
FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

(Transvaal Region)

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg

Dear

At a Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg last August, the many women present unanimously passed a resolution that a mass deputation of women of all races should be sent to Union Buildings, Pretoria.

This deputation will consist of women of all sections of the community, housewives, workers and professional women. They will come from homes in the suburbs and townships, from houses and comfort and from shanties and poverty. They speak the many languages of South Africa, but they all have the same hopes and desires.

The purpose of the deputation is to present a protest to the Ministers concerned against various legislation and living conditions which women feel to be unjust and oppressive, such as the Bantu Education Act, proposed passes for African women, Site and Service Schemes, the re-classification of the Coloured people, and the attacks on the civil rights and liberties of the whole population.

Many hundreds of women have already announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to go to the Union Buildings on Thursday, 27th October, 1955.

This mass deputation of women is of historic importance, for it is the first time that women of all races have joined together in such a protest. We make this special appeal to you personally to join the deputation, and to take this opportunity of showing your solidarity with other women of our country, particularly those who are more oppressed, and who are struggling for the right to enjoy decent family life.

If you will fill in the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to the above address, we will let you know in good time the detailed arrangements that have been made for the 27th.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) H. Joseph,
Secretary, Transvaal Region,
Federation of South African Women.

Please send me more information about the Women's Deputation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Matombi YASE AFRICA (Zulu)

Umyafuna uKupatha Ipassi na?

MORALI WA AFRICA ubatla

gotsoara pasa na? (Sotho)

FSAW C b 2211

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. TRANSVAAL REGION

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
19th August 1955.

Dear Friend,

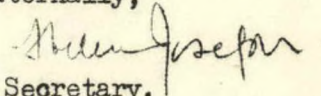
At the Transvaal Congress of Mothers held on Sunday August 7th, the following resolution was passed:

"This meeting of women urges the Federation of South African Women to consult with the Congresses and other organisations with a view to organising a mass deputation of women of all races to Pretoria to protest against the Bantu Education Act and all other oppressive legislation, to protest against the site and service scheme, and to demand proper housing for all people."

To give effect to this resolution, the Executive Committee of the A.N.C. Women's League, and representatives of the S.A.I.C. and S.A.C.P.O. have been invited to attend a special meeting of the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women, which will be held on Saturday afternoon, August 27th, at 11 Mylor House, at 2 p.m.

You are urgently requested to attend this important meeting.

Yours fraternally,



Regional Secretary.

FSAW C 221

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

P.O.Box 10876,

JOHANNESBURG.

17th October, 1955.

TO THE SECRETARIES OF ALL TRADE UNIONS.

Dear Friend,

We have pleasure in enclosing herewith circulars in connection with our proposed Mass Demonstration to be held in Pretoria on Thursday, 27th October, 1955.

This Demonstration is to be widely representative of all sections of our people and we therefore ask you for your co-operation in publicising it amongst women members of your organisation. If you have no women members, please ask the men to arrange for their wives, sisters and mothers to join us.

Women who will make their own transport arrangements must be at the PUTCO Terminus, Marabastad, Pretoria, at 10 a.m. Those requiring transport must advise us immediately and provision will be made for them.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Joseph
Hon. Secretary.

Cb 2.1.1

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

Johannesburg Region.

P.O.Box 10876,
Johannesburg.

Sept./Oct. 1955.

TO ALL WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS.

At the Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg on Sunday, 7th August, it was unanimously agreed to organise a mass deputation of women to protest to the Ministers of the Government at Union Buildings, Pretoria.

AS TRADE UNIONISTS we protest against the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act which is meant to weaken and destroy African trade unions.

AS TRADE UNIONISTS we protest against the Industrial Conciliation Bill which will divide the trade unions even further into racial groupings - separate unions for white, Indian, Coloured and Malay workers.

AS TRADE UNIONISTS we protest against the exclusion from the Unemployment Insurance Act of (a) domestic and farm workers and African miners and (b) Africans who earn less than £182 per year - many thousands of these workers contributed to the fund which has over £50,000,000.

AS TRADE UNIONISTS we protest against all legislation such as the Master & Servants Act, Urban Areas Acts and other pass laws, which prevent workers from moving about freely to get the best jobs available.

AS TRADE UNIONISTS WE DEMAND:

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make agreements with their employers.

The State shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits.

Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work.

There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for working mothers.

Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all other workers.

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

(Extract from FREEDOM CHARTER).

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Every factory must elect its representatives to join the demonstration to Pretoria on the 27th October. Workers in the factories should contribute to pay the wages of their delegates for the day and their expenses (about 10/- each).

AS WOMEN AND MOTHERS we ask you to respond to our call, to join this mass protest of women, to join the voices of women trade unionists clearly and loudly with the women of all races and walks of life, so that our legitimate demands are heard over the length and breadth of South Africa and are answered with justice.

Fill in this form and hand it to your Shop Steward or post it to Box 10876, Joh'burg. I want to join the Women's Protest:

Name..... Factory.....

Home Address.....

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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