

WE DO NOT TAKE THE PASS
WE FIGHT FOR THE RESPECT AND
DIGNITY OF WOMANHOOD

Because of the determination of the Government to do everything in their power to force and to treat harshly the women and the daughters of Africa, we feel compelled to address ourselves to everybody.

In particular we want to say a word to the women teachers who teach children; we do so because they are the mothers of tomorrow who would desire to see their children brought up in a decent manner; we do so because

they cannot avoid the ill-treatment that is meted out to other women.

We also address ourselves to young girls ^{over} the age of 15 years. We are ~~from the age of 15 years and above~~ compelled to take this step because ~~do so because of the attacked~~ ~~of the Government~~ ~~by the Government~~ ~~our~~ attack on us.

Under the Pass Laws the Government of this country has decided that we the daughters of Africa, ~~the~~ mothers and daughters, carry passes. There are people who without thinking rush to do ~~things~~ ^a thing which ^{is} dangerous both to themselves as well as their people. When you are deceived into carrying passes you are being told that passes will enable you to find work. Teachers will be told that if ~~you~~ ^{they} do not take the passes they will be sacked from

~~the~~ teaching. School girls will be told that if they do not take passes they will not be accepted at the high schools and colleges, to study either as teachers or nurses.

PASS LAWS ROAD TO SLAVERY.

The important thing and one which must be clear to everyone is that the object of a pass is ^{to enable} ~~that a person~~ the Government to control the ~~of deported~~ who carries a pass can be sent to ^{the African.} ~~whatever place the Government wants.~~ The pass allows you to stay at a particular place while you are ~~that~~ employed by a particular employer. That means, if you were allowed to stay in ~~the Brighton~~ Port Elizabeth because you ^{are} teaching at PENDINGA School and you wanted to change from that school or you wanted to go and train as a nurse

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you can be forced to leave P.E.

The day we carry the pass ~~that~~ it will be the end of womanhood.

That will be the day when the body of an African woman will be ^{exposed,} ~~exposed,~~ handled ^{now} ~~anywhere,~~ anywhere and at anytime by thugs who are ~~just~~ dressed in police ~~uniforms~~ uniforms. They will be as cheap as the rum which everybody enjoys.

WILL BE

WE ~~ARE~~ STRIPPED NAKED.

Recently girls working at HUMEWOOD and SUMMERSTRAND hostels were awoken ^{the dead of night} ~~at night~~ by intruding men. Before they realized what was happening they were blinded by torch lights. They were made to undress by these strange men. Whose wife or whose daughter

will ~~not~~ tolerate to stand ^{make} in front of such brutal and immoral things? If we agree to carry passes we are liable to be stopped by the police anywhere and at any time and told to produce your pass. The law entitles them to search our bodies for the pass. If at night they come to your house they may arrest you and remove you from your husband or parents under the pretext that something is wrong with your pass.

There are many who have been made ping-pongs of the police.

WHAT ~~MUST~~ ^{HAS TO} BE DONE?

The sufferings, hardships and insults ~~shall~~ ^{shall} ~~not~~ be our lot, if we accept the pass. Not a single

person

will love the job where they to
stand together and be resolute.

We say ~~we~~ "all teachers" because
we are convinced that there is
not a single person who believes
in human dignity who will
accept the insult of carrying
a pass, in exception of those
who see no humiliation in being
~~exposed~~ subjected to such indignities.

We are still proud as Africa women
of our womanhood. [There is only
one way in which we can protect
ourselves against the pass laws
is not to carry the pass. There
are many women in various
places who are prepared to go to
gaol rather than expose themselves to
the police under pass laws.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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