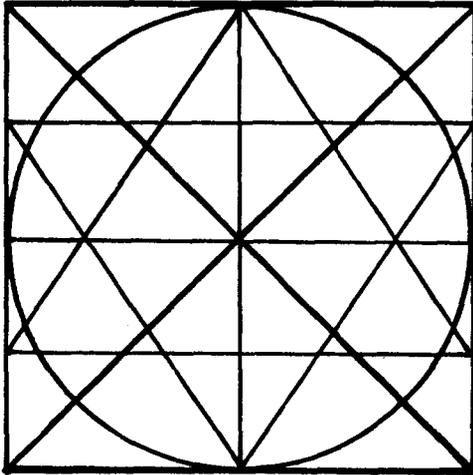


# APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

## A MULTI-FAITH RESPONSE



" If you do not like me because I am ignorant, I can be sent to school and educated. If you do not like me because I am dirty, I can be taught to wash and be clean. If you do not like me because of my unsocial habits, I can be taught how to live in society. But if you do not like me because of the colour of my skin, I can only refer you to the God who made me. "

*From "Pocket Praise", British Council of Churches*

# Facts for reflection, meditation and... ---

South Africa is the only country in the world in which racism is enshrined in the constitutional and legal system.

The total South African population is 29 million, made up of:

21 million Africans	:	72.7%	of the total
4.5 million Whites	:	15.5%	" " "
2.6 million Coloureds	:	9.0%	" " "
0.8 million Indians	:	2.8%	" " "

- \* In 86.3% of South Africa the Africans are excluded from ownership of land.
- \* Laws are enacted by the minority Parliament, or by proclamation of the President.
- \* The law legitimises the unequal distribution of political, civil, economic and social rights, according to racial classification.
- \* Education is segregated and unequal.
- \* Segregated African communities, known as bantustans or "homelands" have been set up, to which Africans are removed, often by force.
- \* Over 3.5 million people have been forced to move.

Allan Boesak writes that the "homeland" policy *"Is surely the most objectionable and immoral aspect of the apartheid policies of the government."*

*(from "Walking on Thorns")*

Desmond Tutu writes " ... they have with very little compunction moved nearly two million Blacks. They have moved them often from places where they had reasonably adequate housing, where they were able to work ... They have dumped them as if they were potatoes in largely inhospitable areas ... "

*(from "Hope and Suffering")*

# → ACTION!

*" The ultimate most holy form of theory is action."*  
Nicos Kazantzakis

..some possibilities for action

Educate British public opinion on what apartheid is, and its implications.

Raise awareness in British people of their own connection with apartheid South Africa through banking and investments, through the involvement of British companies, through the purchase of South African goods and through the British Government's dependence for its defence policy.

Set an example and persuade others to join you in:

- \* Not buying South African goods
- \* Challenging major investors in South Africa
- \* Writing to your MP when South African issues are in the news.
- \* Contacting British people who are going to visit South Africa, or who are going to live there, and challenging them not to go.

And .....

by joining the Anti-Apartheid Movement. If you would like to know more please contact:

Multi-Faith Committee  
Anti-Apartheid Movement  
13, Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW

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Tel: 01 387 7966

## Some religious ideals

HINDUISM understands Brahman, God, as the divine basis and animator of the whole of creation, and as the indweller in every person. Apartheid is rejected because it does not recognise the worth and value of every person.

JUDAISM has a long experience of discrimination and persecution. The Holocaust was perpetrated on racist grounds. Jews acknowledge a particular responsibility to oppose the denial of human dignity which is implicit in apartheid.

BUDDHISM sees the world and all life within, on, and above it as part of an indivisible sacred whole. Therefore apartheid, the prime example of separateness, is viewed as a sin against the Buddha.

CHRISTIANITY recognises all human beings as made in the image of God. Christians continue the work of Jesus Christ who identified himself with the world's underdogs, the poor and the oppressed. In South Africa such identification leads to work and witness against apartheid.

ISLAM teaches that all people are equal and that equality must be practiced. Moslems see themselves as having a central contribution to make in opposing apartheid.

SIKHISM - from the Guru Granth Sahib. First God created his light: and from it were all men made. Yea, from God's light came the whole universe: so, whom shall we call good, whom bad? O men, be not strayed by doubt. For, the Creator is in the created, and the created in the Creator, who fills all, all over. The clay is the same, but fashioned in a myriad shape. So, it avails not to find fault either with the clay vessels, or with the potter who moulds them each in a different way. The one true God is within all and it is He alone who creates all. And whosoever realises His will, knows the one alone, he is the servant of God.

