

# This is how we lived

In these painful times of trouble and unrest it is important to remember that it is the government that has caused these divisions between everybody. It is the government that has forced us to live in separate communities, that has emphasised differences between, and has given privileges and special treatment to some just to try and divide us. SPEAK was told the following story by a woman who lived in Durban before Group Areas. The happy past she talks of also reflects the kind of future we should all be fighting for.



I have lived all over Durban - Musgrave, Overport, Silverton, Mayville and Cato Manor. There, all races lived together with no problems. We used to make 'isiqatha' to sell like we do here in the townships and there was never any violence.

I came to Durban to stay with my mother so that I could go to school. We stayed at Dunbar Road at Mayville renting from an Indian family. In this area there was just no distinction between races. I can't even mention things about the 'coloured people' as we were just one. There were a lot of inter-marriages between African and Coloured people and those marriages are still solid, some of them moved here into Clermont and even now it is only because you have asked me that I think of them as being Coloured.

We stayed closely and freely with all our Indian neighbours. We all had big families and used to sleep together with them on the floors like one family. We shared what food we had in times of trouble. We were a close community sharing our times of happiness and our sorrows together.

As children, we all engaged in the same games and also mischief. We mixed English and Zulu and some Indian language - our own mixed language. A cousin of mine spoke one Indian language fluently. She was dressed by our Indian friends on her wedding day.

Though we attended different schools, they were directly opposite one another and we'd play together during break times and were taking the same bus to and from school. We were not aware that we looked different from one another until we were told to move out of Mayville. It was so painful when we were forcefully separated from one another by the Group Areas Act.

