

A SUGGESTED PROGRAMME OF TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES FOR
CHILDREN RANGING FROM SEVEN YEARS TO SIXTEEN YEARS

OBJECTIVES

1. To reinforce the basic political consciousness of, the understanding of and the affinity to the ANC (SA) children have acquired through the efforts of their parents and others who are members of the ANC (SA).
2. To bring a width and depth to the children's understanding of the historical, political and socio-cultural developments, and their inter-relations, of the oppressed people of South Africa.
3. To provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying principles affecting
 - (a) the historical development of the ANC (SA)
 - (b) the involvement of the present-day structure of the ANC (SA)
 - (c) the involvement of the policies of the ANC (SA) as expressed in the FREEDOM CHARTER.
 - (d) the role of the ANC (SA) as a liberatory organisation operating inside South Africa and elsewhere as in countries in Africa and in Europe.
 - (e) the task of the ANC (SA) in directing the people in a liberated South Africa.

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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES

The Role of Teachers and other adults

In order to ensure a critical consciousness with a proper understanding of ANC (SA) objectives, it is important

- (a) to make use of teachers who are ANC(SA) members to plan and supervise the sessions with the children, in rotation.
- (b) to invite ANC (SA) cadres with special experiences, skills or interests to take part in the sessions e.g. a cadre having experienced detention in South Africa would convey to our children a particular aspect of our struggle; a South African poet or novelist could convey to our children not only the knowledge of her/his craft (probably of more interest to the older ones) but also in his/her special way express the horrors of the South African regime through its activities yet, at the same time, make the children aware of the aspirations of our people.

The Role of the Learners

An important principle underlying any planning and supervision of these sessions should be the full participation of the children at various levels according to their various ages.

It is only by full participation children will come to a true understanding of, learn to discriminate between fundamental truths and what appears as truths, and will eventually arrive at the commitment with the oppressed.

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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Since full participation by the children is an important criterion, activities could range widely to explore the children's own knowledge and their interests.

Use should be made of the children's resources e.g. how an eight year old would express her/his feelings of a parent's detention; how a ten year old would express his/her sorrow for the death of a Soweto protester; how a sixteen year old would envisage the new life in a liberated South Africa.

Also, to lessen possible dullness arising in formal talks/discussion with our children in the role of passive listeners mostly, activities which our people have used since times immemorial could help us gain our objectives: in the use of song, dance and story telling.

1. The Use of Taped Recorders

Recorded ANC (SA) songs, dialogues - for listening and comment
Children record interviews with parents/adults with regard to South Africa
Recording of children singing or of songs they have composed
Recording of the children's own poems, dialogues, etc

2. Through Literature

Short stories, extracts from novels, essays written by South African writers expressing the aspirations of our people, their oppression as reflected in their lives; extracts from articles could be read to and by the children.

The children, themselves, could collect poems, or write their own stories or poems or articles.

Eventually individuals will make their own folders and the children as a unit would produce their own magazine.

3. Through Art Forms

The making and collection of posters, badges, models, pictures can reinforce children's expression of feelings for the oppressed and antipathy against the oppressor.

Through their own paintings, cartoons and so on, the children will also express personal feelings and political ideas.

4. Through Drama

Drama provides an immediate and forceful medium for expressing emotions, clarifying political lessons learnt and can be more effective in showing children what, for example a political event was about or what a family's suffering is under the South African regime.

Films could be of value if followed by discussion

5. Through Music

The main task would be to teach the children the National Anthem and other ANC (SA) songs.

Culturally it would be of some value to make known to the children songs and music such as workers' songs, music from the townships like that of Dollar Brand, Jabula, etc.

6. Exhibitions

To give the sessions an extra impetus whilst showing the children that their contributions are not being made in isolation, exhibitions could be arranged to be viewed not only by ANC (SA) members but also a wider public, integral to the work of the External Mission.

7. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

Collectively, the activities outlined before could be used as the basis of our young children's friendship groups to promote international solidarity with young children or pioneer groups from other countries.

8. Formal Enrolment in the Youth Section

Children from sixteen years onwards could be formally enrolled in the Youth Section through a committee liaising with the Youth Section Committee.

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SUGGESTED TOPICS

This list of topics is by no means complete, other topics could be added. The topics are not necessarily in the order to be dealt with:

1. The geographical position of South Africa in relation to Africa, the rest of the world; its provinces, main towns, agriculture, industries. Neighbouring African countries: their significance to our struggle. The people of South Africa: relations between the White minority and the oppressed Blacks
 2. An historical survey of the nations indigenous to South Africa (the Zulu, the Tswana, the Xhosa) before Imperial settlement in S.A.
 3. The Colonisers: the coming of the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British: their policies and activities.
- The Dispossession of Black owned land: Black resistance against land annexation
4. The Rise of Capitalism in S.A.: the discovery of diamonds, gold. The expansion of settlers' and international monopolists' interests in exploiting resources, beginnings of industries; further land annexation; the beginnings of the Migratory System of Labour.
 5. Early Black Protest Organisations
 6. Trade Union Movements: The ICU
 7. Other organisations such as the Youth League, the Communist Party of SA
 8. The Inception of the ANC(SA) in 1912: historical development of the ANC
 9. The Congress of the People: the Congress Alliance- SA Indian Congress, COO, SACP, etc
 10. The Peoples' Resolutions at Kliptown: The Freedom Charter
 11. The struggle of the Blackworkers in the four provinces: high lights of these in strikes, etc; biographies of union leaders e.g. J.B. Marks
 12. The People Protest:
 - e.g. 1930 Pass-burning Campaign
 - 1946 Passive Resistance
 - 1946 African Miners' Strike
 - 1950 Transvaal Workers' strike, May 1st with APO, ANC (Transvaal), SACP & Indian Congress
 - 1952 Defiance Campaign, etc.
 13. The Formation of SACTU: Workers' struggle for trade union rights
 14. Our heroines & heroes: illustrated biographical notes
 - eg. Lutuli, Mandela, Dorothy Nyambi, Lilian Ngoyi Mbeki, Fischer, Helen Joseph, etc.
 15. Political Trials: eg The Treason Trial, the Pretoria Trial, Rivonia Trial, etc
 16. Detentions & Detainees: why, who, when
 17. The main laws affecting the Black oppressed: pass laws, laws affecting peoples' living conditions, security laws, etc.
 18. The ANC as a liberatory organisation working in S.A. ; solidarity work elsewhere. Our task as members of the ANC. The Structure of ANC today
 19. The military wing of the ANC- Umkhonto: when, why formed
 20. ANC publications: Sechaba, Vow, Mayibuye: history, nature, objectives