

**This is
INTERNATIONAL
ANTI APARTHEID
YEAR**



- **What is International Anti-Apartheid Year?** It is a special year during which the entire world community has decided to unite together to try and bring an end to the evil system of apartheid and racial discrimination which exists in South Africa. International Anti-Apartheid Year was designated by the unanimous vote of the United Nations General Assembly. All countries — large and small, East and West, including the British Government — supported this Anti-Apartheid Year. Now governments and organisations all over the world are planning appropriate activities to make the Year effective in their own countries.
- **When did the Year start?** International Anti-Apartheid Year began on 21 March 1978 and continues until 20 March 1979. 21 March was chosen because this is Sharpeville Day — the day when 18 years ago in 1960 South African police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in the African township of Sharpeville, killing 69 Africans. This date has come to symbolise the brutal methods which the South African authorities have employed for decades against all forms of peaceful opposition.
- **But why an Anti-Apartheid Year?** Because the world community has recognised that it has a responsibility to bring an end to apartheid and that the measures it has taken so far have not succeeded. Like other international years — for example, International Women's Year — the United Nations hopes that it will focus world attention on apartheid. From the very foundation of the United Nations the world body has been concerned about the effects of the evil policies of apartheid both on the black people of South Africa and the danger they pose to the world as a whole.

Both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council have repeatedly appealed to the South African authorities to abandon their inhuman policies. These appeals have been consistently ignored and recently the situation has deteriorated — as the death in detention of Steve Biko and other detainees, and the banning of the Christian Institute and 18 other anti-apartheid organisations during the autumn of 1977, so vividly portrayed.
- **BUT what is apartheid?** It is a unique system of institutionalised racism through which the vast majority of South Africans — the African, Indian and Coloured people — are denied any effective say in every aspect of their lives. In reality, they have no human rights. Read *Apartheid: The Facts* for more information.
- **What can I do?** Plenty — just read on through this leaflet and you will find out some of the things you can do.

APARTHEID: THE FACTS



Population (*mid 1976 estimate*)

Africans	18,629,000
Coloureds	2,434,000
Indians	746,000
Whites	4,320,000

Division of Land

Africans	13.7%
Whites	86.3%

Average weekly wages*

Africans	£13
Coloureds	£22
Indians	£27
Whites	£70

Expenditure on Education**

Africans	£26
Coloureds	£100
Indians	£113
Whites	£398

* These figures do not include African farm labourers and domestic servants for whom wages are usually much lower. It is estimated that average cash earnings of an African farm labourer are £3.23 per week.

** The average amount spent by the government on the education of each child at school per year.

THE PASS LAWS

All Africans — male and female — over the age of 16 are required to carry pass books. Through the pass laws, strict control is exercised over where Africans can live, work or travel. Passes must be produced on demand. Failure to do so means immediate arrest. Every day an average of 1,000 Africans are arrested for pass law or related offences created under the apartheid system which relate only to Africans.



THE BANTUSTANS

Africans not required in the 'white' areas of South Africa are forced to live in



'homelands' or reserves — comprising only 13 per cent of South Africa's total land area. Now these Bantustans are being offered 'independence' and the first two to take up this option were the Transkei in 1976 and Bophuthatswana in 1977. By this grand design of apartheid, South Africa plans to ensure that, in the words of Connie Mulder, the Minister of 'Plural Relations', 'there will not be one black man with South African citizenship'.



REPRESSION

The South African Government tolerates no opposition. Numerous security laws give the authorities sweeping powers to detain opponents and ban opposition. Most of South Africa's true leaders are imprisoned or in exile. In 1960, following the Sharpeville massacre, the two main African organisations, the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress, were banned. New laws were passed enabling the Government to detain people indefinitely in solitary confinement. Torture of detainees became commonplace and continues as brutally today. From 1963 to September 1978, at least 51 political detainees are known to have died in police custody. Massive repression followed the student protests in Soweto in 1976; and in October 1977 the student organisations SASO and SASM were banned, together with 17

other anti-apartheid organisations including the Christian Institute of Southern Africa. *The World* and *Weekend World* newspapers were also banned. New trials of student leaders and underground activists of the liberation movements have started during 1978 — many of the accused face the death sentence if found guilty.

LABOUR

Under South Africa's labour laws an African worker is excluded from the definition of 'employee'. He cannot belong to a registered trade union and is excluded from certain (skilled) jobs. African trade union leaders are constantly harassed by the security police and many have been banned, effectively cutting them off from their fellow workers. Strikes by African workers, particularly those in support of trade union recognition, have been put down by brutal police action. Average African wages are approximately one-sixth of white wages.



Message from Ambassador Harriman

'The proclamation of the International Anti-Apartheid Year represents not only the unanimous recognition by the member states of the United Nations of the need for urgent and effective action to eliminate the inhuman practice of apartheid, but also an affirmation that apartheid in South Africa is a matter of concern to the international community as a whole.'

'This International Year must be a year of meaningful *action* by governments and organisations and by all men and women of conscience in solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movements.'

'I welcome the formation of the Co-ordinating Committee in the United Kingdom and the extensive activities it has formulated for the observance of the International Year. I trust that the churches, trade unions, youth and student organisations and the public generally will cooperate with the Committee and develop effective programmes of action.'

Leslie Harriman, Chairman, UN Special Committee against Apartheid



Ambassador Harriman with Mr E S Reddy, Director of the UN Centre against Apartheid, with boxes of petitions collected as part of an international campaign against repression in South Africa (April 1978) (Picture credit: UN/Y Nagata)

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid was formed in 1963 and throughout its history has played an invaluable role in promoting international action against apartheid. Its meetings, seminars and conferences have helped bring to the attention of the international community the evils of apartheid.

The United Nations has also established a Centre against Apartheid which publishes extensive information about apartheid. Copies of its excellent Notes and Documents series, dealing with every feature of apartheid, are available from the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the United Nations Association.

**International Anti-Apartheid Year Co-ordinating Committee
Chairman, Frank Hooley MP, appeals for action**

Why has the United Nations for thirty years pursued so relentlessly the condemnation of apartheid?

Perhaps because the UN itself was born out of a conflict caused by the hideous brutality of Nazi racism. Fundamentally, because apartheid is in every respect a flagrant denial of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which member states of the UN are pledged to observe.

Why single out South Africa for particular international censure?

Because in South Africa racialism is the official policy of the state, established by law, with ferocious penalties, and ruthlessly enforced with all the apparatus of a police state. Racial discrimination does exist in other societies but is opposed by most people and is usually made illegal. The massacres at Sharpeville and Soweto, the murder of Steve Biko, life imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and cruel persecution of his wife, are only the most notorious crimes of apartheid. Economic exploitation, daily insults and humiliations are the lot of millions in the apartheid society.

It is this 'unique offence' that has called down the condemnation of the whole world upon South Africa.

What can you and I do about it?

First, inform ourselves about the nature of apartheid; there is abundant information from the UN itself, from the Anti-Apartheid Movement, from the United Nations Association, International Defence and Aid Fund and others. Secondly, pressurise our own government to act in accordance with the many decisions and recommendations of the UN against apartheid. Thirdly, use our influence in trade unions, churches, political parties and other bodies so that they can corporately (and internationally) bring pressure to bear.

Finally, oppose racialism in all its forms wherever we meet it, so that the world may never again need to designate an International Anti-Apartheid Year.

Frank Hooley MP

Frank Hooley MP, Chairman of the International Anti-Apartheid Year Co-ordinating Committee, pictured with Abdul S Minty, Hon Secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, in 1969, having presented a petition to the International Cricket Conference calling for an end to sports exchanges with South Africa.



INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR 1978-9

On 20 March 1978 the International Anti-Apartheid Year Co-ordinating Committee was established at a meeting in the House of Commons with the aim of promoting support for the Year in Britain and coordinating activities to mark the Year. The Committee brings together over 50 different organisations which are concerned about apartheid, including the British Council of Churches and different denominational groups, many trade unions, the British Youth Council and other youth and student groups, and organisations associated with the three main parliamentary political parties, together with groups directly concerned with the United Nations and apartheid, such as the United Nations Association, International Defence and Aid Fund and the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Information about the activities of the Co-ordinating Committee and a bulletin of events being organised to mark the Year can be obtained by writing to: International Anti-Apartheid Year Co-ordinating Committee, c/o 89 Charlotte Street, London W1.

For further information about apartheid, the following addresses are useful:

Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DQ: for general information on South Africa and campaigns on political prisoners, military and economic collaboration, sporting links, etc; plus monthly publication *Anti-Apartheid News*; local groups

Christian Concern for Southern Africa, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1: for information about British companies in South Africa and their compliance with the 'Code of Conduct'

End Loans to Southern Africa (ELTSA), 134 Wrottesley Road, London NW10: for information on campaigns against banking links with South Africa

International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, 104 Newgate Street, London EC1: for publications on South Africa, including a special pamphlet for the Year — *This is Apartheid*

National Union of Students (International Dept), 302 Pentonville Road, London N1: for information on student campaigns

United Nations Association, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1: for details of United Nations policy and action on apartheid

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