

Dear Member,

When Russia marched into Czechoslovakia she found (to her astonishment) no puppet government to take over the government for her, nor could tanks and threats produce one - the courage and integrity of the country were unshaken. In South Africa, too, if on a smaller scale, we have seen examples of the unshaken courage to oppose deprivation of human rights and values. In spite of Mr. Vorster's threats the churches have spoken out against migrant labour and group areas; students have protested by means of an orderly "sit-in" against government interference with staff appointments on the grounds of colour; and against the arbitrary expulsion of Fort Hare students. (It is said that when students arrived at the Stuart monument to lay a wreath they found another one there already, with a card bearing the words, "In memory of the time when students went to the university to study". They crossed out the last two words.) The Bishop of Grahamstown wrote a most excellent open letter to the Rector of Fort Hare, and, probably as a result, 21 expelled students were granted permission, previously refused, to write their examinations. And there are many other individuals who have laboured to help those who suffer under our laws, even when it has meant their losing citizen rights themselves.

Those who heard Alan Paton recently will have realised once again the inspiration of a courage that does not waver though "the sky grows darker yet and the sea rises higher". With such examples we have no need to lose heart in protesting at the juggernaut of Group Areas, endorsements out and all the rest of the inhumanity that is being practised under our laws. We are not alone.

ADVISE OFFICE:

The Advise Office continues to help women who are being endorsed out, sometimes when they are legally entitled to stay in the area, but are not able to find proof of this without help. While in the majority of cases such women are still sent away from their husbands to be "resettled", often among strangers, the welfare officer at the Department of Bantu Affairs, Observatory, is now able to arrange for women who are breadwinners with children to support and no men folk, to remain in registered jobs provided they send their children to relatives in the Transkei - a solution to the problem of starvation, though not to the misery of separation.

The position of the Contract Labourer, bad as it is, is aggravated by the fact that he is not given a copy of the contract under which he is employed. He is told the conditions before he goes to work, but often fails to understand them and their implications, and if he then objects to what he regards as a hardship, he is practically certain to lose his job; and in a dispute with his employer he must as a rule "agree to terminate his contract" or be accused of having broken it, which is a punishable offence. This means that he has to go back to his "home-land" and wait, without pay, for another job. The whole system is not only a source of insecurity, but wasteful and uneconomic.

When Mr. Blaar Coetzee complained that Mrs. Suzman had cited no actual cases when she spoke of the break up of family life under the application of Influx Control regulations, the Advice office sent Mrs. Suzman's secretary a dozen out of the thousands of cases in its files, and sent Mr. Coetzee the report of a special case, to which he has given the personal attention that he promised.

Cases dealt with:

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total</u>
Men endorsed out	17	10	15	42
Women endorsed out	7	13	28	48
Miscellaneous	52	35	52	139
Old cases returned	<u>82</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>229</u>
Total	<u>158</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>458</u>

Visitors: During these months there were 15 visitors altogether, six of them South Africans. Of the others two were American ladies, brought by Mrs. S. Turner, visiting South Africa on behalf of their national church organisation, Church Women United.

A case from our files:

JOSTINA SIZANI registered for accommodation in Nyanga Location on the 8th May 1956, together with her late husband and two children. The family was allocated a house in the Nyanga Transit Camp as they were from the Goodwood squatters area.

On 12th June 1962, Jostina reported that her husband, Spolden Sizani, had died in a fishing boat accident during 1961.

On 1st July 1962, the house was transferred into the name of Jostina, being the person responsible for payment of the rent.

On 2nd June 1965, Jostina was interviewed in regard to the date of her arrival in the prescribed area and she then said that she had arrived in the area during 1945. On the strength of this statement, she was granted permission to remain in the area in terms of Section 10(1)(b) of Act No. 25 of 1945.

On 23rd August, 1967, however, the authorities at Langa notified the office of the Divisional Council of the Cape that Jostina only registered for a permit to be in the prescribed area on 9th February 1955, and thus does not qualify in terms of Section 10(1) of Act No. 25 of 1945 for permanent residence in the area.

Her permission to remain in terms of Section 10(1)(b) of Act No. 25 of 1945 was then cancelled and proceedings instituted to resettle her.

At this stage her case was referred to Mr. Blaar Coetzee then Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs Department, who confirmed the above and said in a letter received on 3rd October 1968 in answer to ours of 24th June 1968:-

"On account of other more urgent cases and the fact that only a limited number of houses are available, it is unlikely that this woman will be settled in the near future. In the meantime she is allowed to work."

Jostina Sizani (Cont)

When last we saw her in September she had been told that she would be given a rail warrant to Mngheshe Resettlement Camp, but we now hear that she has been given a short extension and permitted to work temporarily.

The two most important events of the last quarter were the Black Sash participation in the CITIZENS' ACTION COMMITTEE, and the REGIONAL CONFERENCE on October 7th.

For the former the Black Sash manned tables to gather signatures to a petition against the enforced removal of people under Group Areas, Influx Control and Black Spot removals, which the State President has been asked to receive early in November. It also took part in a car cavalcade advertising the Petition and distributed approximately 60,000 pamphlets in connection with the campaign against enforced removals. We should like to thank all those who worked so hard in connection with this campaign.

At the REGIONAL CONFERENCE the Chairman, Mrs. Wilks, who was welcomed back after her absence, read an excellent report for the year, copies of which will be available. Mrs. Robb's Advice Office report will also be sent to members, who will find in it a record of the admirable work done during the year. The financial report showed the meticulous concern for the affairs of the Region, for which we are so much indebted to the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Willis. Fact papers were read and motions discussed, both for presenting to the National Conference. After this Mrs. Birt called for suggestions for methods of protest, and any new ideas for helping the Sash.

ALL BRANCHES.

At the September meeting Mrs. Maythem spoke on the work she had been doing in connection with Group Areas removals in the Cape areas. Evening meetings of All Branches continue to be popular.

At BRANCH MEETINGS talks have been given by Mrs. Henderson on the racial situation in the States which she visited for three months recently, and by Mr. Mears on aspects of education.

PROJECTS.

Gardens/Sea Point are working on Mannenberg, and Plumstead on transport facilities for resettled workers and their families in the Cape Area. Plumstead presented this as a fact paper at the Regional Conference.

PAMPHLET ON GROUP AREAS.

The pamphlet prepared by Mrs. Willis for the Christian Churches Advice Office in Simon's Town on the difficulties encountered by all who are affected by Group Areas legislation has been widely applied for. Copies may be had from Mrs. Willis for 5c.

INTER-RACIAL CONTACTS.

As many of our members are unaware that a good deal of social contact is still legally possible between members of different races, a list of these and other permissible contacts has been drawn up and was taken to be laid before National Conference. It is hoped that this information, which has been approved by our legal advisers, will encourage members to make greater use of opportunities of meeting people of other races.

DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR "DINNER TABLE QUESTIONS".

A meeting was held on Tuesday September 3rd to discuss influx control. Mr. Marquard briefly introduced the subject and after that there was a good deal of discussion in which all present participated. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5th, at 8 p.m. at Mrs. Marquard's house, when Mr. David Welsh will speak on possibilities of change, and then throw the matter open for discussion. It is hoped to arrange a series of such meetings next year.

MORNING MARKET.

The Morning Market, convened by Mrs. le Feuvre, is to be held on Saturday, November 30th. The very Reverend Mr. E. L. King will open the Market at 9.30 a.m.

The stalls are:

- Claremont/Plumstead: Delicatessen and weekend larder.
- False Bay: Bargains Galore.
- Gardens/Sea Point: Teas
- Regional Council: Flowers and Needlework.
- Rondebosch: Cakes.
- Rosebank: Books
- Simon's Town: Bookstall
- Somerset West/Elgin: Produce.
- Wynberg: White Elephants.

All members who are not already providing food are asked to bring at least one cake or a donation to the Delicatessen stall, as many flowers and plants as they can, and two attractive articles of needlework.

LETTERS.

- 14.10.68 - Cape Times - on the "bachelor" quarters.
- 22.10.68 - Cape Argus - on Group Areas proclaimed at Philippi.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN.