then this is a reminder that you can still renew at this stage (and you are encouraged to do so!).

The NCSG is an entirely voluntary organisation and you qualified for full membership when you were classified as a category III religious objector (i.e. in terms of sect. 72D(1) (a)(iii) of the Defence Act). People of any religion or faith are welcome.

Friends and family members of community servers as well as category I and II objectors are also encouraged to become associate members of NCSG.

### **What does the NCSG do?**

Our main aims and objectives, as laid down in our constitution, are to get community service recognised as a valid and legal form of national service, and to work at creating a reasonable system of community service.

Our work up to now has included:

#### 1. Work to improve conditions of employment

- Negotiating with the Department of Manpower to improve community servers' conditions of employment;
- Discussions with the chairman of the Board for Religious Objection on ways to improve the system;
- Guide on Regulations: A guide for use by employers and community servers on the Regulations and how they should be applied, has been prepared;
- Campaign to widen placement possibilities and lobbying for the support of non-government organisations to get the law changed to allow placement of community servers in non-government organisations such as church and welfare bodies.

#### 2. Provision of a discussion forum

Topics included:

- strategies of non-violent action and debate around violence/-non-violence;
- relationship to churches; and
- relationship to other objectors who do not fall within the categories of objection recognised by law.

#### 3. Providing mutual support

Apart from the "business" aspects mentioned, we also enjoy moral support from each other, and, where possible, help to solve individual work problems.



## How did the NCSG come about?

Since late 1985 community servers in various centres in South Africa have been meeting informally to provide mutual support and to discuss common problems. This small group grew in number over time and it became evident that numerous common problems existed which needed to be dealt with in a more structured manner. Contact was made between these centres and a national organisation was formed in 1987.

## We would value your membership

It is both for your own benefit and for the benefit of the many people who will follow in your footsteps that a fair system of community service be developed. For this to happen Manpower must hear directly from the people in the system re. what its strengths and weaknesses are and how the latter can be corrected. It is also important for Manpower to be morally accountable for their decisions to the people they affect.

If the organisation represents enough community servers, the Department of Manpower will recognise us and set up a procedure for negotiating with us on important aspects of community service.

## What will it involve?

Members are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and the annual national gathering of community servers. Of course, if you wish simply to receive minutes of meetings to keep yourself up to date on developments, you are free to do so. Your level of involvement is up to you. For further information about our activities, please contact the contact person of your region (see names and addresses on the enclosed membership form).

## How to join?

Complete the enclosed form and send it to the address supplied at the end of page 2 of the form your. You are also invited to contact any of the people listed there.

Even if you would not like to join, please fill in the first six sections of the form, as this information is very useful in negotiating improvements in service conditions.

If you have completed a membership form before, please indicate all changes since you last completed the form. Take special care in completing sections 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 (headings in bold and marked with an "\*").

Yours faithfully

*Sawri Borch*

on behalf of National Community Servers' Group  
PO Box 123  
7925 OBSERVATORY

Tel: (021) 689-9465 (after hours)

NEM-INV4 CS-1A



# National Community Servers' Group

(Hierdie vorm is ook in Afrikaans beskikbaar.)

If you haven't completed an NCSG form before

Please complete the form, even if you don't want to become a member - it would be very useful for statistical purposes.

If you have completed this form before

Please complete at least Boxes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 - all marked with an asterisk - and any other particulars which changed since you last completed this form.

## 1.\*Personal Particulars

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/19\_\_\_  Single  Married No. of dependants: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion:  Christian  Jewish  Buddhist  Islam \_\_\_\_\_ DENOMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAINING/QUALIFICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.\*Address

ADDRESS: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No : Code \_\_\_\_\_ Ph No \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone No : \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Details of Community Service

Date of Call Up ..... d / m / y \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application ..... / / 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of classification ..... / / 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Commencement of Service .... / / 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Termination of Service ..... / / 19 \_\_\_\_\_

I was called up for:  Initial service  Camp  Dads army\*  \* Dads Army: usually people over 35 yrs initially called up for 30 days, then for 12 day camps.

Category Applied for:  1  2  3 Category Classified:  1  2  3

## 4.\*Length of Service

Length of Service : 1) \_\_\_\_\_ years and \_\_\_\_\_ months and/or 2) as number of days: \_\_\_\_\_ days.

Has your service been reduced by the Minister?  Yes  No

If YES, reduced by \_\_\_\_\_ days.

## 5. Details of military service completed (if applicable)

Initial Military Service : Starting \_\_\_/\_\_\_/19\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_ months

Details of Camps Completed :

Camp 1: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_ (months) Camp 4: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_ (months)

2: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_ 5: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_

3: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_ 6: year \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_

## 6.\*Loans/Debt

Do you have outstanding loans/debt?  Yes  No Amount (optional): R \_\_\_\_\_

With which Bank/Institution(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Interest rate \_\_\_\_\_% Was payment deferred?  Yes  No For how long? \_\_\_\_\_ Payment resumes: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_



7.\*Details of Community Service

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Remuneration and allowances:

Daily wage rate:    Educational allowance:       
 (daily)

+ Extra rate for    years' service Professional allowance:

Living allowance : R\_\_\_\_\_ per month. Actual cost: R\_\_\_\_\_ per month  
 Transport (to/from work): R\_\_\_\_\_ per month. Actual cost: R\_\_\_\_\_ per month

8. Feelings about present Community Service

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND ON THE ISSUES RAISED HERE OR  
 WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OTHER COMMENTS, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET.

a. Would you prefer to work in a non-governmental body (such as a church/welfare body)? ...	yes	no
b. Would you prefer to be transferred from your present placement, even to a govt. dept? ..	yes	no
c. Are you happy with the work you are presently doing as community service? .....	yes	no
d. Are you happy with the way you are treated by your employer? .....	yes	no
e. Are you happy with the way you are accepted by your colleagues? .....	yes	no
f. Do you think the present Community Service is too long? .....	yes	no
g. Do you think the conditions of our service are unduly harsh? .....	yes	no

9.\* Your interests

Please tick what you are interested in and may like to get involved in:

<input type="checkbox"/> Support / pastoral care of members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Media - Informing the public re. Com.Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Union function of NCSG (support)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> - <u>Dovelink</u> or other media for CServers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative service for all Objectors	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact with churches on behalf of NCSG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortening the length of service	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning of monthly meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Widening scope of service (not only govt)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Just receiving minutes and publications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		.....	

10.\* Membership (Complete this section if you want to be a member of NCSG)

I would like to:  apply for  full  associate membership of NCSG. (See accompanying letter for more information.)  
 renew my

My membership fee of    is enclosed. In case of couples: My partner's name is \_\_\_\_\_

I will forward my annual fee as soon as possible.

I am not able to pay the full fee, but enclose R\_\_\_\_\_

R10 for assoc. members  
 R15 for full members  
 R20 for couples

I declare that I support the aims and objectives of the NCSG as set out in the constitution, namely:

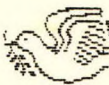
1. To live out our commitment to constructive national service for the benefit of all the people of our country;	4. To improve the conditions of service of community servers;
2. To assist in transforming and developing the system of community service into a more positive form of national service;	5. To liaise with the government, church and other bodies on behalf of its members;
3. To promote an understanding of national service which includes community service as a constructive and legal form thereof;	6. To facilitate mutual support for members; and
	7. To attend to any matters relating to national service.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_

Please send the form and money to:

National Community Servers' Group, PO Box 3128, Durban 4000.

For more information, 'phone Clive Heydenrich in Cape Town (021) 417-5379 (a/h), Martin Birtwhistle in Durban (031) 442-518 (a/h) or Frank Crundwell in Joh'burg (011) 648-9763 (a/h).



YOU ARE INVITED

TO CELEBRATE WITH

BOB, NICEL &  
LAWRENCE

COMPLETION  
OF THEIR



COMMUNITY SERVICE.



**PLACE: 77 RUSHBROOK  
SOUTH ROAD, Ptn.**

**WHAT? A BRAAI**

**WHEN? Sat. 3/9/88**

**TIME: 7:30pm**

**BRING OWN MEAT, DRINK  
& COSTUMES**

**ALL WELCOME.**

## Defence possibly reconsidering stance on objectors?

### Workshop on Alternative National Service

The Chairperson of Parliament's Defence Standing Commission and senior NP Member of Parliament, Dr Boy Geldenhuys, said at the Workshop on Alternative National Service that was held on 30 and 31 October, that he would support the opening of debate on the issue of accommodating a wider range of conscientious objectors.

He said that he would motivate to the government that discussion on this issue is needed, and stated that this kind of change should not be expected from the Van Loggerenberg Committee. This Committee consists of Defence Force people who are specifically considering the SADF's Manpower needs. They are not the appropriate body to consider widening alternative service to a greater scope of conscientious objectors.

Justice Edeling, Chairperson of the Board for Religious Objection, disapproved of the inordinately long period of the present alternative service.

He said: "This long period of service is inherently unjustifiable and warrants immediate re-evaluation. Our aim should be striving towards a system with an observable degree of parity. The present length smacks of punishment rather than service. It is inherently detrimental and potentially counter-productive."

He argued that a simple factor (such as the one-and-a-half-times maximum military service) is unlikely to achieve parity, and that other solutions should be sought.

However, during a private conversation afterwards he said that community servers who stop their service before the end of their period must be prosecuted. As long as the law requires that people must do 6 years of service, that is what they must do. He felt so strongly about it that he said that he would resign as Chairperson of the Board if the system is not being enforced.

He also said that the term "Community Service" is inappropriate and creates the wrong impression. Alternative service should also be known as National Service - not only military service.

Dawie Bosch, the National Secretary of the NCSG, addressed the workshop on the present system. He related the concerns of community service regarding limited acceptance of ob-

jectors, punitive conditions, impossible length and the intransigent attitude of the Departments of Defence and Manpower to discuss these concerns.

Justice Edeling said that he felt too much was being made of Manpower not being prepared to assist, but Dr Geldenhuys said that he would be prepared to assist in the setting up of a meeting between the Minister of Manpower and the NCSG.

#### Interesting facts on the Board: <sup>1984 -</sup> <sub>Sept. 1989</sub>

Total applications received:  
Cat. I 334  
Cat. II 8  
Cat. III 1380 TOTAL: 1890

Of this:  
1722 successful 91 %  
44 unsuccessful 2 %  
124 withdrawn 7 %

A total of 54 people who have been classified by the Board have since been declassified.

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*More on the interesting issues raised at the Alternative NS Workshop will be given at a later stage. Keep your eyes peeled.*

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# David's Statement

The Minister Of Defence  
Union Buildings

Dear Sir

I was recognised as a religious objector in September 1984 and have completed nearly five years of the six year period of community service presently required. I hereby advise that I will render no further service in terms of sect. 72D of the Defence Act as of 1989-11-30.

When I applied to the Board for Religious Objection, I was of the view that the system of community service was fundamentally flawed and did not meet the requirements of fairness and justice. It excluded the majority of those opposed in conscience to serving in the SADF and the nature of the service itself seemed to be a punitive deterrent rather than a real opportunity to serve the community. I thus applied reluctantly. As someone deeply opposed to serving in the SADF, my only alternatives were to flee my country or face six years imprisonment.

At the same time I believed that the system could and would be improved to become more inclusive, more equitable and more oriented to serving the community as a whole. I thought that my constructive participation could facilitate this.

I have accordingly devoted considerable energies during the past five years to this end.

I have been party to numerous memorandums and representations to the Departments of Manpower and Defence wherein we made reasonable and constructive proposals regarding amendments to the Act, the regulations and their application. To my regret, this approach has been fruitless. The changes to the law and its applications that have accord, have instead led to a deterioration in the conditions of community service, with the single exception of the provision of a limited medical cover which was recently instituted after a five year delay.

This unyielding attitude is exemplified by your Department's attitude towards extending the service period reductions applicable to military servicemen to objectors. It is now Defence Force policy that military servicemen will do a maximum of 300 days camps. If the obligation of community service was calculated equivalently, we would be required to perform 4,25 years of community service. Our representations in this regard have been flatly turned down.

Most disquieting of all has been the refusal of the government to consider our

approaches regarding extending a reasonable alternative to all objectors to military service.

It is fundamentally wrong to force any person to serve in an armed force if this is contrary to his/her principles and values. This has been increasingly acknowledged worldwide and the right to be a conscientious objector enjoys a growing acceptance. The need to entrench such a right in a heterogeneous society such as South Africa, where a well-developed sense of national identity and conscienciousness does not yet exist is doubly important.

And yet the government has chosen to impose upon Dave Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin, the harshest penalties imposed upon anyone anywhere in the world during the past fifteen year for being a conscientious objector. We have lobbied and made representations for their release. We have conducted public campaigns. To no avail. The government has instead chosen to treat these honest and principled men more harshly than any other category of prisoner.

They are not regarded as political prisoners nor granted any of the privileges attendant thereon. Nor are they granted the privileges usually accorded common criminals, who serve only a third of their sentence if granted remission and parole for good behaviour. The imprisoned objectors have been expressly informed that they will not be granted remission and it can reasonably be concluded that they are very unlikely to receive parole. The six year sentences imposed upon Charles Bester and David Bruce can thus be regarded as the equivalent of an eighteen year sentence imposed upon ordinary prisoners.

Their continued imprisonment creates an untenable situation and it is a primary considerations behind my decision to refuse to render further service.

...

The door of your government has thus far been closed. You leave me little alternative but refusing to render further service in order to impress upon you the seriousness with which I and many other community servers feel on this issue.

Yours faithfully

David Schmidt

NOTE: This was still  
the draft statement.



LEARNINGS FROM ATTENDANCE AT THE BOARD FOR RELIGIOUS OBJECTORS

BLOEMFONTEIN, FEBRUARY 25 1988

These points are not in order of priority

1. Churches who have chosen not to have a theologian on the Board need to convey this clearly to the local church in the Bloemfontein area so that local theologians of the applicant's denomination are clear about their role as supporter standing with the applicant rather than sitting on the Board during that person's hearing.
2. It would be helpful for the mainline churches to each have a theologically trained person willing and able to assist the person of that denomination when they arrive in Bloemfontein and to be with them during the hearing - unless the person already has someone lined up.
3. There is a small group of very committed people who are willing to host applicants and when possible, attend the hearing. The contact persons would be Rev. Deon Potgieter of the Sendingkerk and Sr Theresa Paul of the Catholic Church.
4. The local group is willing to collect from Major Fourie of the BRO the names, city and denomination of those appearing. It would be up to local groups to phone Deon or Ben to get the names of those in their region.  
N.B. the folks in Bloem do NOT have the financial resources to make long-distance phone calls.
5. For applicants within the SADF, Judge Edeling advised that when a conscript applies to the Board from within the SADF we as counsellors could send a copy of the applicant's Statement direct to the Board so that they can follow it up with the SADF if a copy is not received through the normal channels within a reasonable period of time.
6. Judge Edeling further told us that he had suggested the SADF remove the conscript from active service as soon as he has given in his Statement until the application is heard by the Board. This applies particularly to those seeking category 3 status.

Loek Goemans



Greetings!!

from ~~Cape Town~~ JHB

Over the weekend of 12-14 September the national Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG) conference was held. At the meeting a number of Community Servers (category iii Religious Objectors) got together and established a national co-ordination structure for Community Servers' Groups and individual Community Servers.

The following is the fruit of our discussions - it is by no means final, and is presented to generate discussion around the subject.

#### AIM

National Coordination : Problems are more easily dealt with nationally; and collective action will give us a stronger voice.

Support : Encouraging one another through sharing problems and solutions; especially important for those serving outside the main centres.

Any further suggestions for aims & objectives should be sent to Donn Edwards.

#### "MEMBERSHIP"

Only open to Community Servers. We face specific problems and need to be distinct from other groups like COSG, ECC etc, but may consider joint action.

#### STRUCTURE

Regional and National Committees. Regional Groups should take up issues in the region and send a representative/delegate to the National Committee which will coordinate action nationally.

#### COMMUNICATION

Minutes of regional meetings should be sent to all other regions; copies of "official" letters sent and received to be circulated; a Newsletter may be established.

#### FINANCE

The various churches, SACC and other similar organisations will be approached. Possible international support to be looked into.

#### ACTION

Register : We need to find, contact and register all Community Servers (including Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians etc if possible.) Jehovah's Witnesses appear to have their own support group with which a working relationship should be established. Each Region and individual is responsible for doing this; send lists of Community Servers to the Jo'burg group for collation.

Discuss : Each Region should discuss : a) Possible structure for the group, b) A representative for the region, c) Problems faced in the Region. Results of the discussion should be reported to the Cape Town group by mid October if possible.

Problems :

1. Tax - individuals should write to Receiver of Revenue and explain that tax is ~~tax is~~ being deducted by mistake. (There appears to be no fixed policy in this regard.)
2. Pay - Cape Town group will be sending a memo to the Dept. Manpower.
3. Medical Aid - this is being addressed by Manpower, CT group will follow it up. In the mean time each region should compile a list of sympathetic doctors, dentists and other professionals who will offer their services to Comm. Servers for free or at reduced rates.
4. Delay in Placement - no longer seems to be a problem. People who suffered long delays in being placed can get time credited to period of service.
5. Length of Service - CT group is writing to the Defence Standing Committee.  
- individuals doing "camp" time who have completed 1½ times their camp period may consider legal action based on the "Steggman" ruling. It may be a good idea if such people first complete the same amount of time as all national servicemen would and thus appeal for parity in length of service.



Placements : problems in placements were seen in 3 areas :

1. Institutions refusing to accept Comm. Servers (eg. various education departments) : CT group - Defence Standing Comm. ; Legal action is also being considered.
2. Institutions which Manpower doesn't recognise (eg. homeland administrations) : Steve Reid and the Kwa Zulu Minister of Health will be taking it up.
3. Institutions outside of the Defence Act (eg. welfare & church organisations) : CT group - Defence Standing Comm. ; Jo'burg COSG has questionnaires to ask various organisations whether they could & would use Comm. Servers; SACBC/SACC are trying to establish a project which would "recognise" Conscientious Objectors, place them in comm. service jobs and then try to get the state to recognise them.

#### REGIONAL CONTACTS

Cape Town : Peter Kantor  
Durban : Rob Goldman  
Johannesburg : Robin Hamilton  
Bloemfontein : Gideon Strauss

#### ADDRESSES

Steve Reid	Bethesda Hospital, UBOMBO, 3970	Ubombo 30
Robin Hamilton	5 Derby St, KENSINGTON	?
David Schmidt	5 Malleson Rd, MOWBRAY, 7700	(021) 65 1031
Donn Edwards	22 Garbutt Rd, SHERWOOD, 4091	(031) 29 7912
Gideon Strauss	3 Magneet St, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301	?
Ian Stevens	228 Marais St, BROOKLYN, 0181	(012) 46 8956
John Clarke	27 Peace Rd, KLOOF	(031) 777 1105
Rob Goldman	15 Miller Grove, off Marriott Rd, Berea, DURBAN, 4001	(031) 31 5841 w " 59 3355x612 h
Peter Kantor	9 Roosevelt Rd, CLAREMONT, 7700	(021) 683 1418
Dr Brian Wood	Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, NQUTU	?

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**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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