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18 June 1991

Attention: Nan Cross

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Dear Nan

ECC POLICY ON CONSCRIPTION IN A POST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

DRAFT DOCUMENT AS PREPARED BY CAPE TOWN END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

We transmit a copy of the Policy Document as drafted by Katherine Mathers, Francois Krige and myself in response to the earlier draft and subsequent discussion at the National Conference and within the Cape Town Branch.

We apologise for the slight delay as occasioned by extreme pressure of work on all concerned.

Please do not hesitate to contact Katherine to discuss any aspects of the document.

Yours in the Struggle

ZELDA GORDON & ASSOCIATES

per:

Steven ZINTL 

enc / as detailed totalling 3 pages herewith



## ECC POLICY ON CONSCRIPTION IN A POST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA.

## PREAMBLE

The End Conscription Campaign rejects racial conscription as it inevitably results in racial polarisation, militarisation and social damage. The ECC believes that in a post apartheid South Africa the coercion and force that has characterised our nation must be abolished. This means that conscription, both military and non military, should not exist.

The ECC believes that military conscription in a post apartheid SA should not be part of the defence force manpower procurment policy, this is based on the belief that:

- a. Military conscription is a violation of the individual's right to choose how he or she defines "service" to ones country.
- b. Military conscription is a serious misuse of person power, time and productivity and is inefficient as a basis for ensuring adequate troop levels or at directing skills where they are needed most.
- c. While there may be a need for nation building, particularly among the youth, the ECC believes very firmly that military conscription is the inappropriate vehicle for such a program. Opportunities can be made available for those who wish to volunteer for military or non military service.
- d. South Africa has no need for a large defence force requiring universal conscription. The vast numbers of conscripts would place an inordinate burden on State resources without contributing to the improvement of disadvantaged communities.

In the event of a democratically elected government deciding that military conscription should be introduced, the ECC believes that the right of non-punitive Conscientious Objection must be recognised, and that conscripts must be given the option of non-military and non-governmental service with equal time and pay. The right of conscientious objection must be entrenched in a future bill of rights.

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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