

**African women under apartheid are oppressed as black people, as workers, and as women ...**



Through the apartheid system the wealth and resources of South Africa are controlled by the ruling white minority. The 80% of the population who are black are denied all political rights.

The whites have taken 87% of the land. Most Africans must find work in the 'white' areas, since that is where the economic activity of South Africa takes place. African workers are paid very low wages. The lowest wages of all are paid to African women, of whom only 25% have employment.

If Africans cannot find a job in the 'white' areas, they must remain in the bantustans, the 13% of the country that is allocated to them, where there is little work and great poverty.

This is part of what women are seeking to change by participating in the liberation struggle, and it is this struggle which is depicted in these postcards.



# Women in Apartheid South Africa



**8 postcards**



International Defence and Aid Fund  
for Southern Africa



The photographs used in this  
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are selected from

## 'Women Under Apartheid'

and

## 'Portrait of a People'

photobooks published by  
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## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 1*

Photo by Jurgen Schadeburg. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

### **Recruitment meeting for Defiance Campaign 1952**

In 1952 the liberation movement in South Africa called for volunteers to participate in a campaign which involved deliberately breaking apartheid laws and going to prison.



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*Greetings*  
*to* **WOMEN OF  
ALL LANDS**



## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 2*

Photo by Eli Weinberg. From the photobook 'Portrait of a People'.

### **Florence Matomela addressing the Foundation Conference of the Federation of South African Women 1954**

In 1960 the non-racial Federation was forced underground by the banning of all its leading members. No political organisation representing black women has since been allowed to exist for long.



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## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 3*

Photo by Eli Weinberg.

From the photobooks 'Women under Apartheid' and 'Portrait of a People'.

### **Demonstration outside the Treason Trial Court Johannesburg 1956**

156 leaders of the South African liberation movement were put on trial for treason. The main evidence against them was the Freedom Charter, the programme adopted in 1955 for a non-racial democracy.



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## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 4*

Photographer unknown. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

### **Peasant women protest against the issuing of passes 1957**

Africans cannot travel, set up residence, or work in South Africa without a pass book - it governs their whole life. In 1956 it became compulsory for women to carry passes.



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# WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

*The Black*



## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 5*

Photo by Peter Magubane. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

### **Winnie Mandela addressing a women's meeting 1975**

Winnie Mandela, wife of the imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, endures continuing persecution. She has become, like her husband, an international symbol of resistance.



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**Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 6**

Photo by Peter Magubane. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

**Nurses from Baragwanath hospital for blacks near Soweto 1976**

In South Africa, 75% of African women are unemployed. Of those that have jobs, only 4.4% are in skilled jobs, mainly nursing (1970 census).



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RELEASE THE  
"DETAINEES"  
POWER  
TO THE PEOPLE  
SUPPORT



## *Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 7*

Photographer unknown. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

### **Demonstrator, Soweto, 1976**

In June 1976 hundreds of schoolchildren and students were killed by the South African police while demonstrating against apartheid. Many more were imprisoned.



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*Women in Apartheid South Africa : No 8*

Photo by Eckhard Supp. From the photobook 'Women under Apartheid'.

**Woman with her child in Crossroads squatter camp 1978**

Squatter camps are a result of South Africa's migrant labour system. They are illegal, and many have been demolished. Police raids are frequent - this woman's husband was arrested.



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