

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

July 24th, 1959.

The Secretary,
.....Branch,
A.N.C./A.N.C.W.L.

Dear Friend,

We are sending you with this letter a supply of the new leaflets for distribution by the members of your branch to women in your area for the prayer meeting on August 9th. These leaflets should be distributed by means of house-to-house campaigns so that personal contact is established with as many women as possible, particularly church women.

The Federation has now supplies your branch altogether with leaflets and I am sure you will realise that if further leaflets are required it will be necessary for them to be purchased from the Congress office where they will be available at 5/- per 1,000 leaflets.

Please let us know a day or two in advance when you are sending money, so that we can have the leaflets ready for you.

We are pleased to tell you that the prayer meeting is receiving very warm support from a great number of the churches and we expect that there will be an enormous crowd on Freedom Square on Sunday, August 9th. The President of the Transvaal Interdenominational African Ministers' Association has issued a call for a ten minute silence on that day from 11.50 a.m. in commemoration of the unforgettable silent protest of the women at the Union Buildings in 1956. We hope that the 10 minute silence will be observed also in churches and in places where prayer meetings are being held.

Please send in as soon as possible your list of women volunteers from your branch for the poster demonstration on the City Hall steps on Saturday, August 8th, so that we can send personal letters to these women volunteers. All women taking part in the poster parade are required to attend a special meeting of women volunteers which will be held in the Congress office on Saturday, August 1st, at 2 p.m.

Yours in the struggle,

HELEN JOSEPH Joint Regional Secretary.

5th July 1959

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

The Secretary,
Alexandra Township Region
African National Congress (Transvaal).

Dear Friend,

August 9th will mark the third anniversary of the great protest of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in 1956. This day has been accepted as Women's Day and the Federation of South African Women has decided to commemorate the great protest in the following way.

1. On Saturday August 8th there will be a large poster ~~parade~~ parade by women of all races at the City Hall steps throughout the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will bear placards of protest against the evil pass laws, against the discriminatory laws of South Africa, against the banning of our leaders, and high-lighting the many crimes for which South Africa stands indicted before the world.
2. During Saturday morning, there will be at least one float more if possible, to tour the townships and the city. The floats will carry women of all races, as far as possible.
3. On Sunday August 9th, there will be a prayer meeting of thousands of women who will gather in prayer for our country and for freedom. The prayer meeting will be held on Freedom Square in Sophiatown, where women of all races and all religions will be led in prayer by the ministers of different churches. Women will come from all over the Transvaal for this great prayer meeting and from all parts of the Reef. It is hoped, moreover, that in other parts of South Africa women will come together in prayer, so that all over this land, there will be women praying together on August 9th.
4. The Federation of South African Women will print Commemoration badges for sale throughout this weekend; the ~~proceeds~~ proceeds will be devoted to assistance for men and women suffering arrest, imprisonment or banishment for opposing the issuing of passes to women or suffering in any way for their heroic opposition to the government and the laws which oppress us so harshly.

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The Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women appeals to the ~~XXXXXX~~ Alexandra Township Region of the A.N.C. to give support to these plans for the celebration of August 9th, the day which is so dear to the hearts of Congress men and women. Further details will be supplied shortly and letters ~~xxxx~~ to all branches of the A.N.C. and the A.N.C.W.L. have been sent to the Provincial Secretaries for distribution.

Yours in the struggle,

Joint Regional Secretary

FSWA 114

(Transvaal)

5th July 1959

The Secretary, Western Region,
African National Congress, (Transvaal).

Dear Friend,

August 9th will mark the third anniversary of the great protest of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in 1956. This day has been ~~accepted~~ accepted as Women's Day and the Federation of South African Women has decided to commemorate that great protest in the following way.

1. On Saturday August 9th, there will be a large poster parade by women of all races at the City Hall steps throughout the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will bear placards of protest against the evil pass system, against the discriminatory laws of South Africa, against the banning of our leaders, and highlighting the many crimes for which South Africa stands indicted before the world.
2. During Saturday morning there will be at least one float more if possible, to tour the city and the townships. The floats will carry women of all races.
3. On Sunday August 9th there will be a prayer meeting of thousands of women who will gather in prayer for our country and for freedom. The prayer meeting will be held on Freedom Square in Sophiatown, where women of all races and all religions, of all churches, will be led in prayer by the ministers of different churches. Women will come from all parts of the Reef and from all over the Transvaal to this great prayer meeting of women. It is hoped, moreover, that in other parts of South Africa women will come together in prayer so that all over this land, there will be women praying together on August 9th.
4. The Federation of South African Women will print Commemoration badges for sale throughout this weekend; the proceeds will be devoted to assistance for men and women suffering arrest, imprisonment or banishment for opposing the issuing of passes to women or suffering in any way for their heroic opposition to the government and the laws which oppress us so harshly.

The Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women appeals to the Western Region of the A.N.C. to give support to these plans for the celebration of August 9th, the day which is so dear to the hearts of Congress men and women. Further details will be supplied shortly and ~~the~~ letters to all branches of the A.N.C. and the A.N.C.W.L. have been sent to the Provincial Secretaries for distribution.

Yours in the struggle,

Joint Regional Secretary

On Saturday August 9th, there will be a large gathering of women at all places at the C. F. Hall, Johannesburg, at 10 o'clock in the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will be present. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss the situation of women in the Transvaal, and to elect a committee to look into the matter. The gathering will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and will be held in the evening at 7 o'clock. The gathering will be held in the morning at 10 o'clock, and in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and in the evening at 7 o'clock.

During the day, there will be a large gathering of women at all places at the C. F. Hall, Johannesburg, at 10 o'clock in the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will be present. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss the situation of women in the Transvaal, and to elect a committee to look into the matter. The gathering will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and will be held in the evening at 7 o'clock.

On Sunday August 10th, there will be a prayer meeting at the C. F. Hall, Johannesburg, at 10 o'clock in the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will be present. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss the situation of women in the Transvaal, and to elect a committee to look into the matter. The gathering will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and will be held in the evening at 7 o'clock.

The Federation of South African Women will hold a general meeting on August 11th, at the C. F. Hall, Johannesburg, at 10 o'clock in the morning. It is hoped that at least 100 women will be present. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss the situation of women in the Transvaal, and to elect a committee to look into the matter. The gathering will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and will be held in the evening at 7 o'clock.

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The Federation of South African women (Tvl.)
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

8th July, 1959.

The Minister,

_____ Church,

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women asks for your support for the Women's Day of Prayer which has been arranged for Sunday, August 9th.

This day has been recognised by the African National Congress as Women's day in commemoration of the 9th August 1956 when 20,000 women of all races went together in peace and unity to the Union Buildings, there to lay before the late Prime Minister their objections to the pass system which brings so much fear and tragedy into the lives of the African people, and to protest against the extension of the pass system to African Women.

This year, August 9th falls on a Sunday and the Federation of South African Women has decided to commemorate that great protest of women by calling women of all races to a prayer meeting to be held in Sophiatown, one of the few places where men and women of different races can come together freely. Women from all parts of the Reef and from many towns in the Transvaal, as well as women of Johannesburg, will come to this open air gathering, so that thousands of women may meet in prayer together for our country and for peace, freedom and happiness for all people. Ministers of the churches will be invited to lead the women in prayer.

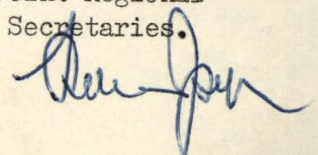
It is hoped, moreover, that not only will women from each congregation, from every church, respond to this call to women to come to the prayer meeting, but that in each church there will be on that day special prayers for our country, for peace, harmony and justice for all, so that the prayers of the women will be echoed in every church.

Not only in Johannesburg and the Transvaal, but in all the main centres of the Union, a call has been made to women to come together on August 9th, so that all over this land there will be women gathered in prayer.

We are confident that the decision of the women to call for a day of prayer on August 9th will have the support of your congregation and we look forward to welcoming women from your church on this great occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Regional
Secretaries.



The Federation of South African women (Tvl.)
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

10th July, 1959.

~~The Minister,~~

~~Church,~~

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women asks for your support for the Women's Day of Prayer which has been arranged for Sunday, August 9th.

This day has been recognised by the African National Congress as Women's day in commemoration of the 9th August 1956 when 20,000 women of all races went together in peace and unity to the Union Buildings, there to lay before the late Prime Minister their objections to the pass system which brings so much fear and tragedy into the lives of the African people, and to protest against the extension of the pass system to African Women.

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We are confident that the decision of the women to call for a day of prayer on August 9th will have ~~the~~ support ~~of~~ and we look forward to welcoming women from your ~~church~~ on this great occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Regional Secretaries.

[Signature]

To:
Secretaries

*The Liberal Party (Transvaal Division) Zygmont House, St. Louis, Marshall St.
The Black Labor of 11 Valley Rd Westcliff
The National Council of Women of SA (Johannesburg) 603 St. Michaels Church, Johannesburg
The S.A. Labour Party, Transvaal, Kent St.*

attach copy

*Unusually + Professional Women's Club? Secy. P. O. Box 7305 Johannesburg
54 Venter House, Albert St.*

Helen:

I have left the letters to individual women (Conference women) out of the envelopes so that you can attach conference reports thereto. The only thing I have not done is envelopes for the letters to organizations as I have been unable to get their addresses.

Check envelopes for NEC circulars

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FSAW 14

Sunday, August 9th, will be the third anniversary of the historic day when 20,000 women of all races, organised by the Federation of South African Women, went together to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, there to lay before the late Prime Minister, their protest against the Pass Laws and the issuing of reference books to African women.

The Federation of South African Women has decided this year to celebrate that great protest by a day of prayer on August 9th. A call has gone out to the Churches that on this day all people should pray for the future of our children and for peace and happiness for all people. Thousands of women of all races will gather together on Freedom Square in Sophiatown at 10 a.m. for a womens prayer meeting. The Reverend Canon Calata will open the prayer meeting and preside during the day. Other ministers who will be there include Father Rakale of Orlando, Father Martin Jarrett-Kerr, the Reverend Douglas Thompson, Bishop Nhlanhla of Alexandra Township and many ministers of other churches will ^{also} be at this great prayer meeting for the future of our country and the freedom of our children.

July 31st 1959

For 'Sament' workers'

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Federation of S.A. Women (Transvaal),
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

3rd JULY, 1959.

The Secretary,

.....Branch,
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

Dear Friend,

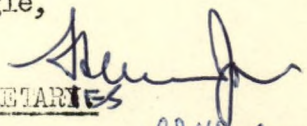
August 9th will mark the **THIRD ANNIVERSARY** of the great protest of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in 1956. This day been recognised as Women's Day and the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women has decided to commemorate that great protest in the following manner:-

1. On Saturday August 8th there will be a large Poster Parade by Women of all races at the City Hall steps throughout the morning. It is hoped that 100 Women will carry placards of Protest against passes, discriminatory laws, etc.
2. During Saturday there will be at least one float to tour the City and the Townships.
3. On Sunday August 9th thousands of women will gather together in prayer for our Country and for Freedom. The prayer meeting will be held in Sophiatown on Freedom Square, where women of all races, of all religions and of all Churches will be led in prayer by Ministers from different churches. Church Choirs will also be invited to Sing at this prayer meeting. Women from all over the Reef and from many parts of the Transvaal will come to this **Prayer Meeting.**
4. Badges for August 9th will be sold and the money collected will be for assistance to men and women suffering arrest, imprisonment or banishment for opposing passes for women, or suffering in any way for their heroic opposition to the Government and the Laws which oppress us so harshly.

The Federation of South African Women appeals to your Branch for the maximum support for these plans to celebrate August 9th, that day which means so much to the men and women of the Congress Movement. Further details of these plans will be given when personal contact is made by the women organisers with your branch or by letters to those branches too far distant for a personal visit. We are confident that we shall receive the enthusiastic support of your branch on this occasion, which helped the women so greatly in the past.

Yours in the Struggle,

JOINT REGIONAL SECRETARIES


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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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