



The Working for a Just Peace campaign is a logical extension of the call to end conscription as we have heard by Rowena's account of the history. *At our national conference in Feb this year plans for the campaign were first discussed in depth. Our theme is ~~conscription~~ not conscription.*

It's intention is to demonstrate what we mean by community service, in contrast to the role the SADF is playing at the moment. The government refers to national service, but unless one is <sup>an</sup>religious ~~objector~~ <sup>objector</sup> this probably means only military service. We are posing a challenge to this definition of serving our country, and of how to solve its political

problems. *We would like to see ~~our~~ service extended to service with a religious welfare ~~we get that~~ ~~args~~ indep of the S.*

More and more people are questioning the role of the SADF particularly in the light of troop deployment in the townships. ~~we were wanting to demonstrate~~

Thousands are refusing to go into the SADF - <sup>July</sup> 7 500 last ~~year~~ compared to 1 500 for the <sup>whole of the</sup> previous year, and Gen. Malan will not release the figures for this last call up.

*we get the code concerned*  
 a ~~The~~ Working for a Just Peace campaign is ~~is~~ offering ~~such~~ people an opportunity to be involved in practical alternatives, as a demonstration of their commitment to seeking a just peace in South Africa.

WJP has both concrete and symbolic aspects - we are symbolically indicating the way to a just peace and the kind of South Africa we would like to be part of; and we are engaged in concrete projects that meet real needs in co-operation with community-based groups. Not only are we to physically build structures and thus improve the quality of life in those areas,

but we will also be building the kind of non-racial relationships which are the necessary basis for a just and peaceful society

The process by which we went about the campaign was first to speak to community organisations about the needs in their areas, and to explain our intentions. The response was very warm. We then had to assess our capacity and ultimately decided on these four projects.

The theme that has evolved is youth. We felt this was appropriate given that this is the up and coming generation in South Africa, ~~and they suffer due to a lack of childcare and recreational facilities.~~ *on them that our future rests. It is also young white people who are most directly affected by conscription.* They are projects we hope a number of people will find fulfilling and ~~worthwhile~~ *exciting.* to work on, as well as being within our range.

The first project next weekend is decorating two childrens' wards at King George V hospital. The children are all long-term patients, some spending up to 18 months in the hospital, suffering from tb, pneumonia and meningitis. At the moment, they have only white walls to look at all day, and a paediatrician there asked if we would make stimulating and creative murals and the like for the children. Unfortunately, King George is a state hospital and its name cannot be mentioned in any publicity we may receive for fear of the consequences for the doctor concerned.

The second project will get started on Sunday 13 April. This will entail clearing a plot of land in Wentworth with the Wentworth Improvement project - an umbrella body of 21 youth groups. The WIP youth centre will use the space as an outdoor recreational area. Wentworth is a coloured township near the

Bluff and has received a lot of press coverage regarding the lack of facilities in the area, and the phenomenon of ~~gangs~~ gangs of youths. WIP is trying to channel youths' energies more creatively and constructively, but is aware that there needs to be a place where young people can get together for this, from an early age. WIP and the local youth have had to contend with the army moving into Wentworth to deal with the gang warfare. They have challenged meeting violence with violence, saying that the root causes must be addressed.

needs to be a place where people can get together for this from an early age. *They have had to contend with the army moving into us to deal with gang warfare. They challenged meeting us with us, saying the root causes need to be addressed.*

The next project will take place in Dassenhoek, a KwaZulu farming community near Marionhill. We will be providing the labour for the construction of a 150M<sup>2</sup> hall to accomodate children attending a makeshift creche on the site. Dassenhoek has little by way of health, water and childcare facilities. The creche attended by 65 children from the community, is in the backyard of the Tshabalala family. Mr Tshabalala fetches water and transports children to and from the creche every day. His wife, sister, daughter and daughter-in-law look after the children from dawn to dusk every day for no wages. TREE is trying to raise funds for the construction of the hall, and has recruited the assistance of a local architect who has developed a simple building method called 'Enter Arch'. The parents committee and youths from the community will lay the foundations on the weekend of the 12 April, and we have been asked to provide labour for the bricklaying the following weekend. Any skills required will be taught on the spot.

The last project is slightly different ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~. We are to organise a huge, non-racial Fun Day in Merebank's Himalaya Park on Sunday 27 April. Here we will be attempting to bring together parents and children of all races. Today we will need to work out how to go about organising this.

*These for*  
~~Suggestions so far are to have Life In the Park, mime, magic, mural painting, and informal discussion groups for all the parents to exchange experiences as regards the military and their views on what kind of future they would like for their~~ *has offered to run games & lead other poss are us their by*

children.

We also need to discuss the possibility of some way of bringing together all those who participated in the projects in one way or another <sup>as to</sup> <sup>as</sup> round the campaign ~~off~~.

~~Cancel~~  
~~Review it~~  
~~Admin~~ etc.

1  
3 ~~we hope~~ this campaign will achieve what we have set out to  
that we will begin to build ~~lasting~~ ~~relationships~~ -  
~~racialism~~ that we will be able to capture the imagination of the white  
community and involve many more people in the ~~projects~~ <sup>is demonstration</sup>

for peace. This campaign is especially for  
those who are tired of just talk & want action.

1 The WJP campaign is beginning in earnest in 5 different  
cities around the country at this moment.

2 It is crucial that we make our abhorrence for conscription  
and for the present use of conscriptees in fighting a  
civil war, clear to the government. ~~And that we encourage~~  
many more people in the white community to stand up for  
what they believe and join us in our demonstration for  
peace.



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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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