



# WOMENS FORUM AS A UNITED FORCE

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Without a skilful combination of open and underground activities our liberation movement would not have survived the regime's all-out efforts to crush it. This is one of the greatest lessons we can draw from the past twenty-four years during which the ANC has existed as an outlawed organisation in South Africa.

The significance of this lesson is even greater today. In the face of the people's high level of mass political action combined with the military activities of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the racist regime finds its very existence threatened. To survive it unleashes terror against all its opponents.

## POWERFUL OFFENSIVE

What we need now is to wage a powerful offensive for the seizure of power by the masses of our people. This demands the creation of powerful mass organisations and a united nationwide women's organisation in the rural areas, the organisation of the unorganised workers and the unity of the democratic trade union movement; strengthening of the youth, church, democratic white organisations and groups; the unity of all democratic

## WOMEN ARISE AND ACT!



The need for unity is the need for People's Power. It is the power against ignorance and general abuse. The search for active unity is the task for both men and women alike. Forward with the year of the woman!

# JOIN UMKHONTO WE SIZWE

forces as well as the stepping up of military operations by Umkhonto we Sizwe. In turn this requires a well-knit underground network of the ANC to ensure that we are able to frustrate any scheme by the enemy against the people's organisations and their activities.

CONSCIOUS FORCE

Our womenfolk must participate in all these activities as a united and politically conscious force. This reminds us of a story about a Soviet peasant woman and a twelve-year-old girl who distributed leaflets supplied by partisans (guerillas) in a skilfully concealed fashion. What they did was to fold the leaflets till they were quite small and then bake them inside some of the buns meant for sale. The buns with leaflets were sold to trusted customers. The young girl who sold the buns at the marketplace was able to fool the German Nazis who took her away together with other children for searching.

On the way to the police station the brave young girl ate all the buns with leaflets — these were baked differently. When the fascists cut open the remaining buns they found nothing. It was such seemingly small contributions combined with those of the workers who manufactured bullets and shells in the factories, the peasants who produced wheat to feed the soldiers, the partisans who sabotaged the plans of the enemy by blowing up bridges with bombs and the bravery of the soldiers in the front which made victory over the Nazi invaders possible.

RICH EXPERIENCE

The point is not to repeat the leaf-



women unite for people's power

let-in-bun tactic. Our own experience is rich with many useful examples. We must develop them.

A word of caution. Underground activity demands high discipline. Simply, this means that we must strictly follow the rules which govern our units. For example we meet only at pre-arranged time — not one minute earlier or later. Secrecy is our watchword. This way we can successfully plan to attack the enemy right under his nose and win.

Our struggle would be less than powerful and our national and social emancipation could never be complete if we continue to treat the women of our country as dependent minors and objects of one form of exploitation or another. Certainly, no longer should it be that a woman's place is in the kitchen. In our beleaguered country, the woman's place is in the kitchen.

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