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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT

PO BOX 31791
Lusaka, Zambia
Telephone: 219656/7
Telex: 45390

Chairperson,
RWC/ANC
3 Lincolna Road,
HARARE

23rd August, 1989

Dear Comrade,

We attach hereby a photocopy of a letter which is self-explanatory. We request you to do the following:

1. Obtain as much information as possible about the SANNAP PROJECT in a systematic and detailed way, such as

- materials used
- production method
- durability and hygiene of the product.

2. Opinions of the users.

3. Your own opinion.

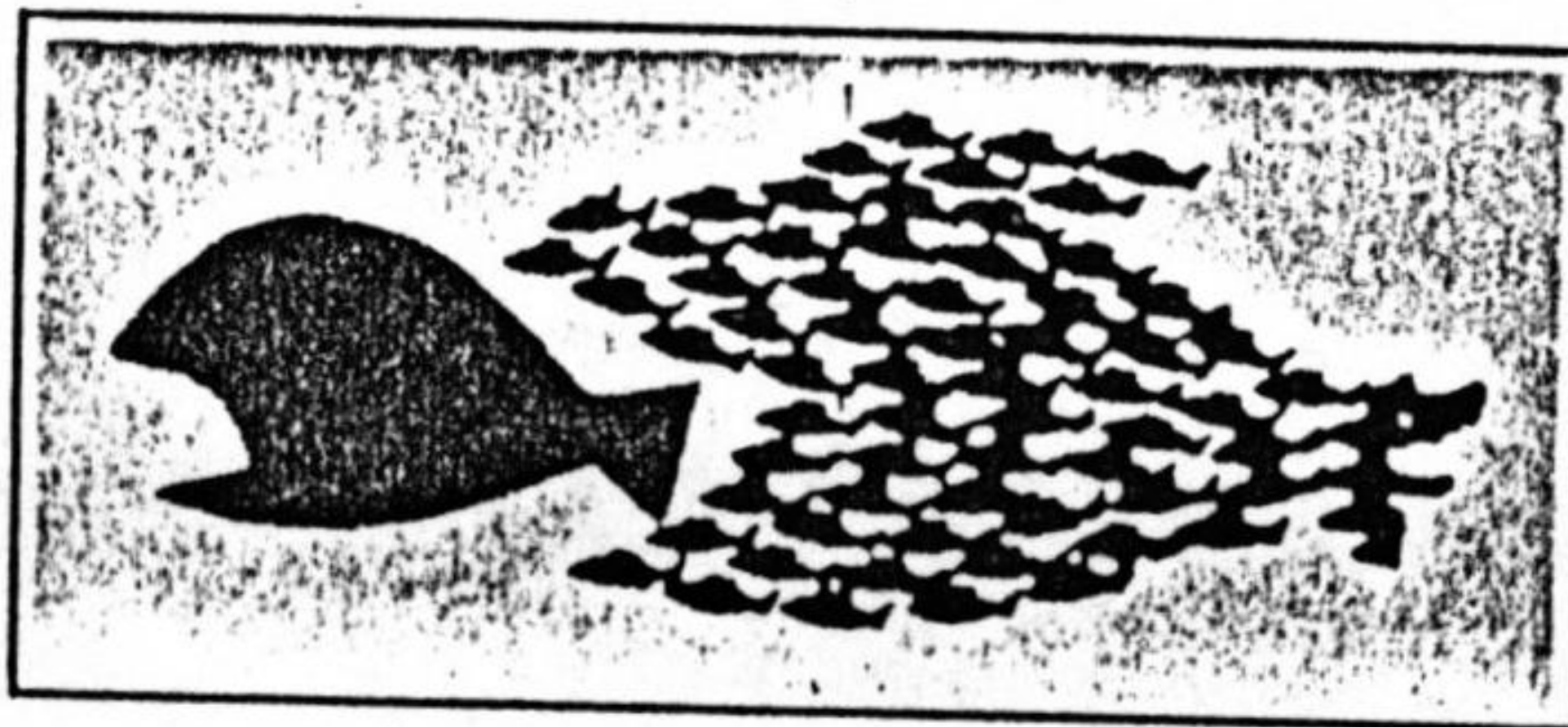
It would be useful to include a medical profession person when assessing the Project. Please do not postpone this task, we need the information.

Yours in the struggle for a free democratic non-racist non-sexist South Africa!

AAm nyobe.

Gertrude Shope
Head, Women's Section

**OTTAWA-CARLETON
CUPE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



280 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1R7

24/04/89
**CONSEIL DU DISTRICT
OTTAWA-CARLETON DU SCFP**

Cde Gertrude Chop
Director of ANC
Women's Section
Lusaka, Zambia

April 3, 1989

Dear Gertrude,

Greetings from the Canadian Union of Public Employees District Council of Ottawa-Carleton (CUPE).

I am writing to you regarding the meeting which took place between members of the Women's Section, the CUPE delegation, Tricia Sadoway and Shellie Bird and the CUSO field staff Joanann Nolan on March 21, 1989 in Lusaka.


It was during this meeting that you expressed your concerns about the difficulty faced by girls and women in obtaining sufficient sanitary protection during their menstrual period, and how it caused disruption in school attendance and lost time for working women.

Upon returning to Canada we spoke with Bibiana Seaborn, a woman who has been working on women's issues in Southern Africa. She spoke to us of her involvement in the cooperative movement in Zimbabwe and in particular her involvement in the Jacaranda SANNAP Project. This project grew out of the same you are presently dealing with in Lusaka. The Jacaranda Project developed out of the need to provide girls and women with easily available and affordable sanitary protection. A Women's Sewing Cooperative was commissioned to design, produce and market safe, re-usable sanitary napkins.

I have taken the liberty of writing to the Women's Action Group (WAG) care of the Jacaranda Project in Harare regarding your situation in Lusaka. I thought that if you felt it was something worth pursuing you could write to WAG and request more information about the project. Maybe together you and the WAG could come up with a solution which could be of benefit to the both of you.

The Council would look forward to hearing from you on the outcome of this endeavour. We will be with you in wishing you the best of luck in finding a solution to this problem.

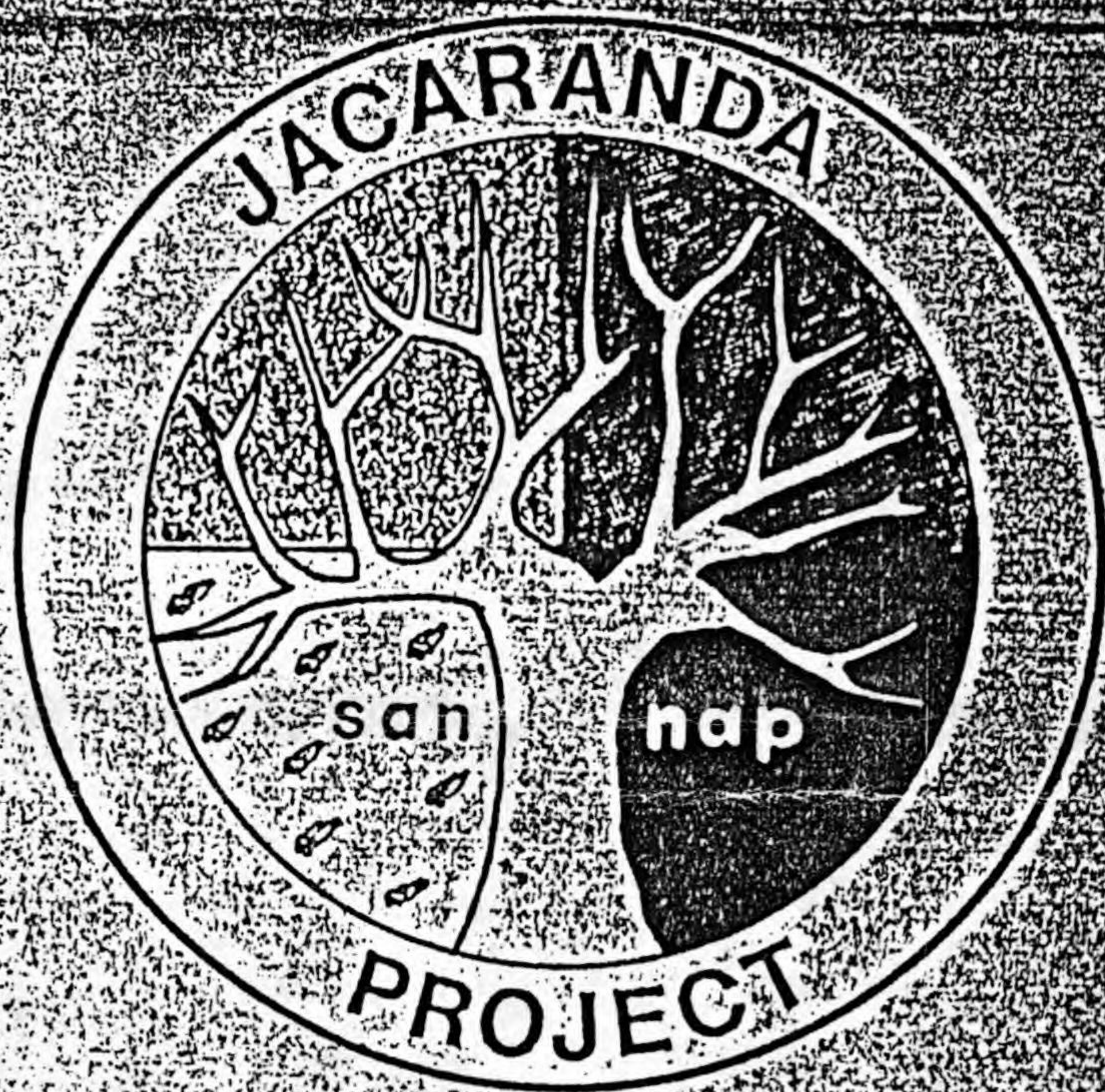
In Solidarity



Shellie Bird

JACARANDA

SANNAP PROJECT



The History: Part One

November 1984 — February 1987

- Womens Action Group
P.O. Box 135 Harare or 127 Union Ave
Zimbabwe
- Jacaranda SANNAP Project
P.O. Box 4700
Avondale, Harare
Zimbabwe



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PO BOX 31791
Lusaka, Zambia
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26 June, 1989

The Secretary
Regional Women's Committee
African National Congress
Harare
ZIMBABWE.

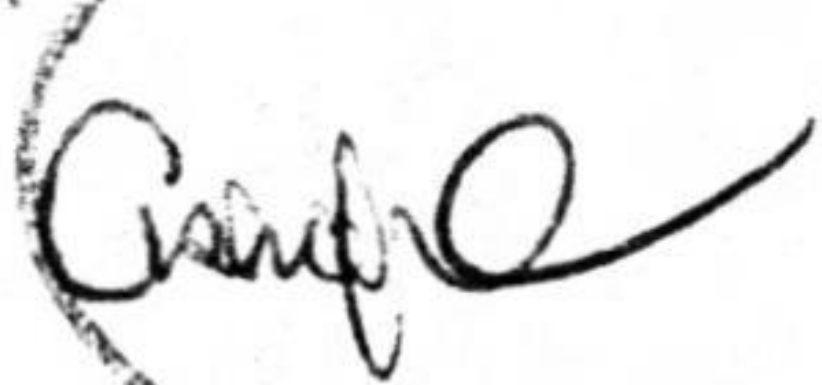
Dear Comrade,

Enclosed is a letter from Shellie Bird to comrade Getrude Shope.
The letter is self-explanatory.

The Women's Secretariat has decided to refer the letter to your region for the RWC to make a follow up. We request your committee to contact the Jacaranda SANNAP Project and to assess whether our women can benefit from it. The RWC should take into consideration the fact that though a lot of improvement in supply of sanitary protection for women in our organisation has taken place, shortages are still experienced by our women in some regions, in particular Tanzania.

Hoping for your prompt attention to this matter,

In the Year of Mass Action for People's Power!


Gertrude Shope

(Head - Women's Section)

I have written to the 'NC Women's Section giving a very brief introduction to the Jacaranda SANNAP Project and suggested that if it is something that would benefit them they could write to you to request more information.

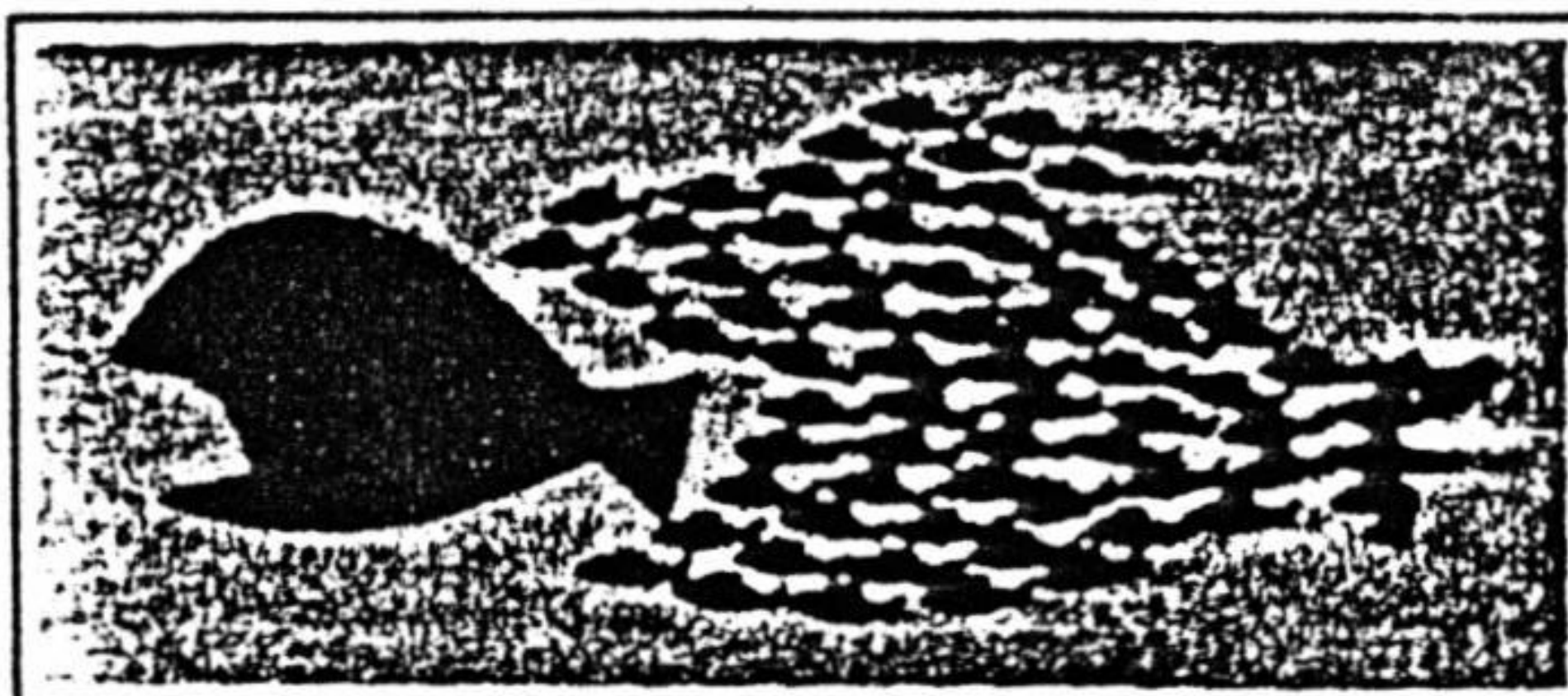
Maybe together you and the Women's Section could come up with a solution that could be beneficial in addressing their needs and at the same time expand the work of the Jacaranda Project.

The Council would be very grateful if you could write and let us know how things work out. Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter. We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

In Solidarity

Shellie Bird

**OTTAWA-CARLETON
CUPE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**CONSEIL DU DISTRICT
OTTAWA-CARLETON DU SCFP**

280 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1R7

Cde Elizabeth Rider
Women's Action Group
Box 135
Harare, Zimbabwe

April 3, 1989

Dear Comrades,

Greetings, my name is Shellie Bird, I am a member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees District Council of Ottawa-Carleton. I have just recently to Canada from a visit to Southern Africa. The delegation of which I was part of spent two weeks in Mozambique visiting with the OTM (Organization of Mozamican Workers). We then travelled to Zimbabwe where we met with OCCZIM members and the ZCTU. We then proceeded onto Zambia where we met with members of the ANC Women's Section in Lusaka.

Comrade Gertrude Chope the Director of the Women's Section spoke to us of the many activities and issues that they are currently busy with. She explained to us that one of the more pressing issues facing girls and women in the region is the problem of insufficient sanitary protection. She told us that for many women and girls the cost of sanitary protection was too costly even when they were occasionally available in the shops.

In Canada Bibiana Seaborn heard of the meeting which took place between the womens Section and the CUPE delegation and of the concerns of the Women's Section regarding sanitary protection. We met with Bibiana and upon her recommendation I am writing you this letter to inquire about the possibility of your group corresponding with the Women's Section about the Jacaranda Project. Perhaps you could address their concerns and if possible offer some information and advice on how they could resolve this problem.

Formulating Policy

Legislative there but practice is something else

FRG - giving & taking in the same breath within the same const.

- cannot be done from above but also from below
- law - legislating & administrative practice being something else
- pronouncements of the leadership / silence
- structure of educ, health & welfare

Constitutional & Legal Aspects with regard to Constitutional.

const - in guidelines

Charter of women's right

legislation

- Affirmative action to accompany legislation

N.B. lowering of 'old' cause of Affir. action

to overcome decades of inequality, a form of inequality in itself

When making statements, grouping women in the same category as children & old people as if women are something below evd. man who also is not trained ???

Rather not use person to person but man & woman might through when writing & talking?

Assimilationist equality = black = whites ?? women = men
Reproductive rights - controlling fertility, contraception & abortion?

Violence - gender related violence

Left of Const & Charter - an annex to Const, easily amended, a law itself

very charter & see very seen, & diff procedure to amend.

National Policy Guidelines

- an ongoing research analysis prog.
- a declaration on women's equality → Affirmative Action = a token gesture model over
- material base of gender oppression ???

gender oppression

- not a consequence of colonial conquest + predates !!!
- a paragraph in the const explaining what gender oppression is ???

Conflict between culture respecting people's trad + Gender upliftment
Who has the right to control one's fertility

best policies for the future
maternity leave

Explain whether what is in the Guidelines will necessarily be in the const? (Policy)

Units as a form of govt as proposed by ANC + MSM
United for the sake of bulkiness of S.A. as for international
community + as for form of govt whether Fed or Unitary
this being left for the negotiating table

Promotion of Oppressed cultures (Policy)

Mixed economy (for planning) so we take over some kind of
state with some kind of mixed econ. etc.)

Family sector ?? children involvement

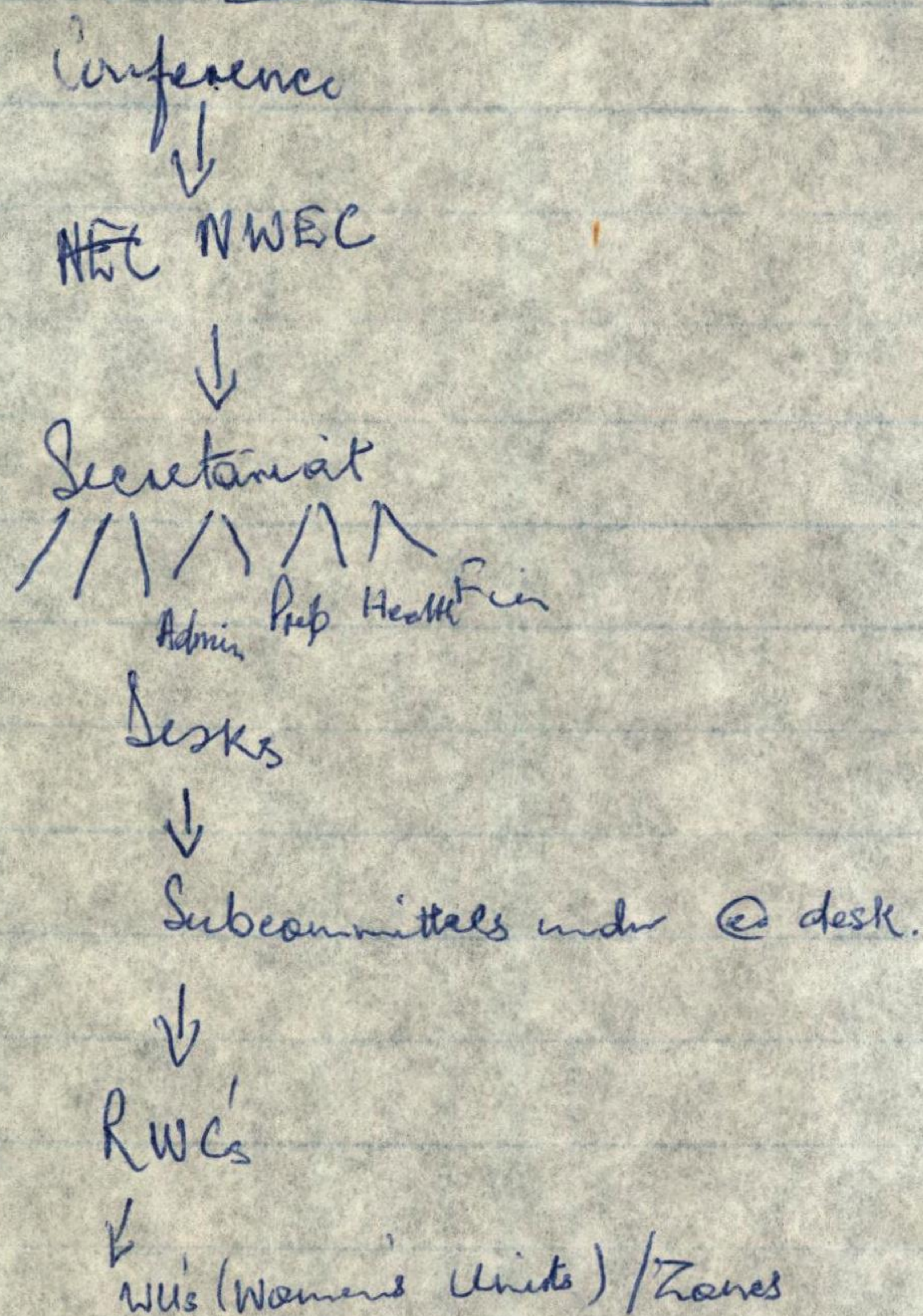
Land and women (Planning)

Women - to be reformulated at ambiguous
par. as it stands, women part of sec + not existing in isolation
(family - to be discussed in (policy + legislation)
possible to discriminate amongst themselves.

Paternity leave + Maternity leave. [Subject to further discussion]
matter for discussion, def, length,

Sexual abuse + violence (within ANC) action

WS Structure



Experiences in running WS

- Finance.
 - Recog of WS in regions
 - Transport
- Access to info esply on women's affairs in part on internal issues
no grasp of issues, whether WS only for ANC in exerts
yet internal women look up to you.

3 departs headed by women, WS, DAL, Health, food & areas for women
On the av. women in low or middle level.

- no women in senior positions of the ANC
- lack of staff devt in departs

Gender Specific problems

- domestic resp.
 - looking after childrens unsuitability
 - sewing & supplying household items

The Post Position of Women in the ANC

Role of Women's leagues (Comm., comparative study ^{of W's in Africa} ^{context} for a future dem. S.A. [↑]

Prescriptions by ANC about women to be in the leadership

NS to be seen as a polit organ then a welfare organ,

The polished image of the ANC polit as perceived by our membership in genl...

- Women Asserting themselves? What is wrong
- Wrong Deployment of Cadres?
- Skills

selected positions

Women ^{still} ~~trad~~ in these ^{trad} areas eg. Nursing, Med.

Commission

→ increase of no's of women in the whole org

o mobil of women into the ranks of the mov.

power of the women themselves - husbands? husbands

women educated - pushing of women Section into being a secret

welfare org

- Marriage & Participation as an end institution

- attitudes towards @ other
- awareness of own own creation
- the groups for own houses are set up / organized

- hence prescription

- Making other

other

the intellectuals - be integrated into women's org. at local level, class interests,

Programmes of Action for different sections

- comparative studies Research.

- Progs for diff. Sectors

MDM !!

- Women rep in the context Comm.

11/12/89

Women Children

The Situation of Children within the Context of the International Children's Rights

- pop Reg. Act against the Human Rights Int. Charter on Children
- 1913 - no mention of Africa children
- Amend. 1937 (27) - Juvenile Courts
- " 1960 - " " " " " only procedure
- & towards discipline
- " 1983 - promoting proper parenting, Act meant for operation across colour line
- Socio econ. conditions under which it's to be implemented
- Facilities for Social Services:
- inadequate for Prim. Health Care (PHC.)
- privatisation of Hest's
- low childcare budgets
- lack of social workers - poorly paid
- State run homes - heavily subsidised by govt - for white children
- none for Black children

under Family Law (Children)

- born out of marriage
- Adopted
- Modern law - Out of wedlock
- Situation of Children more severe at the time of the promulgation of Act 74 of 1983.

- kidnapping of children, abuse, Aids, trafficking.

Demographic study \leq informing about the distribution of children's age.

- drug abuse
- monitoring Africa's endeavours in this direction
- taking into consideration customary law.
- setting up a Comm. on children, a seminar together with the MDM.

Towards a Charter of Children's Rights

- recommend a declaration on a children's rights

Welfare of ANC Children in exile

- diff. exile conditions under which they have -

An ANC child. ???

- Parenting

- guarantee protection of children

- joint resp in the upbringing

Age of Majority

* Moulding of Children

-> A child a resp. of the soc. \therefore the state expected to reciprocate.

-> Econ. depression affecting children directly

Poverty

1 in every 3 children suffering from malnutrition

Rampant ill health, high mortality rate

1:5 within children under 5
5:3 " " " " " "

55% of all death = Black Children
30% " " " " Black Children ???

Unicef approx pop. of S.A presently = 31 - 35m
- Operative Hunger assists in cases of actual illness

- Child Mortality, a reliable index for std of living in gen. for Society

→ Infant birth weight (IBW) if low ^{below} or chances are high for one to die of heart disease ^{or} during adulthood.

- S.A. Min. of Health. replying to quest ^{access to} of health services in S.A.

* - Children have an indiv. right to be housed, "conditions of persistent violence within the family."

'Ministers of children' - 'Department' ^{over} Affairs of children's separate from those of parents

* An African Charter for Children

- 'Statistics'

- Child labour + banning

- Quick to attack Apartheid state + Apologetic to shopfalls of Afr'n gods preparing a way for apologising for our own f P.C. just tomorrow.

Resp + Rights
Rights → Resp.
Right for a child

who exercises these rights

Right for a child

- Right for a child to inheritance ???

Issues - S.A. Child

- Joint Responsibility by parents for the upbringing of children & ^{Mechanisms}
- Rights of children + participation

Children's Officers, Youth

Parent Campaigns = ^{in dilapidated houses} street kids

Legacy = ^{Homeless} child labour

0-7 years

7-16 years Juvenile

16- Childhood

14-18 Adolescent

18- Early adulthood.

0-6 Infancy

7-13 Childhood

14-18 Adolescence

16-18 Early Adulthood.

- lumping together of children with the wife/mother & yet put the responsibility of upbringing upon the mother

Diff. between the right of a parent over a child
+ a resp. of the parent
+ the rights of the child

Diff. between Custody & Guardianship, legally.

- within S.A. context custody for the one who has monetary adv. above the other & yet in Cust. law custody is a right of the man.

- for PASA Guardianship should be the right of both parents

Right + Resp. Diff.

are a structure
Rights ← Connotations of universalism
Self determination
human worth/dignity

→ a duty imposed upon @ other
→ a resp to implement these.
→ are not socially constructed??

- Albie's paper on the issues raised within the context of Bill of Rights for a declaration deals more with issues that the law cannot provide but what society has to understand thus = social context.

- legal capacity of the child to exercise the right
→ can the child be sued

* Finnish Way of dealing with abuse ← a watchdog
a instant way towards immediate attention

- a law against child labour
ILO Convention anyone from 16 yrs + above + also all 16 yrs + below
being at school for free + compulsory educ

- A human erg as a making fact in the same manner as other sectors

* Kidnappings of ~~St White~~ girls + children across borders, disappearing completely, a trade by a gang or underworld regarding selling small young girls -
* Streetkids - repeat stealing cars, drugs in the PNV / Ite area
Parents appealing now to address this issue
examine, solution for Man. ↑ (Jackboiling)
esp in girl child being victims

[Sicilo Blamo at Harare children's Conference
who was killed by the ff day. Nothing was
done regarding campaigning about him.]

Ministry of Children in the same manner as in him
President's office
Higher Educ.
Scholarships
Prim Educ.

def. of an ANC children - from both ANC members
- from one parent being an ANC member
with legal consent to adoption of the
child as ANC.

S. A.'s Family and Marriage Law Reformed:

by Jack Simons

- two marriage systems, recognized by law in SA.
Customary Union
Marriage entered into under Comm. Law

- Explanation Matrimonial Law Amendment Act of 1988

in the past, a man married under Customary law could dissolve this union on his own.

- > Need for a declaration by a Black Man before a marriage officer, that there is no other union engaged in before

- > Marriage Act NO 21 of 1978 - in Transkei Hybrid^{??} a man can be married irrespective of having been married customarily before. ^{Marriage}

Equalizing Marriages

A move to put customary

What kind of Kind of Marriage wanted ???

- An ANC Marriage ??

- Statutory Marriage - also obeying customary law responsibilities

- Regenie's attempts to coopt women? Recognition

- Genderism a response to Male domination

Marriages under Customary Law

- Matrimonial Act of 1984 - pressure solely by White women
- All SAs outside Bantustans can marry under Antenuptial Contract - divorce

- Statement by Coetzee in Parliament regarding women - Min. of Justice

Quest - NO ANC Marriage in fact that, Most of us leaving pseudonyms
wherever there were students in the E. Countries the S.G.O's
has to ascertain whether applicants are married or not
before

Quest - Explanation on Gendersim as an ideology at this
stage

- → Elaboration on how the regime is winning
women over.

resp. → Strategy employed by regime, posing as
protectors of women