

FSAW 222

Dupl.

6th November 1958.

The Secretary,
African National Congress Youth League,
P.O.Box 9207,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friends,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executive of the Federation of S.A.Women and the A.N.C.Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present against the issuing of passes to African women in Johannesburg women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August 1956, to the Prime Minister at the Union buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that the demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest.

The date for this protest has been arranged for Thursday, 27th November, but for obvious reasons no publicity should be issued at present.

The Federation of S.A.Women and the A.N.C.Women's League in co-operation with the Transvaal Consultative Committee will be responsible for the organisation of this mass protest of women and we look forward to the support of your organisation for this great project.

The Federation of S.A.Women pays tribute to the magnificent courage and determination of the African women, and particularly the women of the A.N.C.Women's League, who have faced goal rather than accept the hated reference book.

The task before us all is great, for the authorities use all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the women of the A.N.C. and the allied organisations will have a profound effect upon the present dangerous situation.

Yours in the Struggle,

B.Mashaba.

Dupl

6th November, 1958

The Secretary,
South African Coloured People's Organisation,
(Transvaal)
P.O.Box 2948,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friends,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executives of the Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African Women in Johannesburg, women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

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The Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League in co-operation with the Transvaal Consultative Committee will be responsible for the organisation of this mass protest of women and we look forward to the support of your organisation for this great project.

The task before us all is great, for the authorities use all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the women of the Congress movement will have a profound effect upon the present dangerous situation.

Yours in the Struggle,

B. Mashaba.

L. Naidoo
Joint Secretaries.

FSAW

Dupl

6th November, 1958.

The Secretary,
South African Congress of Trade Unions,
P.O.Box 6781,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friends,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executives of the Federation of S.A.Women and the A.N.C.Women's League(Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African Women in Johannesburg, women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August, 1956 to the Prime Minister at Union buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that this demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest.

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Yours in the Struggle,

B.Mashaba.

L.Naidoo.

Joint Secretaries.

FSHw

also to TIC.

6th November, 1958.

The Secretary,
Transvaal Indian Congress,
P.O.Box 2948,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friend,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executive of the Federation of South African Women and the A.N.C. Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African Women in Johannesburg, women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August 1956, to the Prime Minister at the Union buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that this demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest.

The date for this protest has been arranged for Thursday, 27th November, but for obvious reasons no publicity should be issued at present.

The Federation of South African Women and the A.N.C. Women's League in co-operation with the Transvaal Consultative Committee will be responsible for the organisation of this mass protest of women, and we look forward to the support of your organisation of this great project.

The task before us is great, for the authorities used all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the women of the Congress movement will have a profound effect upon the present ~~dangerous~~ dangerous situation.

Yours in the Struggle,

B.Mashaba.

L.Naidoo.

Joint Secretaries.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.
(Transvaal)

FSM

Dupe

6th November, 1958.

The Regional Secretary,
South African Congress of Democrats,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friend,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executive of the Federation of South African Women and the A.N.C. Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African women in Johannesburg, Women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August 1956, to the Prime Minister at the Union buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that this demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest .

The date for this protest has been arranged for Thursday, 27th November, but for obvious no publicity should be issued at present.

The Federation of South African Women and the A.N.C. Women's League in co-operation with the Transvaal Consultative Committee will be responsible for the organisation of this mass protest of women and we look forward to the support of your organisation to this great project.

The task before us all is great, for the authorities used all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the women of the Congress movement will have a profound effect upon the present dangerous situation.

Yours in the Struggle,

B. Masaba.

L. Naidoo.

Joint Secretaries.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.
(Transvaal)

FSAW

Dupl.

10th November, 1958.

Transvaal Provincial Secretary,
A.N.C. (Transvaal).

Dear Friend,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executive of the Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African women in Johannesburg, women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August 1956, to the Prime Minister at the Union Buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that this demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest.

The date for this protest has been arranged for Thursday, 27th November, but for obvious reasons no publicity should be issued at present.

The Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League in co-operation with the Transvaal Consultative Committee will be responsible for the organisation of this mass protest of women and we request, therefore, that your Committee will inform all your branches as soon as possible of the coming protest and call for their full support.

We shall be sending to you within a few days circulars for the branches and leaflets for the demonstration.

The Federation of S.A. Women pays tribute to the magnificent courage and determination of the African women, and particularly the women of the A.N.C. Women's League, who have faced gaol rather than accept the hated reference book.

The task before us all is great, for the authorities use all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the A.N.C. and the allied organisations will have a profound effect upon the present dangerous situation.

Yours in the struggle,

JOINT SECRETARIES.

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Dupl

10th November, 1958.

Secretary General,
African National Congress.

Dear Friend,

At a joint meeting of the Regional Executive of the Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League (Transvaal), it was decided that as part of the present campaign against the issuing of passes to African women in Johannesburg, women of all races should be called upon to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg and to demand the immediate suspension of the issuing of reference books to women.

This mass protest will be organised on the same lines as the great protest of women, in August 1956, to the Prime Minister at the Union Buildings, and it is anticipated with the utmost confidence that this demonstration of the solidarity of women will equal in dignity and discipline the unforgettable Pretoria protest.

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The Federation of S.A. Women pays tribute to the magnificent courage and determination of the African women, and particularly the women of the A.N.C. Women's League, who have faced gaol rather than accept the hated reference book.

The task before us all is great, for the authorities use all devices to cajole or threaten African domestic servants into acceptance of the pass, but we are sure that a united stand by the A.N.C. and the allied organisations will have a profound effect upon the present dangerous situation.

Yours in the struggle,

JOINT SECRETARIES.

FSAW C 26

11th November, 1958

The Secretary,
National Council of Women of S.A.
(Johannesburg Branch),
603 Stuttafords Chambers,
48 Rissik St.,
CITY

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women, together with the African National Congress Womens' League, invite women of all races to join the women's protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg on Thursday, November 27th, 1958.


No woman of any race can fail to be deeply moved by the militant demonstrations of African women at the pass offices against the issuing of reference books to women, and their courageous acceptance of arrest and imprisonment while awaiting trial. Conditions of indescribable overcrowding, inadequate food in police cells, unendurable anxiety both over the tiny children with their mothers in gaol, and the children left motherless at home - all this was accepted by these African women to demonstrate to all women, to all people, their opposition to passes.

Yet the issuing of passes goes on. Daily the tension rises, yet daily the City Council adds its weight to the issuing of passes. Houses and permits are made dependent upon reference books; women protesters are summoned to Location Superintendents' offices for sinister questioning about their residential status in terms of Urban Areas Act. Baton charges and tear gas attacks upon defenceless women with children on their backs have occurred in the streets of Johannesburg.

On November 27th, women of all races will go to the Mayor to protest against the issuing of passes in Johannesburg and to demand that the City Council cease to be party to a procedure which is not yet compulsory and which is so abhorred and feared by the African women of the city.

On August 9th 1956, 20,000 women of all races went in dignified, disciplined protest to the Prime Minister to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. This mass demonstration of women on November 27th will be equally dignified and disciplined. The right of the citizen to protest exists and as women it is our duty now to exercise that right.

The Federation of S.A. Women earnestly hopes that many women of the National Council of Women will join the women of Johannesburg in this great protest.

Yours faithfully, 

FSAW C 5 6

Dupl

11th November, 1958

The Secretary,
Liberal Party of South Africa,
Transvaal Division,
48 High Court Buildings,
cr. Joubert and Fox Streets,
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women, together with the African National Congress Women's League, invite women of all races to join the womens' protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg on Thursday, November 27th, 1958.

No woman of any race can fail to be deeply moved by the militant demonstrations of African women at the pass offices against the issuing of reference books to women, and their courageous acceptance of arrest and imprisonment while awaiting trial. Conditions of indescribable overcrowding, inadequate food in police cells, unendurable anxiety both over the tiny children with their mothers in gaol, and the children left motherless at home - all this was accepted by these African women to demonstrate to all women, to all people, their opposition to passes.

Yet the issuing of passes goes on. Daily the tension rises, yet daily the City Council adds its weight to the issuing of passes. Houses and permits are made dependent upon reference books; women protesters are summoned to Location Superintendents' offices for sinister questioning about their residential status in terms of the Urban Areas Act. Baton charges and tear gas attacks upon defenceless women with children on their backs have occurred in the streets of Johannesburg.

On November 27th, women of all races will go to the Mayor to protest against the issuing of passes in Johannesburg and to demand that the City Council cease to be party to a procedure which is not yet compulsory and which is so abhorred and feared by the African women of this city.

On August 9th 1956, 20,000 women of all races went in dignified, disciplined protest to the Prime Minister to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. This mass demonstration of women on November 27th will be equally dignified and disciplined. The right of the citizen to protest still exists and as women it is our duty now to exercise that right.

The Federation of S.A. Women earnestly hopes that many women of the Liberal Party will join the women of Johannesburg in this great protest.

Yours faithfully,



HELEN JOSEPH
HON. ORGANISER

FSAW C

Dupl

The General Secretary,
S.A. Labour Party,
P.O. Box 2864,
JOHANNESBURG

11th November, 1958

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women, together with the African National Congress Womens' League, invite women of all races to join the women's protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg on Thursday, November 27th, 1958.

No woman of any race can fail to be deeply moved by the militant demonstrations of African women at the pass offices against the issuing of reference books to women, and their courageous acceptance of arrest and imprisonment while awaiting trial. Conditions of indescribable overcrowding, inadequate food in police cells, unendurable anxiety both over the tiny children with their mothers in gaol, and the children left motherless at home - all this was accepted by these African women to demonstrate to all women, to all people, their opposition to passes.

Yet the issuing of passes goes on. Daily the tension rises, yet daily the City Council adds its weight to the issuing of passes. Houses and permits are made dependent upon reference books; women protesters are summoned to Location Superintendents' offices for sinister questioning about their residential status in terms of Urban Areas Act. Baton charges and tear gas attacks upon defenceless women with children on their backs have occurred in the streets of Johannesburg.

On November 27th, women of all races will go to the Mayor to protest against the issuing of passes in Johannesburg and to demand that the City Council cease to be party to a procedure which is not yet compulsory and which is so abhorred and feared by the African women of this city.

On August 9th, 1956, 20,000 women of all races went in dignified, disciplined protest to the Prime Minister to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. This mass demonstration of women on November 27th will be equally dignified and disciplined. The right of the citizen to protest exists and as women it is our duty now to exercise that right.

The Federation of S.A. Women earnestly hopes that many women of the Labour Party will join the women of Johannesburg in this great protest.

Yours faithfully,

HELEN JOSEPH
HON. ORGANISER

FSAW

Federation of S.A. Women (Transvaal)
P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.

12th November, 1958.

Daph.

Dear Friend,

On Thursday November 27th 1958, women of all races will go to the City Hall to protest to the Mayor of Johannesburg against the issuing of reference books to African women and to demand that the City Council cease to assist the Government in forcing passes upon African women.

As women and mothers we are most deeply concerned at the present situation. 2,000 African women have already been arrested on allegations of infringement of by-laws, on the occasion of their militant protests at the pass office, where so many thousands of African domestic servants were being tricked into taking passes under pressure from their employers. Some of these courageous women have already been sentenced, but their great sacrifice is an inspiration and a challenge to all women.

In August 1956, 20,000 women of all races went to the Union Buildings in dignified disciplined protest to the Prime Minister. Their protest echoed throughout S. Africa and beyond its borders. On November 27th women will go to the Mayor of Johannesburg, to the heart of this great city, to protest against the shameful persecution of African women.

This protest will be conducted in a disciplined and dignified manner and there will be no infringement of any by-laws by processions or obstruction. Each woman will carry her signed protest for handing to the Mayor.

THE RIGHT TO PROTEST STILL EXISTS AND AS WOMEN IT IS OUR DUTY NOW TO EXERCISE THAT RIGHT.

We hope that many women of your society will support this great protest and show their solidarity with those 2,000 courageous women who have already sacrificed and suffered so much.

It will be the task of the Federation of S.A. Women to bring together women of all races in this protest and we look forward with confidence to the fullest support and assistance of your society.

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

Yours in the struggle

JOINT HON. SECRETARIES

(*B. Mashaba*
BERTHA MASHABA
(*Lily Naidoo*
LILY NAIDOO.

FSAW C 16

Juff
Federation of South African Women

P.O. Box 10876,

JOHANNESBURG. TRANSVAAL REGION.

November 16th, 1958.

The Mayor of Johannesburg,
City Hall,
JOHANNESBURG.

Your Worship,

On behalf of many women of all races in Johannesburg, the Federation of South African Women and the African National Congress Womens' League request that you will receive our delegates at 12 noon on Thursday, November 27th, 1958 when many women will come personally to the City Hall to present to you, the Mayor of this city, their protest against the issuing of reference books to African women in Johannesburg.

All citizens of this land are aware of the deep resentment against the pass system which has, for many years affected so harshly and so tragically not only African men, but their wives and families. African women dread the extension of passes to themselves and have, during the past three years, protested in thousands to Native Commissioners, to the Minister of Native Affairs and to the late Prime Minister.

During the past month reference books have been issued for the first time in Johannesburg. You are aware of the spontaneous protests of some two thousand women, which led to the infringement of bye-laws and of the punitive measures taken against these women. But these reprisals have not in any way decreased the objection of African women to passes; nor is the objection limited to African women, for many women of other races wish to identify themselves with this protest against passes and against the co-operation of the City Council, as reflected by the policy and practice of the Non European Affairs Department, in a measure so hateful to so many of the people of Johannesburg, both voters and voteless

You will recall the historic protest of twenty thousand women of all races to the late Prime Minister at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on the 9th August 1956 - a protest acclaimed throughout South Africa for its dignity and discipline, and its legality. On that occasion the representatives of the women were denied an interview. On November 27th 1958, women of Johannesburg will come to you, the Mayor of Johannesburg, confident that you will not refuse to meet the representatives of the women of your city. We shall come as women and mothers in dignity and discipline, in racial harmony. It is not our intention to infringe the city's bye-laws: we come to exercise our right of peaceful protest and our right to present that protest to you, who represent the City of Johannesburg.

Yours faithfully,

M. GOLDBERG. Chairwoman. B. MASHABA & L. NAIDOO. Joint Hon. Secs.

F5AW 536



Office of the Mayor,
Kantoor van die Burgemeester,
Johannesburg.

BY REGISTERED POST.

LL
FE/9

21st November, 1958.

Mesdames,

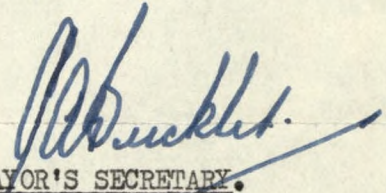
The Mayor (Clr. I. Maltz) has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th instant in which you request him to receive a deputation at 12 noon on Thursday, 27th November, 1958.

The Mayor is not able to see your deputation on the 27th instant but is prepared to give consideration to receiving it on another mutually convenient date and time. It must be pointed out, however, that the subject matter of your deputation does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Mayor or of this Council.

It occasioned the Mayor a good deal of surprise when before he had agreed to receive the deputation a department of the Council showed him a pamphlet which had been issued by your Federation and the African National Congress Women's League and which seems to convey that the Mayor had already agreed to receive the deputation on Thursday the 27th. It appears to the Mayor that your Federation wishes to use the occasion for the purpose of staging a mass demonstration on the steps of the City Hall and he wishes me to make it clear that he is not prepared to allow your Federation to use him as an instrument for any such purpose. He would normally have been glad to meet a deputation of your Federation and to hear any representations it wishes to make to him on matters affecting the city and its people but he cannot receive any such deputation if it will be accompanied by any sort of demonstration. The issue of the pamphlet is most unfortunate and you should take immediate steps to have it withdrawn and explain that no mass protest can be received by the Mayor.

The Mayor wishes to know whether your Federation still desires to send a small deputation to meet him at a mutually convenient time and date to be arranged between us. On receipt of your reply giving full details of those persons who will form your deputation and an undertaking that any deputation received by him will not be accompanied by any form of mass protest or any other form of demonstration he will give your application further attention.

Yours faithfully,


MAYOR'S SECRETARY.

The Joint Hon. Secretaries,
Federation of South African Women,
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

FSWAD
25th November 1958.

The Mayor of Johannesburg,
CITY HALL.

Dear Sir,

The Federation of South African Women has received your letter of November 21st. We find it a matter for deep regret that you should refuse to receive the representatives of the women on Thursday, 27th November.

The issuing of passes to African women is a matter of vital concern to women and we cannot accept your statement that this matter falls outside the jurisdiction of yourself and the City Council, for officials of your Department of Non-European Affairs have openly and officially co-operated by making permits and houses conditional upon the production of reference books. Moreover your Location Superintendents have associated themselves with the issue in an unmistakable manner. Nor has the City Council uttered any protest whatsoever against the subjection of the European residents to the deliberate intimidation of the letters signed by the Native Commissioner requesting that domestic servants be sent on a particular date for reference books.

The women will submit written protests to you, which they will deliver personally to the City Hall on Thursday, 27. At no time have women been asked to form processions and we repeat that it is not our intention to violate any Municipal regulations or any laws. The right to protest is a fundamental democratic right, a right of supreme value to non-Europeans who are denied the vote. The women will exercise this right when they bring their protests to the doors of the City Hall, the doors which you have closed on that day to their representatives.

The Federation of South African Women welcomes any opportunity of meeting the Mayor of Johannesburg to discuss the issue of passes, but we as their representatives cannot disassociate ourselves from the women who will hand in their protests on Thursday, and we urge you to reconsider your refusal to receive the representatives on Thursday. We ask you to realise how this refusal must embitter and deepen the present tension and

despair/.....

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despair of these women who struggle desperately against the pass system, which has so harshly affected the lives of their menfolk and now threatens their own existence.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

Marcelle Goldberg
CHAIRWOMAN.

Bertha Mashaba

Lilian Naidoo

JOINT HON. SECRETARIES.

FSW
25th November 1958.

The Town Clerk,
City Hall,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Please supply to bearer copy of City Council regulations relating to the City Hall and the City Hall steps. In view of the statements issued to the press by the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerning the ^{request} ~~request~~ of women to meet the Mayor on Thursday, 27th November, it is essential that the Federation of South African Women be acquainted with these regulations.

We further inform you that it is not the intention of the women who will bring their protests to the City Hall, to infringe any Municipal regulations.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

FSAW

P.O. Box 10876
Johannesburg.

The Town Clerk,
(For attention Mr. De Lange)
Room 102,
City Hall,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I enclose six signed copies of the
Memorandum submitted by the Transvaal Region of the
Federation of South African Women to the Non-
European Affairs Committee.

Yours faithfully,

B. Mashaba
Secretary.

BM/.

Collection Number: AD1137

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

PUBLISHER:

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