

RECEIVED - APR 1979

THE BLACK SASH  
CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS.

CIRCULAR NO 5/1979.

56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

30th March, 1979.

Dear Everyone,

In inimitable Black Sash style we have been inundated with work since Conference and I'm afraid that the Draft Minutes are not yet ready for distribution, though I can promise you that you are all going to find a great deal to do when you eventually receive them.

At our first meeting after Conference, ROBIN HARVEY and JANET SAHLI were respectively and unanimously re-elected National Treasurer and Magazine Editor, and JILL WENTZEL is continuing as National Secretary until after the Transvaal Region's Annual General Meeting on 4th April.

I am concerned about the National Campaign on the New Constitution. A Conference resolution altered the emphasis, which makes it necessary to reconsider activities, handouts etc., In the meanwhile legislation may be imminent and I'm wondering whether we shall have material ready in time for distribution. We shall try, and I would be glad to know whether you will distribute hand-outs or logos and/or use car stickers, and if so how many of each.

We have had another meeting of the Constitution Group, which was well attended and made progress.

We are working on a programme of weekly stands with a different poster each week and feel that the first stand should be either on the Police Amendment Bill or, for us, the stepped up Pass Raids which are creating an explosive situation in Soweto. If you are intending to embark on a suitable programme you are naturally free to plan it yourselves, though I shall send you any forward planning we may decide upon, together with wording for posters.

I have written to Mr. Jimmy Kruger about the Police Amendment Bill and to Dr. Piet Koornhof about the Pass Raids, asking him to use his best offices with Mr. Kruger. I also spoke to Helen Suzman about the Pass Raids.

In my estimation the deputation to Dr. Koornhof was a success. We certainly did not expect any dramatic policy changes to result from it. We hoped merely that he would listen to us, and this he did, for 2½ hours. He is obviously not going to move outside the framework of Nationalist Party ideology, but I did get the feeling that at least he is a caring human being prepared to make administrative changes.

I shall be sending you details as soon as Sheena has been able to enlarge on the notes we have.

I hope that those of you who/---

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I hope that those of you who attended Conference found it stimulating and interesting and that you returned to your Regions with renewed enthusiasm. For me it passed in a daze of amendments, and amendments and amendments, and anxiety over getting through the Agenda, so that when I eventually came to read the Minutes, I was pleasantly surprised to find how much we had actually done.

Thank you all very much indeed for your continued support and for your expression of confidence in me. I shall do my best to measure up.

My love to you all. You're a wonderful band of women doing an incredible job of work.

*Margaret Kirk*  
PP. JOYCE HARRIS  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

- P.S. (1) Since writing this, it's been announced that the Government intends sending its constitutional plans to a select committee. That takes the urgency out of our Campaign and means that we shall probably have to consider making representation to the Select Committee.
- (2) We are going ahead with our weekly stands starting on Tuesday 3rd April.  
For the first stand the posters will read :  
(a) PASS LAWS HURT, HARASS, HUMILIATE.  
(b) STOP PASS RAIDS. ABOLISH PASS LAWS.
- (3) We propose to stand every Tuesday with different posters each week and our proposed posters for the following week will read :  
(a) POLICE FEAR PRESS. WHY?  
(b) INQUEST BILL - WHO'S HIDING WHAT?