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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE COLOURED POPULATION  
GROUP



South African Institute of Race Relations  
Evidence Presented to  
The Commission of Inquiry into Matters Relating to  
The Coloured Population Group

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## SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

### EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE COLOURED POPULATION GROUP.

#### Introduction

The South African Institute of Race Relations was founded in 1928 in order to promote the goodwill and better relations between the various races comprising the population of South Africa. Its membership is open to all persons of goodwill of any race and of any political persuasion. It is not affiliated to any political group.

Its methods of achieving its objects has always been by fact finding, by the careful assessment of such facts and by the widest possible dissemination of the results of its studies. Its Annual Survey has become a classic which deals with all aspects of race relations in South Africa. It is in great demand at libraries and universities both in South Africa and overseas.

The Institute has also made representations to the Government, to commissions appointed by the Government, to local and regional authorities on matters of inter-racial interest, especially where there are points of friction such as in the shortage of housing, amenities for under-privileged persons, difficulties in education and suchlike.

From time to time the Institute has also called conferences to debate and consider current problems. Examples are one on Bantu Education in 1969, another on Coloured Education in 1971 and one on housing in 1972. The findings of, and also the papers read at, such conferences are made available to any interested persons.

As a body with specialised knowledge at its disposal the Institute wishes to make representations on certain aspects of the problems which the Commission has been asked to consider.

A recent publication The Road Ahead which gives a summary of the general approach of the Institute is attached for the information of the Commission.



In making representations to the Commission the Institute wishes to make it clear that it regards the people under consideration as a socio-economic group within a larger South African population and not as a separate ethnic community for whom separate and specialised arrangements must be made on racial grounds. The group under consideration, as will become clear from the ensuing evidence, is an integral part of the South African economy and society upon whom certain disabilities have been placed through no wish of their own.

The Institute assumes that the Commission will have at its disposal all the necessary statistical data, legislation, regulations and official information which it requires and this evidence will as far as is possible avoid duplicating such information.

The Institute's library has over the years collected much information on current interracial problems. The material from the library relevant to the Commission has been sent to Cape Town and is available at the Institute's Regional Office at 1, Dorp Street, Cape Town. (Telephone 43-2318). A bibliography of this material is appended.

The Institute considers it necessary to draw the attention of the Commission to the rapid growth of Black Consciousness among people not classified as White. That serious attention must be given to this phenomenon is clear from the events at the University of the Western Cape and the Coloured Representative Council, and the growth of the South African Students' Organisation (S.A.S.O.)

This development must be regarded with understanding, ~~and~~ the Institute sees in the movement similar motivation and causes to those which underlay the growth of Afrikaner awareness and nationalism.

Black people are becoming aware of their own personal identity and worth as people and not primarily as members of a particular ethnic group. They wish to determine their own destiny and not accept that prescribed for them by others.

The Institute would like to emphasise the immense difficulties that lie in the way of economic and social advancement because of a combination of demographic, economic, social and political restrictions

and differentiation. Each one of these aspects affects the other and the reconstructive programme has simultaneously to be attacked on all fronts.

At the request of the Commission this evidence is presented under specified headings. As our evidence deals with sectors of the social and economic <sup>sectors</sup> fabric and with the responses of people thereto it is both difficult and unrealistic to treat each in isolation. Each broad facet of the life of the Coloured community is related to others, influenced by and in turn influencing them. Consequently there is a degree of unavoidable overlap. Where practicable reference is made in specific sections of the evidence to related matters treated elsewhere, but, at times, it has been necessary to include briefly in the separate sections some material treated in greater detail in other sections.



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