

'Know Your Rights' Booklet

The 'Know Your Rights' booklet forms a key part of the Campaign for Alternative National Service. The campaign reflects the thrust of ECC's work over the year with its attempts to reach conscripts within the army, to articulate their demands and the demands of others affected by conscription.

The campaign is set to run from May until November and has the following aims:

- * to inform conscripts of their rights within the army
- * to protest against the August call-up
- * to campaign for alternatives to military service.

The 'Know Your Rights' booklet forms part of the 'service' component of ECC's work. ECC provides a service to conscripts who are unwillingly forced to serve in the SADF, by informing them of their limited rights that they do have within the SADF, providing a legal resource service and counselling veterans.

By offering a service to conscripts, ECC is offering something positive and is able to reach soldiers in the army.

Aims of the Know Your Rights Booklet

The booklet is aimed at informing conscripts of their rights within the SADF. According to the military disciplinary code, conscripts do have some rights within the SADF, eg exercise cannot be used as a form of punishment. However, conscripts are not aware that they do have some rights and consequently their rights are often infringed.

The booklet is aimed at conscripts facing an August Call-Up, as well as those who have completed their two years initial service, but are still faced with a military camp of a possible three months each year.

It will also inform conscripts about alternatives to military service. Other aims are to build support for ECC amongst conscripts in the army as well as to raise money for ECC.

Content

1) Introduction: will inform conscripts that they do have rights and will tell them about ECC and services offered to them by ECC.

written by conscripts who have served

in the SADF and providing information on an anecdotal level. Areas covered will be basic training, township duty, experiences in Namibia and Angola and the functioning of the SADF.

3) Soldiers' rights: written by conscripts who have served as legal officers in the SADF. It will provide information on the rights of conscripts within the SADF, forms of punishment that are acceptable and unacceptable. Concrete examples will be used.

4) Advice on procedures to deal with problems: The correct channels to follow when raising complaints. The role of military chaplains and SADF psychologists and welfare officers will also be looked at as well as a section on Court Marshalls and Detention Barracks.

5) Township duty: a description of the use of troops in the townships based on the real experiences of conscripts. It will also provide information on refusal to serve in townships, correct channels to follow in refusing to serve and the possible consequences of such an action.

6) Alternatives offered within the army: non-military alternatives within the SADF, non-combatant status and how to apply for it.

7) Alternatives to military service: how to apply to the Board for Religious Objectors and how to achieve classification as a religious objector. Community service, placements in government departments and length of service will also be covered.

8) Other options to military service: jail and exile.

9) Futher advice: how to contact ECC, lawyers and the Conscription Advice Services.

Form

The booklet will consist of 32 pages with diagrams, photographs and graphics.

Distribution

The book is to be made as accessible as possible to all those about to serve in the SADF. It will therefore be distributed by a publisher and will appear in shops throughout South Africa. It will also be distributed by ECC at public events and through ECC networks. The initial print order will be 10 000 copies.

Launch and Marketing

An extensive launch campaign has been planned. This is aimed at both advertising the booklet, as well as to mark the start of the Campaign for Alternative National Service. The national launch of the booklet will take place on the 11th May with the booklet being launch in centres around South Africa. A three week period of advertising before the launch will take place in newspapers and magazines.

Other aspects of the campaign

The Know Your Rights booklet is the first activity of the Campaign for Alternative National Service. Other aspects include a series of alternative service projects, protest around the time of the call-up, and a conference in November to consolidate support for an alternative national service system.

Budget for the 'know Your Rights' booklet

* Do motivation
 * Embassy
 * Business.
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No. printed 10 000
 Price R3 (R5)
 Launch of booklet 11 May 1988

EXPENSES:

Production

- photocopies	70	
- layout and design	500	
- bromides (2 photos @ R30)	60	
- printing	15 000	15 630 ++

Marketing

- adverts		
- newspaper	1 500	
- magazine	1 000	
- posters	2 000	
- flyers	1 250	5 750

Launch (7 regional launches @ R500)		3 500	
Freight and distribution		3 200	
<u>Total expenditure:</u>		28 080	

+10 000 for ad.

INCOME:

2 000 distributed by ECC at R3 (R5)	6 000
8 000 distributed by publisher at R2 (R3)	16 000
(sold at R3)	32 000

While it is hoped that a profit will be made on the sale of the booklet it is envisaged that money made will be used on futher print runs of the booklet and on an updated one for 1989. Therefor money requested is the amount to produce an initial edition of the booklet.

MONEY REQUESTED: R28 080

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

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Location:- Johannesburg

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