

Who are You?

by Roseline Naapo

Who are you?

I am a woman

Who bears the children

Who brings the children up

in this country.

What is your profession?

I've got one important role to play

not a profession

I am a mother.

My children are doctors

nurses, academics, farmworkers

of this country

Ministers of Parliament, soldiers and police,

to name a few

and I must be brave.

Why must I be brave?

When my child is forced to overwork himself

When my child is made a slave

When my child cannot decide for himself

When my child is forced to join the army

and fight for the country where his rights

are not respected

When my child is turned into a dog

that bites the hand that feeds it.

I must give support

I am a woman

Who builds the nation

Who is not afraid to shout

Forward to the freedom of my children.

I am a woman who marched to

Pretoria on the 9th August

I am a woman

Who is still fighting

'Cause I am a brave woman.

My offspring are stronger than me

for they have sucked fertile milk

from the breast of a brave woman.

In poverty and richness and in war

I am still a woman

and I'll remain a brave woman.

My role shall never be changed

I am a woman

Who is not afraid to shout

Forward to the freedom of my children!

Forward to the people's liberation!

Forward to the freedom of our country!

Inside

* Who are you?	2
* Letters to SPEAK	3
* Domestic Workers Say No To Slavery	4
* No-One Can Stop Us! - Namibian Women Speak Out About their Struggles, Hopes and Dreams	8
* Namibians Return to their Country.....	11
* Women's Day Today is Freedom Day Tomorrow	13
* Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	16
* The Giant Grows! The COSATU Resolutions on Women	18
* Will there be Lobola in a Post-Apartheid South Africa?	22
* Dear SPEAK Doctor	24
* Breastfeeding Your Baby	25
* Democracy at Work and Democracy at Home. Drawing by Shelley Sacks	28

SPEAK's Offices

We have offices in Durban and in Johannesburg. If you want to get SPEAK magazine, please write to the Johannesburg office.

SPEAK Collective
Office 48
The Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrew's Street
Durban
4001
Phone: (031) 3011624

SPEAK Collective
3rd Floor, MGM House
127A Anderson Street
Johannesburg
2001
Phone (011) 3316100

SPEAK Collective members are Gill, Helen, Karen, Nise, Phumelele, Shamim and Vanessa.

The government's State of Emergency stops us from being free to write about many important things. If there was no State of Emergency, we would be able to write about these things.

Thanks

We thank those people who helped with this issue of SPEAK. They are: Latiefa, Libby, Nana, Mary and Nomvula.

The cover photograph was taken by Afrapix. The drawing on the back cover was done by Shelley Sacks.

Sorry

We forgot to say that the back cover drawing on SPEAK 24 was done by Sanna Naidoo. And thanks to Nombuso for help with SPEAK 24.

Published by SPEAK Collective.

© Please acknowledge any material used from SPEAK.