

AE32

WOMEN'S RALLY 12 Aug 2pm

Methodist Church
Hall, Pritchard Str

WOMEN AGAINST BOTHAS'S NEW DEAL



30 Fighting Years

THE PASS Laws are among the most hated and despised of all the Apartheid laws.

It was opposition to these laws that led to one of the biggest mass demonstrations in our history.

On that day, August 9, 1956, 20000 women marched to the government's headquarters — the Union Buildings in Pretoria. They demanded that pass laws be abolished.

The news of the protests spread to every corner of South Africa. They struck fear into the hearts of the apartheid rulers. But brought joy to the millions of people who suffered daily under the apartheid laws.

August 9 became known as National Womens Day and every year since then people have celebrated the day. And women's organisations today have been inspired by the courage and determination of those women.

But the 20000 women who came from all over the country did not arrive at the demonstration by chance. The day was successful because the women were organised and united.

This was through the efforts of all the womens organisations which were part of Fedsaw (the Federation of South African Women)

Fedsaw begins

Fedsaw was formed in 1954 at a time when women were facing more and more hardships.

In 1952 the government introduced a new law to force African women to carry passes.

At that time thousands of men and women were uniting in organisations to fight the government. They wanted to improve their conditions and express their political aspira-

tions.

Women were active in the Congress Alliance in the African National Congress Womens League, the Indian Congress, the Coloured Peoples Congress, and the Congress of Democrats.

Women also formed small organisations in different areas, like the Womens Food Committees, the Cape Housewives League, and were members of trade unions like the African Food and Canning Workers Union.

They came together in 1954 to form Fedsaw. Fedsaw was an umbrella body with these organisations affiliated to it. So the women members of the affiliated organisations were part of Fedsaw.

Women's Charter

From the start Fedsaw drew up the Women's Charter which put forward women's demands.

At a time when the Apartheid government was making laws to divide people along racial lines, Fedsaw was uniting women of all races.

Fedsaw aimed to strengthen womens sections of the Congress Movement, trade unions, and other organisations and to bring them together in joint activity.

It also aimed to work for the removal of race, class and sex discrimination, and to strive for a genuine South African democracy.

The biggest campaign run by Fedsaw was the anti-pass campaign. But it also took up other day to day problems of women in their different areas.

Some of these included:

- opposing rent, busfare and train increases
- fighting forced removals under the Group

Areas Act, in Cape Town, Sophiatown and in Natal.

●protesting against the Bantu Education Act, and helping run alternative schools until the government made this illegal.

●demanding better township facilities — better street lighting, proper toilets, creches and maternity homes.

No to passes

The laws to force African women to carry passes were passed in 1952, but because of massive resistance it was not enforced immediately.

Most of the resistance to passes had been in the cities where Fedsaw and the ANCWL were the strongest. So the government started with the small towns and the farms, sending their pass units there from 1956.

In 1957 sporadic and courageous resistance sprung up wherever the pass units went. Even in these smaller areas many of the women refused to take passes. Or they took passes and then burnt them, for example in Zeerust.

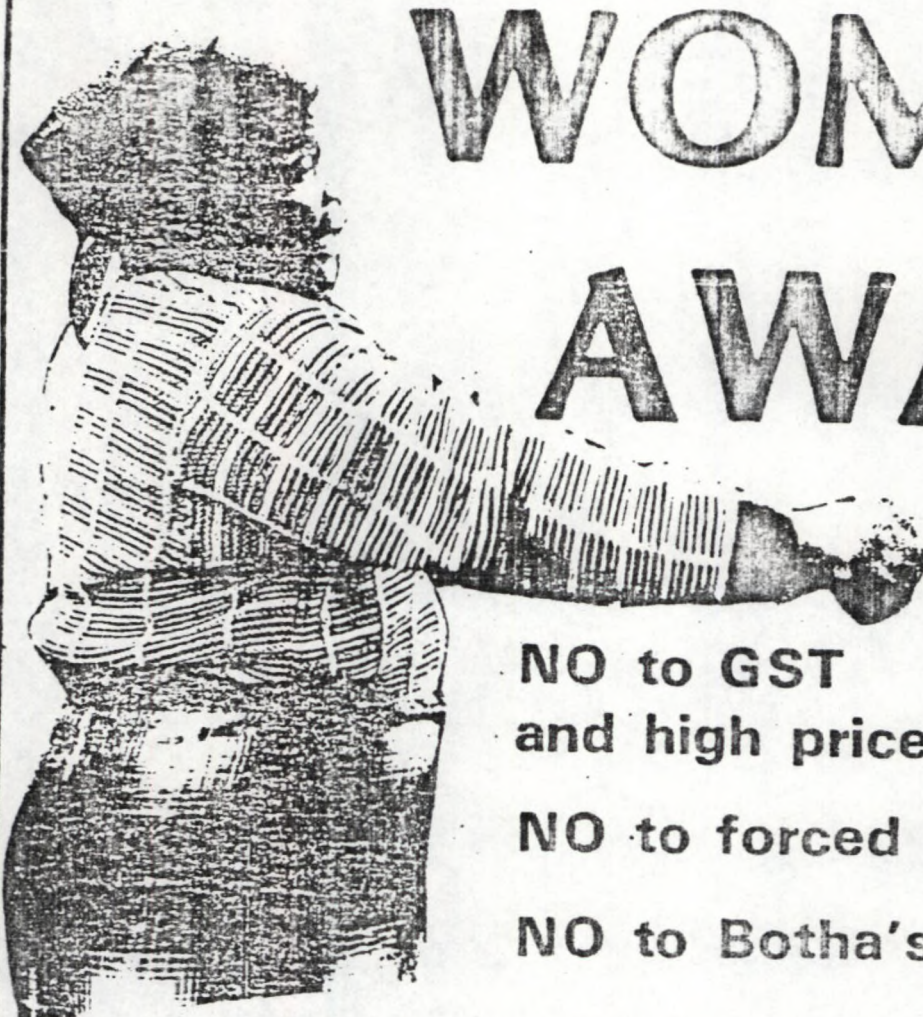
The womens resistance continued to the late fifties when the ANC also threw its weight behind the campaign.

From the start the government responded to the resistance by jailing people and trying to intimidate them. But in March 1960 at Sharpeville and Langa police opened fire and many people were killed. A state of emergency was declared and the ANC and the PAC were banned.

Fedsaw was not banned and continued to organise women, trying to set up small womens organisations. But after 1961 it could no longer function. Until today...

August 9th is National Women's Day

Issued by Federation of South African Women, Khotso House, De Villiers St., JHB.



WOMEN AWAKE

**NO to GST
and high prices**

NO to forced removals

NO to Botha's new deal

WE CALL our women wherever you may be. In Soweto, Eldorado Park, Lenasia and the Vaal. In the cities and towns, in rural and urban areas. We call women on the farms, in the factories and in the kitchens, in schools and hospitals, churches, mosques and temples.

We call women from Magopa to Driefontein and all areas under threat of removal.

Women we call you in all organisations to raise your voices high against Botha's New Deal.

A deal which will divide families, mother from child, African from Indian and Coloured. A deal which will force our coloured and Indian brothers to fight for Apartheid.

Why should brother be forced to fight brother?

PW Botha says this is the time for change in South Africa.

But we only see higher prices and General Sales Tax. We see the new tax laws which will force married women to pay more taxes.

We see no creches and playgrounds for our children.

Many women work in the kitchens of the rich people. They are paid the lowest wages because they are 'illegals'.

Every day thousands are hounded and arrested and locked up in jails for not carrying a dompas.

Women are sent back to the hardship and suffering of the 'homelands' where there is no work and no food. Where the children dying on the barren land. Because the government says there is no room for them in the land of their birth.

Now Koornhof's new bills will make these pass laws worse.

As wives and mothers it falls on us to make small wages stretch a long way. It

is we who feel the cries of our children when they are hungry and sick.

Coloured and Indian women are being told to vote for Botha's Apartheid parliaments. We call on them to say NO to Botha's New Deal. We cannot forsake our African sisters.

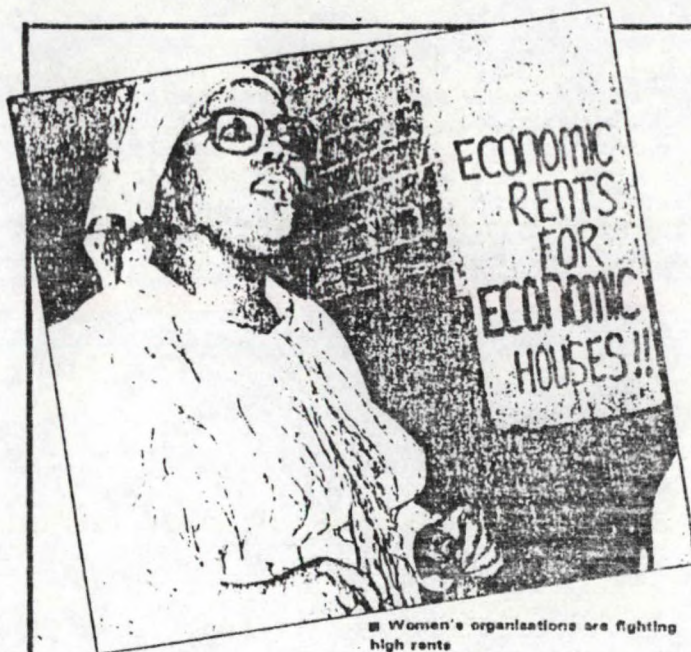
We cannot be part of making Botha's plans work. We join the UDF in its campaign against the constitution.

Women of South Africa! Fedsaw is celebrating its 30th birthday. On August 9 we are celebrating National Womens Day — the day when 20000 women marched to Pretoria to demand the abolition of passes.

This year on August 9 we call women to unite and fight Botha's New Deal.

From Durban to Cape Town, from the Eastern Cape and the Border to the Transvaal the voice of women will be heard.

'We fight for our children'



■ Women's organisations are fighting high rents

VAAL WOMEN

'OUR women face problems of high prices and rents. There are no child care facilities in our area. We organise women around problems which affect them in their daily lives', said a member of the Vaal Womens Group.

Women in the Vaal area are organising women against high prices. They have started a grocery club. Each member pays a small amount each month.

The groceries are bought in bulk and are cheaper than in shops. In this way they are able to save on food bills.

The Vaal women hope to start a child minding scheme. Many women attend classes to learn to read and write.

'We also speak to women in other organisations, such as the churches. We work with the Vaal Civic Association. This is important because our problems are one.'

ZAKENI WOMEN

WOMEN from all areas in the Transvaal celebrated Fedzaw's 30th birthday in Mamelodi.

A brass band welcomed the women into the township. Mrs Nyembe, released from jail after 15 years was given a heroine's welcome.

This celebration was made possible by the hard work of the Zakeni Womens

Group. We say 'Makabongwe Amakosikazi'

The Zakeni Womens Group started with five members. Today they are proud that their membership is growing — 43 women have joined the group.

The women in Pretoria are busy trying to organise women into one group, with members from Atteridgeville, Mabopane and Soshanguve.

CORONATIONVILLE

NEWCLARE,

BOSMONT, WOMEN

THIS group was launched in May this year. Its mandate is to coordinate womens issues. It is taking up of high rents, high hospital tariffs and drug abuse.

Presently they are involved with the Anti PC in making people aware of the evils of the new constitution and encouraging them not to vote for Botha's New Deal.

AZASO WOMEN

AZASO has been mobilising women students at the universities and the training colleges.

At Medunsa the womens group has about 80 members. They are educating women around issues like pass laws and influx control, about womens triple op-

TRANSVAAL WOMEN SPEAK OUT

Women in the Transvaal are joining hands again after many years of silence. From the distant corners of the highveld to the rich cities of Johannesburg, women are organising once again. Women, we need to organise ourselves to fight for our rights and the rights of all our people. On this page our women speak...



■ Women reject Botha's New Deal

pression, and that no struggle can be successful if women are still oppressed.

The women at Medunsa are medical students, so they are planning to do health care work in Winterveld. They held a jumble sale to help the needy there.

Women at Furlloop university have formed a womens group. They have taken up problems of living conditions on campus — poor accomodation, and food and students' health.

They are also educating fellow students to be aware that the cleaners on campus are their mothers and should be treated as such.

They have also done good work for

Fedzaw, and held a welcoming rally for MaDorothy Nyembe when she was released from prison.

JOBURG WOMEN

SINCE 1980 white women have been meeting in small groups of between five and ten women.

Some of these groups are reading groups, other discussion groups and others write articles on women.

Occasionally they come together on an informal basis to exchange information on what the smaller groups have been doing and to discuss what womens groups are doing in other communities.



■ Women bear a big burden in the townships

LENASIA WOMEN

'WOMEN Against The Constitution' is a group of women in Lenasia who reject Botha's New Deal.

They are organising under the banner of the Transvaal Indian Congress. 'Our women are more than 50 percent of the population. We need to hear their voices in this campaign', said a TIC speaker at a meeting recently.

The Lenasia women are speaking to their neighbours and friends. They are speaking to pensioners. They are calling on Indian and Coloured womens not to vote for Botha's new parliaments.

RURAL WOMEN

'We represent women in the bushes. We are forgotten as if we do not exist.'

'We are toiling hard on the farms of the rich farmers in Izanceen in the Northern Transvaal. While we are toiling on the rich land, producing bananas, mangoes and avocados, our children are starving.'

'We wake up at four in the morning as if we are donkeys. But we get no pay.'

'Our husbands and the fathers of our children are working on the richest mines of our country. But their children are a pitiful sight. We are forced to look after our children alone.'

'Our women are oppressed by custom

and culture. By a system of exploitation of which they are not aware.'

These were the words of Ishelo Khumbane from Izanceen.

Pietersburg women are organising vegetable clubs.

SOWETO WOMEN

SOWETO women protested against high prices and General Sales Tax.

'We don't want taxation without representation', said one of the placards.

The Soweto Womens Group was launched on July 1 this year. Mrs Sisulu called on women to be organised in Soweto.

Soweto women spoke of the many problems which they face — high rents and school fees, electricity and bus-fare increases, the arrest of husbands, fathers and children.

'Because of all these problems, women are the first ones to take action. Women must be in the forefront of the struggle in our country', said Mrs Mlangeni, newly elected chairperson of the group.

The women have also held meetings on health, religion and nutrition. They have raised funds by holding cake and jumble sales. Now they are organising a bulk buying grocery club.

Mothers are worried about the education of their children. 'We must fight for the rights of our children', they say.

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