

ADVANCE

POWER!

ANC

1912â\200\2241987

TO PEOPLEâ\200\231S

The Freedom

Charter

Vision of a Peopleâ\200\2315

South Africa

The Charter is more than a mere

—

.

list of demands for democratic reforms. It is a revolutionary docuâ\200\224ment precisely because the changes it envisages cannot be won without X breaking up the economic and political set-up of present South Africa. To win these demands calls for the organization, launching and develâ\200\224opment of mass struggles on the widest scale. .If the united front is -zstrengthened and developed, the Freedom Charter Will be transformed into a dynamic and living institution and we shall vanquish all opposition and win the South Africa of our dreams in our lifetime.

- C~~

What is the Freedom Charter?

The Freedom Charter contains the fundamental perspective of the vast majority of the people of South

I Africa of the kind of liberation that . we, all of us, are fighting for. Hence it is not merely the Freedom Charter . of the African National Congress

â\200\230â\200\234 and its allies. Rather it is the Charter
of the people of South Africa for

_, liberation. It was drawn up on the
â\200\230 basis of the demands of the vast

â\200\230

masses of our Country and adopted at an elected Congress
of the People. Because it came from the people, it remains
still a Peopleâ\200\231s Charter, the one basic political statement of
our goals to which all genuinely democratic and patriotic
forces of South Africa adhere.

When we together drew up and adopted the Freedom

Charter we set ourselves firmly against all so-called refor-
mist solutions to the South Africa problem... We do not fight
to reform apartheid, but to abolish it in its entirety... We do
not fight to gain some illusory liberties in areas set aside by
the enemy or as this or the other national group... We want
freedom for all our people as equals, brothers and sisters in
one united and democratic South Africa. We did not call for
â\200\230power sharingâ\200\231 with the regime of the oppressors but firmly
and unequivocally challenged the legitimacy of that regime
and its right to govern us... We must state the point boldly
that this regime has no right to rule this country.

Nelson Mandela, June 1956.

A.N.C. President Oliver Tambo,
8 January 1980.

The Freedom Charter

All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and
authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-
government.

We, the people of South Africa,

declare for all our country and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and

white, and that no government can justly Claim authority
unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to
land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded
on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all

our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and
opponunMes;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the

people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of
colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and

white together- equals, countrymen and brothers- adopt this
Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive toge-
ther, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the demoâ\200\224
cratic changes here set out have been won.

The People Shall Govern

All National Groups

Shall Have Equal Rights

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;

All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;

The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

The People Shall Share
in the Country's Wealth

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote and to the well-being of the people;

stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

â\200\224

There Shall be Peace and Friendship

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which
respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the
settlement of all international disputes by negotiationâ\200\224 not
war;

Peace and friendship among all our people shall be
secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and
status of all;

The people of the protectoratesâ\200\224 Basutoland, Bechuana-
land and Swaziland- shall be free to decide for themselves
their own future;

The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and
self-government shall be recognized, and shall be the basis
of Close cooperation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say,
as we say here:
These freedoms we will fight for,
side by side, throughout our lives
until we have won our liberty.

Adopted at the Congress of the People
Kliptown, South Africa, 26 June 1955.

Published by the World Peace Council Information Centre
to mark 75th anniversary of the
African National Congress (SA), 1987.

There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers; Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

The Doors of Learning and Culture

Shall be Opened

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life; All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children;

Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass education plan; Teachers shall have all the rights of other Citizens; The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

There Shall be Houses,
Security and Comfort

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Unused housing space shall be made available to the people;

Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;

A preventative health scheme shall be run by the state; Free medical care and hospitalization shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young Children;

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be

cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;
Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and

laws which break up families shall be repealed.

There Shall be Peace and Friendship

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which

respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the

settlement of all international disputes by negotiation- not war;

Peace and friendship among all our people shall be

secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;

The people of the protectorates- Basutoland, Bechuana-land and Swaziland- shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;

The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognized, and shall be the basis of Close cooperation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:

These freedoms we will fight for,
side by side, throughout our lives
until we have won our liberty.

Adopted at the Congress of the People
Kliptown, South Africa, 26 June 1955.

Published by the World Peace Council Information Centre

to mark 75th anniversary of the

African National Congress (SA), 1987.

The 1948 Freedom
Charter