

AAW 1

LET'S REJECT APARTHEID EDUCATION

In 1994 - it all happened again. From Pretoria to Port Elizabeth, Pieter, Parys, Uitenhage, Humansdorp, Alexandria, Bloemfontein, Graham, Tzitzisa, Daveyton, Welkom, Warrmbath, Nigel, Potchefstroom... students once again demonstrated their rejection of Apartheid inferior education. They demanded abolition of corporal punishment, end of age limit regulation, more textbooks, and the recognition of SRCs. In P.P. and Bloemfontein students won their demands and in Pretoria, Graham, Tzitzisa and Daveyton the authorities refused to listen to the demands of the students.

Brutal and suppressive police actions left hundreds injured and four dead: 15 year old Emma Sathakge of Pretoria, 17 year old Sebenzile Jacobs of Graham, Johannes Ngalo of Parys and a man in Welkom.

Today in Soweto we are faced with the same problems that have forced the students out of classes in these areas. This gives us courage to unite in action to strive and improve the conditions under which we live and study.

WE JOIN OTHER STUDENTS IN DEMANDING:

DEMANDS

- * Formation and recognition of democratic SRC's
- *The application of corporal punishment as laid down by the DET regulations
- *Free supply of textbooks to all students
- *Age limit regulation to be scrapped
- *End to sexual abuse of female students be it by a teacher or another student.
- *DET to work to end the continuous absence of qualified teachers from schools.

REASONS

- *Representation in the interests of students and better relations with the staff (teachers)
- *Punishment for correcting and not for assaulting students. A democratic SRC would work to build and maintain discipline among students
- *All students to be able to study
- *Education for all regardless of age
- *Students (girls) must be treated as human beings and not as sexual objects. SRC would promote and improve understanding and better relationship between the staff and students.
- *For the improvement of matric results and the standard of black education. 70% of black teachers are unqualified or trained to teach white schools.

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE, PARENTS, TEACHERS,
STUDENTS LET US UNITE IN ACTION!

PARENTS

The present situation in the schools demands the urgent attention. It is you who have paid so much money for our education. You are not even told how much money is spent.

There are so many problems and corruption in our schools that you are not allowed to know. It is only when we stand together that we can solve problems of high rents, low wages, GST, expensive uniforms etc.

TEACHERS

You who have a great burden upon your shoulders. The job of teaching has become insecure as you may be fired any time the government wishes to. There are no proper facilities in our schools. The government is trying to divide teachers, students and parents.

You also have to carry passes and live on poverty wages. It is only when we stand together that we can solve our problems - low wages, unfair dismissal, teaching problems etc.

The Committee of Concern, representing students from 24 high schools in Soweto calls on students, teachers and parents to **ACT NOW AND DEMONSTRATE OUR REJECTION OF ROTTEN APARTHEID EDUCATION**, which is meant to keep us inferior, divided, to breed suspicion, violence and racial hatred.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

STUDENTS

At school, it is here that we experience, share our joys and sorrows, live and learn together as a community. Our first responsibility is towards what happens at school, how we progress, how we are treated or treat each other.

Here at school is the place where we have to concentrate, because it is true that we can't run away from the things that affect us at school, because we spend 6 to 9 hours there every day.

We are made to believe that the teachers are our enemies, not allowed to discuss the problems we face at school with our parents.

These problems, overcrowded classrooms, lack of library facilities, severe corporal punishment and lack of democratic student representation can be solved if we as students are united to challenge them in one voice and be actively in student organisations and work hand in hand with our teachers and parents.

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