

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,  
Johannesburg.

5th April 1956.

The Secretary,  
Transvaal Youth Action Committee,  
Box 2948,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

I must thank you on behalf of the Federation of South African Women for your most heartening letter of 27th March, in which you offer cooperation and assistance to the Federation in the campaign against Passes for Women.

You may be sure that we shall call upon you for active assistance, and shall communicate with you in a few weeks time when we embark on the preparations for the mass demonstration to Strydom. Our Committee has not met since the receipt of your letter, but it will be placed before them at the earliest opportunity.

Yours in the struggle,

Helen Joseph, Hon. Secretary,  
Federation of S.A. Women, Tvl. Region.

FSAW CI-4

Fede

Federation of South African Women  
(Transvaal Region)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG

19th June, 1956.

The Secretary,  
Transvaal Indian Congress,  
37 West Street,  
Ferreirastown,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,


Towards the end of last year a letter (copy attached) was sent to the South African Indian Congress requesting the affiliation to the Federation of South African Women of the women members of your organisation. As this matter vitally affects the Indian women of the Transvaal we write to you also to ask if you can assist in the finalising of this matter.

It gives us pleasure to inform you that August 9th has been fixed as the day of the great demonstration of women against passes when women of all races will go once more to the Union Buildings this time to protest to the Prime Minister. We hope to receive your full co-operation and assistance in so far as Indian women are concerned.

The Federation is convening a National Conference of women for August 11th and 12th to follow the demonstration on August 9th. At this Conference which will be held in Johannesburg, many problems affecting women and children will be discussed, and the draft constitution of the Federation will be presented for discussion and adoption at the Conference.

The Federation hopes that your organisation will have finalised this matter of affiliation before this important Conference takes place so that we may expect a strong and representative delegation of your women members.

Yours fraternally,

  
HELEN JOSEPH  
Hon. Secretary.

Similar letter to ANC (Province)

File

Federation of South African Women  
(Transvaal Region)

P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dupl

19th June, 1956.

The Secretary,  
South African Coloured People's Organisation,  
37 West Street,  
Ferreirastown,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

Towards the end of last year a letter (copy attached) was sent to the South African Coloured People's Organisation requesting the affiliation to the Federation of South African Women of the women members of your organisation. As this matter vitally affects the Coloured women of the Transvaal we write to you also to ask if you can assist in the finalising of this matter.

It gives us pleasure to inform you that August 9th has been fixed as the day of the great demonstration of women against passes when women of all races will go once more to the Union buildings this time to protest to the Prime Minister. We hope to receive your full co-operation and assistance in so far as Coloured women are concerned.

The Federation is convening a National Conference of women for August 11th and 12th to follow the demonstration on August 9th. At this Conference which will be held in Johannesburg, many problems affecting women and children will be discussed, and the draft constitution of the Federation will be presented for discussion and adoption at the Conference.

The Federation hopes that your organisation will have finalised this matter of affiliation before this important Conference takes place so that we may expect a strong and representative delegation of your women members.

Yours fraternally,

HELEN JOSEPH  
Hon. Secretary.

44 Rawley Street.  
Waterkloof.

Pretoria

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1956.

Miss H. Joseph

Fed. of S.A. Women (Vol Reg)

P.O. Box 10876

Johannesburg.

Dear Miss Joseph,

I have received your letter  
for which I thank you.

Although we are in sympathy with  
what your Federation is planning on Thursday,  
we as an organisation do not demonstrate  
however with any other organisation, and  
will therefore not be able to participate.

With good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

M. van Sausan.

FSAW CI.4



# TRANSVAAL INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2948  
PHONE 33-9193

37 WEST STREET  
JOHANNESBURG

*Passes*

17th August, 1956.

The Secretary,  
Federation of South African Women,  
P.O.Box 9207,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear friend,

The Executive Committee of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress congratulates the Federation of South African Women, in mobilising 20,000 women from all parts of the Union, to assemble at the Union Buildings, Pretoria, as a mark of protest against the introduction of passes to African women.

We regard your demonstration as the event of the year, of great political significance, and, as a positive and an invaluable contribution to the liberatory movement. Your action rocked the very foundation of South African society, and is no doubt another milestone in the struggle for freedom.

We wish you every success in your future campaigns, and trust that you will not hesitate to contact us, whenever our assistance is required.

LONG LIVE THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

With our fraternal greetings,

Yours for a better South Africa

*M. Moosajee*  
M. Moosajee & M. Moosajee.  
JOINT-HONORARY SECRETARIES.

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.

24th September, 1956.

Mr. Robert Resha,  
African National Congress.

Dear Friend,

The Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women has asked me to write to express our gratitude and appreciation of the wonderful assistance that you personally gave to us during our campaign for the Women's Protest to Pretoria.

We feel indeed that there are no words in which to adequately express our thanks for your help, for the many hours far into the night when you drove to the townships to convey our women safely home after meetings, for the many days when you drove to places far away so that we could make contact with women, when you so generously and willingly set aside weekend after weekend to assist us, for the loyal and valuable assistance that you gave to us, to the exclusion of all other interests, during the days before the protest itself.

We want to say that if there were more comrades like you, the struggle for liberation would move at a faster pace.

Yours for freedom,



HON. SECRETARY  
Transvaal Region  
Federation of South African Women.

FSAW CI 4

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG

24th September, 1956.

Dr. R.E. Press,  
37 West Street,  
JOHANNESBURG


Dear Friend,

This Committee has asked me to write to you personally to express our most sincere thanks and our appreciation of the invaluable help which you gave us during the weeks before the Protest by making available your car for our weekend journeys into the Transvaal and your cheerful and willing sacrifice of your time in driving for us. We know how great a demand these long trips made upon your time and it is for this especially that we want to thank you.

We know that you shared with us the moving experience of that great historic gathering of Women on August 9th, and we are proud to share with you the knowledge that no minute of those long hours of driving was wasted, for women came to the protest from almost every area that we visited and even in the rare cases where we do not know of any women who came, we do know that the seed of resistance to the passes has been sown by our visits.

If we had more generous, unselfish comrades such as yourself, how much more widespread could the liberation struggle become! But we are grateful for the few - and for and to you.

Yours in the struggle,

  
HON. SECRETARY  
Transvaal Region

Federation of South African Women.

24th September, 1956.

Dear Friends,

Now that our National Conference is over, we want to keep the closest contact with our Regions. Unfortunately the great distances between the centres of our country make it impossible for us to visit each other very often, so we must make up for that by writing frequently and sending reports and news of other Regions so that we all know what we are doing, as women, in our various areas, to carry on the struggle for the liberation of our country, for the emancipation of women and the protection of our children.

As the Federation of South African Women we may well be proud of the magnificent and historic Protest of women, which we organised together with the African National Congress Women's League. This protest made a greater impact on the people of our country than any previous demonstration in the history of South Africa and it has been widely acclaimed. Outside South Africa, too, the protest of the women was widely known. A special illustrated pamphlet is being prepared and we shall shortly be sending you copies.

A general Report of our Conference is also being prepared and will be sent shortly, so that we may distribute it to interested organisations and make our work known. We must influence other women's organisations, so that they will consider affiliating to the Federation and thus make it the greatest women's organisation in South Africa, for this is our aim.

At the first meeting of the National Executive Committee the Conference Resolution on Passes was considered and we hope that Regions will give the following recommendations their serious attention. For we must not sit back after our great protest; we must go forward to the next step. There are so many steps before us, such a long way to travel to freedom, that we cannot lose any time, and must never cease our endeavours.

The National Executive recommends to all Regions -

- (1) that Regional Conferences be convened to further the anti pass campaign and the resistance to the Group Areas Act. Every effort should be made to bring women of all races together on these two issues; Coloured and Indian Women especially should be drawn into this campaign.
- (2) that the Anti Pass Campaign be continued with vigour and determination, and that demonstrations be continued. The women's demonstrations have proved most effective and win such local support; it is the Federation's task to bring all women together in such demonstrations; and it must be remembered that we must demonstrate not only against passes for women, but against Section 10 of the Urban Areas Act and the new Section 29, which banishes the people's leaders from their homes. Where African women resist, the women of other races should rally to their side and proclaim our unity as women. Where general demonstrations are organised, women should join with the men in large numbers.
- (3) that the planning of a campaign to seek individual pledges from women be considered immediately. A specimen pledge form will be sent to Regions as soon as possible, but only the Regions themselves can really plan effectively, for they can plan in terms of their local conditions.
- (4) that broad Anti Pass and Anti Group Areas Committees be formed. Here we must try to draw in other women's organisations, trades unions, churches, etc., and other women as individuals, and we must at the same time act in liaison and co-operation with Anti Pass Committees which may be formed through the Congresses. But we have a special appeal to all women to join this struggle against pass-slavery and the uprooting of people from their homes.



- (5) that Regions send reports to the N.E.C. on how they are able to carry out these recommendations. The N.E.C. is most anxious to obtain suggestions from the Regions.

We wish all Regions success in our work. The message of the Federation must reach all parts of South Africa. Please try to hold your Regional Conferences before the end of the year and keep us informed of any developments in your areas.

Yours in the struggle,

NATIONAL SECRETARY.

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal),  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG

24th September, 1956.

The Chairman,  
Transvaal Consultative Committee,  
37 West Street,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

Your request, contained in your letter of the 14th August, 1956, for the submission of a written report by the Working Committee appointed for the organisation of the Women's Protest to Pretoria on August 9th, has been given careful consideration by the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women.

The Committee regrets the delay in replying to your request. This was unavoidable, as the Committee met on Monday September 17th for the first time since the Protest on August 9th.

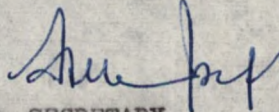
The Committee appreciates your desire for a written report, but is of the opinion that no further purpose can be served by the preparation of a written report for the Transvaal Consultative Committee. The Regional Executive has not itself requested such a report from the Working Committee, which was appointed jointly by the Federation and the A.N.C. Women's League, taking into account that during the period before and immediately after the protest, many valuable discussions and consultations were held at various levels with Congress Committees and groups of individuals. During these discussions, the various aspects, both organisational and political, of the protest were fully discussed.

Important liaison was maintained with the Transvaal Consultative Committee during the period preceding the Protest, despite the personnel difficulties arising from the coinciding of meetings.

The Transvaal Regional Executive of the Federation wishes to take this opportunity of expressing sincere appreciation of the co-operation of your Committee in the organising of the Protest, particularly with regard to transport, when your assistance made possible the visits to the various town in the Transvaal. We appreciate particularly your voluntary relinquishing of your own plan of working intensively in specific areas in order to assist us to cover a wider area during the period when we were preparing for the Protest.

Our representatives on the Transvaal Consultative Committee will maintain this valuable liaison and we look forward to the closest co-operation in the continuation of the anti pass campaign and in any other campaign that may arise.

Yours in the struggle,



HON. SECRETARY

Transvaal Region

Federation of South African Women.

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal)  
P.O. Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.

25th September, 1956.


Dr. Percy Cohen,  
22 Millson House,  
Twist Street,  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee I want to thank you most sincerely for your generous assistance with transport during the Campaign for the Women's Protest to Pretoria.

The Federation of South African Women is really deeply grateful to you and other comrades, for we know how deep an inroad this made into your time, and really appreciate your generous and willing assistance. Without friends such as yourself, our task would have been more difficult and we should not have been able to bring the message of the protest to so many women of the Transvaal.

Yours in the struggle,

  
HON. SECRETARY

Federation of South African Women  
Transvaal Region

FSAW CI.3

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. (Transvaal)

P.O.Box 10876,  
JOHANNESBURG.


17th Oct. 1956.

Mr. Woolf Kodesh,  
32, Sunbury Court,  
Claim Street,  
Hillbrow,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friend,

I hope that you will forgive the long delay in writing to you, on behalf of the Federation of S.A. Women, to thank you most sincerely for the wonderful assistance that you gave to us during our campaign for the Pretoria Protest. The Transvaal Executive Committee has asked me to express to you our appreciation of your generosity and your willing devotion of so many week-ends to our cause. That the Protest was such a magnificent success is without doubt partly due to the wholehearted help we received from a few comrades such as yourself who assisted us so effectively.

Yours in the struggle,

  
HON. SECRETARY.

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