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# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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PO Box 208

Woodstock

7915

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10 April 1986

Dear

During the past few months, several concerned parents have approached the End Conscription Committee to ask questions and voice their concerns about their sons, who are either doing their military service, or due to face the call-up.

This has made us aware of what appears to be a growing need among parents for information and support when they and their sons face conscription.

As a follow-up to these queries, the E.C.C. is inviting a group of parents who may have similar concerns, to attend a meeting at which we hope to explore creative and helpful ways of responding to these needs. We feel it is important to make it quite clear that the E.C.C. does not encourage or pressurise conscripts to adopt a particular response to their call-up. We aim to give support and advice to the people affected - and we fight for their right to choose.

We hope to set up an ongoing structure that deals with this area, but your attendance will not in any way commit you to possible follow-up activities. We are simply interested in hearing your opinions and concerns regarding the issue of military conscription. If you wish to become further involved, you will be very welcome to do so.

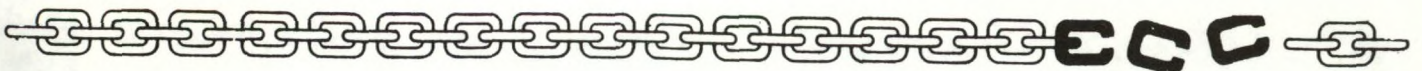
The meeting will be on Thursday 15th May at 8.00pm at 14 Meadow Rd., Rosebank (Tel.691094). Map enclosed.

Please let us know if you can attend.

Yours sincerely

Nic Borain  
E.C.C. chair

Helen Zille



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Please Note:

The Parents' Group of the End Conscription Campaign are about to embark on a series of house meetings/discussions about conscription, militarisation and conflict in South Africa. If you are interested, please give your name to Angus Morton at the table at the back of the hall, or contact Paula at the ECC office (479170) between 12 and 2pm daily.

Mailing List:

If you wish to be put on the ECC mailing list, please leave your name at the table at the back of the hall.

Thank you  
ECC



QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

PHONE NO: Work ..... Home .....

Assessment of Meeting - Ideas/Criticism

What do you think this group should do

How involved do you want to be

- Not at all
- Attend meetings and keep in touch
- Join this group
- Help by organising other house meetings
- Introducing other interested people
- Other



B8.8.1

**MOTION:**

As residents of Cape Town: <sup>+ other areas</sup>

**noting** (1) the recent extension into Cape Town <sup>+ other areas</sup> of military commando service to include men between the ages of 18 and 55;  
(2) the fact that only whites are being called up;

**and**

**recognizing** (1) that this represents a significant escalation in the militarisation of our society with "military territorial cover" being extended not only to rural areas, but now also to the metropolitan centres;  
(2) that this process effectively asks us to defend sectarian and minority interests and privileges against the legitimate expression of opposition by the broader disfranchised community;

**we now affirm** (1) that as individuals, we cannot in good conscience allow ourselves to be conscripted into the SADF either to police the townships or to relieve others of administrative duties so that they can police the townships or engage in other aggressive actions;  
(2) that we are committed to working for a just peace in our land.

Motion at Dad's Army meeting - held by ECC + Advice Bureau 6/11/86.

CAPE TOWN PSG MIDYEAR REPORT 1988

- \* This report was not preceded by thorough discussion within PSG.

We lost two of our more active members in 1988: Doug Cornell died in July, and Bruce Thwaites left for Australia. Bea Cornell has not been well.

Despite the promise of the Know Your Rights campaigns we have not been able to grow. While the number of people who maintain a peripheral interest and receive our minutes has remained reasonably constant, attendance at meetings has dwindled and only a small core group remains actively involved in day to day ECC work. We have not been able to get everyone involved in campaign work.

Possible reasons:

1. Most members are in full-time employment
2. Virtually all have family commitments including children at various stages of development.
3. In addition to these 2 factors that have always limited the amount of time PSG members have for meetings and other activities, the campaign has shifted the focus away from subcommittee work. Also it is the members who are normally most active who are involved.

These issues are to be discussed thoroughly in forthcoming PSG meetings.

On the brighter side we are soon having a house-meeting with a group of Kalk Bay parents who have expressed an interest in ECC.



## THE PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS GROUP

Early in 1986 a group of parents got together because of their concern about the problems they faced because of the system of conscription.

There was no link with ECC other than an ECC observer or speaker at a couple of meetings and that two of the parents represented other organisations on the ECC.

It was decided to produce a booklet informing parents and conscriptees about their rights, obligations and alternatives regarding conscription.

The State of Emergency and related regulations were proclaimed and work on the booklet stopped as it was felt that it could not be published. The group went into hibernation.

Towards the end of 1986 the Dads Army Issue came to Cape Town. It was obvious that there was a lot of interest amongst potential Dads Army conscriptees and others.

The group was reformed and now consisted of parents and others interested in the conscription issue plus persons involved in the Dads Army Issue.

The group saw its role as

- educational: informing itself and others about conscription and militarisation.
- assisting and supporting parents, families and conscriptees in their problems with conscription and its effects.
- gathering and collating information about conscription and militarisation.
- assisting and supporting ECC where it feels it can.

The group decided to apply for membership of the ECC and became a part of the ECC structure early in 1987.

One of the ways this group feels it can help is by organising housemeetings where interested people discuss problems related to conscription and its effects.

It also hopes to involve those persons who wish to be involved in the work of the group by getting them to join and so to enlarge and expand the group - or start other groups.

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