

Programme

Aspects typed in a different letterface are areas of cooperation with other organisations

## A) "Action for Alternative National Service"

This is a national ECC campaign to be implemented at the local level wherever branches exist.

Implications

- will address all sections of the white constituency through conscription issue
- will reach and involve conscripts in ECC
- will break down "them" and "us" attitude; ECC will speak for/ with conscripts
- will gain an understanding of how conscripts see themselves, ECC, and SADF

Aims

- to raise ECC's public profile as an action-oriented national campaign
- to overcome smear campaigns by projecting a mature, professional organisation
- to develop a service component to ECC (advice/support work)
- to intensify the call for alternative service ( a medium-term demand calling for a change in the system)
- to respond effectively to the call-up in August

Format

- inform conscripts of their rights (Know Your Rights booklet, meetings, etc)
- campaign for alternatives to military service
- challenge or protest the August call-up

PHASES OF THE CAMPAIGNPhase 1 MARCH - APRIL

- Survey of welfare organisation re possibilities of placements for conscripts offering to do alternative service
- Consultation with communities and churches regarding Alternative Service Projects which will be a central action component of this campaign (this is explained in more detail below)
- Building conscription advice networks and training activists in advice work
- Preparation of Know Your Rights Booklet
- General campaign planning (events, media, etc)

Phase 2 MAY - JUNE

- Emphasis is placed on the conscript. ECC must demonstrate concern for the unwilling conscript, offer a useful service by informing conscripts of their rights and represent conscripts' demands for the right to alternatives to military service.
- Know Your Rights booklet launch
  - Campaign launch (national and local)
  - Lobby prominent people and interest groups regarding alternative service
  - Debate publicly our demands for alternative service
  - Publicise and gather support for our statement of demands re alternative service

Phase 3 JULY - AUGUST CALL-UP

- The campaign shows realistic and useful alternatives to military service via Alternative Service Projects. Thus we demonstrate the right and ability to serve the country in constructive, humanitarian way outside the SADF. These are practical projects that we could propose to replace military service for those who object to being a part of the military machine.
- Announce results of survey of welfare organisations
  - Embark on Alternative Service Projects culminating in call-up week:

- Consultation with community and welfare organisations in the area concerned which is thorough and an ongoing project
- Ideally the projects should be in areas where the SADF has been present
- Projects must be realistic yet substantial, not media stunts. They must aim to leave something lasting (structure, resource, etc)
- Involve all constituencies - perhaps a specific project or contribution to these projects by ex-servicemen.
- Possible National Alternative Service Project ??
- Media: posters, stickers, pamphlets, etc
- Anti-war/militarisation film festival
- Concert??
- Protest actions at time of call-up

#### Phase 4 POST AUGUST CALL-UP

We aim to draw a wide range of organisations and institutions together to build opinion in favour of a system of alternative service

- Consultative conference for Alternative National Service

#### B) General work with other organisations

ECC has several supporter organisations. We try to encourage and work with these organisations on related projects on militarisation and the role of the military in upholding apartheid. We have ideas for projects for looking at these aspects of militarisation: psychology, the education system, the role of women.

#### C) Ongoing work regarding the call to end conscription

- support and publicity for objectors e.g. Ivan Toms
- using cultural platforms - concerts, exhibitions
- contact work - recruiting active members and associate members, working with other organisations
- publicity and media work - newsletters, posters, stickers, pamphlets, T-shirts
- work in the churches arena with local parishes - church services, debates, public meetings, resource material

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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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