

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

18th November, 1957.

Covering letter to all Congresses.

Dear Friend,

Re: DECEMBER 10 - DAY OF PROTEST
AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

The attached circular in respect of the 10th December, 1957 (HUMAN RIGHTS DAY) is enclosed for the consideration of your Organisation.

A number of copies have been included, in case you should wish to use the same circular to advise your regional, provincial and local organs.

As the matter is urgent we shall be pleased if you will give same your immediate attention.

Yours in the struggle.

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

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18th November, 1957.

Circular to all constituent organisations:

21/11/57

DECEMBER 10 - DAY OF PROTEST

AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

December 10, Human Rights Day, will this year be observed throughout the world as a Day of Protest against the Racist Policies of the Union of South Africa. More than a hundred of the world's leading figures from every continent have joined in signing a declaration of Conscience which is an appeal to people everywhere to condemn apartheid and to demand that the Union of South Africa live up to its obligations under the United Nations Charter.

The preamble states:

- " FREEDOM and human dignity are in grave jeopardy in the Union of South Africa today. The Government of that nation continues to extend relentlessly its racist policy of apartheid into the economic, educational, religious and other areas of life. The countless indignities inflicted on millions of South African people represent a long and tragic reversal of freedom.
- " THE GOVERNMENT has arrested and charged with high treason 156 men and women of all races, including some of the foremost non-white leaders whose main endeavour appears to have been to strive for equal rights for all...
- " ALL MEN who believe in human dignity and the principle that freedom is not the prerogative of a single ethnic group no longer dare to remain silent in the face of this widening repression of reason and justice. As a matter of conscience, we call upon freedom loving people everywhere to adhere to this declaration..."

The Declaration supports the overwhelming majority of the South African people, non-white and white, in their determination to achieve the basic human rights that are the rightful heritage of all men: An extract of the Declaration states:

- " WE CALL upon members of all free associations - churches, universities, trade unions, business and professional organisations, veterans and other groups - to petition their organisation and their Government to use their influence to bring about a peaceful, just and democratic solution in South Africa.
- " WE CALL on all men devoted to these principles to join in supporting this Declaration of Conscience and in designating December 10th 1957 Human Rights Day, as a Day of Protest against the organised inhumanity of the Apartheid policies of the Government of South Africa..."

South Africa/.

Among the signatories are: Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, Bertrand Russel, Trygvie Lie, Aldous Huxley, The Rev. Martin Luther King, Fr. Trevor Huddleston, John Gunther, Prof Leo Kuper, Alan Paton, Dr Ellen Hollman, Patrick Duncan and Dr G.M. Naicker.

We in South Africa are the people who suffer Apartheid and discrimination and attacks on our rights every day of our lives.

It is therefore recommended, as fitting, that December 10 this year should be observed by demonstrations, prayer meetings, processions and torchlight gatherings throughout the country. The nature of the December 10 demonstrations should depend on the conditions in the various areas. But they must be beacon lights to the world that we in South Africa will never rest till we have won our freedom.

There is not much time left before December 10. The Congress movement is therefore urgently recommended to prepare immediately for demonstrations in the respective areas, when the voices of our people will join with those of freedom loving forces in the world against the policies of the Nationalist Government and for equal rights in a democratic South Africa.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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