

8. Church Leaders Speak

Boesak

It cannot be repeated often enough that all South Africans who love this country and who care for its future, black and white, Jew and Gentile, Christian and Muslim, have no option but to reject these proposals.

Apartheid is a cancer in the body politic of the world, a scourge in our society and an everlasting shame to the church of Jesus Christ in the world and in this country, and therefore we must resist it. We must

resist it because it is in fundamental opposition to the noble principles of our Judeo-Christian heritage. We must resist it because it is a fundamental denial of all that is worthwhile and human in our society. It is in opposition to the will of God for this country. We must resist it because in its claim to be Christian apartheid is a blasphemy, idolatry and a heresy."

Dr Alan Boesak
President, World Alliance
of Reformed Churches.



Allan Boesak spells it out clearly 'Apartheid is a heresy'.

Hurley

We feel that everybody in South Africa has a right to share in the resources of South Africa and a right to participate in the government of South Africa. Full participation may be difficult to reach immediately, but at least the principle should be enunciated and a method should be set up for a gradual implementation of that principle. Instead, in this proposed Constitution, we have the old principle of Apartheid re-emphasized in the exclusion of the Black people and the separation of the three parliaments. In the light of the Christian principles of love, justice and brotherhood, we judge the draft constitution to be very very lacking, and we cannot support it.

Archbishop Denis Hurley
on behalf of the
S A Catholic Bishops'
Conference.

Mgojo

This new constitution is being imposed. The people were not consulted. The constitution excludes the majority of people in South Africa. The proposals are simply a sophisticated way of propping up Apartheid,

consolidating power in the hands of a small elite by recruiting Coloureds and Indians, while ignoring Africans. This brand of power sharing is prompted by ideologies not in harmony with the teachings of Christ. Such a selfishness retards the realization of the Kingdom of God and brings us near to the inevitable doom of destruction and chaos. A new constitution must not be imposed. All our people need to be called together in a national convention to work out a new constitution.

Dr Khoza Mgojo
President
Methodist Church of
Southern Africa.

Russell

The proposals do not really move away from White rule. First of all, 80% of our population - the African people - are excluded, and even the Coloureds and Indians will not share power properly. I know these proposals are called a step in the right direction. But unless that direction leads to a country where all share power completely, then that is not a step in the right direction. In fact it is possibly a step in the opposite direction.

Most Rev. Phillip Russell
Anglican Archbishop of
Cape Town.

9. Group Enquiry

(Using the YCS method -
See - Judge - Act)

If you are working with youth who might be interested in doing something about these issues, and who would like to learn from experience how transformative action and faith join up, gather them into a group to review, reflect upon and to plan action on these issues.

Before the group meets, choose one of the youth to run the meeting and prepare it with him/her. If you do attempt to try this out, please write to us and tell us how it went and what success and failures you had.

See

1. What are the people in your area saying about the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof bills?

- parents
- teachers
- priests/ministers/nuns
- bishops
- TV/Newspapers
- government
- friends
- you

(If the group knows very little about what others are saying then their first action is to go out and find out. Then continue the review at the following meeting)

2. Compare the different answers.
 - Why are they different?
3. What effect will the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof bills have on people's lives (White Coloured, Indian, African)?
4. What attempts are being made to oppose the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof bills?

Judge

1. What is good and bad about all of this?
2. What kind of South Africa does God want?
3. Are the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof bills working towards this? Why/why not?
4. Is the UDF working towards this? why/why not?
5. What does this Bible passage say to us?

"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees to deprive the poor of their rights and rob my oppressed people of justice"

Isaiah 10: 1 - 2

Act

1. List all the possible actions that you can do

2. Choose the ones that your group can carry out successfully.

3. Plan exactly WHO will do WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and HOW

4. Plan to have another meeting to review these actions.



YCS on the move

For further information about YCS
contact:

Transvaal

P O Box 45095
MAYFAIR
Johannesburg
2108

Tel: 837-5924

Natal

St Saviour Hall
Cor. Loop & Hason St
STEENBERG
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Tel. (0331) 82923

Western Cape

St Francis Xavier
Bird Wood Street
CRAWFORD
Cape Town
7764

Tel: 69-9990

**YCS: CHRISTIAN
YOUTH ON THE MOVE**

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- The Bible teaches us about justice.
 - The Bible teaches us that true peace is impossible if there is no justice.
 - Jesus commanded us to love one another.
 - It is not loving that some people in our country are hungry whilst others have too much food.
 - It is not loving that some people have no shelter whilst others live in luxury.
 - Christians are commanded to feed the hungry and to provide shelter for the homeless.
 - In South Africa we cannot obey these commands of our Lord because the laws of the country leave many people with no escape from hunger, homelessness or suffering.
 - To give a person food today does not feed him for tomorrow, unless the cause of his hunger is taken away.
 - The causes of hunger and suffering cannot be taken away unless new laws are made.
 - New laws will not be made unless the hungry, the landless and the oppressed can choose the people to go to Parliament to make the new laws.
 - This is why as Christians in South Africa, we are called upon to make judgements about the new Constitution and Koornhof Bills.
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