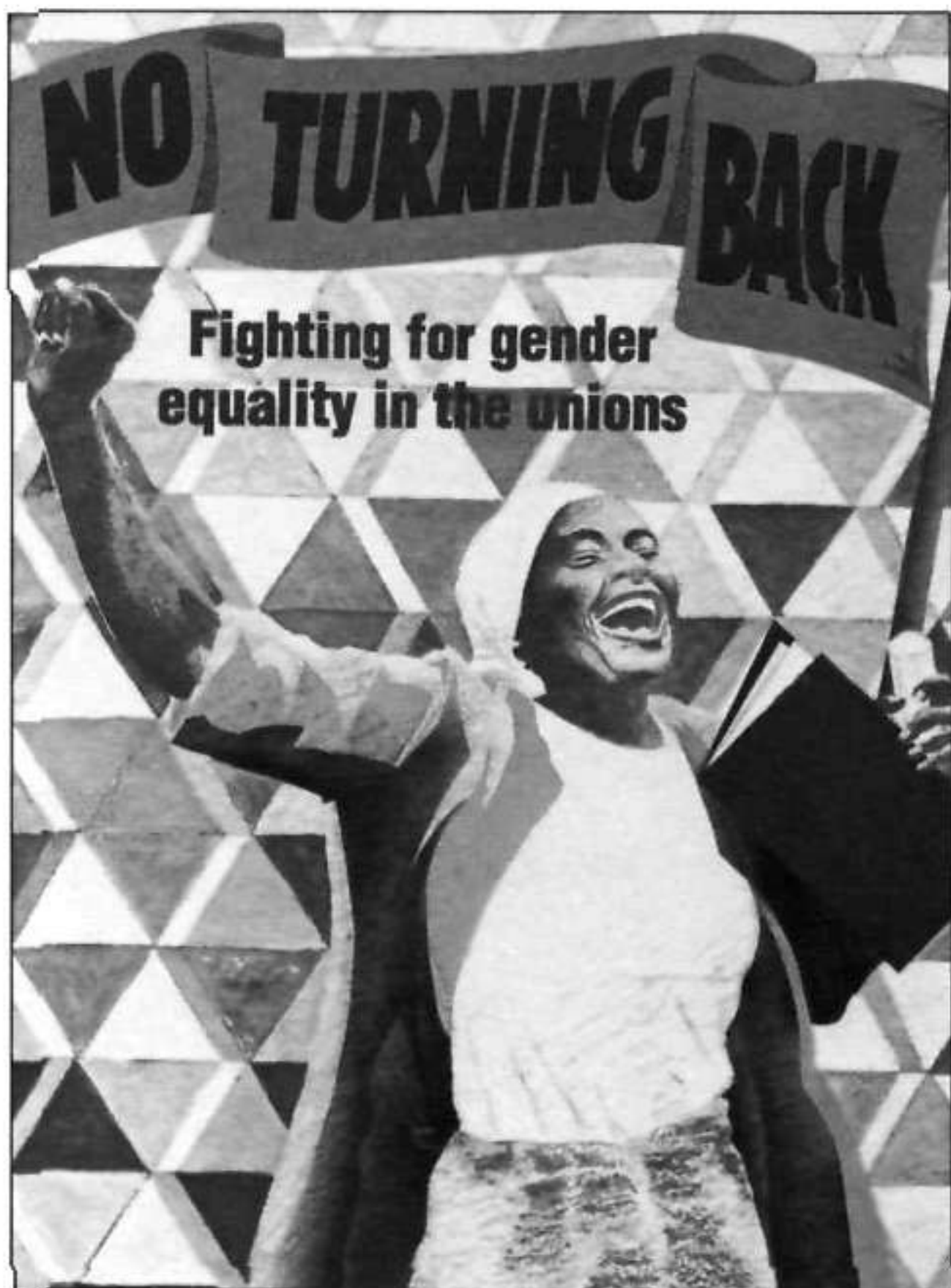


We at SPEAK are both proud and pleased to announce the arrival of *No Turning Back - Fighting for gender equality in the unions*, a book written and produced jointly by Cosatu Wits Women's Forum, Lacom (SACHED) and SPEAK. Here is a taste of the book!



NO TURNING BACK

Interview with Claire Slingers and Diane de Vries of South African Domestic Workers Union (SADWU)

Claire: I myself am scared to socialise with a male comrade because once you socialise they think you must go to bed with them. That is nonsense. He must know that I am a human being like you are, so don't take the skin off my face. I find

that relationships within the struggle just don't work. Maybe it can work if you are asked in a decent way. Otherwise it's just dating and he's seeing 50 other women. That's bad - you can get sick from it.

Diane: Even as a married woman - they ignore these rings. It's a sickness. When they see a woman they see a blanket to cover themselves - to sleep with. It needs a strong woman to overcome that, and it's not all women who are strong.

Once I went to a conference where there were a lot of women, and the way the men behaved - they are like dogs sometimes. I was sharing a room with a woman who was new in the union and she was being used by a male comrade. When I came into the room he was actually there. I didn't want to impose things on her, but I spoke to her. I told her that this was not the first time this person was doing this. I said just because he is a big person in Cosatu it doesn't mean that everyone has to say yes.

I told her you can say no. It is your right. And if you need assistance we can talk about it.

From No Turning Back ●

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About the book

"We have written this book because we believe the struggle for equality between men and women is part and parcel of the broader struggle for national liberation. If we don't fight for this equality now, the revolution sweeping our land is going to leave women in the dust - and still sweeping in the kitchens at home, at work and in organisations.

The experiences shared in the book come from *Cosatu* members across the country.

We met frequently over 16 months, up until the book launch in July 1992. Every aspect of the book was workshopped from content to cover. We had many discussions and shared many stories about our lives. From time to time we called in experts such as designers, publishers, editors and photographers to share their special skills.

For all of us it was an inspiring experience. We gained new skills in publishing and new insights into women's oppression.

Refiloe Ndzuta from the joint working group summed it up for all of us when she said: 'This whole process has broadened my mind. I thought I knew about the

problems facing women, but I have gained more. I hope this book will open the minds of the comrades to rights they never knew they had. It's going to let them be free to fight for those rights.' " - the No Turning Back joint working group ●

Win a Copy !



Send us a postcard with your name and address and write a sentence saying why you want the book and you could be one of five lucky winners in the *No Turning Back* lucky draw. Your entry must reach us by 1 September 1992.

If you are not lucky enough to win a book, *No Turning Back* costs R14.00 for those living in southern Africa. You can order it from: SPEAK, PO Box 261323, Excom 2023, South Africa. Please write to us for rates for other countries. ●