

October 2017

ECC Churches Group

End Conscription Campaign Churches' Subgroup

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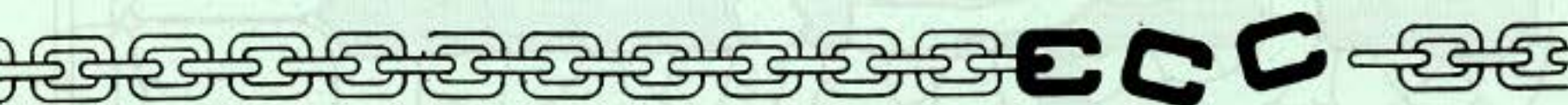
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ECC Churches Group



End Conscription Campaign

Who we are

- We are Christians
- Representing a variety of churches and Christian groups in the greater Durban area.
- We support the End Conscription Campaign

What our objective is

- To be facilitators of a learning process
- ☐ whereby conscripts and all Christian people come to an informed, well-considered and independent understanding
- ☐ on the crucial ethical issues of conscription, violence, war and militarisation, nonviolent action and civil disobedience
- ☐ and their responsibility to live and work for the justice and peace of God's kingdom
- ☐ based on Biblical principles and Christian ethics.

What we offer

- Interesting, stimulating and participatory seminars or group discussions on:-
- ☐ the different Christian positions on war,
- ☐ the Christian call to peacemaking and working for justice,
- ☐ nonviolent action,
- ☐ obedience to the authorities and civil disobedience,
- ☐ the laws pertaining to conscription, conscientious objection, legal alternatives to serving in the SADF, and the Board for Religious Objection.

We also offer

- Study material and other relevant resources.
- A counselling referral service to conscripts

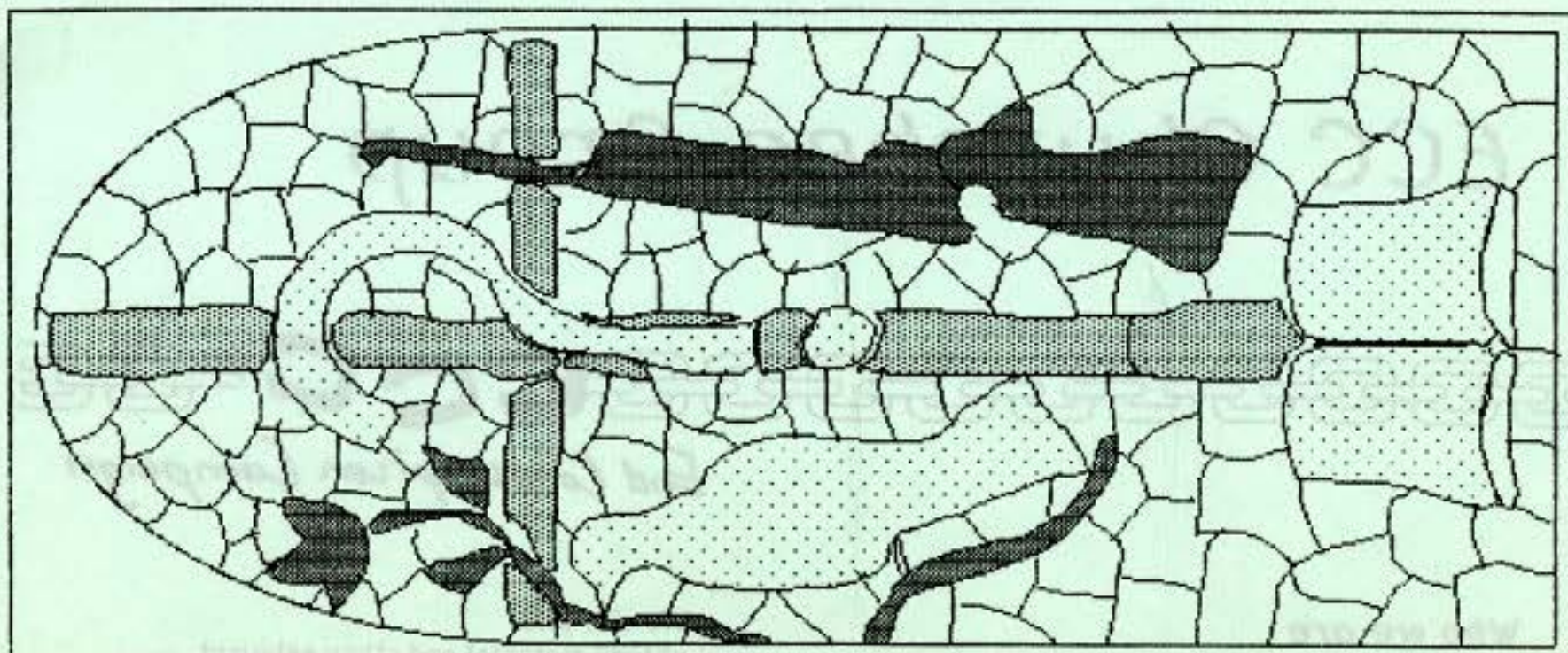
Who we offer it to

- local church/parish groups
- conscripts
- church youth groups
- clergy
- social action groups
- school, college, technikon and university Christian groups
- any other group or organisation for which the subject matter has relevance.

If you would like more information or want to make use of the services we are offering, please feel free to phone

Jackie	305-1685 (Office hrs)
Sue	312-600 (Office hrs)
Rob	593-355 x 612 (After hrs)

P.S. We can tailor our programmes, in consultation with you, according to the needs of your particular group, organisation or church.



What others say about the group

"Military conscription is a burning issue of conscience for many young people in South Africa — an issue to which the ECC has responded in an energetic and imaginative way. I'd recommend to all church groups — especially those for students and youth — to meet with them and discuss their message. They have much to offer all those who are questioning whether more guns, more soldiers and more training for war can provide a solution to South Africa's problems."

*Paddy Kearney,
Director of Diakonia*

"I find that an increasing number of young South Africans are concerned and perplexed about the ambiguity in which they find themselves when confronted with the demands to undergo military service. Many are considering the variety of options open to them. I believe that the arguments for Christians to consider need to be looked at very carefully and I encourage Methodists to work out their responsibilities in terms of the justice and peace of God's kingdom in a careful way."

*John Borman, Chairman of
Natal Coastal District,
Methodist Church*

"I have heard with deep gratification of the establishment of the ECC Churches Group. I understand that its object is to spread among Christian congregations, and especially members likely to be conscripted into the armed forces, awareness of all the issues connected with war and military involvement."

"I thank God for this splendid initiative, welcome its activities among church congregations and pray that its truly admirable endeavours will be blessed by the Lord with abundant success."

*Denis E Hurley, OMI
Archbishop of Durban, Catholic Church*

"Whereas I am aware that the chances of a peaceful non-violent revolution in our country are limited, I nonetheless believe that God is in control and is able to change the trend of events. The ECC commitment to non-violent action is commendable. It is a sign of God's Kingdom with us."

V G Nyobole, CEYD, Methodist Church

"Ideally, Christians should have the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not, in any given situation, they should participate in war. Conscription makes this very difficult. Here is a group wanting to air and discuss the issues. I commend this initiative as a valuable and important one."

*Michael Nuttall
Bishop of Durban, Anglican Church*