

THE BLACK SASHCIRCULAR NO. 1/1978.56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
Johannesburg  
2001  
17th January, 1978.CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS.

Dear Everyone,

You will all be waiting to hear what items have been sent in for Conference by the different Regions. The only Resolutions are those set out in my Circular No. 14/1977 of 25th October, 1977.

Items for discussion so far submitted are as follows :

1. Political arrests and detentions.
2. Effects of independence of Transkei and Bophuthatswana.
3. Proposed "new" system of influx control.
4. Education - Cape Western to supply a fact paper on schools in the black townships in the Western Cape in 1977.
5. The quality of urban life - housing and squatters, rentals, demolitions, involvement of local authorities, provision of electricity in Soweto etc.,
6. Fund raising and Social Welfare Bills.
7. Future role of Black Sash in the increasingly authoritarian climate in South Africa.
8. Availability of Old Age Pensions and other Benefits in the homelands and newly independent countries.
9. Social Pensions in other areas.
10. The New Constitution.
11. Black Sash attitude to the franchise.
12. Natal Coastal's submissions to the Wiehahn Commission and discussion of related problems.
13. Black women in employment and black working mothers.
14. The Press Council and how it works.
15. Unemployment
16. Housing in a Coloured Group Area in Johannesburg.
17. Biographies of those who have died in detention.
18. The Riechert Commission - our submissions.
19. Education in Soweto.
20. Criminal Procedure Act - The Rights of the Individual.

We have been requested to allow one full afternoon for an Advice Office workshop with other discussion groups going on at the same time for people with other priorities.

It looks as if/—

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It looks as if this conference is going to demand a great deal of hard thinking. I do ask you all to make sure that your delegates come armed with facts and opinions on every item on this list. I have found that Regional experiences are very important indeed if we are to try to understand the total National picture. For example, it seems likely that Grahamstown has a very different picture of homeland citizenship in relation to the issue of Reference books and that the attitude of the black community there may or may not be quite different to attitudes in Johannesburg or Cape Town and radically different to those in Natal. This means that all of us must come with contributions prepared for the discussion.

I do ask you whenever possible to bring written material, even if it is not a full fact paper, so that Joyce Harris has something to wield together and to organise for SASH.

Formal written reports and fact papers should be reproduced in 60 copies so that each delegate may have one and there are plentiful spares for the Press.

THE MAP : This is still embargoed to the Press until the end of this month, but please try to sell it meanwhile. We have decided to organise the distribution differently because we were going to find it very difficult to cover our costs on E.L.D's terms. It may now be ordered at R6.<sup>50</sup> per copy from this office. If Regions want to order on a sale or return basis please do so. I hope you have all received the copy I sent you. Receipt has not been acknowledged by all of you.

Barbara Waite's appeal is to be heard on 6th February. Think of her then.

We also send love and best wishes to Shirley Moulder who is in hospital in Pretoria this week. She and James will be at Natal University in Durban this year. Grahamstown is going to miss Shirley in the Advice Office, which will now be run by Rosemary Van Wyk Smith.

Val Sullivan in East London is now Regional Secretary for the Institute of Race Relations and Jenny Ronaldson has nobly taken over as Chairman there and is manning the Advice Office. All of them in that Region are going to miss Donald and Wendy Woods.

Bobby Johnston and Babs Kabak are making a real impact with their Womens' Legal Status Committee and are working closely with the Wiehahn Commission. They were nominated jointly for the Star Woman of the Year Award. We congratulate them.

We do look forward to seeing you all in March. We have much to talk about and need to share our anxieties and our hopes.

Love

SHEENA.