Help
Namibian Refugee Women
Through
The Panty Project

55,000 Namibian Refugees

The illegal occupation of Namibia and the continuous harassment of the population by the South African forces results in Namibian refugees flowing into the neighboring countries of Angola, Zambia and Botswana. There are now about 45,000 Namibian refugees in Angola, 5,000 in Zambia and 5,000 in Botswana.

Our refugee camps are called settlements and are divided into the following categories: elderly persons, middle-aged persons, children from seven to 15 years, young people, expectant mothers and infants. The situation of these people is miserable and they need attention from the outside world.

Elderly people have nothing to protect them from the cold during the winter and rainy seasons; they need blankets. Children and young people need educational facilities — exercise books, text books, sports equipment. Infants suffer from malnutrition and disease; they need milk and medicine; they need books and toys to play with. Mothers need material to make baby napkins and clothes.

As I myself experienced during the time I was living in these settlements, many refugees are women, and many have no underwear. They also need a non-stop supply of sanitary towels. All refugees need shelters, transport to take them to hospitals, food and medicines. And don't forget about our female freedom fighters! They are included in these needs.

The illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa continues and more refugees are arriving at the settlements every day. The call for help is urgent; without your aid we cannot survive.

Pauline Kanandjembo, 1980

--from YOU HAVE STRUCK A ROCK, publ. by International Defense & Aid Fund

Goal: 10,000 pairs — Cotton panties are preferred but any new panties will be welcomed — Sizes small to x-large

Money may be contributed for shipping costs and/or panties

Send to: Pat Kyle
First UMC, 35 West Franklin
Shelbyville, IN 46176

This is a project of SUMOSSA (South Indiana United Methodists and Others in Support of Southern Africans) — related to the South Indiana Conference Board of Church and Society.
We affirm our commitment to the just struggle of the African people to establish societies in which all can enjoy basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We seek biblical and theological guidance in our concern regarding political and economic systems in our world. We seek to be true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The apartheid system as practiced in Namibia and South Africa is legalized racism in its cruelest form. Inherent in the system is the negation of political, economic, social, and cultural rights for the majority Black population.

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In 1982 the General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches stated that: "Apartheid is sin and ... the moral and theological justification of it is a travesty of the gospel and, in its persistent disobedience to the Word of God, a theological heresy."

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We recommend that United Methodists and United Methodist agencies and institutions:

1. Reject as heresy any attempts to justify apartheid as an expression of biblical tradition.
2. Support the Namibian and South African persons, churches, movements and institutions which take courageous stands against apartheid.
3. Support the contributions of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) and the South African Council of Churches (SACC) for the prophetic role they play in Southern Africa and the world.
4. Pray for and support Namibian and South African political prisoners and their families, and all who are oppressed by the apartheid regime.
5. Support the creative role of trade unions in the struggle of South Africans for their liberation, and support the right of Namibian and South African workers to organize into unions of their own choosing, and to bargain collectively over wages, hours and conditions of employment free from government harassment.

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We further urge United Methodists and United Methodist agencies and institutions to pressure their governments to:

1. Support United Nations supervised elections in Namibia at the earliest possible date.
2. Support the role of the South West African Peoples' Organization (SWAPO) in its effort to prepare its people for the national independence of Namibia.
MATERIAL AID

MATERIAL AID for refugees from South Africa and Namibia may be channeled through the AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, 198 Broadway, New York, New York 10038. Contact person: Paul Irish, Telephone Number 212/962-1210.

The following items are among those which have been requested by the representatives of SWAPO and ANC who are responsible for refugee aid:

TOYS

Toys must be: New
Sturdy--preferably of wood, metal, or strong plastic
No electric toys
Examples: Blocks, dolls, busy boxes and similar toys that teach shapes and colors, play cars, trucks, farm equipment, animals, balls

The toys have to withstand shipping and will be used out-of-doors as well as inside. Most needed are toys for one to six year olds.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Women's Panties (new, preferably cotton, all sizes)
Bras
Washing and bathing soap
Vaseline
Baby Diapers
Sanitary napkins (or tampons)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Dictionaries
Pencils
Pencil sharpeners
Erasers
Chalk
Paper
Manual typewriters
Typing paper
Exercise books
Shorthand text (Pitman's "New Era")
Crayons
Rulers

For additional information, including lists of needed medical supplies, contact Paul Irish at the American Committee on Africa.

SOUTH INDIANA Send To: Pat Kyle, First UMC
35 W. Franklin St., Shelbyville, IN 46176