

THE BLACK SASH

CIRCULAR NO 2/1979.

56 Victory House,
34 Harrison Street,
JOHANNESBURG
2001
1st February, 1979.

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS.

Dear Everyone,

National Conference. I am instructed by Transvaal Region to inform you that the Region wishes to withdraw the suggestion it made at our Conference last year that Vice-Presidents of the Black Sash be elected from Regions other than Headquarters. Transvaal Region has now decided that this would be impractical. However any of you who may wish to amend the Constitution in this regard are obviously free to do so, providing you give the statutory 30 days notice of intention.

Please be sure to notify me in good time of items you may wish to include on the Agenda of Conference.

If you are producing fact papers or other written material for Conference please remember to provide sufficient copies for each delegate, plus a few extras for the magazine and the Press. There are generally approximately 30 - 35 delegates at Conference.

Each Region is entitled to three delegates for the first 100 ordinary paid up members or part thereof and one delegate for each additional 75 ordinary paid up members or part thereof.

Workmen's Compensation. Josie Adler has taken over the tracing of those eligible for Workmen's Compensation and has been to see the Compensation Commissioner, who has informed her that by and large the fault lies with employers when eligible workmen cannot be traced. She is preparing a paper for Conference and also for referral to the Commissioner, and has asked me to make an urgent appeal to all Regions to let her have whatever information they may have at their disposal as soon as possible. If you have had any experience in this matter and have any facts to impart please let me have them quickly.

National Constitution Campaign. I have written to the leaders of the P.F.P., The N.R.P., the L.P and the R.P. suggesting that they make every effort to co-operate with each other in the organisation of a campaign to oppose the new Constitution, pointing out the advantages of a concerted effort.

We are attempting to draft plans for a national Black Sash campaign on the issue, and are presently thinking in terms of car stickers, handouts and posters at the appropriate time.

In the meanwhile we are convinced of the necessity to lobby organisations, particularly women's organisations about the seriousness of the issue and the need to oppose the proposals. As far as the white opposition is concerned the Government's present proposals will make them totally powerless and quite irrelevant. The public needs to be made aware of this.

We suggest that you/---

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We suggest that you talk to the Women's Movements in your Regions, as we intend doing to ours, and try to spread the word. Perhaps they will co-operate in a national campaign.

We suggest further that you try to prevail upon the local offices of the opposition parties to circularise their mailing lists with information regarding the implications of the proposed new Constitution so that the public cannot plead ignorance. We shall try to draw up a fact sheet on the subject, and if we are successful shall offer it to the parties for their use.

Group Areas Removals. Indian and Coloured people presently living in white areas, for the total lack of anywhere else to live, are being evicted in Johannesburg in a concerted campaign to remove them. I have written to Minister Marais Steyn asking him to rescind all eviction orders until such time as there is suitable alternative accommodation for these poor, unfortunate people whom the law hounds. What absolutely dreadful deeds are perpetrated in the name of apartheid. We can only continue trying to fight them with whatever means we have at our disposal.

My love to you all,

JOYCE HARRIS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.