

# THE BLACK SASH

# DIE SWART SERP

TELEPHONE 65-3513

9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Mondays—Fridays



Cape Western Region

5 LONG STREET

MOWBRAY

7700

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF "BELLS AGAINST THE BILLS" CAMPAIGN.

The Slums, Squatters and Group Areas Bills currently before Parliament defy both logic and morality. They cannot stem the inevitable trend towards increasing urbanisation resulting from the failures of homelands policy, nor do they allow the urbanisation process to be handled even remotely intelligently. In the cause of apartheid ideology, they undo hardwon gains, and will be a serious setback to race relations. They will inflict yet more damage to the very fabric of South African life by tearing apart communities and families and increasing homelessness, and in the process will cause human suffering to escalate alarmingly. South Africa cannot afford these Bills, neither financially, nor in terms of social cost, nor in terms of individual hatred and despair. In the name of humanity and justice, we urge parliament and the President's Council to heed this warning.

The Black Sash views these Bills in such a serious light that we have planned a serial protest stand at two sites in Cape Town (Paradise and Klipfontein Roads) to happen every weekday morning while Parliament sits and <sup>possibly</sup> should this be necessary, until the President's Council considers the Bills. The wording for this stand reads "Reject Slums, Squatter and Group Areas Bills", and is echoed in the banner displayed at our Cape Town office,

Furthermore, in the unhappy anticipation of these cruel Bills being enforced upon the inhabitants of South Africa by a minority government, we are appealing to religious leaders to participate in a nationwide "Bells Against the Bills" action to mourn the start of life under the new legislation.

As a symbolic act to mourn the passage of these unpopular Bills and the further erosion of individual rights in South Africa;

- \* we propose a nationwide tolling of bells, to begin at 4.30 p.m. on the first Monday after the gazetting of ALL three Bills, to continue for as long as possible, depending upon individual circumstances.
- \* In addition, we suggest the display of appropriate posters on notice-boards. e.g.

**"Ask not for who the bell tolls - it tolls for you."**

**"We condemn imposed new Acts - Slums, Squatting and Group Areas."**

In certain circumstances, we will be requesting permission for individual Black Sash members to stand at particular churches during the tolling of the bells, carrying placards of the same wording.

We are undertaking this action because we know that the Bills are not only ~~politically~~ <sup>developmentally</sup> unwise, they are illogical, unjust and inhumane.

27th September, 1988.