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SWS/22/2009/6

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE ANC (SA) WOMEN'S SECTION

Taking into account the demands placed on the Women's Secretariat by the present stage of our struggle inside the country, we submit the following recommendations:-

A. STRUCTURE

We recommend that:-

1. The Head of Women's Section to automatically be part of the NEC.
2. The size of the Secretariat to be increased to cope with new and specific tasks envisaged by the Women's Section, drawing especially on recommendations presented by the Lusaka unit to the conference and with additional desks if necessary.
3. The Secretariat, together with one representative appointed by each region, form a Women's Council which should meet twice a year.
4. A representative of the Women's Section to work full-time in each office where possible.
5. A representative of the Women's Section to be a member of the Logistics Committee in each region.
6. The Conference mandates the Women's Section in Lusaka to form a Propaganda Unit to meet demands of lack of manpower the Secretariat is faced with, and for long-term objectives that a permanent and full-time research and propaganda unit be established.
7. Qualified journalists come to man VOW, and appeal to our women comrades to come forward to work full-time in strengthening our work in propaganda and publicity.
8. The Lusaka Children's Committee serve as a pioneer sub-committee of the Secretariat to be responsible for children's activities in all centres in liason with the Secretariat.

B. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

We recommend that:-

The ANC initiates an international conference, calling upon leading experts on the Crime of GENOCIDE as perpetrated by the Pretoria fascist regime and in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Crime of Genocide.

DECLARATIONS AND APPEAL

1. a) We call for the condemnation of the South African fascist invasion and the devastation of Southern Angola as well as the Reagan Administration's support and encouragement of violation of international law and aggression against the independent countries of Southern Africa.
- b) We appeal to American women to act against the position taken by the Reagan Administration in its support for the fascist South African regime. (This is to be launched^h at the ICSA Conference).
- c) We appeal to South African women to prevent and discourage their sons and husbands from joining the murderous South African army in its barbaric atrocities against the oppressed people of South Africa and the peace-loving peoples of Southern Africa.
2. An urgent campaign against immigration to South Africa directly linking it to the crime of genocide, be conducted in light of the current economic crisis in Western Europe and the fascist recruitment drive for white skilled labour there. This campaign can be launched^h at the coming Women's Conference in Prague and elsewhere.
3. The international^{na} boycott of South Africa be intensified in co-operation with our support groups in the international community.
4. The Women's Section maximally mobilise women for the 70th Anniversary of the ANC and that a committee be created to prepare for these commemorations.

5. A pass laws and influx control campaign is to be launched in all forms of propaganda campaign internally and internationally. Co-operation should be sought with DIP to send out directives to our propaganda organs on this matter.
6. Clothing collected from the international community be channelled inside especially into the rural areas.

POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CADRE DEVELOPMENT

One of the tasks of the Women's Secretariat is the political development of women Cadres beginning from the unit to the national level. We therefore, recommend:-

1. Literacy classes be conducted wherever we have comrades who cannot read and write.
2. Basic ANC documents be translated into various African languages.
3. A document explaining the three-fold oppression of black women in a logical and scientific manner be produced to serve as a study guide for the entire movement.
4. Study and discussions on above question to be carried out on unit, regional and national level for the benefit of entire membership - men and women.
5. Full utilization of opportunities afforded Women's Section by International and friendly organisations e.g. Cuban Women's Organisation for the political education of ANC Women.
6. On the basis of development and potential, women must be appointed and given greater responsibilities at the same pace as men in all departments to even out inequality, also taking into account the special situation out of which they emerge. There should be equal opportunities for men and women at all levels and where men find it difficult to accept women's authority or leadership, there should be mechanisms within the movement to educate them.

FAMILY POLICY

In principle, we accept the right of the movement to disperse cadres wherever they are needed. Yet, at the same time we know from experience that when couples are separated, morale and a sundry of practical social problems set in, which invariably affect the political contribution and effectiveness of our cadres. In the light of this we recommend:-

1. The implementation by the movement of a policy which, wherever possible keeps families together.
2. The movement to find assistance from International Organisations e.g. UNESCO and other educational institutions to make grants or scholarships available for the education of children where one parent is a full-time ANC worker. This would relieve the one overworked parent and enable her/him to engage in more ANC activities. Decisions should be made on a case by case basis.

RESEARCH

We recommend that:-

1. SAREC and SIDA (Sweden) be approached to help with the establishment of a Women's Research Unit.

Comrades are first members of the ANC and therefore, fall under the discipline of the Movement. As such no member of the ANC has the right to publish books in the international community without prior discussion and approval of the ANC.

CHILD CARE

We recommend for:-

- a) Systematic eradication of attitudes comrades (both male and female) have on child care through seminars, lectures, talks and drawing of experiences from other countries, e.g. in places like SOMAFECO, as from standard five, lessons should be given on child care with a political content.

- b) The immediate establishment of a residential child care centre in Mazimbu.
- e) For the training in courses of child care, nutrition, catering and any other related courses.
- d) Various regions to help identify and notify the movement of trained child care personnel or people who can be trained in the area, and who will be able to inculcate our culture etc.
- e) The residential child care centre and nursery to continue to be under the Women's Secretariat due to its national character and the position of the Women's Section in East Africa.
- f) Child Care Centre to have a qualified matron.
- g) Child Care Centre to have its own transport and driver.
- h) Parents to leave their children turn the age of two before they go for further studies or other revolutionary duties. But this can only be implemented when we have trained and enough staff to substitute mothers.
- i) The Child Care Centre to be represented in the directorate of Mazimbu.
- j) The reversal of the NEC decision on sending children to relatives or foster parents in view of the fact that it is a negation of our establishment for the child care centre and the effects it has on the children.
- k) The Women's Secretariat to directly involve SOMAFECO in identifying suitable girls to undertake training in child-care.
- l) The Women's Secretariat to immediately create conditions for work in the child care centre in terms of accommodation and personnel while the construction of the child care centre in Mazimbu should be considered of priority in the moment, and the Secretariat assign one of its members to follow-up on the question of the care centre.

HEALTH

The Conference recommends:-

1. That the Women's Section directly involve itself with problems of adolescent pregnancy, practically counselling our young women on the use of contraceptives as well as periodically visiting them.
2. That the medical department together with the Women's Secretariat should take a deliberate decision as soon as possible to meet, prepare and council young comrades, male and female at points of entry and other centres.
3. That family planning and sex education be a part of the curriculum for young comrades.
4. That the Medical Department should seriously consider the question of abortions and that they should be procured not on demand, but when necessary and under specified circumstances and all specific age groups.
5. That rehabilitation and recreational programmes for the comrades involved in dagga and alcohol consumption be established; continuous counselling with occupational therapy to be implemented.
6. That the women should take the example of Lusaka and form Relief Committees to see to the welfare of our sick comrades (so as not to leave the whole issue to the medical health teams).
7. That a commission be set up by the NEC to investigate the health situation of our comrades in East Africa and other areas.
8. That the Women's Section in co-ordination with the Medical Department should see to the renovation of Kurasini - the sick bay immediately. A welfare officer in East Africa should also be involved in this exercise.
9. That medical manpower of all categories should be trained and in the meantime, the NEC should recall our doctors and other health personnel to come and work for the Movement.

10. That the Women's Section (Secretariat) contact the International Planned Parenthood Federation branch in Tanzania to support the expulsion of South Africa from this body, and to solicit technical and material support.
11. That the NEC should see to it that the Medical treatment of our comrades in countries abroad is regularised.
12. That the Women's Secretariat should approach DAPP (of Denmark) for the donation of mobile water tanks storage equipment and water tablet making machine for some of our centres.

EDUCATION

The Conference recommends that:-

1. The appropriate age for children commencing primary school be five (5) years.
2. A National Children's Organisation with the policy, objectives and forms of work as suggested in the preamble of the paper of the ANC Children's Committee should be formed.
 - This organisation be placed under the Women's Secretariat, with a person in the Secretariat assigned to follow up the details organisation.
 - The name MASUPATSELA, (pathfinders) be retained as the name of our Pioneer Organisation.
 - SOMAFCO be recognised as the source of the core of this national organisation.
 - Leadership training of our youth on special courses be a deliberate conscious policy.
3. A trained matron for supervising or counselling our young women be obtained in SOMAFCO - to be able to discuss political, social and academic problems with the young girls and boys.

4. Following on the request from the student leaders, a clarification on their relation to the Women's Section should be made and in this respect, a Student's Women's Unit should be formed in the school to assist with the functions of the Women's Section.
5. There should be counselling of young women at SOMAFCO for courses in child care.
6. Literacy and language classes to be conducted in all our areas and centres. To submit list of women indicating level of education, skill, interest and field of interested study.
7. There should be closer co-ordination between the Women's Secretariat and the scholarship's committee in relation to scholarships. There should also be frequent visits by a Women's leader to students.
8. Finding a politically and generally qualified matron for SOMAFCO who can appropriately supervise and lead our young women.
9. Organise young women students at SOMAFCO into manageable group under the leadership of ANC Women Comrades in East Africa who will become mother-sister figure for each group.
10. Secretariat encourages practically, the development of "peer system" help where older girls can in an organized manner assist younger girls with questions related to interrelations between boys and girls.
11. Resolved that movement sets up an ANC office in the Soviet Union in view of the number of students there.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

The Conference recommend that the whole question of the operation of the nursery school be considered at a joint meeting of Women's Section, the personnel of the nursery and the Educational Department.

GENERAL

We recommend that Conference papers be developed and edited into booklet form. This should be used both externally and internally.

This First Conference of ANC Women's Section outside the country salutes our heroic militant women struggling against the onslaught of the fascist regime.

In this, the 25th Anniversary of the South African Women's Day, we pay tribute to our sisters and mothers who marched on Pretoria, the citadel of racist oppression, 1956. In paying tribute to the heroic struggle of the South African women, we recommend that the movement declare 1983 as "South African Women's Year".

We commend the mood of resistance demonstrated by our women against forced removals, pass laws, rent and bus-fare increases. The determined resolve of our women in prisons, in their work places, and wherever they face the brutality of the racist regime is the source of inspiration to us in our work of soliciting the continued and selfless support from the international community and the progressive women of the world.

Special tribute goes to our women in the ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe in its 20 Anniversary.

A M A N D L A N G A W E T H U!

M A T L A K E A R O N A!

M A Y I B U Y E I-A F R I K A!