

TRANSVAAL CLOTHING INDUSTRY MEDICAL AID SOCIETY

Press

In the news of the many hundreds of women gathered together on Transvaal Women's Day on Sunday, March 11th, the Federation of S. A. Women condemns the action of the Government in imposing passes on the African women in Witburg. The only methods employed in forcing upon the women of Witburg, the confessed secrecy for fear of organised resistance confirms the real truth that the Government is aware of the nation wide opposition of the African women to passes and ~~passes~~ ^{passes} that it can achieve its fascist aims only by creeping like a thief in the night to take women unawares.

The Government condemns this action and sees in it the first step towards slavery. We call upon all women of all races to intensify the opposition to the passes and to mobilise the people of South Africa for the repeal of all pass laws.

PSAW B 24.2.2

This Conference of Women of all races gathered here together condemns outright the proposal to extend passes to African Women as an outrage, a violation of human dignity. We here resolve to do all in our power to oppose this brutal measure and declare our unfailing determination to stand together as women of all races, as the women of South Africa, as the mothers of the nation, until the whole degrading pass system has been abolished. This Conference declares in the name of women here today that women will not accept slavery and we resolve that we shall go forward together in courageous opposition to mobilise all women in the struggle and that we shall not cease until we have won for our children their right to freedom and security.

This Conference of Women condemns the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill which threatens to destroy the trade union movement and to divide all workers on racial lines. As working women we pledge our support to the South African Congress of Trade Unions, the non-colour bar trade union organisation which fights on the basis of unity amongst all workers, irrespective of race or colour.

This Conference condemns the vicious Bantu Education Act which is designed to teach African children that they are inferior because they are African, to train and educate them only to perform the lowest tasks, and to deny to them their rightful heritage of knowledge and human dignity. Conference demands that all children in South Africa receive full, free, compulsory and universal education.

Conference condemns the Nursing Act Amendment Bill as a vicious attempt to encourage racialism in the noble profession of nursing by denying to non-European nurses their rightful place on the Nursing Council, and condemns the Bill further as an extension of the principle of Bantu Education in that African nurses are to receive an inferior training. Conference urges all white and non-white nurses to unite in opposition to this Bill and to make their voices heard. Conference resolves to give full support to the nurses in their struggle against the Bill.

This Conference of Women condemns the Population Registration Act as a fascist technique designed to curtail the liberty of the people. Conference sees in this Act a deliberate attempt to classify all the people of South Africa, black, coloured, Indian and white and further condemns the unprincipled action of the Government in attempting to coerce the people of South Africa into compliance with the Act by demanding the production of

identity numbers for the registration of births deaths and marriages. Conference urges the women of South Africa to refrain from collaborating with the Government at any stage of the introduction of the provisions of the Act. Conference demands the repeal of the Population Registration Act.

This Conference of Women, gathered here together, condemns the inhuman reclassification of the Coloured People, which is a *denial* of human dignity. As women we are opposed to all forms of classification for we say "We are the Human Race" and we resolve to support the Coloured People in their opposition to the brutal procedures employed by Government officials and to the Population Registration Act.

We, the women of the T^hansvaal, gathered here today, express our horror and indignation at the plan of the Benoni Town Council to evict the Coloured people from their homes in the Asiatic section of Benoni location. We condemn the action of the landlords in tearing off the roofs of the homes of the Coloured people, of mothers with young babies, and we pledge ourselves to support the coloured women and men of Benoni in their desperate struggle to preserve the homes of the Coloured people who have no other place to go. Conference urges the Town Council of Benoni to provide forthwith proper homes for the Coloured people.

Conference protests against any increase of rents in Municipal sub-economic or economic housing schemes for this will inflict even further hardship upon the people of South Africa who are already paid at the lowest rates for their labour which contributes to the wealth of this country. Conference urges the authorities, whether local or national, to provide

Mrs
Rambai

proper homes for the people of South Africa at a rent which all people can afford to pay.

This Conference of Women protests against the Locations in the Sky Act and urges that proper provision be made to accommodate the African workers employed in flats, hotels and dwellings. Conference condemns any attempt to force these workers away from their places of employment, to compel them to travel long distances to and from their work, to expose them to the hardships of seeking accommodation in already overcrowded African townships.

This Conference of Women of all races called by the Federation of South African Women proclaims its solidarity with women of all countries on the occasion of International Women's Day. We greet our sisters in other lands and we say to those who are struggling for freedom ~~that we say to those who are struggling for freedom~~ that we are with them in the struggle and to those who have already won their freedom we say "Where you stand today we shall stand ~~together~~ tomorrow". We resolve to press forward together in the struggle for freedom in our lifetime.

This Conference of Women of all races gathered here together condemns outright the proposal to extend passes to African Women as an outrage, a violation of human dignity. We here resolve to do all in our power to oppose this brutal measure and declare our unflinching determination to stand together as women of all races, as the women of South Africa, as the mothers of the nation, until the whole degrading pass system has been abolished. This Conference declares in the name of women here today that women will not accept slavery and we resolve that we shall go forward together in courageous opposition to mobilise all women in the struggle and that we shall not cease until we have won for our children their right to freedom and security.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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