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SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN
WOMEN

held at the TRADES HALL · JOHANNESBURG
SATURDAY 11th, SUNDAY 12th AUGUST · 1956

A REPORT of the MAIN
SPEECHES and RESOLUTIONS



Bought for 6⁰
a Hutuwa Native female
at Mary Grace Hall Jabson
11/11/56

REPORT of the SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE of the FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. 11th & 12th August 1956

In April, 1954, the first National Conference of Women of all races was held in Johannesburg, and the Federation of South African Women was established. This Conference was a great landmark in the development of women's organisations and activities, for it was the first time that the women of different races in South Africa came together completely as equals, determined to work together as women, regardless of race, colour or nationality, for their rights as women and for the protection of their children.

150 women attended this Conference, many travelling hundreds of miles from the small, scattered towns and districts of our country.

And two years later, in August, 1956, the second National Conference of Women was held, organised by the Federation of South African Women. . . . an organisation now known throughout South Africa. And three times as many women as attended the first Conference - 450 of them - came to this Conference, travelling great distances at real personal sacrifice to take part in the conference of their Federation. .

The Conference was held just after the mighty demonstration of women to Pretoria, and the same spirit that made the Pretoria demonstration such an overwhelming success was felt throughout the conference: a great determination to fight against slavery and oppression; to achieve fundamental rights to freedom, justice, security; to remain united, as women, regardless of the difficulties and bitter divisions that are placed in our way.

Two years have shown us how essential it is for there to be such a Federation uniting women and strengthening the very organisations which it unites. Conference heard many moving speeches, and adopted a Constitution, stating that the aims and objects of the Federation shall be:-

- to bring together the women of South Africa, to secure full equality of opportunity for all women, regardless of race, colour or creed; to remove social and legal and economic disabilities; to work for the protection of the women and children of our land.

The Federation is open to organisations, or organised groups of women, who may affiliate to it. Its strength rests among the organised women of all sections; its vitality depends on the women of South Africa, newly awakening to their own strength and capabilities; its future is the future of our country - a future paved with difficulties, yet bearing tremendous promise of real happiness for every single person. For now that the women are organising with ever-increasing strength and determination, what force in the world is mighty enough to stop our united march forward to true freedom, justice, equality of rights and opportunities for all?

SOME OF THE MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM OVERSEAS

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

sent greetings in the name of 200 million women which the international Federation represents.

ALL CHINA DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S FEDERATION.

"Congratulations!" read this cable from Peking. "Wish you still greater success in cause of democratic rights, removal of racial discrimination, for women's and children's rights and for friendship among peoples throughout world."

NIGERIAN WOMEN

cabled their congratulations and wishes for a successful conference.

UNION OF ITALIAN WOMEN

A letter of greetings from the Union of Italian Women spoke both of our struggles and theirs to achieve real emancipation for women. They wished the conference great success, and said:

- Long live the friendship and unity of all women of the world!
- Long live the Conference of South African Women!

THE CONGRESS OF CANADIAN WOMEN

"May you have a truly great & wonderful Conference," wrote the Canadian Women, "and a future that will bring you much happiness to all."

UNION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

"We have come to learn a little of the courageous struggle of your members against racial discrimination," wrote the Secretary of the Union of Australian Women. "Dear sisters, we in Australia are proud to acknowledge bonds of peace, friendship and understanding, which unite us firmly together in our joint efforts to create a happier world for humanity!"

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA.

The High Commissioner of India (in London) sent her best wishes for the success of our Conference, and requested that her cordial greetings be conveyed to all participants in the Conference.

"Mrs. Pandit ... will watch with keen interest the progress of your Federation towards the achievement of social and economic equality and welfare of the women of South Africa," read the letter.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN (ENGLAND)

"We unanimously agreed to send you a message of greetings and good wishes.

"We know of your valiant struggle against racial discrimination, pass laws for women, and the Bantu Education Act, and we know something of the very great difficulties in your country. We greatly admire the stand you are making, and send you our warm good wishes and every encouragement in your work."

Other messages appear on pages throughout this report.

The Conference opened with the women singing songs of freedom.

SPEECH of Mrs L. NGOYI, OPENING the CONFERENCE "ORGANISE AND UNITE!"

Mrs. Mary Randa in the Chair called on Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi, President of the African National Congress Women's League, Vice-President of the Women's Federation and Chairwoman of the Transvaal Region of the Federation, to open Conference.

Mrs. Ngoyi said:

Greeting the women in the name of the Federation, Mrs. Ngoyi said that the time for mourning had passed and the time for action had come. The Federation had played a great part in bringing about increased activity of women, and its work had strengthened, not weakened, other women's organisations, such as the Women's League of the African National Congress.

Through the Federation women of all races can come together in friendship, love and respect. Here we sit in harmony, Africans, Indians, Coloureds, Europeans, is not this in itself a tremendous blow to Strijdom and Verwoerd and all the Nationalists stand for?

The Federation also helps us establish links with women of other countries. Women everywhere want the same things, and fight world-wide campaigns for education, for culture, for recreation and happiness for their children. Our Federation is a link with women in other parts of Africa, part of the fight to lift not just ourselves, but the whole African continent out of illiteracy, backwardness, disease and hardship towards a new level of development.

The President spoke with pride of the great demonstration of 20,000 women

FURTHER MESSAGES FROM OVERSEAS

THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE RUMANIAN PEOPLES' REPUBLIC.

"Heartfelt greetings," read this cable. "Rumanian Women follow with great interest and sympathy your struggle against racial discrimination and for a free and happier life for peace. We are confident that Congress will be step forward in reaching noble aims you are animated by...we wish you great success...."

RAY WATERMAN, LONDON, ENGLAND.

sent greetings as a working woman, as a mother, and as a Jewish woman who felt with all her heart our struggles to end race discrimination.

MORE MESSAGES ON OTHER PAGES.

to Pretoria two days ago, in which women of all races had joined together, inspired by their determination to resist the slavery of passés. The future of African unfolded before her eyes when she saw the courage and discipline and determination of the women.

Yet this mighty demonstration only touched the fringes of the women of South Africa. Thousands, hundreds of thousands, know nothing of our organisation. In the reserves, on the countryside, on farms and countless tiny dorps, our message had not yet been received. All these women know is that their lives are hard; that they work endlessly and get little in return. They know famine, hunger, poverty, ignorance. They know their homes are broken by migrant labour. They know that somewhere a better life must await their children.

To these women, too, must go the message of our organisation. We should try to promote conferences of country women, to organise them into associations.

We have, also, a duty to the thousands of Indian women in their homes who lead lives bitterly constricted by backward customs; and to the Coloured people who this year had such great humiliations heaped on them through the classifications. And the white women who join with us may be small in numbers, but important as illustrating the fact that apartheid and white supremacy is a lie.

The President spoke of the great triumphs of past months and weeks in the campaign against passes, and of the wonderful work done by the Federation, including the pamphlet "Women In Chains."

But the hardest battles lay ahead. It was not enough to cry "We will never carry passes." The government worked in devious ways, and women could still be tricked, fooled or intimidated into accepting reference books. Our job is hard, patient teaching and organisation in each area, house by house, street by street. Let our next step be to organise individual women against the pass laws, to reach the women of the countryside as well as the women of the towns. Committees undertaking this work in a particular area may be organised by the women's League, the Federation of S.A. Women or the local branch of the African National Congress. In some areas it might be necessary to set up broad, anti-pass committees, in others it could be done by existing groups. Let us be as flexible as the government is when they attack us.

"WE PLEDGE OURSELVES"

Mrs. Ngoyi then spoke of the sufferings of war, and of the atom bombs. Now leading scientists were saying that the experiments themselves may cause untold harm to future generations - without ever having a war!

Women of South Africa must join with women of the world in demanding an end to atom-bomb experiments and outlawing of war between nations.

Let us sink our personal differences, and measure every action and word by whether or not it helps our cause as women and mothers. We must learn to cooperate with others who have different attitudes. We must be patient of others, but impatient of the future. We are not going to sit and wait as the years go by and our children grow up for some miracle to change our lives. We are going to make those changes - now - tomorrow! We must pledge ourselves, for the sake of our children, to build a mighty organisation of South African women that will, together with all progressive organisations and people of our country, bring an end to suffering and oppression and set our children forward on the road to happiness and world peace.

MESSAGES WERE ALSO RECEIVED FROM. -	
UNITED ACTION COMMITTEE, WORCESTER.	AFRICAN FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS, EAST LONDON BRANCH.
CECILIA KUSE, MLUNGISI.	ORGANISED WOMEN OF CAPETOWN.

OFFICIAL OPENING -
MRS. RAHIMA MOOSA
- WELCOMING DELEGATES.

It is a great honour to welcome you here in the name of the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women.

In welcoming you I also have in mind our friends like Ray Alexander, Hilda Watts, Josie Palmer, Hettie McLeod, Fatima Meer, and many others who could not come because they have been banned. No government can expel them from our organisation, from the movement for freedom and real emancipation of our women.

We are here to build and cement the Federation. The charter adopted at our first conference has rallied women to go forward in the struggle for freedom.

We extend the hand of friendship to our white citizens and call on them to shed their prejudices. We have no ill-will towards anyone.

The fight against the Pass Laws is not only the concern of the Africans, but of all South Africans. We must build friendship amongst all our citizens.

In this spirit I welcome you most heartily to our city.

MRS. FRANCES BAARD OF PORT ELIZABETH ON:
"HOUSES, COMFORT, SECURITY"

Mrs. Baard said she was speaking on the ninth section of the Freedom Charter, and it was interesting that mankind always placed their most fundamental functions near the end of their political programmes. This ninth point should be treated as a central point of the Charter:

"ALL PEOPLE shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, to bring up their families in comfort and security."

Even the rulers of our country are aware of the fact that their system is decaying and bankrupt. That is why they keep appointing "Commissions" to try to

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TREVOR
HUDDLESTON, C.R

I am greatly honoured to send a message to the national Conference of Women, now assembled in Johannesburg: though I would much prefer to be present and speak in person.

I wish your Conference every possible blessing.

It is heartening to know that the women of our country are so alive to the really burning issues now confronting South Africa . . . the subjects you are discussing are all aspects of one subject itself: Freedom in our own day. Freedom from fear, from want, and from frustration. Freedom, above all, from the curse of racialism which separates man from man and prevents the building of a sane and sound society in S. Africa.

My heart is in Africa and always will be. You are ever in my thoughts and in my prayers. God bless you. Mayibuye Afrika!

ISITWALANDWE.

Resolutions and Credentials Committees were then elected by Conference.

find a way out of their difficulties; and more and more they are forced to use naked force, intimidation, arrest and exile of political opponents and other desperate, futile measures.

Only when so-called separation in locations has been placed on the rubbish-heap of history will a change take place in our land. Only living together can teach our different faces true harmony and understanding. The principle of divide and rule is employed not only to keep the Africans apart (through "ethnic grouping") but also to maintain the barriers between white and black. The provision of common residential areas would be a powerful lever in bringing about a new social climate.

There will be enough for all!

Mrs. Baard spoke of the great hardships inflicted on the people by high food prices and high rents. Now Dr. Verwoerd is making a proposal that workers whose income increases should have to pay increased rents. They will not have improved housing, but will cynically be forced to pay more for the same service.

People must also work for the free medical and health services visualised in the Charter. Where would the money come from? Perhaps the clever economists could say, but as a humble mother, she wanted to suggest that if all the wealth possessed by individuals in South Africa were put at the disposal of the people, we could start at once in building a country in which there would be HOUSES SECURITY AND COMFORT FOR ALL.

MRS. KATIE WHITE, OF CAPE TOWN, ON "THE CAPE MUNICIPAL VOTE"

The last right of the Coloured people, the Cape Municipal vote, is threatened. Municipalities are responsible for roads, lighting, housing schemes, clinics, playgrounds, crèches - all things that we are interested in as mothers. That is why it is important to keep our right to vote for the City Council. Last week the Cape Town City Council voted £24,000 for apartheid beaches - while people are living under bushes and in holes in the ground for want of homes.

If the women of the Federation were in the City Council, we would not vote in favour of the Group Areas Act: but we would see that the streets of Windermere were not left as mud and slush, and that every child had a roof over its head.

The Nationalists do not want to see even one poor coloured woman have even one vote for one small city council; we are going to fight for the right of every man and woman, irrespective of race or nationality, to be elected to any government or municipal body. This is one of the aims of the Federation, and of the Freedom Charter. Only when we have political power can we build a country safe for our children to live in. THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN.

Members of parliament represent the farmers, the mine-owners and European voters, and laws are made in their interests. The poor Indian family goes without rice because our farmers want protection; the hungry African child gets no school feeding; but the child of the

wealthy mine-owner gets free food at school and more than he needs at home. If you and I were in parliament we would not allow such things to be - but we have a long, hard fight ahead before we get there!

Other people also had to fight to get the franchise.

Only 70 years ago, did working people in England get the vote. Before that it was a handful of wealthy aristocrats who ruled. Workers and women had to put up bloody struggles before they got the vote. They were told, as we are, "you are not ready."

In other parts of Africa, people are winning the right to vote and to be elected to governing bodies. But while the rest of the world moves forward, in South Africa the vote is being taken away from us.

One day, we will run the country on democratic lines, just as we run our own organisations.

WHO VOTES IN PARLIAMENT NOW? Not you or I, sister, for we are black. Every white woman, even if she cannot write her name, has the vote. But an African woman with a University degree is refused this right.

No non-European woman has ever had the parliamentary vote; and even those Coloured men who had the vote in the past are being deprived of it.

A small number of people in South Africa have political power, but we are fighting for the day when THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN.

thousand new leaders spring forward! I greet you with all my heart, and pledge myself to be with our cause always. We will succeed - and in our lifetime.

MAYIBUYE AFRIKA!

FROM A LETTER FROM THE WOMEN'S DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION LEAGUE (THE BLACK SASH)

"Our sympathies lie with any organisation concerned with the wrongs caused by diminution of rights. We regret that it is laid down in our constitution that for the present we do not associate our organisation with public demonstrations of this nature (Note: this refers to the Pretoria demonstration.)

WE hope, however, in the future to register our protest against this further curtailment of the human rights of the African women (the extension of passes to women.)

May I wish you great success in your strivings for a better future for ALL children in this country.

MESSAGE FROM HILDA WATTS: -

I send greetings from all the women who are banned from attending gatherings, and from the Women's Federation. We are heartsore not to be present ourselves, yet elated with the tremendous advances women have made in the past two years.

As a mother, I appreciate the daily personal sacrifices that women, much more than men, must make to be able to play an active part in the struggle for a better life. It is not only the backward customs and reactionary attitudes of many men that hold women down, but the innumerable, never-ending little tasks connected with home and children, that bind and hold women, and make public activity a personal sacrifice.

But it must be done, for without the organised activity of women, we can never win justice and happiness. . . .

How foolish the government is to think that by debarring a few women from meetings, they can break the growing force of the women's movement! For every one of us that fades into the background, a

(continued at bottom of column 1)

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MRS. FATIMA SEEDAT OF DURBAN ON: - "GROUP AREAS ACT"

One of the laws we have come here to discuss and oppose is the Group Areas Act. It is a question of owning a peice of land; it is a question of owning a home; it is a question of having a shelter for our children; it is a question of security.

Not satisfied at having stolen the land from the people, the whites even deny us the right to buy back a piece of land, even where they previously owned it. Now even the little bits of land left to them here and there are to be taken away from them. Once again under the Group Areas Act they set out to rob us of the remaining land.

You have seen the ruthless removal of our people from the Western Areas. Now they have proclaimed new areas to be moved in Vrededorp, Newclare, Albertsville. Thousands of people are to be forcibly removed and deprived of what homes, property or businesses they possess.

In my province of Natal, people living in rural areas have already been given notice to get ready to move. In Durban over 80,000 Africans, 68,000 Indians and 7,000 Coloureds are to be moved if the City Council zoning plan is approved. Only 3,500 Europeans will be affected among a total of 152,000 other people.

Some people thought that the Group Areas Act would not affect the Africans. Now we can see it affects every section of non-European people.

The Indian people have been continuously threatened with repatriation and discriminatory laws. Just as the cry in America had been in the past "Send the negroes back to Africa," so the cry in South Africa was "Send the Indians back to India." Our reply shall be in the words of Douglas Frederick, the slave who fought against slavery: "WE SHALL LIVE, STRUGGLE AND DIE HERE."

Women all over the world are playing an increasingly important rôle in the life of their countries. We women in South Africa too have the duty to play a great rôle in our beloved country. Let us women stand together, and build a might Federation of South African women, so that we can all march forward to free South Africa from racial prejudice. And whilst we are trying to educate our white sisters to shed their prejudices against us, we must not lose sight of the fact that prejudice also exists amongst ourselves, and we must fight patiently against it.

Let us draw inspiration from the dramatic changes that are taking place outside our country - changes in our favour. One third of the world population have decided to build a new society free from exploitation. Another twelve hundred millions have freed themselves from foreign domination in Asia and Africa within the last decade. Only three hundred million are still under subjection and bondage. We are part of them. But the day is not far off when we will also claim our rights. The piccanin Hitlers of South Africa are not willing to learn from history ... we will teach them!

MISS BERTHA MASHABA OF GERMISTON on "THE STRUGGLE AGAINST PASSES"

The government claims that Pass Laws have been abolished. But under the "Abolition of Passes and Co-ordination of Documents Act" of 1952, all the old conditions still apply. Pass raids have not stopped. Pass officers are busier than before. Fines, jail sentences, for being out late, for entering an area without permission, for not reporting a change of job, or not carrying the pass reference book, still continue.

In 1952, the Native Laws Amendment Act stated: "All Natives ... men, women and children, fall under these provisions." The provisions of the pass laws! Then it was announced that African women would be issued with passes from January 1st, 1956.

We know that nearly a quarter of a million men have been going to jail every year for some contravention of the pass laws. Anyone can be stopped day or night, travelling to or from work, leaving the station in the morning, going down the street, visiting a friend, fetching children from school; and if unable to produce their pass book in order, they are immediately arrested. African men are spirited away, without family or friends having the least idea where they may be. What will happen now the same law applies to women? A woman who goes out to buy a loaf of bread may be arrested . . . who cares for her children? the police? Have they shown such consideration to African families in the past? South African police have not enjoyed a favourable reputation for their gentle handling of arrested persons. Now women, too, will know the hands of the police.

Influx control has already brought suffering to many thousands of men, and

now also to women. Annie Selinga, our women's leader, was deported was deported from Cape Town, where she had lived for 18 years - made to leave her home, husband and three children. There were many other examples, more and more as the days go by. Now Municipalities had been given even more power under the Urban Areas Amendment Act, to banish any Africans, peoples' leaders, from their homes.

MESSAGE FROM THE A.N.C.

The N.E.C. of the African National Congress congratulates the Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League for the successful demonstrations against the passes . . . 50,000 women have already taken part in demonstrations in their own localities and at Pretoria. . . the women of our country have become the spearhead of our bitter struggle against the wicked pass system and are giving impetus to our whole struggle.

It was clear to the African people that the pass laws were not for the purposes of identification but for controlling the labour and the movements of African people, for making them slaves. A registration card for each citizen might have certain uses, but Africans must carry passes not to show they are citizens of South Africa, but to show they are non-Europeans, and debarred from citizenship.

Forty years ago, in 1913, women of Bloemfontein and the Free State had resisted the introduction of passes, had sacrificed and suffered imprisonment, and they had won that struggle. Women today are just as ready for any action to resist pass laws - thousands had already shown it. The women knew what they were doing when they cried

WE DON'T WANT PASSES!

The Federation was sometimes accused of being "led by white women"; this was Government propaganda, and we must recognise it for what it is. The Government was against the Federation because it was even more afraid of it than the A.N.C. Women's League, for the reason that it is a multi-racial organisation. Verwoerd could refuse to meet the women of the Federation last year, because we went as women of all races; but on August 9th we showed him we went together, we cannot be divided, we will stay together, and if we have to go a third time, we shall still go together to demand our rights!

RESOLUTION ON PASS LAWS *passed unanimously by Conference.*

We women gathered together at this great Conference, recognise the Pass Laws as being at the basis of exploitation and cheap labour in South Africa. We know we cannot ever win our demands for women and children until the pass laws are completely abolished for everyone. We see the pass laws as one of the great barriers that stand in the way of human advancement - a barrier that must be destroyed. This is the reason that the campaign against passes for women has been waged so vigorously during past months. To resist and defeat the attempt to make women carry passes is the first step towards destroying these evil and hated laws for men and women alike.

We are proud of the great demonstrations against passes for women that have taken place during past months, and the wonderful demonstration at Pretoria on August 9th, a demonstration which showed not only Strijdom, not only the people of South Africa, but the whole world, just how determined and disciplined are the women of South Africa in this struggle against passes.

But we are conscious of the fact that our campaign has only just begun, and our work and organisation must be tremendously widened if we are to succeed. We therefore resolve:-

that every delegate of this Conference will sincerely pledge herself to take back the message of Pretoria's demonstration to every woman in her area, and organise every woman to resist pass laws;

that every one of us who has relatives or friends in country areas will make it a duty to carry this work to the countryside and to remote places, so that every woman is fully aware of what the "reference books" mean;

that we will organise women, through the Women's Federation, through the Women's League, through other organisations, and through broad anti-pass committees where necessary, on a house by house and street by street basis;

(continued on next page.)

that we shall carry on this individual work, patiently explaining the meaning of pass laws, until we have won the vast majority of women of our land to active resistance;

that this struggle, because it is not the private concern of African women alone, but of all women, and not of women alone, but of all people in our country, must be conducted not by one section or another; we will widen our campaign to include all racial groups, and we will continue this struggle by these means and whatever other means are possible, until we have finally brought about the complete end to passes for men and women alike.

MRS. HELEN JOSEPH - Secretary of the Tvl. Region of the Federation - on the "WORK OF THE FEDERATION"

For hundreds of years, the world over, women have been kept in the background and men have ruled the world. But today in all countries the women are beginning to take their rightful place, as equal partners of men. In South Africa, as in all countries the whole position of women is changing as women play their part in the production of the wealth of the country, and women are deeply concerned with the injustice and oppression existing in S. Africa today.

But the picture is different here to other countries - not that our needs are different; women everywhere struggle for their rights, for equal pay for equal work, for better conditions for their children. Our needs are the same the world over, but here we are divided by the colourbar. We have white women's organisations, and we have organisations amongst the non-white women, but because of the colour-bar, women have failed to come together - as women.

But in 1954, the women's Federation was formed, and then, as today, women came from all parts of the country to unite as women and mothers. That Conference resolved women would unite and break down the barriers of race.

From the outset it was realised that any women's organisation that stood outside the struggle for national liberation would stand apart from the mass of women. The Federation, therefore strove to bring together women of all races in their organisations on the basis of a federation; not to establish a new, competitive organisation to draw women

Message from the S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

May every woman who is here today and who was at Pretoria become a torch bearer, and take the message of liberation to every city, town, village, farm, street and home, to reach every person in South Africa.

May your deliberations go forward with great success and be implemented in that wonderful action which is so characteristic of your organisation.

FROM THE S.A. COLOURED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION, TRANSVAAL

....Together with other groups in S. Africa, the S.A. Coloured Peoples' organisation will not rest until the urge of the common man for a better life has become reality, until the Freedom Charter has been put into operation; and we have won our cherished goal of freedom in our lifetime.

FROM THE S.A. COLOURED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION, CAPE TOWN

....In our present struggle much reliance will be placed on the women, and we have no doubt that together with other women, the Coloured women will not fail in their fight with other women against the extension of pass laws to any section of the people.

We wish the Federation all success, and will not rest until S. Africa is a free country.

away from the Congresses. It does not compete with other women's organisations, but unites them, and by so doing speaks on behalf of women of all races. And this is unique in South Africa, for it is the only multi-racial women's organisation.

One after another, our elected officers have been removed from their positions by banning orders. Our first national secretary, Ray Alexander; our acting national secretary, Dora Tamara; our National treasurer, Hetty MacLeod; members of our national executive, Hilda Watts and Florence Matomela; our Transvaal chairwoman, Josie Palmer - all banned. But those who remained carried on, and we can proudly say the Nationalist government has not been able to destroy the Federation! On the contrary, the Federation has gone from strength to strength.

The machinery of affiliation has been slow, but we can announce with some pride that the following organisations have affiliated:-

- The African National Congress Women's League
- The South African Congress of Democrats
- The South African Coloured Peoples' Organisation
- The Cape Housewives' League
- The League of non-European Women (Cape)
- The Food and Canning Workers' Union.

In the Cape Western Region the Federation has initiated campaigns on many issues affecting women and children, for crèches, street lighting in non-European townships, and so on. At present they are campaigning against the removal of Coloured men and women from the municipal voters' role. Two conferences have been held in the Cape Eastern Region, where women of S.A.C.P.W. and the Women's League have worked together closely; one conference at Uitenhage on Bantu Education, and the other at Korsten on the extension of passes to women.

Progress has been slow in Natal, but a working committee established in Durban is paying particular attention to Indian women, through the formation of study circles that will affiliate to the Federation.

In the Transvaal we have seen our most outstanding achievements. Together with the A.N.C. Women's League, the Federation organised accommodation for 1,000 delegates to the Congress of the People. A provincial Conference of Women was convened at which the demands of women were adopted and ultimately incorporated in the Freedom Charter - this was the Tvl. Congress of Mothers, also in support of the World Congress of Mothers.

The Transvaal Region organised the great demonstration of women to Pretoria in October, 1955, when 2,000 women of all races converged on the Union Buildings in a stirring protest against oppressive legislation. And three days ago, August 9th, 1956, the Transvaal Region organised the great demonstration on a national scale, when 20,000 women went once again to the Union Buildings, this time to protest against the extension of pass laws to women.

MRS. JOSEPH ON THE WORK OF THE FEDERATION (continued.)

The Transvaal Region also convened a mass conference of women on the threatened increase of rents, on the centenary of Olive Schreiner, on International Women's Day; has issued press statements and leaflets on issues affecting women; and two pamphlets, "Children in South Africa" and "Women Chains" (the latter jointly with the A.N.C. Women's League).

Our photographic exhibition of the work of women in many countries has been displayed at several Conferences.

Four members of the Federation have attended international conferences and councils in various parts of the world, and the Federation is indebted to the Women's International Democratic Federation which brought together so many women of the world, and helped us along the path of co-operation.

We are proud of our achievements, but we must face our shortcomings. We have as yet not succeeded in breaking down the colour bar in women's organisations outside the Congress movement and progressive trade unions; we have failed to make any serious impact on European women; our impact has been small upon the Coloured and Indian women. We must make this our task in the coming years - to win the support of women of all races. We must never cease to knock at the doors of other women's organisations, to call them to stand by our side.

Let us make the Federation the greatest organisation of women in South Africa!

Let us march side by side with the men, towards freedom, towards a better life for our children, towards world peace and happiness.

MESSAGE FROM THE A N C (Tvl.)

....The A.N.C. (Tvl.) takes this opportunity to congratulate the Federation of S.A. Women and the A.N.C. Women's League for their spectacular achievements in the mobilisation of women in the struggle against the extension of the pass laws . . .

Freedom is man's birthright. And the struggle for freedom calls for unity, organisation, discipline, sacrifice, courage. May your Conf-inspire all these qualities among the fi ers fir a free South Africa.

Message From the EAST LONDON WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Though we are not coming we wish for your success...We are going to the local Native Commissioner.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE WORK OF THE FEDERATION

We welcome the great advances made by the Federation of South African Women, and congratulate all those women who have contributed so much to advance the organisation of women in the past 2 years.

We are pledged to fight on behalf of the rights of women and children of all races, and we pledge ourselves anew to play an even more active part in securing true justice and happiness in our country.

We are determined to resist all attempts of the government to divide us on racial lines. We know that what affects one section of the women affects all women as a whole; we are as one body, we feel each other's sufferings and oppression, each of us can only breathe freely when the rights and happiness for which we fight are enjoyed by all.

(continued on next page.)

14
Bewysstuk No.

Bought for 6a

Deur *Dr. A. S. Isaac Sharp*

Te *Marys Coenraads Hall, Jaburu 1/11/56*

Datum *11/11/56* -14-

Verwysings No.

Resolution on the Federation (continued)

We know that a Conference such as this is a severe blow to the government, to its apartheid policies; we know how they hate to see women of different races meeting in harmony and friendship.

Therefore we make this pledge:

we shall not be divided! we will resist the attempts of all disruptionists to set us apart! we will preserve our principles of working together, until these principles are the accepted laws and customs of our land.

Conference also adopted the draft Constitution.

Message from the Union of Argentine Women, S. America

We women of the Argentine, who also feel the yoke of imperialism in the misery of our wealthy fatherland, in the distortion of our economy in the threat of being dragged to even lower levels, we feel deeply joined to you as sisters. We repeat our fervent desire for great success in your fight for the rights of all women and children, for liberty, peace and friendship between all the peoples of the world.

From the National Federation of Indian Women, New Delhi

We Indian women have watched with admiration your struggle against racial discrimination and the Bantu Education Act, specially your courageous demonstration in Pretoria last year. We have every hope that Africa will soon rule her own destiny, in which African women and children will have the opportunity to express their talent and capacity to their fullest. We, who have just come into our own have not forgotten our own days of struggle and, therefore, extend to you a warm hand of friendship in your work for the future happiness of your children and of the world, in which there shall be no discrimination of race, colour, creed or sex.

Issued by the Federation of South African Women, Box 10876, Johannesburg, S. Africa.

G. 915

WOMEN DON'T WANT PASSES.

TO THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT.

ORLANDO.

We, the women of Orlando, have come here today, to present to you the Senior Superintendent, our objection to the extension of the pass system to African women and also the ejection of our men and children under the influx control, the notorious Bantu Education which is most unpopular with the people, in view of the poor and low wages paid to the Africans, we are opposed to any form of rent increment, and you as the representative of the City Council which is to administer these laws, we call upon you, in your official capacity, to listen to our objections, to receive our protests and to forward them to the City Council of Johannesburg.

We object to the PASS SYSTEM, INCREMENT OF RENT, EJECTION UNDER THE INFLUX REGULATIONS BANTU EDUCATION, and many other discriminatory laws, because they make slaves of the African people, because they deny them the right to move about freely, to sell their labour freely. Under the pass system our men are exposed to merciless treatment at the hands of the police, to the lowest depth of humiliation in pass raids, the hardships, imprisonment for the lack of a signature on a reference book. Our young sons are thrown into jail to associate with hardened criminals, our husbands and fathers are taken from us without warning, not for a crime, but for the lack of a pass. We wait in vain for their return home at night.

WE REJECT TOTALLY THE STATEMENT BY DR VERWOERD THAT THE PASS LAWS HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED. The old form of a pass has been replaced by the reference book. That is all, Our menfolk are still being arrested, by the thousands every day, under the pass laws.

WE SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE. THE PASS LAWS HAVE NOT BEEN ABOLISHED. To-day, we, the African women are threatened by the Council and the Government you represent. The Minister of Native Affairs has said that African women must be issued with identity books, and local authorities are to implement these. We SAY THAT THESE IDENTITY BOOKS ARE PASSES. We say that we and our daughters will be exposed to even worse degradation and hardship than our men.

AS WOMEN AND MOTHERS WE PROTEST AGAINST THIS INHUMAN PROCEDURE. We dread the breaking of our homes when we too will be left uncared for, helpless. What is to become of our children, our babies, dependant upon their mother's milk, if we are to be torn from them for failing to produce a pass? Must we subject our daughters to intimidation and humiliation at the hands of the police? WE CALL UPON YOU TO TAKE HEED OF OUR PROTEST TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS THE deep deep resent of the African women and in general all Africans.

IN THE NAME OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN OF ORLANDO, we who have come here to-day, say to you, each one of us, that WE ARE OPPOSED TO PASSES FOR WOMEN, THE INCREMENT OF RENTS, BANTU EDUCATION etc, we regard passes for women as an insult to human dignity. WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE WON FOR OUR CHILDREN THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND SECURITY.

WE CALL UPON THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL TO ISSUE PASSES FOR AFRICAN WOMEN, INCREMENT OF RENTS AND BANTU EDUCATION.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

16th JUNE, 1956.

4.30 am
29.1.56
by unknown off

4.916

NA LE LUMELA PASA BASALI BA ORLANDO?

Bana ba lilemo tse 15, Bareetsana, Basali le bo Mkhono, le ea bitsoa hore le be teng sehlopheng se sehlole se tlabane se ea ho Superintended e mohole oa Orlando ka li 16 tsa June 1956 ho 'molela ho sa batlane ha lona le Pasa tsa Basali - Tsireletso ea Napolese har'a motse ea rena.
TLONG KA BONGATA KA NAKO EA 8 HOSENG HOLONG EA MASEPALA MAANE ORLANDO EAST.

Issued by Orlando Womens' League. A.N.C.

NIYA LIVUMA IPASI BAFAZI BASE ORLANDO?

Abantwana abaneminyaka engu 15, Izintombi, Abafazi nabo Gogo, niyabizwa ukuthi nibe khona enqunqutheleni enkulu ezoba iya kwa Superintended omkhulu wase Orlando mhla ka 16 June 1956 ukumtshela ukungavumelani ukuthwala iPasi laBafazi, - ukuvikelwa nga maphoyisa emaini wethu. MOZANI NGOBUNINGI NGESIKHATHI SIKA 8 EKUSENI E HOLWENI KA MASIPALA E ORLANDO EAST.

Issued by Orlando Womens' League . A.N.C.

DO YOU ACCEPT A PASS WOMEN OF ORLANDO?

Girls from 15 years of age, young mothers, Women and Grandmothers you are all called upon to join a MASS PROTEST MARCH to the Senior Superintended of Orlando on the 16th. June 1956 to protest against PASSES FOR WOMEN, - Police Protection in our Township. ROLL UP IN NUMBERS AT 8a.m. at the Communal Hall - Orlando East.

Issued by Orlando Womens' League. A.N.C.

NIYA LIVUMA IPASI BAFAZI BASE ORLANDO?

Abantwana abaneminyaka engu 15, Izintombi, Abafazi nabo Gogo, niyabizwa ukuthi nibe khona enqunqutheleni enkulu ezoba iya kwa Superintended omkhulu wase Orlando mhla ka 16 June 1956 ukumtshela ukungavumelani ukuthwala iPasi laBafazi, - ukuvikelwa nga maphoyisa emaini wethu. MOZANI NGOBUNINGI NGESIKHATHI SIKA 8 EKUSENI E HOLWENI KA MASIPALA E ORLANDO EAST.

Issued by Orlando Womens' League. A.N.C.

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TLONG KA BONGATA KA NAKO EA 8 HOSENG HOLONG EA MASEPALA MAANE ORLANDO EAST.

Issued by Orlando Womens' League. A.N.C.

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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