

Since Pageview was proclaimed a white area in 1963 more than 4 200 Indian and 446 coloured families have been moved out of this area against their will. According to The Star (2/2/82) 229 living units providing homes for more than 900 whites are to be built in the new development, and community and shopping facilities will be provided. Waiting lists for housing for coloureds and Indians in the PWV area are long — for coloureds 14 953, for Indians 19 580 (The Star 28/1/82) and these are probably an underestimate.

From the commencement of the Group Areas Act to December 31 1979, 74 909 coloured families were moved (still to be moved are 11 724); 35 113 Indian families were moved (still to be moved are 11 115); white families moved are 2 234 (still to be moved are 223). — (Senate Hansard, 3Q eds 5-6, Hansard 8Q, col 519).

What the Group Areas Act has in fact done, therefore, is to replace a larger number of small Indian and coloured neighbourhoods by a smaller number of townships. The overall effect, however, remains a patchwork of racially segregated residential areas; only the size and number of patches differ from the position obtaining prior to the implementation of the Act.

Between 1960 and 1975, R261m was spent on coloured and Indian housing of which R200m went to house families 'disqualified' by the Act. This despite the chronic growing backlog in housing for coloureds and Indians.

This is what can happen under Group Areas — an Indian family living on the border of Fordsburg (Indian) and Mayfair (white) have to use the back entrance of their house as the front one is in a white area!

If the point of the Group Areas Act is to remove group friction, it has succeeded only in engendering antagonism. If the point is to tidy everything into neat straight lines, it has created overcrowding and exploitation. Affected people remain suspicious of its motives and of those who have done well financially out of its transactions. It could be said that its greatest 'success' is its contribution to the housing shortage and the disaffection of so many South Africans.

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*Group Areas has affected less than 1% of whites, while 20% of all coloureds and 33% of all Indians have been affected.*



*An Indian family evicted from their home in a 'white area' of Johannesburg camp on a pavement as there is no alternative accommodation — photo by courtesy of The Star*