

CAPE TOWN ECC CAMPAIGN REPORT

Cape Town ECC is currently, happily and busily, planning a new campaign, around the slogan: "war is no solution."

1. Origins: Arising out of a workshop which looked at future plans, came the idea for a campaign which somehow related to the idea: this war is not worth fighting.

This was further supported post the "Right to Speak" campaign - essentially and necessarily defensive. We felt we needed to reclaim our public credence and articulate the validity of ECC's position.

2. Aims:
- ▷ Reclaiming our legal space
 - ▷ Regaining public presence & credibility
 - ▷ Broadening our support - recruitment?
 - ▷ Posing positive alternatives to prevalent white fears
 - ▷ Energizing our organization.

3. Theme: Our theme was to encompass the following concerns -
- ▷ Focussing on the nature of war in general; civil war in particular
 - ▷ Focus on the nature of conflict in our society
 - ▷ Highlight the effects of the S.O.F.

▷ Stress informative content — with a sober assessment of the situation, posing peace as a future if people participate in the process of change.

4. Slogan: Initial slogan seen as potentially alienating, as it presupposes acceptance of the notion of civil war. Modified our concept to present slogan: War is No Solution. We felt this addressed issues such as conflict & violence and the "imminent threat" of civil war, which ~~at~~ our constituency could relate to.

Other ideas for slogans: Is this war worth fighting?
Is this all we have to offer? There is another way.

5. Central Action:

The central action of the campaign is a walk to a ~~destination~~^{township} chosen on the basis of its specific military symbolism. Further symbolic actions, such as the planting of olive trees, taking messages of support, or a church service are envisaged.

The route of the walk to be discussed with community organizations; to try & find an accessible township that

allows for maximum participation. ^{Concern}
Protection against banning is a ~~problem~~ -
notables, thorough practical organizing,
and the notion of a "sponsored walk";
perhaps in alliance with SHAWCO are
possible solutions. An alternative action
to be planned to cater for a banning.

Motivation:

- ▷ Symbol of our protest at role of SADF in civil conflict.
- ▷ Demands personal sacrifice
- ▷ Is flexible enough to allow a for a range of commitments to campaign, by public.
- ▷ High profile media event.
- ▷ Less planning than some of our other campaigns.
- ▷ Could draw in the front and concerned NOBS
- ▷ The township chosen could be used as the focus of our media; to particularize the broad issues we'll be raising.

Weaknesses:

- ▷ Sound alternative action needed to make gains out of a banning.
- ▷ Potential public participation difficult to gauge.

6. Other ideas for action:

▷ Delegation to ANC on war and peace

- ▷ Mother's symposium
- ▷ Peace picnic
- ▷ Symposium of informative public lectures
- ▷ Films showing //s with other civil wars. (possibly aimed at schools)
- ▷ Building an anti-war / peace edifice or museum.
- ▷ Inviting the SADF on our tour of the war zone.
- ▷ Canvassing conscripts demands = a "conscripts charter"
- ▷ Symbolic Churches action
- ▷ VIP picket
- ▷ Arts Festival component (roadshow, cabaret, permanent displays, stalls)
- ▷ Booths in shopping centres
- ▷ Pavement art competition, on our theme

7. Timing:

- ▷ 3 weeks campaign, culminating in walk, which is scheduled for a weekend in early December.
- ▷ Arts Festival component will continue to carry our theme, and act as follow up.

8. Structure:

- ▷ A campaign group, of interested activists + formal reps from each sub-comm.
- ▷ Sub-comm. are adopting the "war is no solution theme" & adapting work to it.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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