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War Is Not Compulsory

End Conscription Campaign

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is not compulsory
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The Nationalist Party is offering a kind of 'final solution' to our country's problems. Their key word is 'security.' Fortunately we have already seen what they are offering and what their solution is. Their solution means more troops in the townships, more press curbs and more detentions.

The government has led this country to the brink of a civil war. Now they are proposing to intensify the conflict. They propose to deal with our political problems with military solutions. **Who pays?**

We all pay. Politicians seldom fight or pay for wars themselves. We will all pay and suffer.

The End Conscription campaign says there is another way. We say:

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY LET'S CHOOSE A JUST PEACE

Over the last few months the ECC has felt the sharp edge of state repression. Many of our leaders have been detained and there have been a spate of smear pamphlets put out about us.

The government makes the same mistake with the ECC as is made with so many groups that oppose them. They believe that by using force, intimidation and disinformation that opposition will disappear.

We will not bow down to intimidation and harassment. Instead we are launching a national campaign with the theme –

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY LET'S CHOOSE A JUST PEACE

WE HAVE TO PAY THE COSTS

- In 1960 the defence budget was R44 million. In 1986 the budget was R5,25 billion.
- In 1984 SA spent 9,5 times more on defence than on health.
- For the 85/86 tax year, losses, deficiencies and fruitless expenditures by the SADF cost taxpayers R58 million.
- Defence expenditure for one day could build a medium sized hospital.
- The cost of the war in Namibia is estimated to be over R600 million annually.
- 115 members of the SADF were killed in military operations and training accidents in 1986.
- 429 soldiers attempted suicide in 1986. 24 died.

Let's choose a just peace

The human and economic cost that spring from the governments inability to find political accommodation for all South Africans is ruining our society and our lives.

The demands that this government makes on its people is unreasonable and unjust. We realise that peace isn't just going to fall from the sky, but we believe that the way to work for peace is to strive for justice. The End Conscription Campaign as the representative of a significant number of conscripts, calls for the rights of the individual conscript to be upheld.

We demand that:

- Troops should have the right to choose to refuse to serve in the Townships or Namibia.
- Alternative non-military forms of National Service should be made available to all conscripts.

THE ROOT OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY

No one can deny that the system of Government in this country is being challenged by mass opposition, particularly in the townships. Why?

- In the 'homelands', 13% of land is allocated to over 70% of the population.
- Since 1960, 4 million blacks have been forcibly removed from their homes and 'resettled' in these 'homelands'.
- 75% of South Africans have no say in the government.
- Almost all amenities in SA, from hospitals to public toilets, are separate and unequal.
- Family life for millions has been destroyed by the migratory labour system.
- There is 2 doctors to 400 whites and 2 to 90 000 blacks.
- Over 50% of African households have an income of less than R150 per month.
- Over 7 times as much is spent on educating a white child than a black child.
- Black unemployment stands at over 3 million.
- Since 12 June 1986, 30 000 anti-apartheid activists have been detained without trial. Few have been charged.
- 70 people have died in the custody of the security police.

The government has chosen to meet resistance to apartheid conditions with the State of Emergency, detentions, bannings etc. This is no solution. The solution lies in genuine political change and negotiations with all recognised leaders and organisations.

Choose
a just
peace



ECC has opted for peace. During the course of this year, ECC will be promoting the peace option by attempting to counter, wherever possible, the growing and damaging militarisation of our society.

Projects will be undertaken nationally to show the viability and constructiveness of non-military forms of National Service. Events will also be held to remember all those who have died or been impaired through the war. Many other local activities have also been planned. ECC will keep you informed.

For more information phone 3045883
Or write to ECC, 20 St. Andrews St., Durban
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**JOIN US IN THIS
CAMPAIGN FOR
PEACE.**



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