

# SPEAK

5152

JULY 1993

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No. 51

**Julia Nhlapo's  
SCHOOL  
IN A  
BUS**

**CAN MEN  
BE FEMINISTS?**

**COPING WITH STRESS**

**WIN!**

**BLANKET WORTH**

**R200**

**RADIO**

**WHAT ARE WE VOTING FOR?**



9 771019 137001

# What do people say about SPEAK?

*"I think SPEAK magazine is a women's liberator because it is the powerful women's voice and always upholds the women's struggle at heart. I strongly call on other magazines and journals to follow SPEAK."*

**Elizabeth Thabethe, Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), Germiston**

*"SPEAK magazine is the voice of the oppressed women especially the black working class women because it lets them speak for themselves; it speaks in a manner meaningful and understandable to them, it highlights their needs and aspirations."*

**Thenjiwe Mthintso, South African Communist Party, Marshalltown**

*"SPEAK is an important magazine. It is one of the few publications which dares to present interesting and relevant stories of women. They are not gossip, not fairy tale, not make believe. They are real life stories of so-called 'ordinary' women. As their stories get printed and get known, one realises they are not ordinary at all."*

**Lota Bertulfo, Asean Women in Development Forum, Cebu City, Phillipines**

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Dynamic Images

# COMMENT

When women get stopped, stripped naked, sworn at and insulted "for trying to be men" simply because they wear trousers, then things are really bad. This is what happened to two women who walked past an Umlazi hostel wearing - what the attackers called - "men's clothes".

It is even more disgusting when the authorities justify such actions saying "the hostel dwellers only strip their own women to discipline them. They have every right to discipline their own women". This is what Umlazi Mayor Maria Xulu said about the attack in an interview with a Sunday newspaper.

Such actions are humiliating and unjust. Men must begin to see women as human beings with rights. Women too, must stop justifying such violent behaviour.

Violence against women is increasing. Even girls are affected - as SPEAK points out in this issue. There is also a growing fear that some rape survivors are being infected by their attackers with HIV - the virus which leads to AIDS. Women are not only losing the right of power over their own bodies, but also their lives. The laws which govern our country must protect women if we are to build a new South Africa for all who live in it. ●

# Talk back

## Cheap labour should be abolished

I want to tell whites, particularly those who own farms, to change their attitudes before it is too late. Farmers do not want to pay satisfactory wages to their workers. Just think how hard these people work and yet their wages are very low. It is the responsibility of the government to check working conditions on the farms. Lastly, I would like to our lively magazine, SPEAK.

*Your Troubled Mind*  
Ian Zvavuyeno  
Roedtan

## To the women of South Africa

We give our support to the women of South Africa in their campaign for a Women's Charter to be included in the Constitution of a democratic South Africa.

We recognise that as organisers, workers, farmers, mothers, nurses and "ordinary" women have been the backbone of the South African freedom movement. We also believe that women have been among the greatest victims of injustice in South Africa. The migrant labour system left them abandoned for years. The war waged by



Graphic: reproduced from *You and the constitution* published by the Black Sash  
Artist: Karen Allsop

**Thanks to all readers who have written. Please keep your letters flowing in. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to SPEAK, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023 Johannesburg South Africa**

the state against the democratic movement has killed their children and husbands, and themselves. The violence and inequality that are so much part of the South African system, has especially targeted women. We support the grassroots organising undertaken by South African women in all areas of their lives, from political organising and economic policy to health care, education and violence. We salute the efforts of rural women, whose struggles are a result of the harsh realities of apartheid South Africa. We pledge to educate our people about the position of South African women, and to stand in solidarity with their struggle.

*From 34 North American Women's and Anti-Apartheid Organisations*

**What has happened to Ubuntu?**

There is nothing I detest like being manipulated. I am a

feminist and I can never compromise on anything. I recently went to look for a job at a very well known company where I was openly told by a male member of staff that I would have to comply with the rules. I had an introduction to the rules when I was asked "why dont we talk about this over dinner tonight?"

It is time we women pulled ourselves together and stopped entertaining this kind of behavior from men. What has happened to Ubuntu (humanity)?

Looking at the ever changing times I realise that as blacks unchain themselves from apartheid and start to get top managerial jobs, some black men start to believe they have the world, and women in their pockets. Men, you need to know that women are human beings who are fully competent to do whatever we wish to do.

*Mavis Siamisang  
Lime Acres*

**Call for suport**

We call on you because URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED. Migrant workers and war refugees from Angola, Mozambique and Vietnam, are under threat from the German government. The government is planning to send them back to their countries. Some of the people who were forced to go back to their countries last year were killed.

We URGE you to start a campaign. Write to the German government through the

German embassy in your country. This was effective in the past. The German government is concerned with its image since the recent neo-Nazi attacks against foreigners in Germany. We want to draw your attention to the following facts:

1. The number of migrant workers in Germany is very small;
  2. They have been exposed to hard and dangerous working conditions, and many of them are receiving medical treatment;
  3. Many people who are affected have lived in Germany for 10 years;
- We appeal to all progressive organisations and people in South Africa to carry out this campaign of solidarity, social justice and human rights.

*Freie Universitat Berli  
ASTA Keibitzweg 23  
1000 Berlin 33*

■ *The address of the German Embassy is 180 Blackwood Arcadia Pretoria 0002  
Tel 012 3443854*

**W I N N E R S**

**MATLA TRUST VOTER EDUCATION COMPETITION**

**NCEDISWA DLOVA IS THE LUCKY WINNER OF A RADIO**

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**SR. A MUNRO OF TROYEVILLE  
DEBBIE BUDLERDER OF OBSERVATORY AND  
VINCENT MABASO OF KWA - DLANGZWA**

# Kwa - Sophie...

While reading a Namibian women's magazine recently, I came across this quote which I thought I'd share with you: "What would happen if, by magic, men suddenly could menstruate and women not? The answer is obvious: Menstruation would become a macho, boast-worthy event. Men would brag about how long and how much. Boys would mark the start of menstruation with religious rituals and bull parties."

\* \* \* \* \*

A Moscow woman has come up with a way of punishing unfaithful husbands. She put pepper inside a condom she found hidden in her husband's pocket, refolded the condom, resealed the package, slipped it back into his pocket, and waited. The man was later treated for a swollen, red and sore penis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rumour has it that sangomas helping an AIDS project refused to work with model penises from Japan because



they were "too small". They said the penises do not represent the real size (BIG?) of South African male penises...Does that mean size counts?

\* \* \* \* \*

During a telephonic interview, a male nominee for the new SABC Board refused to answer whether he was a member of the Broederbond saying it was a "private matter" like the beating up of a wife. Well, Justice Mohammed agreed with him. Go tell that to hundreds of women who get beat up by their boyfriends and husbands every single day. Wife battery is definitely not a private matter. No-one who abuses their partner in this way should be in any position of power.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Quote of the month

*"To question or to speak as I believed could have meant pain. But we all hurt in so many ways, all the time, and pain will either change or end. I was going to die, if not sooner than later, whether or not I had ever spoken myself. My silences had not protected me. Your silences will not protect you."*

*Audre Lorde, black lesbian poet and feminist activist.*

*She died last year after a 14-year battle with cancer.*

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IT'S MORE THAN A MAGAZINE. IT'S AN EDUCATION!



Children at Leretshabetse Primary have to use an old bus as a classroom

# Steering the way

**With overcrowded classes, a lack of text books and basic facilities – how do teachers manage to keep education going? Bobby Rodwell went to a Vaal school to find out**

**F**or Julia Nhlapo, principal of Leretshabetse Primary School in Sweetwaters – a squatter community on the Vaal – there is a good reason for keeping her school going during difficult times.

“When our children grow up, they will be our leaders. We need to give them an education,” she said when SPEAK visited Leretshabetse.

The 450 children and eight teachers at Leretshabetse do not even have basic facilities most people take for granted. There are no desks for the children to write on. They put their books on their laps. In some classes, the children write all their work from the black board because they don't have any text books.

Although a local company has recently donated some new classrooms, most of the children have their lessons in broken-down buses.

The teachers told us that three buses serve as classrooms for seven different classes. They explained that sharing the same space with another class means they take turns to teach. There is one blackboard hanging at the front of the bus, where passengers would normally board the bus.

In one bus there are 86 Sub A children and 35 Standard 1 children. In another bus there are three classes, a Zulu Sub B class, a Sesotho Standard 1 class and a Sesotho Standard 2 class. In the third bus, 65 Sub B children take their lessons. One

class has its lessons outside in the open.

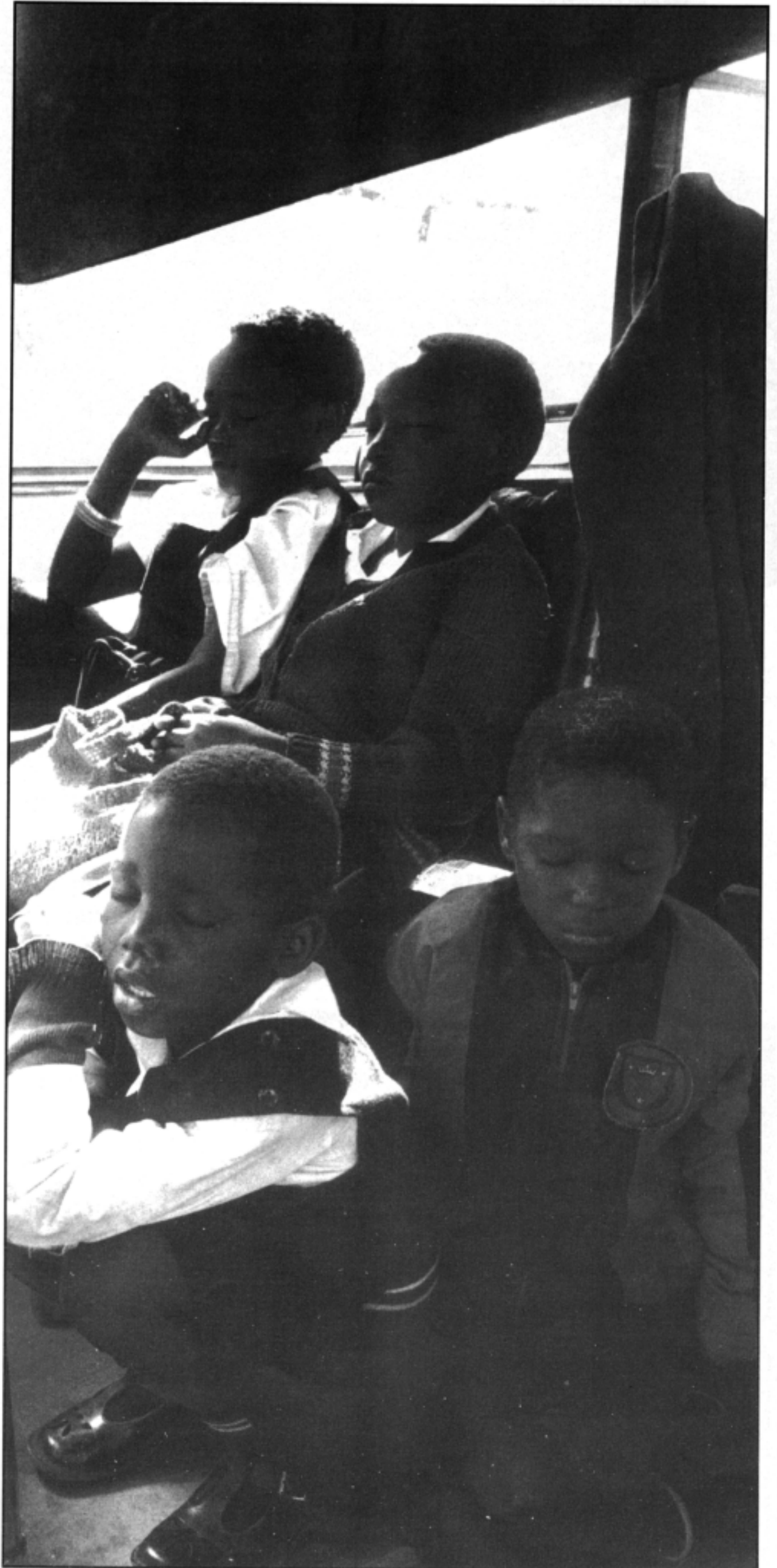
"All the staff at Leretshabetse are very dedicated. Most of them have been with the school for the past four years," Nhlapo said.

Leretshabetse is a story of dedication and community commitment. The school was started in 1974 by Julia's brother, Simon Nobela, when he was only 17 years old.

**S**imon and Julia, the children of farmworkers Alina and Mishiak Nobela, grew up on the farm which later became a squatter camp. Simon began using a small hut on the farm as a school room. Children of the farm labourers paid 50 cents per term to attend the school. This money was the only salary Simon earned. He was, at that time, the only teacher at the school.

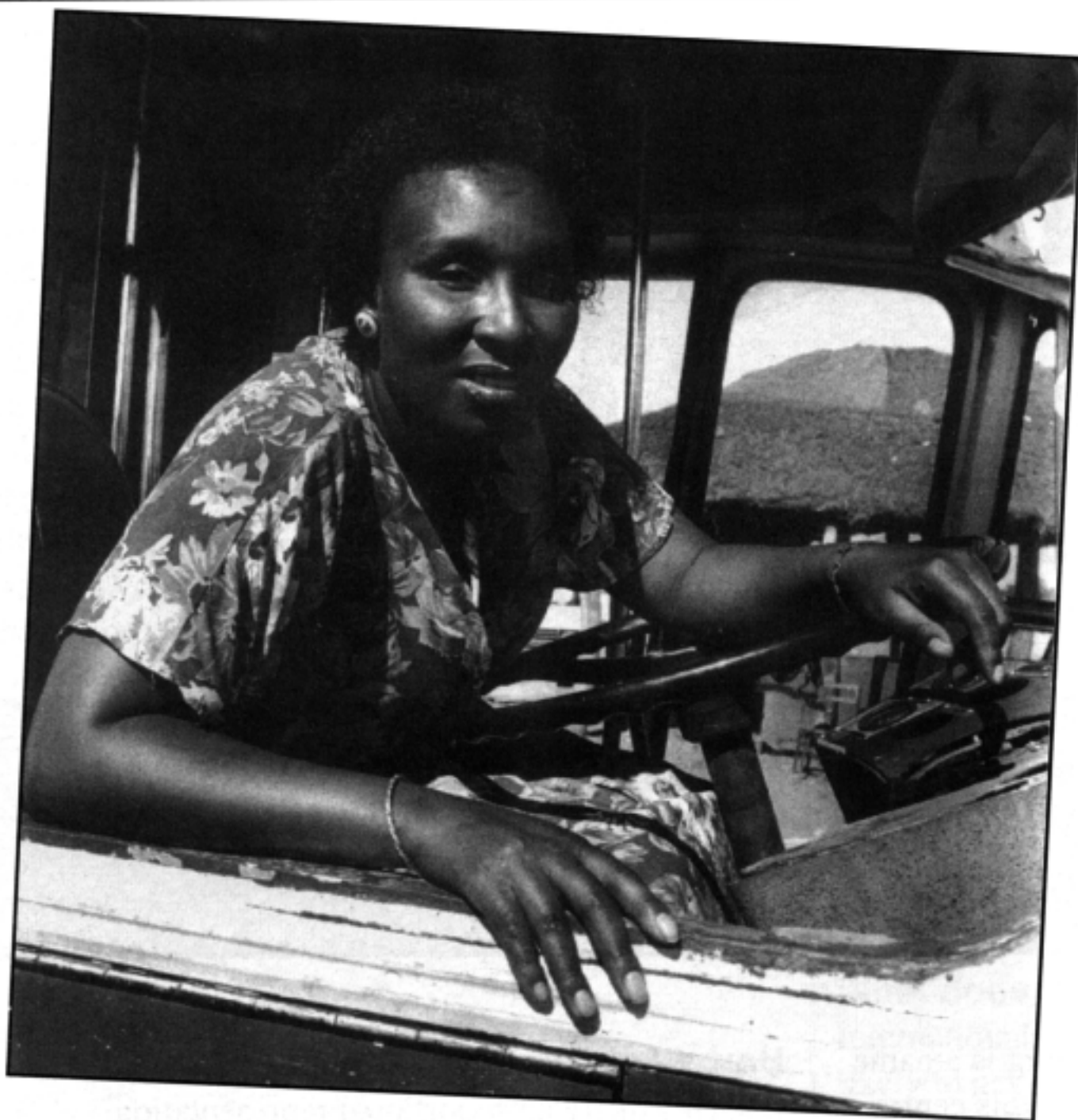
In the 1970s the farmer deserted the farm and the community of Sweetwaters began to develop. As the community grew, so did the need for a school. In 1989, at the age of 33, Simon died. This was when Julia Nhlapo took over the running of the school. At this stage there were still no funds, and the four teachers worked without salaries throughout the 1970s and 1980s. It was only in 1990 that an education trust began paying salaries of one-hundred rand a month for the teachers. Today the school has eight teachers and the trust continues to pay their salaries. While salaries have gone up from one-hundred rand, they are still very low.

"The school has always



**Conditions make it difficult for the little ones to keep awake**





**School principal Julia Nhlapo – making education work**

meant a great deal to me. My brother taught me in primary school, and after that I went to Senaoane High School in Soweto. But of course I came back. I was born in Sweetwaters, and I think I will die in Sweetwaters!" Nhlapo said.

**A**sked about her heavy workload, being a headmistress, an active community worker, and a mother, Nhlapo said: "My situation at home is very good. My husband, George Nhlapo, is very understanding. At first he was not. He believed that a woman must stay at home and obey her husband. Well it took a bit of work on my part, but now he is actively involved in running the home. If I am not home, he will look after the children, and get

food ready. It makes it much easier for me because I'm always busy. It is sometimes hard on my husband and two young children. I very seldom have the whole weekend off to spend with my family. There is always something I have to attend to.

"Apart from the difficulties of running a school during this time of uncertainty in education, we are faced with problems of the freezing cold in winter and the heat in summer."

Some of the buses have no windows.

"When it rains, we are flooded out and no schooling can take place. Again, when it is hot, the children hardly stay awake because the sun is directly on them," she said.

"The buses and classrooms have made things a lot easier.

Until the beginning of this year, Leretshabetse only had the hut and a few shacks which were used as classrooms. There were no proper walls to keep out the rain and the cold. Can you imagine how difficult that was?" she asked.

Leretshabetse is seen by the Department of Education and Training as a "private" school and therefore does not get any money from the DET. The DET is considering giving funds to the school but it does not see the teachers as qualified.

**"T**his is because the teachers are training while they are working, and studying towards their teachers diplomas," Nhlapo explained.

Leretshabetse means "blessed" or "sunrise", and it certainly has been a blessing. For the 800 families living in the Sweetwaters community it has meant their children can get education close to home and do not have to travel far distances. Leretshabetse is a true community effort with a parents committee taking care of feeding the children while they are at school.

But while the story of Leretshabetse is heart warming because it is a tremendous achievement to make education work under very difficult conditions, we need to ask a question. Is it really the responsibility of communities to create and support schools in order for their children to be educated? Let us hope that the DET recognises the achievements of Leretshabetse and assists it with the material support it needs. ☺

# WHAT ARE WE VOTING FOR?

**Negotiations for the "new" South Africa have been going on now for over three years. What have parties agreed on about elections? What still needs to be discussed? What does all this mean to women?**

The World Trade Centre in Johannesburg is a name most South Africans now know. It is at this centre that CODESA took place and where parties are meeting again in the Multi-Party Forum to discuss how to go forward to the "new" South Africa.

What actually goes on at these talks? What has been agreed on so far about the first democratic elections? What are they still talking about? What does this mean to us?

By the time this article is published, we should know the date of the elections. All parties have agreed we will vote before the end of May 1994.

There is still discussion though about details of this election. At CODESA some agreements were made, but these are being re-looked at by the Multi-Party Forum which includes parties which were not involved in negotiations last year (like the PAC and right wing groups).

## **What agreements were made at CODESA?**

It was agreed that in the first non-racial democratic elections, we will be voting for a Constituent Assembly - not a new government. This body would have two duties - to draw up a new constitution (the law of the land) and to act as an interim government. There would be 400 seats (people) on this body - 200 national seats and 200 regional seats.

## **How would we vote?**

It seems likely a proportional representation electoral system will be used. This means we will vote for parties, not people. The more votes a party gets, the more representatives it will have on the Constituent Assembly.

Parties which only win a small number of votes will not get a seat. Although it has not yet been decided exactly what "small" means, it seems likely parties supported by less than five percent of the voters will not get a seat.

## **Will we have to vote twice - once for national representatives and again for regional representatives?**

No. Each vote will probably be counted twice - regionally and then nationally. All the votes will be put together to work out how much support the different parties have nationally. At the same time it will be worked out how much support each party has in each region. This means that parties who have support in one region, but do not have support nationally, could still get a seat and have a say in drawing up the constitution. This ensures regional interests will be heard.

## **What happens now?**

It has been suggested that another body, the

Transitional Executive Council (TEC) should be formed to oversee the running of the country until the elections. It would be unfair if the ruling National Party organised the election alone as it was not voted in by the majority of people in South Africa. The TEC would, for example, make sure that the security forces were acting fairly to all political parties.



The TEC would have two main sub-committees; an Independent Electoral Commission to make sure elections are organised freely and fairly and an

Independent Media Commission which will make sure all the state owned media (like the SABC) is not biased.

**What still needs to be done?**

These agreements reached by CODESA still have to be looked at by the Multi-Party Forum. Details of some of these agreements also have to be worked out and agreed on.

Although there seems to be agreement, for example, on the proportional representation system of voting, exact details of how this will work still have to be looked at.

The parties also still have to agree on how many regions to recognise.

**What does this mean for women?**

International research has shown more women are likely to get into government through the proportional representation system of voting than through any other system. This isn't automatic, though.

Political parties are drawing up lists of people who would take up the seats won in the election. We must make sure women's names are on the lists of the political party we support. We must also demand that women's names are high up on these lists. People at the top of the list have a better chance of actually getting onto the Constituent Assembly.

We must make sure that those women high up on the lists are people who will fight for women's rights and gender equality. ★

**COMPETITION  
WIN A RADIO!**

*Answer the question below and you could be the lucky winner of a radio.*

**What will you be voting for in the first non-racial democratic election?**

*Place a cross in the box next to the right answer:*

- A. A new government
- B. A constituent assembly
- C. Another Codesa

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Code .....

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition.

Signature .....

Send your entry to SPEAK/Matla Trust Voter Education

Competition, PO Box 261363, Excom 2023, South Africa.

**Competition rules:** The decision of the judges is final.

This competition is only open to people living in South Africa.

Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter.

The closing date is 26 July 1993. The winner

will be announced in the September issue of SPEAK.



**Matla Trust**

**This page is a joint project of  
MATLA TRUST & SPEAK**

True story

# When adults get too close

**Many women who are sexually harassed are too scared to speak about it. For teenagers, it is even more difficult. Two sisters Sheila and Victoria told *Rosalee Telela* about their situation**

**S**heila is 16-years-old now. She first felt uncomfortable with her father's best friend, Ben, when she was nine.

"When I was nine-years-old, he touched my leg in a way which made me feel scared and very awkward. Ben could see I did not like it but he just smiled. I did not tell anyone about this because I did not know who to tell and if they'd believe me," says Sheila.

"Ben did not want to be called uncle. He'd tell us he was our friend, not our uncle.

"This was his way of making us feel equal to grow-ups," says Sheila. "He openly spoke about sex which made us feel very uncomfortable," she added.

"Our parents saw nothing wrong with this even if it was obvious that we were embarrassed about the things he spoke about and the way he said it."

"As I grew older, Ben got more and more friendly. I began to dislike him and would try my best to avoid him. This was very difficult since he was at our place almost every day. Even though my door would be closed, he'd just walk in and hug and kiss me. "His kisses were very unwelcome and

suggestive," she added.

"For years I thought I was the only one he was doing this to until my sister Victoria told me she also felt the same way. I felt relieved that my feelings about him were not wrong or childish," says Sheila.

Victoria is 18-years-old. "Ben did not treat me in the same way as he did Sheila. I'm a very quiet person so I did not let him get too close to me," she says.

"But he is a very pushy person so it did not bother him.

I was 17-years-old when I first realised he was sexually harassing me. Ben started inviting me to lunch and always wanted to be alone with me. I never had the courage to ask him why, I'd just give him an excuse. After all, he is married and old enough to be my father.

"This did not stop Ben. He'd make sure we were sometimes alone where he'd ask me very personal questions and tell me his marriage was not working out. It was difficult dealing with this situation. I did not want to be his friend, but I did not know how to tell him to leave me alone," says Victoria.

“When I was cold towards him, he’d tell my father that I was rude and unkind. My father would often say we do not appreciate all the things Ben does for us.”

**“ To us he is nothing but a creep ”**

“A few months ago Sheila and I told our parents that we did not like Ben. It was difficult for us to be open with them about everything because we were not sure how they’d respond.

“My father immediately jumped to Ben’s defense saying he is a wonderful person and that we were imagining things. We did not say anything and never brought up the subject with them again.

“We know our feelings are not wrong,” says Victoria and Sheila. “Ben knows nothing will happen to him because to the world he is a wonderful, warm, kind and loving person. He is a political activist who has ‘given his life to fighting against oppression and exploitation’. Yet he

exploits and oppresses us, using his age and status to get away with sexual harassment,” says Victoria. “To us he is nothing but a creep!”

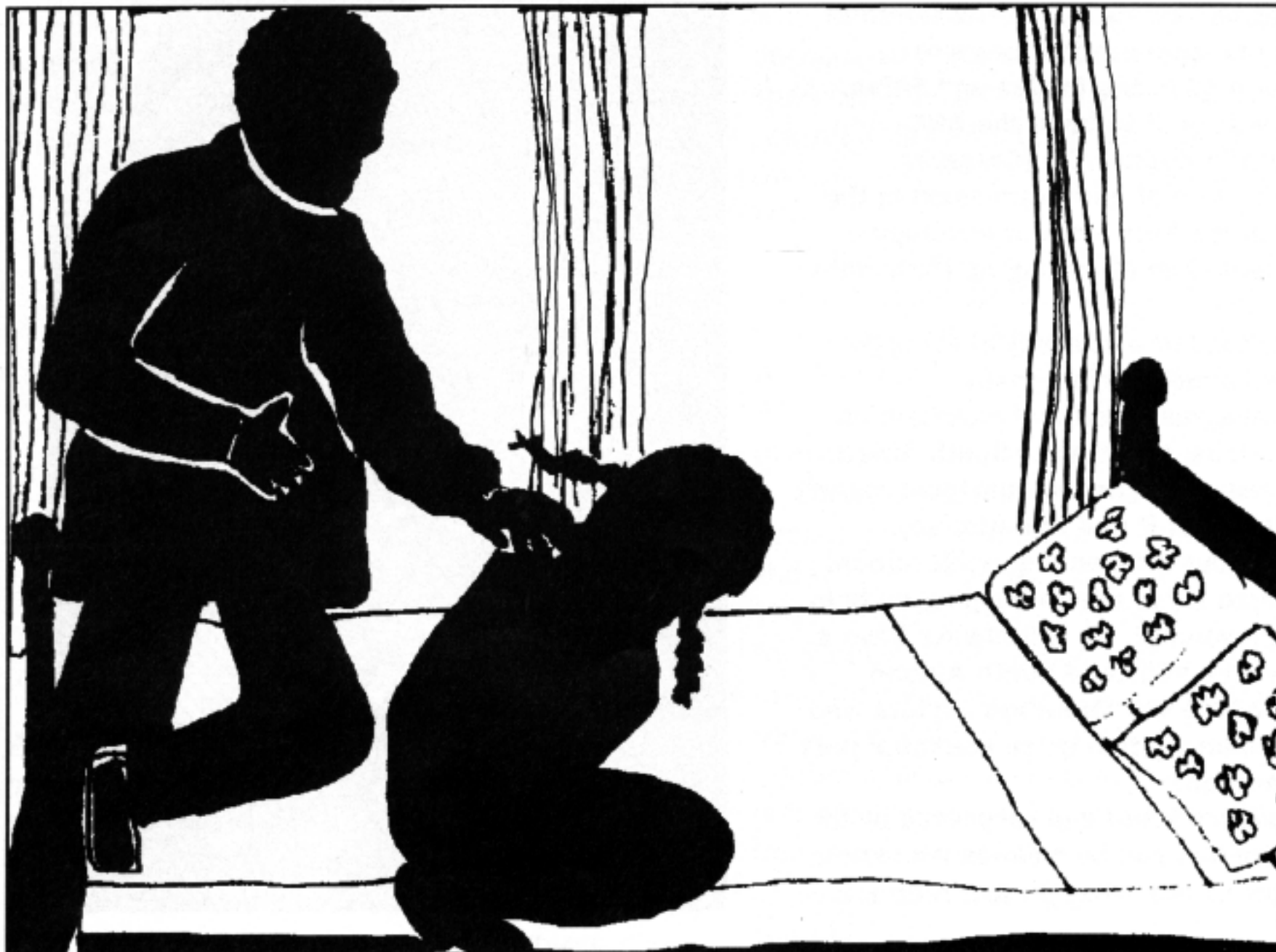
“We do not expect my father to end his friendship with Ben. We just don’t want him to be part of our lives,” adds Sheila.

**S**heila and Victoria are not the only ones. Sexual harassment of children happens every day to many girls and boys of all ages. Adults make it difficult for children to speak about it. They often think their children might be lying - they simply cannot believe the person responsible would do such a thing to their children. What the child says is seen as just a story.

Parents have to learn to listen because more often than not, the child’s story is true. Sexual harassment of children is hidden - children are too scared to speak about it and adults are too blind to see it. ☹

*If you need help, call Childline on 0800123321  
This is a toll-free telephone number.*

**True story**



Graphic by Karen Hurt, SPREAK Magazine

# OLIVER

# TAMBO

## A great and humble leader

Oliver Tambo died on 24 April as the result of a stroke. The ANC National Chairperson was an outstanding leader of the South African liberation struggle. Tambo was at the forefront when the Youth League pushed for more militancy in the ANC in the forties and fifties.

In 1960 he was sent to build the ANC externally after the Sharpeville Massacre. During the dark years of grim repression in the sixties he began the hard work of developing the armed struggle and in setting up Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Tambo spearheaded a strategy of struggle which combined armed action, mass resistance, underground political mobilisation and the international isolation of South Africa. This is what finally brought the apartheid regime to the realisation that it had to negotiate.

Perhaps his most outstanding achievement to be remembered is his role in building unity in the liberation movement. He will always have a special place in the hearts of South African women as one of the few liberation leaders who saw women's emancipation as an essential part of national liberation.

Oliver Tambo was loved and respected by all who worked with him and by millions who knew him as a symbol of the struggle for freedom.

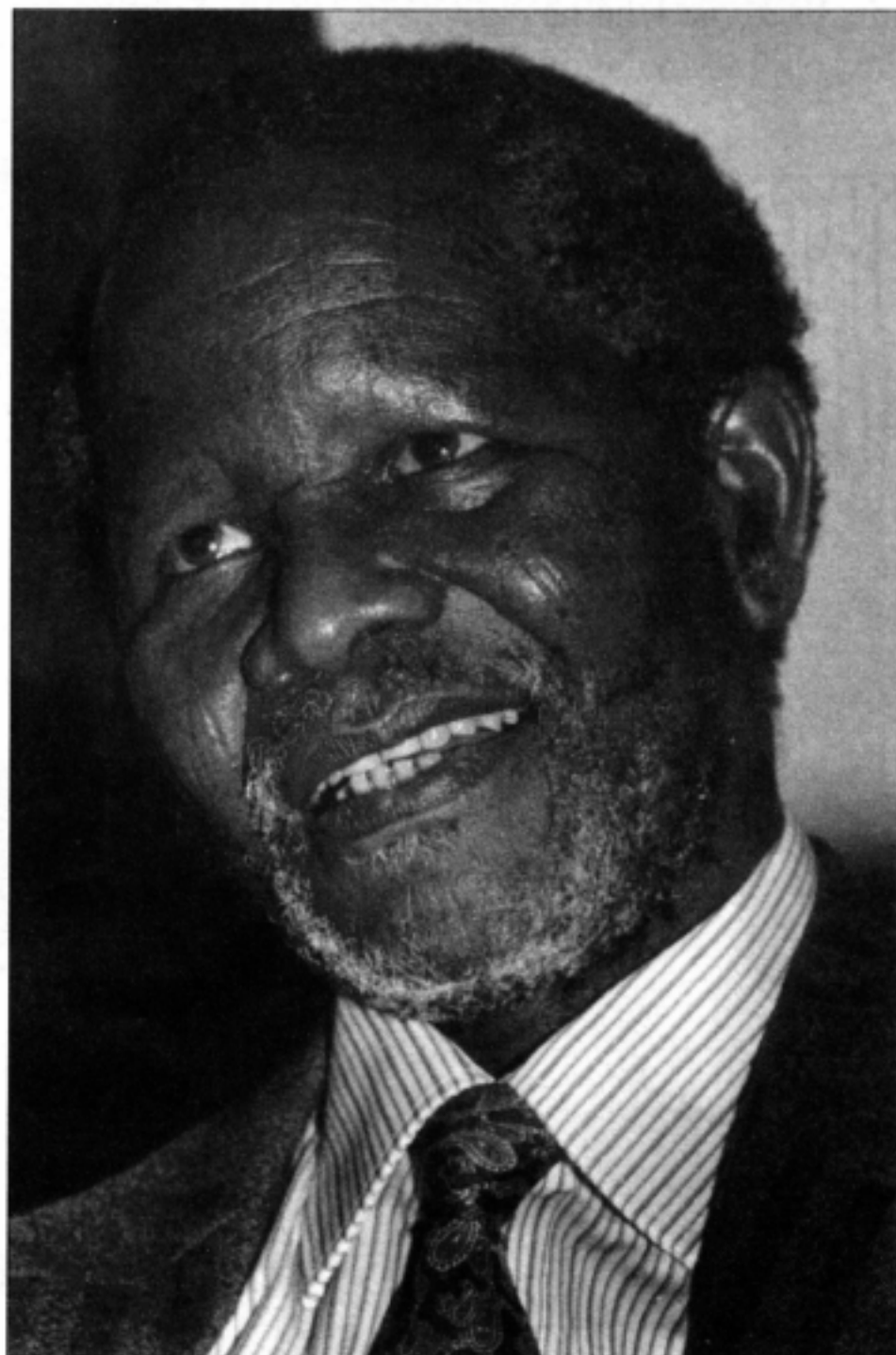


Photo by ANC Photo Unit

**Rosalee Telela spoke to Ruth Mompoti and Frene Ginwala who both worked with Tambo for many decades**

**Ruth Mompoti - Member of the ANC's National Executive Committee**

"I first met Oliver Tambo when I worked as a secretary for the Mandela-Tambo law firm. He was very humble and considerate of people and, I never felt that he treated me differently because I was a woman.



Photo by ANC Photo Unit

I left the country not long after him. In the camps, Tambo insisted that women should be treated the same as men.

In 1975 we (the women in the ANC) began to seriously discuss the emancipation of women. During this time, the ANC Women's Section executive had a meeting with the ANC National Executive to discuss the emancipation of women.

I must say of all NEC members, Oliver Tambo was the most outspoken in understanding the women's struggle and correcting wrong positions held by other NEC members. He has always taken this lead.

**Of all NEC members, Oliver Tambo was the most outspoken in understanding the women's struggle and correcting wrong positions held by other NEC members.**

In 1981, at the Women's Section conference in Angola, Tambo said the emancipation of women is not the responsibility of women alone, but the responsibility of the ANC as a whole.

Oliver Tambo never made you feel that because you were a woman you could not advise him. He called upon you to give your views on any subject -

whether it be the future role of women or the liberation struggle in general. He would always listen patiently and had a lot of respect for women.

When I was Chief Representative of the ANC in London in the eighties, it was difficult. The government was very hostile to the ANC. I knew I could refer problems to Oliver Tambo wherever he was. He would treat these with great seriousness.

Even after his illness, he did not spare himself. If he had, he would be alive today. We have lost not only a pillar of our organisation, but also of women's emancipation."

**Frene Ginwala - Deputy Head of the ANC's Commission for the Emancipation of Women**

"Oliver Tambo sincerely believed in equality between men and women. He gave his support to women's struggles through the



Photo by Anna Zieminski

example he set as a leader. He was a strong leader who liked to do things properly. For example he encouraged research. You could not give him a speech and expect him just to read it. He would rework it 50 dozen times. He would challenge not only the way it was written, but also what it contained.

Women knew they could get more support and encouragement from him than any other leader. It was women who asked for him to be the head of the ANC's Commission for the Emancipation of Women. Because women's struggles were very important to him, women had confidence in him.

Oliver Tambo believed that women's emancipation was the responsibility of both men and women, of all members of the ANC. Before the 1985 Nairobi gathering at the end of the UN Decade for Women, there was an attempt by the right-wing to say that women's oppression and struggles were social, not political, issues.

Tambo held a press conference in Nairobi to support what the women were fighting for: an integration of women's liberation with national liberation struggles. His authority did count - women won in Nairobi." ❁

# Claiming Child Maintenance

***Cathi Albertyn* answers questions about when and how you can get maintenance (support) for yourself and your children**

## **What is maintenance?**

The law says that some people have a legal duty to support people who are dependent on them. This duty is the result of marriage or parenthood. This means that:

- When you marry, whether by civil or customary law, each spouse (wife or husband) has the duty to support the other;
- Both parents have a duty to support their children. This means if both parents are earning an income, both must contribute to maintaining the children. It does not matter if the parents are married to each other or not.

The financial support you get from your spouse for yourself or for your children is called maintenance.

## **How do you get maintenance?**

There are special maintenance courts at every magistrate's court. You can use these courts to apply for maintenance for yourself and your children:

- If you are not getting any;

- If your husband or the father of your children stops paying maintenance;
- If you want an increase in maintenance.

Your husband or the father can also go to the court to apply to pay less maintenance if he loses his job or his wages decrease.

## **How do you apply for maintenance or for an increase in maintenance?**

You do not have to pay to take your case to the maintenance court. The maintenance officer will help you in your claim. Before you go to the maintenance court, you should make sure you have:

- The name and address of your husband or the father;
- Proof of how much you earn;
- Receipts, papers and accounts showing what you have to pay every month, including rent, water, electricity, food and clothing.

Try to work out how much you spend and how





Artist: Zenda Woodman

much you need to support yourself and your children.

**W**hen you get to the court you will be helped by a maintenance officer. The officer will ask you to make a sworn statement (an affidavit) which must say why you need maintenance and how much you need.

The maintenance officer will then send a court letter (a summons) to the husband/father asking him to come to court on a particular day. On that day both of you will discuss the matter with the maintenance officer. If you agree at this meeting, then you will each sign a paper which says the husband/father must pay a certain amount every week or month.

He can pay this directly to you, into your bank account or his employer can be told to pay part of his wages directly to you. He can also pay the money to the maintenance court which will pass it on to you.

If you do not agree or the father of your child

does not come to the court this day, then you will both have to return on another day when the case will be heard before a magistrate. The magistrate will listen to both your stories. He will question you on how much each of you earn and how much you spend. He will then decide how much the husband/father must pay every month. This will be made an order of the court.

**What if the husband or father stops paying?**

You must go back to the maintenance court to lay a complaint. It is a crime not to pay maintenance. The police will give him a paper (summons) telling him to come to court. If he cannot prove that he was unable to pay maintenance, then he will be convicted and punished. The court will usually tell him to pay all the maintenance he owes you or else he will go to jail. The best solution is to find a way for him to pay the maintenance. If he goes to jail, he may lose his job and then have no money to pay you.

Cathi Albertyn is a researcher at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand. ☪



1. In Gazankulu, most of the men are away working in town. It is the women who decorate the homes with traditional and new symbols, using colour oxides, lime, battery acid and mud mixtures

# ARTISTS AT WORK

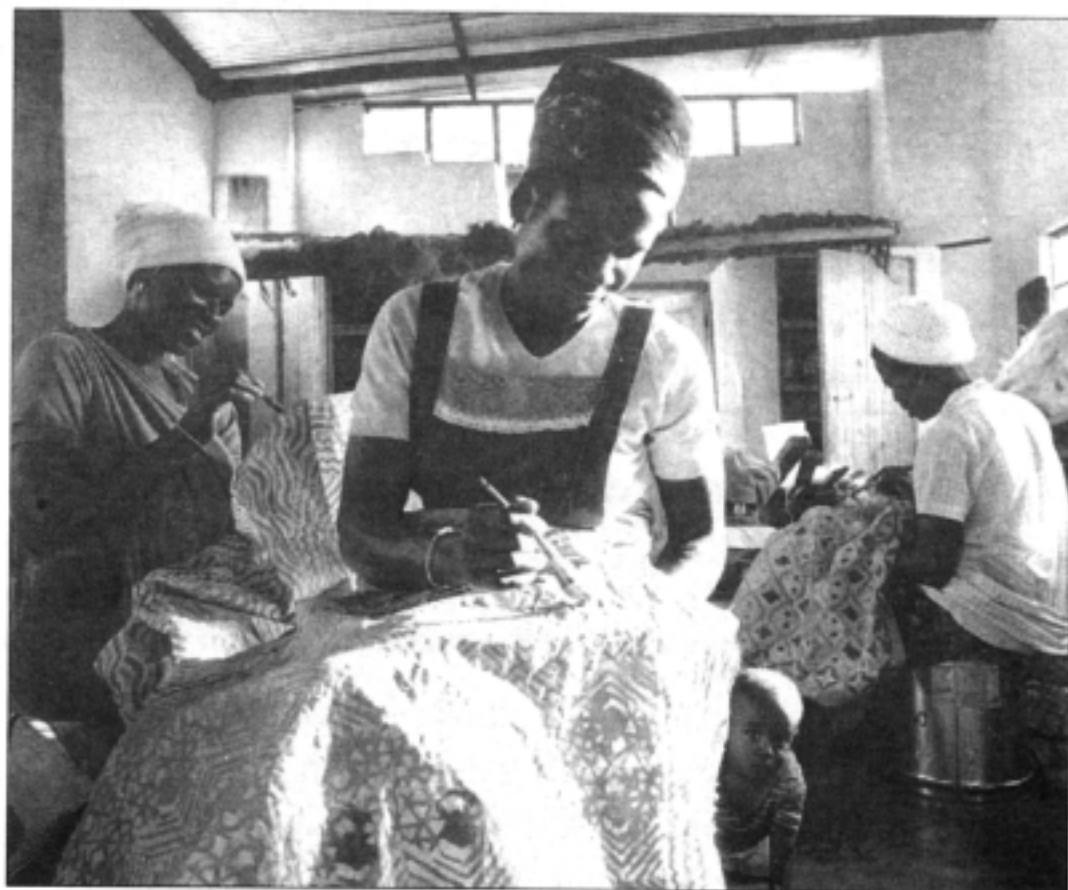
*Twananani* means mutual agreement. Twananani Textiles in Gazankulu in the Northern Transvaal is a co-operative of 29 women which produces batik-type textiles. *Gill de Vlieg* took pictures on visits to Twananani over a number of years



**2. In 1983, 23 women from Mbokota village in Gazankulu got together to develop a simple textile process including the patterns used to decorate their homes in fabric designs. They needed a way of making money for survival**



**3. At first the Twananani women worked from four homes in the village**



**4. Through selling their products and with assistance from a service organisation, Itsidu, Twananani raised funds to build a workshop in the village**

You can contact Twananani Textiles at PO Box 150, Elim Hospital 0960 or through Akanani Rural Development Association. Telephone (01526) 63133

# ABORTION:



## A WOMAN'S CHOICE

**With a new democratic constitution on the cards, this is an important time for women to raise their issues about abortion, writes Rosalee Telela**

In the eyes of the law, Thandi (not her real name) is a criminal. She had an illegal abortion in one of the back-street abortion "clinics" in Soweto. She was 18 and doing her matric when she fell pregnant. "I had no desire to have a baby because I wanted to complete my schooling. My parents would not have understood and my boyfriend wanted nothing to do with the baby. I knew I could not care for a baby the way it should be cared for."

Today Thandi, 25, is happily married and has two

children. "I had my children at a time I felt I was ready to raise them. I had a good job, I was married and felt I could give them a good home and education," she says.

Thandi does not regret her decision to have an abortion. "When I think of all those children in Hillbrow begging and sniffing glue because their mothers could not support them, I believe I did the right thing. I thank God that I did not get sick or die after the abortion. I know women who have died

and some who can't have children today."

**A**bortion is a matter of life and death for thousands of South African women every year. The Abortion Reform Action Group (Arag) believes women should have complete control over their own bodies.

"Abortion should be legal, free and available, at least in the first three months of pregnancy," says



Photos by Rosalee Teletia

**Chris Diamond says:**  
"Abortion should be legal, free and available."

Chris Diamond, Arag spokesperson in Johannesburg.

It is estimated that each year more than 200 000 women have illegal abortions in South Africa. Four thousand women are admitted every year to Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto after having illegal abortions.

Back-street abortionists often use dangerous and unhealthy methods which result in bad infections, heavy bleeding, infertility and death.

Diamond says the world-wide anti-abortion movement has created a highly emotional climate around the issue of abortion so that politicians are afraid to oppose them.

Some people say they are against abortion because it destroys life. These people seem to be only concerned about life before birth. Many women want abortions because they know they cannot take care of the baby after it is born.

**C**osmopolitan Magazine last year reported that Pro-Life, an anti-abortion group in South Africa, gets advice and printed material directly from a US organisation, Operation Rescue. When Cosmopolitan ran a survey on abortion, it received a flood of anti-abortion responses. Many of these were clearly reproduced in bulk and looked like an organised effort to make sure the result of the survey was against abortion.

**P**ro-Life spokesperson, Glynis Newbury, says her organisation does not agree with the present law on abortion. "Abortion under any circumstances is murder," she says. "Those who support the right to abortion are 'pro-death'," she adds. She claims that people who support abortion in South Africa are trying to reduce the black population. "The average black woman is not interested in killing her baby," says Newbury.

Black women have been targeted by apartheid population control policies which aimed to reduce the black birth rate. Newbury tries to exploit the anger of black women against such racist policies.

Her argument makes no sense in the light of the huge number of illegal abortions that women in this country obtain every year. These figures show women "voting with their feet" in favour of access to abortion.

This is a sensitive issue, but a vitally important one. Women need to have the chance to say what



**Glynis Newbury says:**  
"Abortion is murder."

they want. The negotiations on the future of South Africa are dominated by men. Women must campaign to make sure it is the wishes of women that count when laws on abortion are made. Women have the right to control their own bodies, to choose when and if they want to have children. ●

#### **Abortion: What the law says**

Abortion is illegal in South Africa. The law says a woman can only have an abortion if:

- Her pregnancy threatens her life or her physical and mental health;
- There is a serious risk that the baby, once it is born, will suffer from a serious physical or mental disability;
- The pregnancy was the result of rape or incest;
- The pregnant woman is unable to understand fully the responsibility of being a parent. This could also apply to girls under 16 years of age.

A woman has to go through a long and difficult process to prove she has the legal right to have an abortion. As a result, only four out of every 10 women who apply for a legal abortion in South Africa get one. Most of these are white women.

# YOUNG WOMEN.

## Are they left out?

**While negotiations for a 'new' South Africa continue,  
young women are battling for a say in that future.**

**Rosalee Telela spoke to three young women about their hopes and fears.**

**T**wenty-one-year-old Glenda Williams is a Matric student at Damelin. For Williams, negotiations are the best option. "I will gain from negotiations and so will you." Although she has never been involved in women's organisations, she does support them.



**Glenda Williams**

The problem, Williams points out, is "youth and women's organisations do not advertise themselves properly. I would like to join a women's organisation but I do not know how to go about it."

She added they should take up issues like employment, the role of women in society, what role a woman should play in her family and sexual harassment.

"Sexual harassment at work is one of the major issues to be dealt with. That's how I lost my last job," she said.

"Unfortunately", said Williams, "most young women do not have positive female role models. The only woman I know who is a dominant figure in politics is Margaret Thatcher (former British Prime Minister)."

She said young black women do not challenge the attitude men have towards them: "My friends believe a person should get married to a rich man and make babies."

Williams believes one of the ways young women can improve their situation and secure their future is to be educated.

"Patriotism (love of your country) is not enough. That is why I support affirmative action. It is for this reason I decided to go back to school after three years of staying at home - so I can make a difference," she said.

"And my hopes for the future? I hope there will be peace and

equality in all respects. Equality between men and women, black and white."

"Young women have not only been left out of the liberation movement, but those who are politically active have been ignored."

These are the words of Nomantu Nkomo, member of the ANC Youth League, Women's League and personal secretary to the ANC's general secretary, Cyril Ramaphosa.



**Nomantu Nkomo**

She argues "Young women should not abandon their own struggle because organisations' policies do not always embrace our demands," said Nkomo.

She added that if young women do not "identify their problems and find solutions to them", they will never gain the recognition and rights they are fighting for.

Being involved in the Women's League and also in the Youth League is, at times, difficult for her.

"In the Youth League, when you are talking to men, some of them pretend they do not understand what you are talking about when you talk about women's issues. In the Women's League, there are women who could be your mother, aunt, grandmother and this sometimes makes it difficult to express yourself."

Despite these difficulties, Nkomo has not lost hope: "There are women holding positions in both the Youth League and the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) executive committees. This shows that there is at least an understanding of women's issues.

"Young women need to make

their voices heard. It is our duty not to fold our arms and say we are sidelined. Screaming in the corridors won't help us if we do not get involved," Nkomo concluded.

**P**inky Monyane is the secretary for women's affairs in the Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu) and personal assistant to the PAC's president, Clarence Makwetu.



**Pinky Monyane**

"Being a young black woman involved in organisation is not an easy thing. In Azanyu there are only two women holding positions in the national executive," said Monyane. She believes young women themselves make the problem

worse.

"Women do not see themselves as playing an important role in the struggle of our people. They feel their place is at home. Even if they participate in organisations, they are only too glad to take a backseat."

She added within Azanyu young women are reluctant to participate in discussions and often refuse positions they are nominated for.

"At the same time, men in organisation would simply elect a woman for so-called affirmative action reasons and not because they have confidence in her," she said.

Monyane plans to start a campaign to address "non-political" women's issues, through organising women's social events in the townships.

"Women will be able to build their self confidence. If they are able to talk with other women, it will be easier when they go out into the world of men." ●



Photo by Karen Hurt, SPEAK

**Women meet together to make sure they are not left out**

# CAN MEN BE

**SPEAK's Rosalee Telela asked some well-known people a nagging question:  
Can men be feminists?**



Photo: Rosalee Telela, SPEAK

**Cosaw's Matthew Krouse: Feminism is the effort by women, on behalf of women for self empowerment**



Photo: T.J. Lemon, compliments Market Theatre

**Actor John Kani: Men should have great respect for women**



Photo: Thoraya Pandey, SPEAK

**AWO's Irene Khumalo: I believe in equality between men and women**

**Matthew Krouse, Sales and Promotions Manger for the Congress of South African Writers (Cosaw)**

Feminism is the effort by women, on behalf of women, for self empowerment - to display to the world that there is no need for male domination. Can men be feminists? Well can men be women? They can have sex changes. What should be of concern to the women's movement is for men to be feminists, otherwise what chance is there for feminism?

**John Kani, playwright and actor**

I am a product of a mixed marriage, a man and woman. In the African tradition, the woman or mother plays the major role. Women are in the forefront. As long as feminism does not take away the unity between men and women, it is okay.

My mother was a champion of women's rights. Men should have great respect and support for women.

**Irene Khumalo, Publicity Secretary for the PAC's African Women's Organisation (AWO)**

Feminism is a debatable issue. I do not believe in it.

I believe in equality between men and women. In general the problem is men who treat women badly - telling them to do a, b, c, d... I belong to the trade union movement, where men treat us as equals. I guess it is possible that men can be feminists. I believe in a woman being a woman. A woman's place is limited, but in time, with the support of men it will change.

**Joe Mafela, Sgudi Snayisi/S'good S'nice**

Man is man, woman is woman. The one should not dominate the other. They should respect each other in all aspects. I believe in equality, and therefore, men can be feminists.

**Lisa Vetten, People Opposing Women Abuse (Powa)**

Feminism is a belief in women's rights and a commitment to women's issues. The difference between men and women does not mean the one is inferior to the other.

Society treats and expects women and men to behave in particular ways. Men do not know what it is like to be a woman.

Men can be against sexism



# FEMINISTS?



but it is irritating to be told by a man how to take up women's issues. Problems like rape and battery are not women's problems but social problems which require the attention of all society.

## Gill Noero, Democratic Party

In response to your question, "Can men be feminists?" I thought I would do some street research, so I asked some men. The kind of summary reply went like this "I'm a feminist: I love it when I'm out with a woman and she opens the car door for you." "I believe in feminism for women and they must go to the fucking army." Way to go, as they say. So – Men aren't feminists. Men can't be feminists.

You can't be a feminist if you can't get raped  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't be hit black and blue by your partner  
 You can't be feminist if you can't get raped

You can't be a feminist if you can't understand all this fuss about being paid less or not being paid at all  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't get raped  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't understand all this fuss about equal rights  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't get raped  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't be called a puss  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't be raped  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't understand all this fuss about being respected  
 You can't be a feminist if you can't get raped

## Guy Berger, editor of South newspaper

Yes, I believe men can be feminists. But not only supporting it in theory. Men are not women, they can't speak on behalf of women and will never experience things the way women do. This does not mean they don't have a responsibility to participate in women's struggles.

Am I a feminist? I try to be one. I do a lot more than other men. For example, I have a lot of responsibilities at home and with the children. But often I don't do my share because I am away from home for work reasons. This is still unfair.

Women should not let men get away with poor performance and sexist behaviour, whatever the reason. ☆



Actor Joe Mafela: Men and women should respect each other in all aspects



The DP's Gill Noero: You can't be a feminist if you can't get raped



South's Guy Berger: Men will never experience things the way women do

# WOMEN GRABBING MICROPHONES



**All over the world women workers and peasant women are grabbing microphones and making sure their voices are heard on the radio. Many women around the world have started their own radio stations. Libby Lloyd looks at two of these stations**

**V**icky Quevedo works at Radio Tierra (Radio Earth) - a woman's radio station in Santiago, the capital of Chile in Latin America.

"Radio Tierra is the voice of women in Santiago speaking to the whole city," she told SPEAK.

The station was started one and a half years ago.

"The media in Chile - like everywhere else - shows pictures of women which are not real. Other radio stations ignore women, or show us only as sex symbols or wives. We wanted to speak for ourselves, so we started a radio station.

"We look at politics, work, literature, music - everything -

through women's eyes," said Quevedo.

"Some people think Radio Tierra is against men. That is not true. We just want people to hear what women have to say. Some men are scared of women organising."

Radio Tierra has 22 paid women workers. About 80 other

people come in regularly to produce programmes. These volunteers are called popular correspondents. Women from squatter camps and factories, from areas around Santiago, come into the station to broadcast the news of their areas - news which is never heard anywhere else.

bored they try on my clothes. Other women sit downstairs in my living room, listening to us and talking about how bossy I am. The station was launched on International Women's Day in 1990. It broadcasts illegally as it does not have a licence. Like in South Africa there are tough

"We have radio festivals," she says. "We broadcast for about 20 days at a time, four times a year. Otherwise it becomes too much work for us - and we all have so many chores to do."

The station can be heard for about three kilometres around her house.

"When we first decided to start our own station, we talked to all the women in our area," says D'arcy. "They were excited, but when I asked them if they would go on air, they said: 'No, we couldn't do that. We're too scared.'" Now they all join in and we gossip about all sorts of things - menopause, the state of the world, our government...

"We also break the law by giving out information about abortion for women. Abortion is illegal in Ireland, but we tell women how they can get an abortion.

"Everyone should have her own radio station in her house. Start up your own stations! We must use the radio to talk about how much unrecognised and unpaid work we do. We must talk about how much we do to keep this horrible, nasty, savage world going. We must demand that governments pay women, not the military!" ❖



Photo by Democracy In Action - IDASA

**SPEAK's Libby Lloyd shares a joke with Radio Pirate Woman Margaretta D'Arcy**

The station broadcasts from 7 am to midnight every day. Quevedo told SPEAK how the station also tries to make women's work easier.

"At 8.30 every night we have a story programme for children to help them go to sleep. We all want our children to be sleeping then so we can have time for ourselves!"

Radio Pirate Woman is an illegal (pirate) station broadcasting out of a house in Galway, a working class area in Ireland.

Margaretta D'arcy is the original "pirate woman".

"The radio station is in my house," she told SPEAK. "In my bedroom actually. Women from our community come and gossip in my bedroom and this gets broadcast. When women get

laws in Ireland about who can own a station. Stations also have to pay the government to get a licence.

"Women don't have a voice anywhere - especially those women who have no money. Poverty is the real crime - not us broadcasting illegally. There is no such thing as sticking to the law, you have to do whatever your heart says," said D'arcy.

The women of Galway do not broadcast all the time.

### SPEAKING ON AIR

SPEAK has started a radio project so that women's voices are heard on radio in South Africa. We aren't going to set up our own station - not yet anyway. We want to produce programmes celebrating women's work, women's voices, women's writing, women organising - to be broadcast on other radio stations. SPEAK also wants to make sure women in South Africa are trained to use radio, to produce their own programmes. You don't have to be able to read and write to listen to radio or to go on air.

Phone Libby Lloyd or Rita Thathe at SPEAK (011) 29 6166 if you want to know more about this project.

# HIV AND TB - the world's biggest health threat

**Tuberculosis (TB) is the largest cause of death from a single disease. Every forty minutes a South African dies from TB. Research has shown a frightening fact - there is a direct relationship between HIV and TB**

## **What is the relationship between HIV and TB**

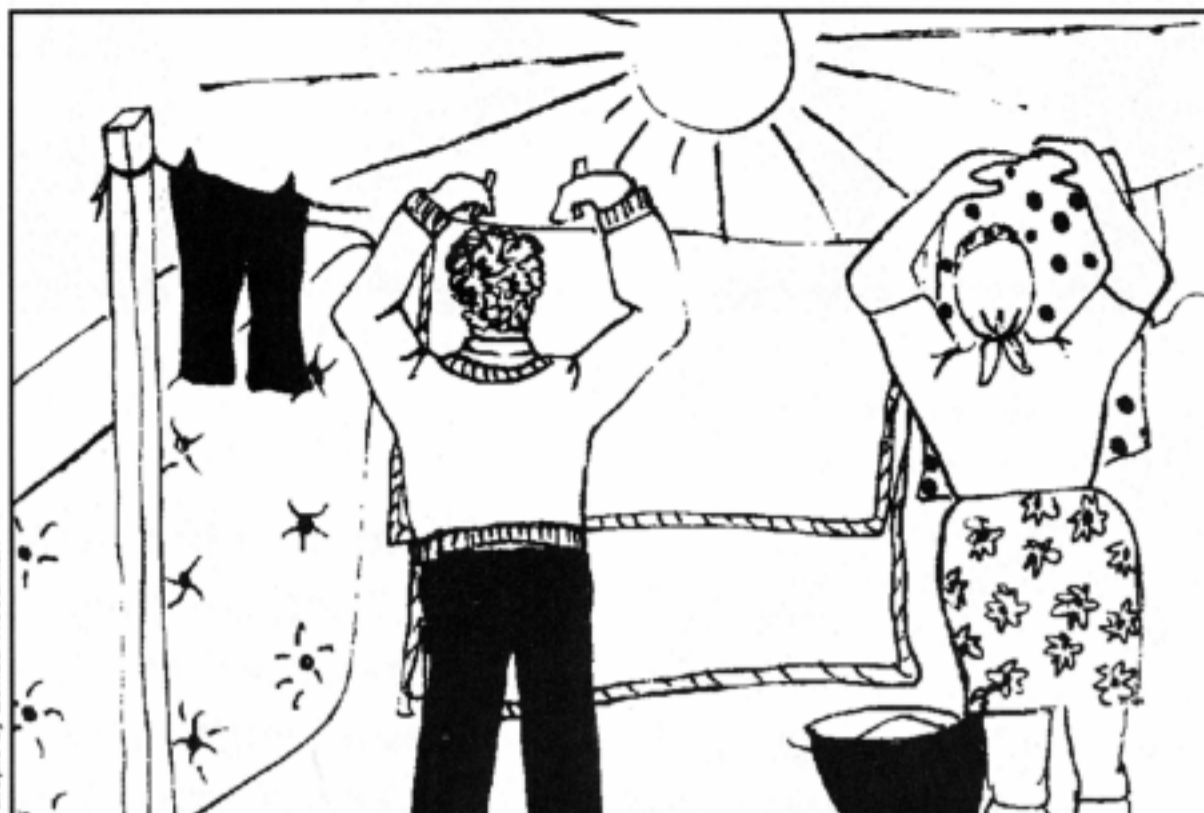
In countries where TB is common many people become infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (which causes TB) during their childhood. In SA approximately 10 million people are infected with the TB bacteria. But most people do not become sick with the disease because their immune system (the body's ability to resist disease) fights against it. Research has shown a new and very serious relationship between HIV and TB. People who are infected with the TB bacteria and are HIV positive are likely to become sick with TB. This is because HIV slowly breaks down the body's

strength and ability to fight the TB bacteria. TB and HIV work together. While HIV breaks down the body's ability to fight off the TB bacteria, TB leads to an increase in the HIV developing into full-blown AIDS. With at least 400 new cases of HIV infection being reported every day, we are sitting on a time bomb. For example, the death rate from TB in people with HIV is also very high. HIV positive TB patients are three to four times more likely to die from TB compared to TB patients without HIV.



**All children should be vaccinated against TB**

Photo by Gisele Wulfsohn



Direct sunlight kills the TB bacteria in 5 minutes

**How can TB be found?**

When somebody is sick with TB, she or he will:

- Have a cough for a long time. The cough is bad in the morning when the person wakes up;
- Have pains in the chest or top of the back;
- Develop a fever (feeling hot and sick);
- Become thin and weak. When TB gets bad, the person will spit blood, and have swelling on different parts of the body.

**How can we fight the spread of TB?**

SA should accord the highest priority to improving the TB Control Programme. TB should be diagnosed quickly and patients should be treated effectively. Treatment of TB, usually with isoniazid - an anti-TB drug, will help to fight the spreading of TB. TB is easily passed on through contact with infected sputum (coughing, mucus). It is possible to stop the disease spreading by treating people already suffering from it. An increase in TB cases means there is a bigger chance of more people getting TB, not only people who test HIV/positive.

Another way of dealing with the increase in HIV related TB would be to treat all HIV positive people with isoniazid. This is very expensive though.

**How can you prevent TB in your home and community?**

If you think you may have TB or someone in your family has TB, you should go to the clinic or hospital and get X-ray photographs taken. If you have TB you will be given injections and pills, the pills will make you feel better, but do not stop taking them or the TB will come back. After two weeks you will no longer pass on TB. It can take up to two years to be cured.

**Spread the word not TB**

TB could be prevented if people were immunised against it. Vaccinations help protect children against serious forms of TB.

Treatment helps to stop the spread of infection. If someone has had a cough for more than a month, they should go to the clinic, where their sputum should be tested.

It is a fact that TB is high amongst people forced to live in overcrowded and unhealthy conditions. Take as much control over living conditions as possible. A clean living environment helps to stop the disease from spreading. Exposing bedding or clothing to direct sunlight kills the TB bacteria in five minutes. ☺

*Visit your local clinic if you want to know about TB*

**C • O • M • P • E • T • I • T • I • O • N**

**WIN A BEAUTIFUL BLANKET!**

Answer the question below and you could be the lucky winner of a beautiful blanket!

What is the word used to describe the feeling of being unable to cope with the problems in your life?

Answer.....

Name.....

Address.....

Code.....

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition. Signature.....

Send your entry to SPEAK, PO Box 261363, Excoom 2023, South Africa.

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 1 August 1993. The winner will be announced in the September issue of SPEAK.

# STRESS



Women suffer stress because they are overworked and have been taught to take care of others, not themselves, writes *Ronelle Carolissen*

## Women's unbearable load

Nomvula arrives home at eight o'clock because the foreman at the factory said, if she didn't work overtime, she would be fired. Her husband Thami, who is not working, threatens to beat her for coming home late.

He has not fetched their baby from the neighbour who looks after her while Nomvula is at work. Nor has he started cooking. Nomvula fetches the baby, makes the fire to heat water for washing and begins to prepare supper.

Thami tells her that an official from the Council had come to warn them that they would be evicted from their house if they did not pay rent the next day. Thami has spent the money Nomvula put aside for rent on

beer. By the time Nomvula drops into bed exhausted, she cannot sleep because of terrible pain from her ulcers.

Nomvula feels she can't cope with all these problems any longer and doesn't know what to do. She is suffering from stress.

"Stress" is the word used to describe people's experiences when they find it hard to cope with problems in their lives. Women often don't want to talk about their problems. They feel guilty and think they should be able to cope with any problem. This is not always possible. Stress is often caused by hardship and difficult living conditions.

**B**lack women in South Africa have to deal with higher levels of stress than any other group of people in the country. Black women are oppressed as black people, as women and also because they often have to work in unskilled jobs with low wages.

Black working women are overworked. They often work between 16 and 18 hours a day. When they come home from work, they are expected to cook, clean the house and wash the clothes. They have little time for relaxation.

Many women are battered or beaten by their husbands or boyfriends. They also suffer verbal abuse - shouting, swearing and insults. There is also the hardship of living in townships where political violence is increasing. This is a constant threat to the safety of women and their families.

Women who move to the cities have the added problem of being strangers in a new place without

**Black working women are overworked. They often work between 16 and 18 hours a day.**

support. These women are often single parents and have to take care of their children alone.

Women are taught to put the needs of others before their own, so they see to the needs of their children and husbands first and feel that they should not talk about their own troubles. They feel they must be seen to be coping.

As a result, stress makes many women physically ill. These illnesses can include minor ones like headaches, colds and flu, as well as more serious ones like ulcers and raised blood pressure (hypertension). Blood pressure is the amount of force used by the heart to push blood through the

blood vessels. Any narrowing of the blood vessels preventing free flow of blood can cause raised blood pressure.

Many factors like increased weight, eating too much salt and smoking contribute to raised blood pressure. Stress also seems to be an important factor causing this disease.

It is therefore not surprising that almost one in three urban African women suffer from raised blood pressure. The highest rate of raised blood pressure in South Africa is found among African domestic workers.

It is not individual weakness which leads to stress. Stress is the body's normal response to oppression and exploitation. If women want to look after their bodies and their health, they must challenge the forces that oppress them. ❖

## What can you do to avoid stress?

- Plan your day and stick to your plan;
- Get other members of your household, including your children, to do their share of the house work;
- Get support from neighbours and family members by talking to them about your problems;
- Share your experiences with other women and get support from them;
- Spend some time in your day doing something you like to do and don't feel guilty about it;
- Get involved in community organisations where you can fight for the recognition of women's personal and political needs in the community.

Ronelle Carolissen is a lecturer at the Child Guidance Clinic at the University of Cape Town. π She is a member of the SA Health and Social Services Organisation (Sahsso).

# HEALTH BRIEFS

## Don't drink when you're pregnant

Pregnant women should avoid alcoholic drinks completely. It is not known what dosage is safe for the foetus. Mothers who have as little as two drinks a day during pregnancy are more likely to have babies that don't grow normally than women who don't drink at all. Women who drink later in their pregnancy are likely to have premature babies.

## AIDS statistics shooting up

According to Johannesburg's Medical Officer of Health,

about 100 000 people in Johannesburg are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Nicky Padayachee said: "scare figures will not be enough to create an awareness of AIDS. AIDS awareness must become a part of peoples daily lives." 400 hundred new cases of people with the HIV virus are reported every day.

## Smoking is more dangerous to women

Cigarette smoking causes one-third of all deaths from cancer. Women who smoke have a three times greater chance of developing lung cancer than non-smoking women. Smoking also plays a part in the development of cervical cancer. Women who smoke are more likely to suffer heart attacks and strokes. Many women fear that they will gain weight when they stop smoking. Research has shown that up to half of all women who stop do not gain weight.

*Information is from local and international publications*

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# As a matter of fact

## Rape survivors fear AIDS spread

Survivors of rape and sexual abuse in South Africa are worried about the risk of being infected with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS. Rape statistics in SA are among the highest in the world. Every 83 seconds a woman is raped. There is growing concern that SA's high rate of rape is increasing the country's HIV epidemic. In Cape Town last year, two men were jailed for the rape of an 11-year-old girl who contracted HIV during the attack and has since died of AIDS. And in Alexandra Township a seven-year-old was diagnosed with AIDS, after being sexually abused by her grandmother's boyfriend.

## Daughters are "good" too

A postmark reading "A DAUGHTER IS AS GOOD AS A SON" is being stamped on mail in India, an attempt by the government to change the country's tradition which favours boys. The low value placed on daughters has been linked to an increase in the killing of female babies. The government is also involved with grassroots literacy and skills training to improve the status of girls.

## Man wins sexual harassment case

A man who accused his female boss of sexually harassing him over a six-year period has been awarded more than a million US dollars in damages by a Los Angeles jury. He had accused his boss of hugging, kissing and fondling him almost daily despite his protests.

## Victory for Eritreans

In May this year, 98 percent of Eritreans voted in favour of independence from Ethiopia. In 1990 their 30-year-struggle ended when the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) militarily defeated the Mengistu Haile Mariam regime of

Ethiopia. For the past three years the EPLF served as an interim government. The May referendum seals the victory of the Eritrean people.

## Man with HIV sentenced

A court in Denmark sentenced a man with HIV to 18 months in prison for having unprotected sex with 23 women and two girls. Fortunately, none of the women contracted the virus. It is the first time that Denmark's law against recklessly endangering another person's life has been used in relation to HIV.

*Information from local and international publications*



# TAXI TALK



Photo by ANC Photo Unit

Women demonstrate at World Trade Centre

## How far can sisterhood go? asks *Thenjiwe Mthintso*, member of the SACP's negotiating team at the multi - party talks

**D**uring preparations for the multi-party talks earlier this year, it was the ANC-SACP Alliance which insisted that something had to be done about the absence of women from the new round of talks. Some of the delegates jeered at the suggestion. Eventually a compromise was reached and it was decided that each delegation to the talks should include at least one woman. When the talks started, women held a demonstration outside the World Trade Centre. They felt that one woman in each team was not enough to represent women at the talks to decide the future of South Africa. While the women were demonstrating, the delegations started to arrive. Among them were the women who had now

been included in each of the 26 delegations. As some of these 'ladies' walked past the demonstration, they turned up their noses at the protesting women, as if they saw them as the riff-raff of society. It seemed like they didn't know why the demonstration was happening. They didn't understand why they were getting into negotiations and had no idea that the only reason they were there at all was because of the campaigns of the women waving placards outside the World Trade Centre. They swept past like typical madams. In the World Trade Centre, a Conservative Party (CP) delegate attacked the Alliance, branding us as terrorists. Eventually this speaker was

ruled out of order. Many hands shot up. Apparently for reasons of affirmative action, the CP woman delegate was given the chance to speak. She immediately continued the attack on the ANC-SACP 'terrorists'. A National Party delegate wrote a note to the SACP. It said: 'You see! The SACP wanted women in negotiations. Now you have your victory. What does "sisterhood" really mean in South Africa today? Who do the women now in the talks really represent? Many are loyal to their parties, not to women. And many of those parties are not gender-sensitive at all. So can we really say that women are represented in the talks?' ❖

# NOTICES

## APPLYING FOR BURSARIES

The Education Information Centre (EIC) Bursary Register for 1994 provides names and addresses of institutions that offer bursaries.

It also gives addresses of technical colleges and tertiary training institutions. The register tells you who may apply, how, where and when to apply.

The book is available at leading book stores countrywide and costs R25. It can also be ordered from EIC.

*For more information contact:*

*Mpho Mothopeng-Tlaka or Teboho Mahuma*

*PO Box 62270*

*Marshalltown 2107*

*telephone: (011) 834 7861*

## Child Safety

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (Cafsa) will be hosting a National Childhood Prevention week from 1 to 7 August 1993. The week will focus on child safety.

*For more information contact:*

*Pat Telela*

*PO Box 13115*

*Sir Lowry Road 7900*

*Telephone:*

*(021) 685 5208*

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## YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Tirelo Sechaba Youth Project, a Soweto-based youth organisation has set up an environment wing to bring together environmentally concerned groups, to look at black environmental issues, organise workshops and work towards establishing a resource centre in Soweto.

*For more information contact:*

*Shadrack Madingwane*

*PO Box 1818*

*Johannesburg 200*

*Telephone: (011) 837 7955 or 803 9750*

## Arts Festival

**ARTS ALIVE** in

Johannesburg invites any group or individual presenting any creative or entertainment event to send information to them.

To ensure inclusion on the programme, send your information before September to:

*Julia Meintjies*

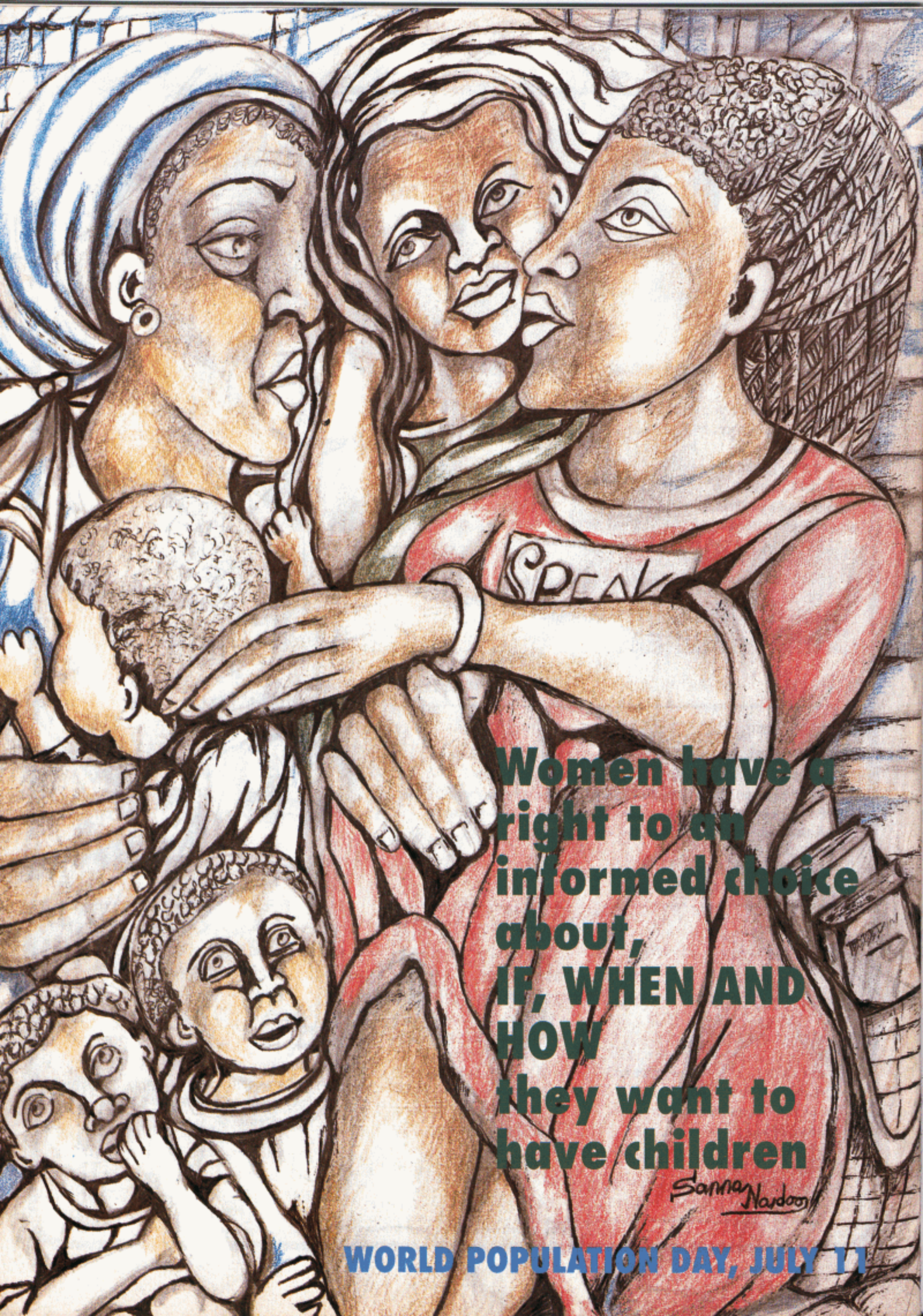
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