

**national union of south african students**  
**nasionale unie van suid-afrikaanse studente**

**NUSAS**

TELEFOON 2-7831 TELEPHONE  
KABELS NATUSAS CABLES

ST. GEORGESSTRAAT 148 ST. GEORGE'S STREET  
KAAPSTAD CAPE TOWN

PLEASE NOTE

As from May 1 our new address  
Second Floor, Wolroy House  
37 Buitenkant Street, CAPE TOWN

JD/SL

April 4, 1968

P/47/68

To: SRC Presidents  
National Executive  
National Executive  
Academic Freedom Committee Chairmen  
Directors Student Relations

---

Dear Sir/Madam

20th Anniversary of Signing of Universal  
Declaration of Human Rights

---

As you should all know by now, 1968 marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the United Nations has called on member states to organise functions to celebrate "Human Rights Year". No doubt this call will go unheeded by the South African Government, but as the Universal Declaration forms the basic policy of NUSAS, I feel that we are obligated to commemorate this anniversary.

I have the following suggestions -

(1) National Day of Affirmation

As you will probably have read in the press Dr Alan Paton will deliver this address, and his speech will be built round the theme of human rights. As well as reading out and signing the NUSAS Dedication, the SRC Presidents will be asked to sign a document marking the 20th anniversary of the Declaration.

(2) Local Academic Freedom Ceremonies

I suggest that a similar procedure be followed at each of the local academic freedom ceremonies. These are the Richard Feetham lecture at Wits, the Albert Lithuli lecture at UNNE, the T.B. Davie lecture at UCT, Edgar Brookes lecture at UNP, E.G. Malherbe lecture at UND and an unnamed lecture at Rhodes.

I would like comments from the respective SRC Presidents.

(3) Human Rights weeks

I suggest that at each of the major centres, a human rights week be held. I have already been informed that the Human Rights society at Wits has organised such a week to run from May 4 to 11. I suggest that at other centres such weeks be organised by the Student Relations Department of the NUSAS Local committee in conjunction



with the Academic Freedom committees.

Mr. Ian Margo, Chairman of the Human Rights Society at Wits, has indicated that he is prepared to co-operate with other organisers by loaning out exhibition material etc. I suggest that each week should include the following -

- (a) An exhibition on Human rights. I am attempting to obtain suitable material from UNESCO.
  - (b) Large scale distribution of copies of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I have several hundred in the office and am attempting to obtain further copies.
  - (c) Display of posters and wall sheets on Human Rights which I have ordered from UNESCO.
  - (d) Lectures/Symposia on Human Rights, Rule of Law etc
  - (e) An article on Human Rights in student newspapers.
- (4) Booklet on Human Rights  
At the December executive meeting, NUSAS was instructed to compile a booklet entitled "Human Rights in South Africa". I have obtained the co-operation of the Civil Rights League who will cosponsor the publication. The first draft of the pamphlet should be completed within two weeks. It will be distributed on all campuses.

I should like your ideas on these suggestions. I would like the following to correspond with me. - Ian Margo and Andrew Muncan from Wits, Pat Stilwell as external Vice President of UNP, the external Vice President at UND, Johnny Mosendane at UNNE, Ian Kirby at Rhodes and Phil van der Merwe from UCT.

Yours sincerely

JOHN DANIEL  
PRESIDENT