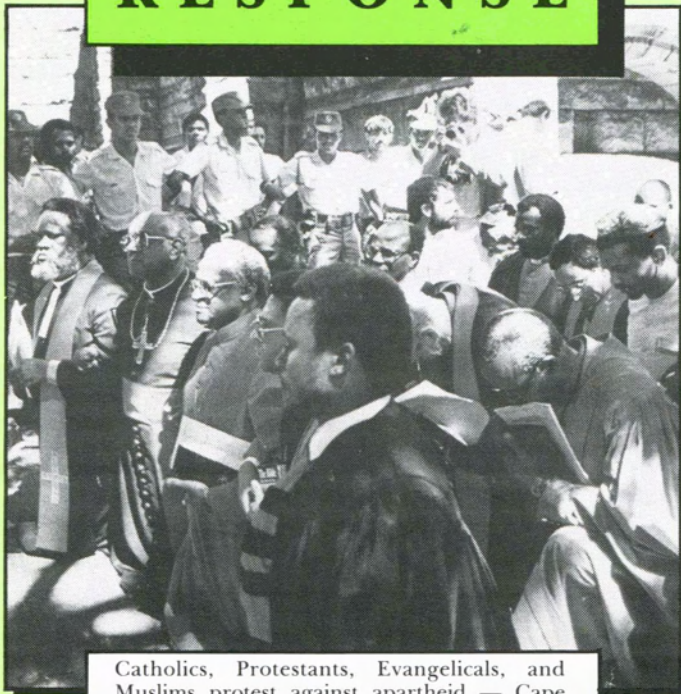


APARTHEID

A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE



Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, and Muslims protest against apartheid — Cape Town, February 1988.

“The unity of the oppressed which is vital can only be achieved by engaging the enemy in all possible ways — where true Muslims, true Christians and all progressive organisations stand shoulder to shoulder to break down the granite wall of apartheid and open the doors of freedom to each and every soul in this country.”

IMAM HASSAN SOLOMON

Anti-Apartheid Movement

MULTI-FAITH COMMITTEE

RELIGIONS REJECT APARTHEID

Many South Africans are religious. Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Jews and Buddhists account for millions, and many communities adhere to traditional beliefs. All these religions express a similar concern for fundamental human values: justice and peace, truth and happiness, love and unity.

Apartheid is a crime against humanity. It uses racism to impose and justify white minority rule, and black exploitation. Believers of all faiths maintain that promoting the moral and theological justification of apartheid is wrong.

The struggle for freedom summons people of faith for two reasons:

- The false religious claims of the South African regime must be refuted and its violent imposition of an illegitimate tyranny be opposed.
- Faith demands that a united nonracial democratic society be built on sound spiritual foundations.

Religious people throughout the world unite on these issues.

People of faith in Britain are called to side with justice and truth, supporting the liberation struggle, and opposing British government policy and business practices which together help sustain white racist control.

JEWES AGAINST APARTHEID (JAA) is a movement initiated and supported by people from a number of religious, cultural and political organisations in the Anglo-Jewish community. Their annual Seder outside the South African Embassy is attended by hundreds.



REFORM SYNAGOGUES OF GREAT BRITAIN at their Conference in 1987:

“In the belief that action by friendly governments can influence the South African regime, calls upon Her Majesty’s Government to use diplomatic pressure and to implement the economic sanctions contained in the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa in an attempt to bring about powerful change in South Africa and Namibia.”

FAITH IN ACTION

THE MULTI-FAITH COMMITTEE was established by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in consultation with religious bodies after a Colloquium on Apartheid called by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston in 1984. It enables people of faith in Britain to exchange concerns and coordinate actions against apartheid and to assist the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa.

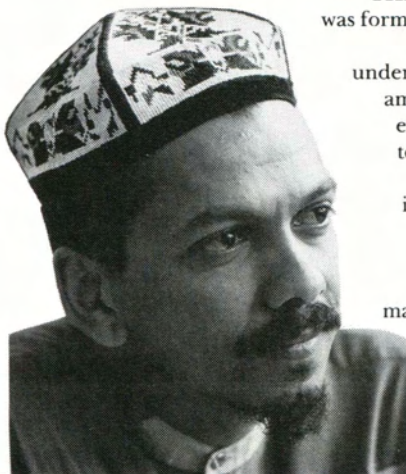
THE MULTI-FAITH COMMITTEE

seeks ways of developing support amongst people of faith for the general initiatives of the AAM.

liaises with religious organisations in Britain in action against apartheid

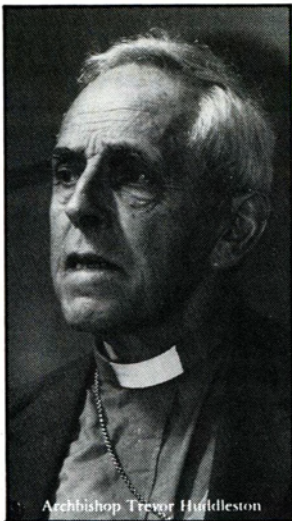
collates relevant information on Southern Africa produced by different religious organisations and disseminates it

advises the AAM on conducting campaigns against apartheid amongst people of faith in Britain, and preparing plans for specific campaigns.



THE CALL OF ISLAM was formed in Cape Town in 1984: to form an understanding of ISLAM amongst non-Muslims especially as it relates to the way the tauhid of Allah is violated in South Africa; and to bring Muslims back on to the path of Allah by making them conscious of their duties, especially in so far as it concerns the establishment of a just society.

Maulana Farid Essack
of the
Muslim Judicial Council



Archbishop Trevor Huddleston

HAND IN HAND

Both political organisation and spiritual strength are necessary in the struggle to replace injustice with justice, and repression with freedom. They are two sides of the same coin.

Recognition of this fact underpins the prominent role of religious leaders in South

Africa, especially since the clamp down in February 1988 against 18 organisations seeking liberation through non-violent methods.

Our response in Britain must also unite the political and the spiritual. Our prayers and resolutions must express an informed political awareness; our political and economic actions must be moved by the inspired faith and perseverance of a flourishing spiritual commitment. The quest for a peaceful common society demands that we liberate ourselves from any apartheid between political and spiritual endeavours.

Many of those involved in the liberation struggle have strong religious convictions. Our task is to stand in solidarity with them, and with all opposed to apartheid.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Robert Runcie, and the President of the African National Conference, Mr Oliver R Tambo, at Lambeth Palace, London.

“The African National Congress has a long history of association with the Church. Our founders were church men and women. Throughout our 75 years that link has never been broken.”

O. R. TAMBO



WHY THE MAJOR RELIGIONS OPPOSE APARTHEID

HINDUISM teaches that the Divine is revealed in all people. It rejects apartheid because it does not recognise the infinite worth of everyone.

BUDDHISM seeks liberation from suffering by eliminating greed, hatred and delusion. The tragic folly of Apartheid exploitation and oppression is a paradigm of these three roots against which Buddhists struggle.

SIKHISM teaches that the Creator is in the created and the created in the Creator. The one true God is within all. Apartheid denies this fundamental principal in practice, and Sikhs are therefore opposed to Apartheid.

JUDAISM has a strong sense of the evils of racism. Jews have long suffered racist persecution, reaching an obscene climax in the Nazi attempt at genocide. Jews are fundamentally opposed to Apartheid racism with its fascist affinities and practices.

CHRISTIANITY recognises that all human beings are made in the image of God. It follows Jesus Christ who identified himself with the poor, oppressed and needy. Apartheid is an affront to the image of God in which its victims are made, and it oppresses the poor and the needy. Christians therefore work and witness against Apartheid.

ISLAM teaches the equality of all people and demands that equality, justice and mercy be practised. The Quoran declares its support for people who are oppressed and God's enmity towards their oppressors. No people are superior to others except through good deeds. Muslims must 'enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong' so Islam deplores Apartheid and supports those who struggle against its oppression.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Keep informed. Raise awareness of oppression in South Africa and disgraceful British support for that regime.

Put the struggle against apartheid on the agenda of your synagogue, church, mosque or temple.

Increase informed prayer and material aid for those in the struggle.

Support and publicise the plight of those detained without trial, tortured, on trial, imprisoned, or under sentence of death for their opposition to apartheid.

Write letters supporting the oppressed and opposing their oppressors.

Forge links between religious and other movements opposing apartheid.

Press religious bodies to move from resolution to action.

Reject false SA propaganda spread by fundamentalist religious groups.

Affirm the right of the people of Southern Africa to secure justice and peace by resisting oppression and supporting the liberation struggle.

Respond to the call from Africa for sanctions, and boycott the products of apartheid.

Join the AAM and support its current campaigns.

CALL FOR INTENSIFIED SANCTIONS BY CHURCH AND LABOUR LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

October 1989

The change in leadership of the apartheid regime should not be considered as a shift in policy. The pillars of apartheid remain intact: the Land Acts, the Group Area Act and the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act. These are reinforced by a plethora of discriminatory legislation and emergency regulations. The State of Emergency enables the state to govern by decree. Stringent censorship of the media creates a false sense of stability...

De Klerk's talk of negotiation falls far short of the demands made by the majority of South Africans. His proposals for reform are based on the preservation of group rights and the protection of white superiority within apartheid structures. The Defiance Campaign and the Standing for the Truth Campaign were intended to expose the deception of the state's promises for reform...

We are convinced that the apartheid regime will never enter into genuine negotiations with legitimate leaders unless pressurised to do so... We accordingly reiterate our call for foreign governments to campaign for comprehensive, mandatory sanctions through the United Nations, and to impose effective and comprehensive sanctions against apartheid...

We believe that sanctions should be sustained and intensified until the dismantling of apartheid has become irreversible. In line with the OAU guidelines towards achieving the conditions for negotiations, this would mean the intensification of sanctions until the following have been achieved:

- the unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees;**
- the lifting of restrictions on organisations and individuals;**
- the removal of troops from townships;**
- the repeal of the State of Emergency and repressive legislation;**
- the cessation of political trials and executions;**
- the drawing up and adopting of a new constitution by a properly constituted assembly.**

The Rev Dr Frank Chikane
General Secretary of the South
African Council of Churches

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu
Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

The Rt Rev Dr Stanley Mogoba
Presiding Bishop of the Methodist
Church of South Africa

The Rev Dr Allan Boesak
President of the World Alliance of
Reformed Churches

Dr Beyers Naude
Former General Secretary of the
South African Council of Churches

Fr Smangaliso Mkhatshwa
General Secretary of the Institute of
Contextual Theology

Jay Naidoo
General Secretary of COSATU

Phiroshaw Camay
General Secretary of NACTU

THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

The Anti-Apartheid Movement has over 15,000 members, 900 affiliated organisations and a network of Local Groups and Regional Committees throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Write to us to find out more about:

MEMBERSHIP — Join the AAM and receive Anti-Apartheid News monthly.

ALLIED ORGANISATIONS — A list of specialist organisations, departments of churches, and religious groups, concerned with anti-apartheid activity.

SATIS — Southern Africa — the Imprisoned Society, which campaigns for victims of the apartheid regime, against detention without trial, political executions, and all forms of repression.

Please mark your particular interests and return the tear off section to:

**The Multi-Faith Committee,
THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT, 13
MANDELA STREET, LONDON NW1 0DW.**

Name:

Organisation (if any):

Postal Address and Code:

..... Tel. No.:

Please tell us more about:

Membership of the AAM:

* Individual

* Affiliation

Allied Organisations

SATIS

The AAM's work

amongst:

Black & Ethnic

Minorities

Women

Health Workers

The boycott of apartheid produce

I enclose a donation of £..... to support your work.