

CHILDREN APARTHEID & REPRESSION



in

SOUTHERN A F R I C A

A one day Conference to consider the role of
Professions and related bodies in Britain in
the campaign against apartheid

SATURDAY APRIL 23rd 1988

10am-5.30pm

City University, St John Street, EC1

CHILDREN APARTHEID AND REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Conference Objectives

Children, Apartheid and Repression in Southern Africa is a major conference taking place in London on Saturday 23rd April 1988, which will highlight the plight of children in South and Southern Africa and promote action on their behalf.

The conference is aimed at all those whose work involves responsibility for the welfare, protection and education of children.

The specific objectives of the conference will be:

- To provide up-to-date information on the plight of the children in South and Southern Africa. Detailed evidence will be provided on the detention and torture of children in South Africa and Namibia, as well as the consequences of apartheid for the children of the Front Line States.
- To examine the extent to which South African professional groups (e.g. lawyers, doctors, teachers) are implicated in these crimes against children by their compliance with the South African authorities and their disregard for basic human rights. It will also examine the positive contribution which an increasing number of professionals are making on behalf of the children of South Africa.
- To discuss the responsibility of professional groups in Britain and the ways in which they can support the children, and the wider campaign against apartheid.

Initial Agenda

Morning Session

- **A multi-media presentation of the testimony of children under apartheid**
- **Keynote Address on Children in Southern Africa**
Guest Speaker: Rev Beyers Naude, former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches
- **Britain's Responsibility**
Most Reverend Trevor Huddleston

Lunch and refreshments will be available.

Afternoon Session

- **The Role of the Professions**
A large part of the Conference will be devoted to debate and discussion on the role of the Professions in Britain and internationally including the following areas:

Health
The Law
Education
Social Work
Religion
Probation Work
Architecture and Town Planning
Aid and Development
Youth and Community Services

There will also be an **Open Session** during the Conference where there will be a presentation of exhibitions, videos and stalls covering the issues of children and wider aspects.

Conference Secretary – Geoffrey Bindman
Conference Rapporteur – Abdul Minty

Participants will include Victoria Brittain, Glenys Kinnoek, Anthony Sampson and Dr Pamela Zinkin.

Harare Conference, 1987

The initiative to convene this conference arose from the International Conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 1987 'Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa'. The Conference had a unique and profound effect in highlighting the scale of the apartheid regime's attack on the weakest and most vulnerable members of the South African population, namely the black children.

The Conference, convened by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, was attended by more than 700 people. Almost 300 South Africans, the majority of whom had come from inside the country, met with representatives from over 30 countries, representing 150 international, regional and national organisations. A special feature of the conference was the testimony given by a number of South African children who described the brutality and systematic torture they had endured at the hands of the South African security forces. The participants were uplifted by the tremendous resistance and defiance of the children. Inspired by the bravery of the children the International Conference adopted the Declaration of the Harare Conference to:

“commit ourselves to act in a concerted way to keep the world aware of the plight of South Africa's children”.

The British participants have established the Harare Working Group which seeks to mobilise support in Britain for the campaign to free all children from apartheid. This conference has been convened by the Harare Working Group and is open to all those who identify with the objectives, especially those whose work involves a special responsibility for children.

REPRESSION OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Did you know that between 1984-1986:

- ▶ **312 children were killed** by the South African police.
- ▶ **1000 children were wounded** by the South African police (this figure does not include the many children who avoided reporting injuries for fear of arrest).
- ▶ **11,000 children were detained** without trial.
- ▶ **18,000 children were arrested** on charges arising out of anti-apartheid protest.
- ▶ **173,000 children were held awaiting trial** in police cells.

These facts give only a partial indication of the scale of violence against children. They are based on South African official figures which do not accurately reflect the reality. (The estimate of those in detention is based on material gathered by the Detainee Parent's Support Committee, as since 1966 the South African authorities have refused to give *any* information or statistics on detentions.)

Source: IDAF September, 1987

For further information on the Harare Working Group please contact:

The Harare Working Group
c/o SATIS
13 Mandela Street
London NW1 0DW

CHILDREN, APARTHEID AND REPRESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Saturday April 23rd 1988

City University, St John Street, London EC1

Registration Form

I/we wish to attend the Children, Apartheid and
Repression Conference on Saturday April 23rd 1988

Name

Organisation

Address

.....

I/we would like to attend the seminar session
on

I/we would like to see included a seminar for
(please specify)

I/We are unable to attend the Conference but
would like to be kept informed of the work of the
Harare Working Group (please tick box)

Registration Fee

£10 organisations, £5 individual
£2.50 students, nurses, unwaged

The Harare Working Group urgently needs
financial and human resources to promote the
campaign to free children from apartheid. All
donations are welcome.

I enclose the fee of
Donation of Total sum of
(please make cheques payable to Harare Working Group)

Return completed application forms to:
Harare Working Group, c/o SATIS, 13 Mandela
Street, London NW1 0DW