

Eyl.5

①

W.S.H. 8  
P.O. Box 2706,  
CAPE TOWN.  
16th March, 1954.

CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, TO BE HELD IN  
THE TRADES HALL, KERK STREET, JOHANNESBURG, ON SAT-  
URDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1954.

Dear Friends,

Women of all organisations are invited to attend and send delegates to a Conference to promote women's rights, to be held in Johannesburg on SATURDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1954.

This will be the first national meeting at which women of all races will come together to discuss women's disabilities, and to promote women's rights. Most women of our country suffer discrimination as women, apart from discrimination imposed on non-white women because of race.

We women have this double battle to fight - to achieve justice and happiness for our families and children, and to achieve equal status and rights in all fields with men.

Even such small franchise rights as are provided for Coloured, African and Indian men in the Cape are denied to women. And while it may be said that in the past African and Indian women did not take part in government in their traditional society, today those traditional forms have been broken down. Those days are past. Women now have the same conditions to contend with as men. Women of all races work in factories, shops, offices and farms, often doing the same work as men, and equally dependent on the wages they earn. Yet in their jobs, as in their lives, women receive inferior treatment.

The time has come for women of all races to put an end to laws that deny us equal rights with our husbands over our children; or prevent us acquiring property, disposing of the money we earn and deny us full right of inheritance.

While we are determined to fight these customary restrictions, we realise that the most serious handicaps under which we labour are those imposed by the government and laws of this country under the policy of segregation and apartheid. We women, like men, want to be free to move about in the country of our birth, to live where we like, to buy land freely. We want an end to the migrant labour system. We want our own homes, the right to stay in them and not suffer mass removals, the right to live with our families near our places of work.

We claim for ourselves and our daughters, as well as for men, the right to education and employment in all occupations and professions. While our main struggle is with men against racialism and the colour bar, to make our national struggle more effective, we ask that men support us in our fight for equality.

The battle for democracy and liberation can only be won when women, mothers of the nation - a half of the whole population - can take their rightful place as free and equal partners with men. Throughout history women have struggled side by side with men for justice.

We ask you to take part in, and elect delegates to this Conference. Any group of women, from factories or areas, can get together and send a delegate to this historical conference!

**FORWARD FOR FREEDOM, SECURITY, EQUALITY AND PEACE FOR ALL!**

P.T.O.

SIGNED BY :-

Cape Town:

Mrs. Frances Thaele  
Mrs. Annie Selinga  
Mrs. Narvi Moodlay  
Mrs. Hilda Lotz  
Mrs. R. Ndimande  
Miss Vera Phillips

Mrs. Dora Tamana  
Mrs. Gladys Smith  
Mrs. P. Segwana  
Mrs. Jean Bernadt  
Mrs. Sarah Carneson  
Miss Ray Alexander.

Mrs. Katie White  
Mrs. Evelyn Ngose  
Mrs. Evelyn Mankayi  
Mrs. Hilary Flegg  
Miss Hetty Mc Cloud

Johannesburg:

Mrs. D. Twala  
Mrs. J. Rose-Innes  
Mrs. Sarem Mseko  
Mrs. Helen Joseph  
Mrs. Sybil Hedley  
Mrs. M. Heppner

Mrs. M. Cachalia  
Mrs. Lucy Mvubele  
Miss M. Sita  
Mrs. Betty Flusk  
Miss Betty du Toit  
Miss Hilda Watts.

Miss Josie Palmer  
Miss Ida Mntwana  
Miss Hetty du Preez  
Mrs. M. Flecher  
Mrs. M. Naidoo

Port Elizabeth:

Miss Chrissie Jasson  
Miss A.M. Coe  
Mrs. Frances Beard  
Mabel Mdinga

Mrs. M. Swanepoel  
Miss M. Pijses  
Mrs. Rosie Jamangile

Miss L. Diedericks  
Mrs. M. Draai  
Mrs. E. Perring

Durban:

Miss Gusta Kuzwayo  
Mrs. Henrietta Ostrich

Miss Ruth Shabane  
Mrs. Fatima Seedat

Miss Bertha Mkize  
Mrs. Fatima Meer.

East London:

Mrs. Cordelia Mahlangani  
Mrs. Thelma Appavo

Mrs. G.A. Frier  
Mrs. Martha Nxesha.

①

E. 173

Federation of South African Women,  
33 Dunbarton Court,  
Hadfield Road,  
Berea,  
JOHANNESBURG.

12th June, 1954.

Dear Friend,

A General Meeting of Women in the Transvaal will be held on Sunday, July 4th, 1954, at 10 a.m. in the South African Indian Congress Hall, 4 Kort Street, Johannesburg (between Commissioner and Market Streets, one block from Sauer Street).

As a result of the outstanding success of our National Women's Conference at Easter, it is important that we meet together to elect a Regional Committee and to plan for the great task which we then set ourselves - to organise the women of South Africa in the struggle for democracy and liberation.

Among the items to be discussed at the meeting will be -

- (a) Draft Constitution of the Federation of South African Women.
- (b) The Western Areas Removal Protest.
- (c) The Congress of the People.

Please urge all women members of your organisation to attend this important meeting.

ALL WOMEN are welcome, as delegates, as members of an organisation and as individual women.

Yours fraternally,

IDA MNTWANA  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

wysstuk No.....  
 kry by..... *A. P. Gonnard*  
 vir..... *M. P. Slapen*  
 datum..... *28/9/54*  
 wysings No..... *39(8)*

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

P.O. Box 2705,

CAPE TOWN.

Circular Letter No. 3

27th August, 1960.

Dear Friend,

I have been directed by the National Executive Committee to submit for your discussion the following:-

Re: Conference of Federation of Nigerian Women's Organisation:  
Our Federation was invited to attend the Nigerian Federation's Conference which was held on the 27th and 31st July last. As we could not attend in person we sent on behalf of the South African women the following message:-

"The Federation of South African women greet the women of Nigeria. We stretch our hands across the continent to grasp you in a fraternal embrace and to pledge our support and friendship.  
We, the peoples of Africa, belong to different tribes and nations, we speak different languages and have different governments, but we are learning that all of us are the sons and daughters of Africa sharing the problems and aspirations and bound together in a common struggle for liberation from poverty, ignorance, superstition and oppression.  
We know the hardships and shame of race discriminations, intolerance, unreasoning prejudices and class oppression. Therefore we feel with the Nigerian women in their glorious fight for freedom, for self-government and equality.  
Let us women of Africa go forward. Heads high, courage bright and hopes undimmed to the future in which all the peoples of this great continent will stand free and united in glorious fraternity, free from alien rule, enjoying equality between man and man, man and woman and building a society based upon freedom, knowledge, health, peace and a plentiful life.

Long live the Federation of Nigerian Women's Organisations.

Long live the Unity of all women in the struggle for peace and security for our children.

Let us go forward in the fight for a peaceful and happy world".

Re: Congress of the People. Our Federation received an appeal from the Congress of the People Action Council asking our Federation to take up the organising of the Congress of the People. The National Executive Committee decided that our Federation should take part, should give full support to make the Congress of the People a success and to urge our Regional Committees to take part in the

work and in our conferences, to put forward the aims adopted by our National Conference:

The call issued by the Congress of the People Action Council makes a special appeal to mothers of South Africa. It says:

"WE CALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BLACK AND WHITE - LET US SPEAK TOGETHER FOR FREEDOM."

WE CALL THE HOUSEWIVES AND THE MOTHERS.

Let us speak of the fine children that we bear, and of their stunted lives.

Let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, and of the few clinics and schools.

Let us speak of high prices and shanty towns."

It is our responsibility together the women of South Africa to acquaint them with our aims, to acquaint them with the Congress of the People so that they too, the women can play their part in the struggle for freedom. Organise meetings in houses, in the afternoons, in the evenings, wherever you can meet and discuss the matters that are worrying the women in your area, and discuss with them the bigger issues that are facing the whole of South Africa, namely, the Congress of the People. Regional Conferences: Cape Town, Johannesburg, Worcester and Paarl had their Regional Conferences. Elected Regional Committees. At these Congresses the report of the National Conference was discussed, the Charter and the Constitution were also discussed, and the Congress of the People received the wholehearted support of all the delegates present. Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Cradock and Kimberley must still have their regional conferences. Please friends by all means do not delay much longer, organise the conferences and imbue the women in your area with the same enthusiasm that prevailed at our National Conference. Everywhere so much injustices are being done to our people. We as mothers cannot remain silent when in our country and in the world the fascists are inciting race hatred and preaching war. The American money lords are provoking war on the peaceful Chinese people. It is our duty to expose the enemies of mankind to warn the people of these war mongers, these race inciters - these men who hate the working men and women who work for peace and for a prosperous life for the people.

Re Bantu Education Act. This Act was introduced by the Government with a view to undermining the education among the African people. A special leaflet on the Bantu Education Act was brought out by the Transvaal Regional Committee. We will obtain copies from them and send them to you. We will prepare a summary of the Act so that you can lead discussions on the Act and mobilise the women to struggle against this vicious Act.

Re: Two reports which appeared in the Cape Argus, Natal Mercury and most likely in other papers: This is "Coloured to Die for Rape" and "Man Gabled for Rape of Child". These press

Reports were published on the 19th August. On the 20th August we received a telegram from Fatima Meer reading as follows:

"Obtain judgement Lessing case East London reported Mercury today Federation and other progressive reaction Union and abroad urgently required".

"We have issued the following press statements:

The light sentence of only nine months imprisonment imposed on a European convicted for having intercourse with an Indian girl, 11 years old, by the East London Court is of grave concern to all South Africa. The accused was 38 year old European military pensioner, Thomas Sarel Lessing. On the same day that he was convicted, in the Cape Town Supreme Court, Daniel Lindeboom, a 22 year old Coloured was found guilty of raping a European woman and sentenced to death.

A Coloured person is sentenced to death when found guilty of raping a European woman but when a non-European happens to be the victim, a young child of 11, then sentence deemed sufficient by a Judge of the Supreme Court of nine months imprisonment with compulsory labour. The glaring contrast between these sentences can be explained only in terms of prevailing racial attitudes, prejudice and discrimination. Such unequal treatment must increase racial tension at a time when racial relations are already strained.

Such case must be decided, solely on its own merits and no two cases can be identical. However, however, for all possible mitigating factors there cannot be justification for the extreme difference in the penalties imposed, more especially, in view of the age of the child, the fact that the European accused's offence resulted in this young victim becoming a mother at the age of 12. It is regrettable that the Judge in the case so far ignored, regarding the tender age of the girl as an aggravating factor or appeared to attach more importance to her race and make it a mitigating factor in favour of the accused. He said that Indian children "married at an early age". The Judge knows that there are laws applicable in South Africa to all races which prohibit child marriages, and make it a crime to have intercourse with girls below the age of 16. Child marriages are not practised by South African Indians. Very few prosecutions have taken place for the contravention of the laws prohibiting child marriages in South Africa.

The Judge described the European accused as a man of poor background and took it into account when passing sentence. It so being he acted in accordance with the principles of a rational system of penal treatment but in South Africa when non-Europeans are accused these tests are seldom applied. Their environment

MULAK LETTER NO. 4.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

F.B.4.

4.

P.O. Box 2706,  
CAPE TOWN  
21st September, 1954.

Dear Friend,

RE: RENT INCREASES

On October 1st all tenants in sub-economic Housing Schemes throughout South Africa will have to pay higher rents.

Facts You Should Know!

The new rents will be based in income of the tenant. This decision was taken earlier in the year at a Housing Conference opened by the Minister of Health, Dr. van Rhijn, held in Pretoria.

The Conference was attended by delegates from all Municipal Councils. The plan to increase the rentals were submitted to the conference by the National Housing Commission - i.e. a government body.

Increased rents will be based on wages. Thus rents will go up on a sliding scale from £1.10.0. to £4.1.0. per week. The new income limits are: £30. per month for Europeans, £20. for Coloureds and £15. per month for Africans.

Tenants earning more than this will either "have to get out" or will remain if they are prepared to pay an economic rent. Thus thousands of families will be driven out of their established homes to live in inferior flats overcrowded or thousands of families will starve to keep up the economic rents.

Family income is to be assessed as the earnings of the head of the family together with half of any earnings of sons and daughters and the whole of any ledger's income.

Families earning over the "limit", i.e. Africans earning more than £15. per month are to pay increased rents at the rate of 3/-d. for every 10/-d. income over the £15. per month until the economic rental is reached.

Tenants are asked to complete a questionnaire in which they are to state their incomes, etc.

Our National Executive Committee considered these rent increases on the 29th September and resolved to organise a nationwide campaign against these rent increases. We consider these rent increases as an attack upon the already low standard of living of our people, who have a continuous struggle to make ends meet. You are, therefore, urged to organise conferences against these rent increases. To take part with other organisations that have pledged to fight against these rent increases. Our women at Langa and Nyanga have organised petitions, copy if enclosed herewith.

In this work we can establish a united campaign with many other women's organisations, as the women feel bitter about these rent increases. Do not take these attacks upon the people lying down. Organise protest meetings, deputations, etc., to make the government review and rescind its decisions, not to tamper with the workers existence. Organise house, street and area meetings against these high rents. Behave as a leader in your area.

Please let us have reports of your work so that we can pass it on to all our friends.

Yours,

Ray

for National Executive Committee

P.O. Box 2706  
CAPE TOWN.

The Secretary General.

23rd May, 1965.

South African Coloured People's Organisation

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women was formed as a result of the growing need that women felt for women's organisations to embrace all women irrespective of race and colour.

Our Federation is carrying out a nationwide campaign to enlist support of all sections of the population in the struggle for women's rights and our National Executive Committee invites your organisation to affiliate to us and thus make a valuable contribution to this cause.

Our Federation wishes to abolish the discrimination practised by law and custom against women. We realise that the achievement of full equality for our sex cannot be achieved until all forms of race and class discrimination have been abolished.

The struggle for women's rights is therefore part of the struggle for the emancipation of the African, Coloured and Indian people and of the working class as a whole. The FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN does not, therefore, compete with other organisations that strive to do away with discrimination and exploitation. Our charter, adopted at our First National Conference, aims to achieve the right to vote, to be elected to all State bodies; the right to full opportunities for employment with equal pay; free compulsory education for all; for the protection of mother and child - maternity homes, clinics in country and towns; for proper homes with water, light, transport and other amenities of modern civilisation; to build and strengthen women's sections in the National Liberatory Movements; to assist in organising women in Trade Unions.

Women have played a big part in the building of the National Liberatory Movement and Trade Unions. Their active participation is essential for the achievement of freedom for all South Africans irrespective of race and sex.

Women, who are actively associated with our work are leading fighters in these various organisations.

We appeal to you to affiliate to our organisation and to encourage your women members to participate in our work. Thus you will strengthen your own organisation and hasten the day when the people of South Africa will free themselves of race and class oppression.

We enclose a copy of the draft Constitution which will be submitted to the forthcoming National Conference when the delegates of your organisation together with others will attend and adopt the constitution of the FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

Awaiting your early and favourable reply,

Yours sincerely,

P.P. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



(1) 250 A 193

Federation of South African Women  
(Transvaal Region)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG

25th July, 1955.

The Secretary,  
African National Congress (Transvaal)  
Barkley Arcade,  
Market Street,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women is holding the Transvaal Congress of Mothers on Sunday, August 7th, 1955, in the Trades Hall at 9.30 a.m.

The purpose of the Congress of Mothers is to support the World Congress of Mothers held recently in Europe in the campaign for world peace and the banning of atomic weapons and to afford women of all races an opportunity to come together to discuss and endorse the Freedom Charter.

We hope that you will assist us by advising your Transvaal branches of this coming Congress and by urging branches to send as many women as possible to attend.

I enclose 40 copies of the invitation to the meeting for circulation to your branches.

Forward to the Freedom Charter!

Yours fraternally,

SECRETARY.

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by Arlic Kanton  
Deur S/S Muller  
To Johannesburg  
Datum 27/9/1955  
Verwysings No. ....

TO THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

9th August, 1956.

9.897

We, the women of Graddock, who are living and working here, have come today, to present to you, the Native Commissioner, our objections to the extension of the Pass System to African women. You are the representative of the Government which intends to compel African women to carry passes and we call upon you, in your official capacity, to listen to our objections, to receive our protests and to forward them to the Minister of Native Affairs.

WE OBJECT TO THE PASS SYSTEM because it makes slaves of the African People, because it denies us the right to move about freely, to sell our labour freely. Under the Pass system our men are exposed to merciless treatment at the hands of the police, to the lowest depths of human degradation and humiliation in pass raids, the ~~most~~ hardships of prison for the lack of a signature on a reference book. Our young sons are thrown into jail to associate with hardened criminals. Our husbands and fathers are taken from us without warning, not for a crime, but for the lack of a piece of paper - a pass. We wait in vain for their return home at night.

WE REJECT TOTALLY THE ~~PROPOSAL~~ BY MR. VAN DER MERWE THAT THE PASS LAWS HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED. The old form of pass has been replaced by a reference book. That is all. Our menfolk are still being arrested by the thousand every day, under the pass laws.

WE SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE. IN FACT THE POSITION HAS NOW BECOME WORSE.

Today we, the African people are threatened by the Government you represent. The Minister of Native Affairs has said that the African women shall be issued with identity books. WE SAY THAT THESE BOOKS ARE PASSES. We say that we and our daughters will be exposed to even worse degradation and hardships than our men.

AS WOMEN AND MOTHERS WE PROTEST AGAINST THIS INHUMAN PROCEDURE. We dread the breaking up of our homes when we too may be arrested under the pass laws. We fear for our children who will be left helpless. What is to become of our tiny children, our babies, dependent upon their mother's milk, if we are to be torn from them failing the production of a pass? Must we subject our young daughters to intimidation and humiliation at the hands of the police? WE CALL UPON YOU TO TAKE HEED OF OUR PROTEST TO THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS THE DEAR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN.

IN THE NAME OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN, WE WHO HAVE JOINED HERE TODAY, say to you, each one of us, that we are opposed to PASSES FOR WOMEN. WE ARE OPPOSED TO ALL PASSES. WE REGARD PASSES FOR WOMEN AS AN INSULT TO HUMAN DIGNITY.

WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE WON FOR OUR CHILDREN THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND SECURITY.

WE CALL UPON THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THE ISSUING OF PASSES TO AFRICAN WOMEN.

NAME OF DEALING PERSONS.

ADDRESS.

2(2) FSAW (NEG)  
A.D.L (#)

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

I

P.O. Box 2706,  
CAPE TOWN

10th August, 1955.

Dear Friend,

You and your Committee are invited to come or send at least two delegates to a Conference of Mothers to be held on Saturday, 27th August 1955, at 2.30 p.m. at the Mitra Hall, Mount Street, Mowbray. (Bus stop 25, near to the Standard Bank).

This Conference is specially convened for mothers to meet and discuss matters that are dear to them. All over the world mothers met at conferences to discuss ways and means to have for their children plenty of nourishing food, decent clothes, homes, creches, schools, playgrounds and all opportunities to develop their children to become useful citizens. Mothers met and resolved to win a happy life for themselves and their children.

Today - nearly every day the newspapers report that children playing in the narrow streets have been run over, that children have been burned to death whilst left at home with no one to look after them, of mothers and children being burned to death in the shanties at Windermere, Retreat, Worcester and Mossel Bay and other places. We read in the papers of expectant mothers with their babies and children exposed to the cold, rain, storms and winds - resulting in sickness and untimely deaths. African fathers and mothers are being hounded from their homes, and their employment, their children uprooted from their homes and schools. African, Coloured and Indian families are thrown out of their homes from areas which they and their forefathers occupied. Life is made more and more difficult.

IT NEED NOT BE SO!! Come to this Conference and hear of the reports on the Congress of the People and the Freedom Charter, Come and hear a report on the World Congress of Mothers that was held at Lausanne, Switzerland, from the 7th to the 10th July 1955. 1,063 mothers, delegates from 79 countries, met. Two of them were South African mothers. They met and resolved to campaign against enormous sums of money being sunk in armaments and the use of atomic bombs. They demanded the building of more schools, homes, hospitals, training colleges for teachers, doctors, scientists to conquer the terrible plagues of cancer, tuberculosis, tropical fever and other diseases, so to bring more happiness everywhere. They resolved to fight for and win, peace. The Congress adopted a Manifesto and an address to the United Nations demanding full rights for women, peace and the banning of the Atomic and Hydrogen bombs, and the use of atomic energy for progress and science.

Come to our Conference and hear reports from our delegates who attended the Congress of the People and the World Congress of Mothers. Above all, come and work out a programme for us here to make the lives of our children happy. We mothers who gave life, must defend it and we must do all in our power to save it! Tell of this Conference to all the mothers you know. Let them and you come to this Conference to defend and save your children from destruction!

A G E N D A.

1. Acting resident's Opening Address.
2. Report of Congress of the People.
3. Report on the World Congress of Mothers.
4. Discussion and Resolutions.
5. General.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. KATIE WHITE,  
Acting President.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

Z(3) FSAW (NEC)

A.D. 71

2

P.O. Box 2706,  
CAPE TOWN.

15th August, 1955.

Dear Friend,

At our last National Executive Committee meeting, I was instructed to direct the urgent attention of your committee to the following matters which were discussed:

1. CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE was held on the 26th and 27th June, 1955. Many mothers took part in adopting a Freedom Charter - a charter granting full rights to all women, to do away with customs and laws that keep women as inferiors; to win houses, security comfort; to open the doors of learning and culture and to win a life full of happiness and freedom for our Children.

2. WORLD CONGRESS OF MOTHERS was held from the 7th to 10th July in Vevey, Switzerland at which two of our mothers, Mrs. Lillian Ngoyi (Tvl.) and Mrs. Gladys Smith (Cape) attended. This Congress was attended by 1063 mothers from 79 countries and was opened by Madam Eugene Cotton, an eminent French scientist. In opening the conference she said:

"Mothers see enormous sums of money being sunk in armaments and for the upkeep of considerable military forces and the production of bombs, when we should be building millions of schools, homes, hospitals, laboratories, training teachers, doctors, scientists who could conquer the terrible plagues of cancer, tuberculosis, tropical fever and other diseases and bringing more happiness everywhere, encouraging progress and science. Therefore we are gathered here to express our ardent desire for peace".

The Congress adopted a manifesto and an address to the United Nations demanding full rights for women, Peace, the banning of the Atom and H-bombs and the use of Atomic energy for progress and science.

Our National Executive Committee wishes to report that our Transvaal region had a successful conference of mothers on the 7th August. The Cape region have convened a conference for Saturday, 27th August. (A copy of their letter is enclosed herewith.) We ask you to organise a Conference of Mothers in your area to report on the Congress of the People and the Congress of Mothers.

3. A NIE SELINGA - member of our National Executive Committee - has been arrested under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act of residing in Cape Town illegally and the Native Commissioner in Cape Town ordered her deportation from the area. They wanted to deport her to her former home, Ngankwa, in the Butterworth district. An appeal against both the conviction and the deportation order was lodged immediately and she is out on bail. Mrs. A. Selinga's home is at Langa where she stays with her husband and 3 children. (See New Age of 11th August, 1955).

Our N.E.C. resolved to protest to the Native Commissioner in Cape Town and to the Secretary of Native Affairs against the deportation order served on Mrs. A. Selinga, who is one of the respected and responsible leaders in Langa and the Cape Western Area.

This abuse of the enormous and arbitrary powers put in the hands of the Native Affairs Department bears out the charge that in this country is a Police State and shows that no African who wishes to serve his people is free from harassment. Our Committee calls upon all our Organisations and protests to the Secretary of Native Affairs, and Native Commissioner, Cape Town and demand that Mrs. Selinga should have the right to remain in Langa with her husband and children.

4. BRANCHES are requested to submit reports of their activities to the N.E.C. as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs. K. White,  
ACTING PRESIDENT.

W.S.W. 9

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,

*Mike Joseph*

Regional Secretary.

Bewysstuk No.....  
Gekry by..... *W.S. Ngwenyane*  
Oor..... *S. M. Kat*  
a..... *Edith Street, H.P. Louw*  
Datum..... *5/12/56*  
Verwysings No.....

①

E. 174

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,

*Helen Joseph*

Regional Secretary.

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by..... *A. H. Pease Louw*  
Dear..... *St. Johannes*  
Te..... *St. Johannes*  
Datum..... *28/9/55*  
Verwysings No. ....

*39(9)*

~~FILE~~ B.186

57 West Street,  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(2)

9th November, 1955.

The Secretary,  
South African Womens Federation (TVL),  
P.O.Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friend,

The Executive Committee of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress wish to congratulate the South African Womens Federation (Transvaal) on its outstanding achievement by organising the magnificent and historic protest against the curtailment of the rights of women, to the Union Buildings Pretoria.

We are inspired and encouraged from that demonstration of peace loving mothers and daughters of Afrika - for we realise that when women of all nationalities could come together then the tide of freedom swelled by a mighty current which no reactionary rocks will be able to withstand.

Please remember that if you require any assistance in future campaigns, the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress will do its utmost to help you.

LONG LIVE THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

With our brotherly greetings.

Yours for Freedom.

S. Esakjee.

M. Moola.

Joint Hon-Secretaries.

TRANSVAAL INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS.

① 11th November, *H/V 116*

My dear,

your letter per Sheillagh, which you expected a reply by the 6th inst, reached me only yesterday 4p.m. - Sheillagh handed it to someone else and that is the reason why it reached me so late. Am sorry that my views could not reach you by the 6th. My views are like yours. We have our own Charter adopted at the 1954 conference and which is embodied in our constitution. We must not duplicate organisations ie that only those that are supporters of the Freedom Charter may join us, this would be a great mistake. We have given support for the Freedom Charter and will continue to do so by working and mobilising, organising women and strengthening existing women's organisations we are doing the basic work for the f.ch. not just phrases.

Re-Reggie September will ask him for the copies and if possible let you have it with Leon.

Re -Conference report -am glad you are keeping it back in case it is essential to modify the resolution.

Please let me have copies of all material you issue. Enjoyed very much the article in Sechaba. Many thanks for the Memo on Anti-pass campaign. Please, post on to me any material you get, it help to understand. Have made suggestions for work which will be passed on to you by Iris through the regional com.

Looking forward to hear from you,

regards,

*Helen Joseph*  
*55 Water*  
*157 Buntington Court.*  
*5/12/56.*



H.T. 54.

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
Johannesburg.

13th November, 1956.

The Secretary,  
African National Congress Women's League,  
Swaton Branch,

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women is holding a Provincial Conference on Sunday, December 2nd, 1956, at the Gandhi Hall, 50 Fox Street, Johannesburg, starting at 9 a.m. This conference has been convened to mobilise women of all races into the Anti-Pass Campaign and the Campaign against the Group Areas Act and Proclamations which will render thousands of African, Coloured and Indian families homeless. Conference will also elect the office bearers and the Executive Committee for the Transvaal Region of the Federation for the coming year.

We hope that your branch will send as many delegates as possible to this important Conference where women of all races will meet together not only to discuss and condemn the actions of the Nationalist Government, but to plan for effective action by women against these oppressive measures and for full participation with the Congress movement in their campaigns against passes and Group Areas.

I enclose Conference leaflets for your branch and can supply more if you require them.

Yours fraternally,  
HELEN JOSEPH

*Helen Joseph*  
REGIONAL SECRETARY

*J. Chabaku*  
A.N.C. Women's League's Executive's Secretary.

H.T. 52

**THE BLACK SASH**

**DIE SWART SERP**

Telephone 40-3167

Telefoon 40-3167



13 KNOX STREET  
WAVERLEY  
JOHANNESBURG

KNOXSTRAAT 13  
WAVERLEY  
JOHANNESBURG

28th November, 1956.

The Regional Secretary,  
Federation of S.A. Women,  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Joseph,

The Central Executive of the Black Sash have asked me to stress again that while we are deeply sympathetic with what is being suffered, and with any organisation concerned with wrongs caused by the diminution of rights, in terms of our constitution we cannot associate the Black Sash with any other organisation.

Your letter has, however, been brought to the attention of the members, and although our organisation is precluded from participation in demonstrations of other organisations, there is no reason why individual interested members should not give more active support.

Yours sincerely,

R.A. DIETRICH.  
Hon. Secretary : Central Executive.

Received by  
Name Helen Joseph  
Address 5/5 Waterlooville  
Tel. 57 Dumbarton Court  
Date 3/2/56

FSAW

H.J. 57

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
Johannesburg.

30th November, 1956.

The Secretary,  
African National Congress Youth League.

*Helan Joseph  
57 Kent's Cottages  
57 Kent's Cottages  
12/56*

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women is holding a Provincial Conference on Sunday, December 2nd, 1956, at the Gandhi Hall, 50 Fox Street, Johannesburg, starting at 9 a.m. Father Martin Jarrett Kerr, C.R. will open the Conference which has been convened to discuss the role of women of all races in the present critical situation in South Africa, when African women are being issued with passes, when arbitrary powers of banishment have been given to local authorities, when Indian, Coloured and African women are threatened with the loss of their homes and their security under the Group Areas Act.

You will recall the magnificent demonstration of 20,000 women of all races to the Union Buildings on August 9th, 1956. The women who took part in this historic protest will send their delegates to discuss the part which women must play in the coming months of struggle against the Nationalist Government and the increasingly oppressive legislation which attacks and in so many instances destroys the rights and liberties of the people of South Africa, white as well as non-white.

Your organisation is invited to send a fraternal delegate to this important Conference of women, and we offer our apology for the late invitation. It was discovered only today that your organisation had inadvertently been omitted from the invitations sent out on November 22nd.

Yours fraternally,  
HELEN JOSEPH

*N*  
REGIONAL SECRETARY

Part F (2)(a) 1

0

110 B. 169

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

(Handwritten document)

11

P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
January, 1956.

100

Dear Friends,

Ten years ago women from forty different countries met in Paris, and formed the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF).

The world had just emerged from a terrible war, and women everywhere were conscious of the urgent need to prevent such devastation and suffering ever happening again. The aims they set themselves were:-

- to destroy fascism
- to secure democracy and peace in the world
- to improve the status of women
- to pave the way for a happy future for generations to come.

The women took a solemn oath to fight for a happy future for their children, to wipe out fascism in all its forms so true democracy could be established throughout the world, to defend women's economic, political, legal and social rights, and to fight without respite to secure lasting world peace.

Today the WIDF unites 140 million women in 66 different countries.

From the time of its formation, the WIDF worked ceaselessly at its tasks. Those in the lead were keenly aware that they could not achieve their aims while millions in colonial countries endured exploitation, oppression and poverty. In June 1946, the WIDF resolved to make investigations into conditions in colonial countries, and in Prague in 1947 the Council of the WIDF passed a resolution on women in colonial and semi-colonial countries, part of which read:-

"The Council asks its national sections to express their profound solidarity with the democratic women's movements in colonial and semi-colonial countries, to help them in their fight for emancipation and their fight to win equal rights in all spheres, for the... construction of housing fit for human habitation, the creation of clinics, hospitals, in keeping with the needs of the population, schools for all children, regardless of race, religion, origin or sex, and the development and flowering of the national culture in the mother tongue.

"The Council asks the women of colonial and semi-colonial countries who are participating so courageously in the struggle of their countries for liberty, to support the united front of the movement for their country's emancipation, to take advantage of this struggle to win their own rights as women by preventing the exploitation of race, caste and religious prejudices which weaken the forces of the people in their fight for liberation."

A Conference for the Defence of Children (convened by the WIDF) in 1952 adopted an appeal, saying:-

"MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF THE WHOLE WORLD: LISTEN TO US!

Tens of millions of children, the most precious wealth of humanity, are today a prey to hunger, ignorance, fear and death.

Thousands of parents in Japan and in Syria are forced by poverty to sell their children; in countries such as India and Egypt, exceptionally rich in cotton, children have no clothes to wear ... throughout Africa, in Latin America and a large part of Asia, countries of immense natural wealth, millions and millions of children are without sufficient bread, shelter or care; more than half of them die before 2 - 3 years without becoming aware of what it means to be alive. Others will live in ignorance; in 1952 one-half of mankind is unable to read or write ...."

As the years went by, the WIDF constantly grew in strength, drawing together millions of women from different countries, all with a common purpose. The WIDF worked ceaselessly in the cause of peace, making a great contribution to the establishment and growth of the World Peace Movement; it sent commissions to different countries, issued pamphlets and magazines in many languages, helped women to establish and strengthen their organisations, and did everything possible to defend the rights of women and children everywhere.

In 1955 came the great World Congress of Mothers, attended by delegates from South Africa. More than a thousand women came from 66 countries, and a South African delegate presided at one of the sessions. This Congress declared:

Bibel  
"Let us bring up our children to love all peoples, and we will not allow the perversion of their minds by the cult of arrogance and the encouragement of racial hatred.

"All children, white, yellow or black, are equal, have the same rights and must be protected together ... Let our millions of hands stretch over the earth to clasp one another in friendship."

The influence of the WIDF has been felt in South Africa, and through its stimulus the first national conference of women of all races ever to be held in our country took place in 1954. The Federation of South African Women was formed at this Conference.

Women are today playing a more important role than ever before, both in our country and in the world as a whole. Women of South Africa made history when our Federation organised the magnificent Pretoria Protest last October. Now women of South Africa are faced with their greatest struggle - the struggle against the hated pass laws.

In fighting against passes for women, and for the rights of our children to proper and full education and care, our task is immeasurably strengthened by the support of women of other countries, through the WIDF. We are not fighting alone - 140 million women of 66 countries will watch us, support us, give us their encouragement. They know oppression in South Africa is a threat not only to all Africa, but to the world.

On this tenth anniversary of the WIDF, therefore, we ask you to inform your members of the WIDF and its activities. Pass this letter around to them. And we invite your organisation, and its members, to send messages of greeting to the WIDF. If you post your messages to the Federation of South African Women, Box 10876, Johannesburg, and we will forward them for you.

Yours fraternally,

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

FSAW (TVL)  
TNC.

~~THE~~ B.156

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN ( TRANSVAAL REGION )

P.O. Box 10876  
Johannesburg.

5th April 1956

The Secretary,  
Transvaal Indian Youth Congress,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

The Executive Committees of the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women, and of the African National Congress Women's League, have asked me to write to you on their behalf to express our sincere and deep appreciation of the magnificent assistance given by members of your League in undertaking the enormous task of catering for the Women's Conference on March 11th.

We record our gratitude to your members for relieving our Committee of this responsibility and thus freeing them for participation in this vitally important Conference; we congratulate them on their achievement of catering for nearly 2,000 when we had only expected 1,000. We feel that this spontaneous, willing and cheerful cooperation is a hallmark of the Indian Youth Congress, and contributes immeasurably to the progress of the liberation movement.

The women of the Transvaal thank the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress!

Freedom in our lifetime.

H.J.  
Helen Joseph, Hon. Secretary,  
Federation of S.A. Women, Tvl. Region.

ANTI-PASS COMMITTEE

Umhlangano wamakhosikazi uzoba khona ngo. 3rd Nov. 1958

e No. 7120 ..... ngo. 2.30 P.M.

Kuzo khulunywa nga lokhu:

1. Raffle .....
2. ukhetho .....
3. ..... .....
4. ..... .....

Yenzani ngamandla ukuba khona nabakhelwane benu.

Zamani ukufika ngesikhathi esihle!

PDN 73

UNOBALA

R.S.S. 70  
FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

P.O. Box 2706  
CAPE TOWN.

23rd May, 1955.

The Secretary General.

South African Coloured People's Organisation

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women was formed as a result of the growing need that women felt for women's organisations to embrace all women irrespective of race and colour.

Our Federation is carrying out a nationwide campaign to enlist support of all sections of the population in the struggle for women's rights and our National Executive Committee invites your organisation to affiliate to us and thus make a valuable contribution to this cause.

Our Federation wishes to abolish the discrimination practised by law and custom against women. We realise that the achievement of full equality for our sex cannot be achieved until all forms of race and class discrimination have been abolished.

The struggle for women's rights is therefore part of the struggle for the emancipation of the African, Coloured and Indian people and of the working class as a whole. The FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN does not, therefore, compete with other organisations that strive to do away with discrimination and exploitation. Our charter, adopted at our First National Conference, aims to achieve the right to vote, to be elected to all State bodies; the right to full opportunities for employment with equal pay; free compulsory education for all; for the protection of mother and child - maternity homes, clinics in country and towns; for proper homes with water, light, transport and other amenities of modern civilisation; to build and strengthen women's sections in the National Liberatory Movements; to assist in organising women in Trade Unions.

Women have played a big part in the building of the National Liberatory Movement and Trade Unions. Their active participation is essential for the achievement of freedom for all South Africans irrespective of race and sex.

Women, who are actively associated with our work are leading fighters in these various organisations.

We appeal to you to affiliate to our organisation and to encourage your women members to participate in our work. Thus you will strengthen your own organisation and hasten the day when the people of South Africa will free themselves of race and class oppression.

We enclose a copy of the draft Constitution which will be submitted to the forthcoming National Conference when the delegates of your organisation together with others will amend and adopt the constitution of the FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

Awaiting your early and favourable reply,

Yours sincerely,

P.P. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

*©2012*

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.