



AL3142 - The NGO Working Committee on Reparations Collections

Call Number: AL3142
Title: The NGO Working Committee on Reparations Collections
SubTitle:
Creator: Unknown
Origination: TRC Archive Project
Inclusive Dates: 1994-2003
Bulk Dates:
Extent: 0.3 linear metres (3 archival boxes)
Language: English
Acquisition: Accession Number: none
Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research
Use Restrictions: Copyright restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions.
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Abstract: Documents relating to the lobbying and advocacy work of the NGO Working Group on Reparations, a Cape Town based coalition of non-governmental organisations dedicated to the task of ensuring that the South African government implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with regards to the payment of reparations to the victims of gross human rights violations identified by the TRC.

Introduction

The NGO Working Committee was founded in November 1999 by a number of individuals and ten NGOs that had been involved in the TRC process either on an official level or as members of civil society concerned with the plight of victims of apartheid. The Black Sash initiated the establishment of this NGO coalition. The committee acted as a lobby and pressure group to ensure that Government implements the recommendations regarding Reparation and Rehabilitation made by the TRC in its final Report of 1998. Consequently, the records that make up this collection document the monitoring and lobbying activities of the Committee.

Following the handover of the TRC's Final Report in 1998, a group of NGOs based in the Western Cape banded together in 1999 to form a coalition to put pressure on the South African government to implement the TRC's recommendations vis-à-vis the payment of reparations to victims of gross human rights violations. This group became known as the NGO Working Group on Reparations (NGOWGR) under the leadership of Fr Michael Lapsley of the Institute for the Healing of Memories. (A similar coalition had been formed in Johannesburg in 1997. Although there was some interaction between the two groups, they largely operated independently of one another.)

The NGOWGR aided the fight for reparations primarily by writing letters to the press and prominent members of government and the TRC, making phone calls to key role players, arranging meetings with them, and so on, in order to keep the issue of reparations under the spotlight. In doing so, it had to work closely with other victim support groups, such as the Khulumani Support Group (KSG), a national victim support and advocacy group formed in 1995 to assist victims through the TRC process. The relationship between the two groups was sometimes strained, with KSG believing that the process of obtaining reparations ought to be victim-driven, and that other "liberal" groups detracted from this focus.

Among the NGOs that were involved in the NGOWGR were the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Jubilee South Africa, The Trauma Centre, Black Sash, Legal Resources Centre and the Quaker Peace Centre.



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Related Materials

The collection can also be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at: http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/trc_directory.pdf

The following collections resulted from the TRC Archival Audit:

- AL3021: Sooka, Yasmin
- AL3059: Dealing with the Past (Conference of Protestant Academy of Bad Boll, Germany)
- AL3060: The State vs. P.W. Botha and Appeal
- AL3061: Auditor General Reports on the Accounts of the TRC.
- AL3062: Office of the Public Protector, Synopsis of Cases regarding Complaints involving the TRC
- AL3063: Documents relating to the TRC Special Hearings on Health
- AL3066: Materials Relating To TRC Faith Hearings
- AL3068: Harris, Verne
- AL3100: Submission to the TRC concerning Relevance of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commissions Mandate
- AL3101: Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal, TRC Submission
- AL3102: Amnesty International TRC Materials
- AL3103: Institute for Healing Memories (IHOM) TRC Materials
- AL3110: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV)R)
- AL3115: Argall, Jane
- AL3116: Cherry, Janet
- AL3118: Marcus, Gilbert
- AL3119: Sheila Meintjies and Beth Goldblatt
- AL3120: Ross, Fiona
- AL3121: Julian Knight and Rudolph Jansen
- AL3125: The Challenge of Reconciliation: A Response of Church and Lay Persons to the TRC
- AL3126: Confession and Reconciliation: A Challenge to Churches in South Africa
- AL3128: Terreblanche, Christelle
- AL3129: Zapiro TRC Collection
- AL3130: African National Congress (ANC) TRC Materials
- AL3131: Cosatu Submission to the TRC
- AL3132: Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Submission to the TRC
- AL3134: Iphepha Ndaba Newsletters from the Western Cape
- AL3135: Fester, Gertrude
- AL3136: Villa-Vicencio, Charles
- AL3137: Behr, Mark
- AL3141: Human Rights Watch Materials
- AL3142: NGO Working Committee on Reparations Materials
- AL3143: IDASA Sound Recordings Relating to the TRC

Notes



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The records include minutes of meetings, correspondence, reports, articles, press statements, conferences and other documents which tell the story of the NGOWGR's attempts to get the South African government to implement the recommendations of the TRC with regard to reparations and memorialisation.

Materials collected from TRC Archival Audit.

The TRC Archival Audit

Between 2003 and 2006, SAHA and Historical Papers, University of Witwatersrand embarked on a project to locate, retrieve and make available records relating to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). The project entailed conducting an archival audit of all existing TRC records in order to identify and locate documentation in danger of being lost.

In the process of conducting the archival audit, SAHA and HP located many collections from individuals and organizations that participated in the TRC process, including this collection. Selections from these materials as well as TRC related material found in the freedom of Information Collection and other pre-existing SAHA and HP collections, were digitized and can be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at http://www.saha.org.za/pdf/trc_directory.pdf

Inventory

A: Correspondence

A1: NGO Working Group on Reparations (1999-2003)

These correspondence files comprise mostly e-mailed correspondence between members of the NGO Working Group. Also included are letters to members of parliament and individuals within the TRC working on the issue of reparations. Embedded within some of the e-mailed correspondence are drafts of letters and articles submitted to various newspapers.

A1.1: Correspondence 2003

A1.2: Correspondence 2002

A1.3: Correspondence 2001

A1.4: Correspondence 2000

A1.5: Correspondence 1999

A1.6: Correspondence relating to the NGOWGR open letter to the State President, 13 August 2002

A2: Khulumani Support Group (1999-2000)

A2.1: Letter from KSG to the State President regarding the government's failure to act on the issue of reparations as recommended by the TRC

[29 March 2000]

A2.2: Letter from KSG to the State President regarding the government's failure to act on the issue of reparations as recommended by the TRC

[27 April 2000]

A2.3: undated response by Minister Penuel Maduna to a petition which had been handed to him on 29 October 1999.

[no date]

B: Minutes/Notes and Reports



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B1: Minutes (1999-2002)

B1.1: Minutes and notes of NGOWGR meetings (2000-2002)

B1.2: Confidential notes on a meeting between Frank Chikane and NGO representatives to discuss the implementation of the TRC recommendations. The meeting took place on 24 October 2002. (2002)

B1.3: Minutes of a meeting held on 29 May 2002 to plan the Khulumani Trauma Centre Torture Day event to be held on 26 June 2002. (2002)

B1.4: Minutes of a preparatory meeting held on 22 October 1999 and attended by NGO representatives concerned at the lack of progress in instituting the recommendations of the TRC. (1999)

B1.5: Minutes of meetings of the TRC Planning Committee (1999)

B1.6: Minutes of Legiwatch meeting held on 21 May 1999 (1999)

B2: Reports (1997-2001)

B2.1: Report by Shirley Gunn on the Khulumani Support Group Reparations Indaba held 25-26 April, 2001. (2001)

Includes a report compiled by Shirley Gunn on the KSG Indaba, as well as the NGOWGR's response to Gunn's report.

B2.2: Report on the TRC hearings into business. (1997)

B2.3: Report by Lorna Levy on the TRC/business community consultative forum held on 28 February 2001. (2001)

B2.4: Report by Lorna Levy on CSVN National Workshop on Reparations, 31 October 2001. (2001)

B2.5: Report by Lorna Levy on TRC reparations workshop, 28 July 2000.

C: Conferences and Workshops

C1: Institute for Justice and Reconciliation conference "Transcending a century of injustice" (10-11 May 2000)

C1.1: IJR launch address by Charles Villa-Vicencio

C1.2: "The material aspect of national reparations: Socio-economic transformation" by P Dexter
Conference paper

C1.3: "The South African Constitution as memory and promise", papers by Laurens du Plessis and Jeremy Sarkin
Conference paper

C1.4: "Reconciliation and development as developmental processes" by Njabulo Ndebele
Conference paper

C1.5: "Ways of remembering" by Johann Snyman
Conference paper

C1.6: "Divided memories" by Breyten Breytenbach
Conference paper

C2: Programme and Dot Cleminshaw's notes from the IJR conference "Reparations and memorialisation – Unfinished business of the TRC" (4-5 October 2000)

C3: Declaration of the Jubilee South Africa and Jubilee South Workshop, 28-30 August 2001: "Reparations towards another world" (2001)

D: Statements, Press Releases and Speeches

D1: NGOWGR/IJR statements and press releases/articles on reparations (2002-2003)

D2: KSG/CSVN statements and press releases on reparations and amnesty (1999-2002)

D3: Speech by Lorna Levy at CSVN strategy meeting: "Victims vs. perpetrators, rights vs. amnesties: How do we strike a balance?" (2001)

D4: Statement by State President Thabo Mbeki on the occasion of the tabling of the TRC Report, 15/4/2003

D5: Address by Minister of Education Kader Asmal in the debate on the TRC, 15/4/2003



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E: Papers, Articles and Miscellaneous Publications

- E1: "Neither too much nor too little; Amnesty in the South African context", by Charles Villa-Vicencio, IJR (2002)
- E2: "Further amnesties? Some suggested criteria", by Charles Villa-Vicencio, IJR (2002)
- E3: "Trading truth for Justice? Reflections on South Africa's TRC" by Susie Linfield (2000)
- E4: "Truth – Yes, Reconciliation – Maybe" (executive summary) by James Gibson and Helen McDonald, IJR (2001)
- E5: Discussion paper "The Afrikaner cultural identity at the present time", by Franklin Sonn (2001)
- E6: "Democracy is about more than supporting those who once fought a revolutionary war", undated paper on Zimbabwe by Charles Villa-Vicencio
- E7: "Truth, reconciliation, and Justice; The South African experience in perspective", The 1999 Chorley Lecture, London school of Economics, by Prof Kader Asmal.
- E8: "Learning to live together with bad memories", by Charles Villa-Vicencio (1999)
- E9: Untitled notes by Fr M Lapsley on a dialogue held in Boston amongst victims of abuse and torture (2002)
- E10: CSVR information booklet "Recommendations of the South African TRC: The Health Sector"
- E11: Annual Report (1998-1999) of The Trauma Centre
- E12: Magazine "New South African Outlook", Winter 2000
- E13: Paper by Fr Michael Lapsley and Karin Chubb: "Moral arguments for reparations in South Africa"
- E14: Paper by Fr Michael Lapsley, "Facing the past, present and future at the same time. A South African perspective".
- E15: Newsletters
 - E15.1: The SA Reconciliation Barometer (IJR, April 2003)
 - E15.2: IphephaNdaba (KSG Cape Town, nos. 20 and 22, 2000-2002).
- E16: IJR publication "Time to Act". A summary of the recommendations contained in Volume 5, Chapter 8 of the TRC Final Report
- E17: Transcripts of questions in the National Assembly. Includes questions and answers by: Mrs S.M. Camerer (25 January 2000), Mr Bantu Holomisa (10 May 2000), transcripts of plenary sessions (May 2000) and a question by Mr W.J. Seremate on 21 June 2003.

F: Newspaper Clippings (primarily focused on issues of reparations)

- F1: 2003
- F2: 2002
- F3: 2001
- F4: 2000
- F5: 1982-1999
- F6: Undated
- F7: Verbatim extracts from the TRC Final Report (a joint initiative by Independent Newspapers and IDASA)