

In Zimbabwe, the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) provides training and resources to rural family groups who come together to build health centres, storage barns, grinding mills, workshops for skill training, pre-schools for small children. ORAP has very strict rules that ensure the equal representation and involvement of women. There are now more than 400 ORAP groups, all of them in the poor rural areas of Matabeleland and Midlands. ORAP aims to increase the community's control over development.

"We don't believe in projects, only in development. Development is about giving people power, not power in a negative sense but in a human sense. ORAP believes in helping people to understand the structures and processes of society, and how they affect our lives. We try to help people to identify the problems and to solve them, and to take control of their lives."

Sithembiso Nyoni,
Coordinator, ORAP

In Angola, War on Want works with OMA (the Organisation of Angolan Women) in their programmes for the poorest women, men and children. In the shanty-town 'Musseques' around the capital, Luanda, local communities are organising to rehabilitate their own houses and build schools and health clinics. Community workshops have been set up to provide training in building and carpentry and also to provide tools and raw materials. OMA is also giving priority to the needs of those made homeless and landless by the war — most of whom are women and children.

In Mozambique, where the health services have been severely disrupted by the MNR attacks, War on Want has provided the Ministry of Health with a vehicle to assist in the training of nurses and midwives. War on Want is also raising £20,000 to re-equip a health centre in the Lugela district recently destroyed by the MNR.

Illiteracy in Mozambique still stands at 65% due to the shortage of qualified teachers and materials. War on Want is helping to publish the basic literacy texts for a comprehensive national programme.

BRITISH AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

The British Government gives direct bi-lateral aid to all of the states in Southern Africa. Most funds go to Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia whereas little goes to Angola and Mozambique. The British Government has been lukewarm in its support of SADCC despite the fact that seven of the SADCC states are in the Commonwealth. Since 1980 direct British aid to SADCC has amounted to only £35 million. In addition Britain has given a mere £103 million through the EEC.

Britain could:

- Greatly increase development aid to SADCC countries, both directly and via the EEC
- Support new EEC funding for projects to repair the damage due to South African actions

- Relax the 'strings' attached to British aid, particularly insistence on complying with harsh 'adjustment programmes' drawn up by the IMF and World Bank

- Support open access to the EEC for exports by SADCC countries.

War on Want believes that these decisions can and must be made, in the interest of the millions of innocent people who ask only for peace and a chance to improve their own lives.

I would like to help War on Want's work with women in Southern Africa

I enclose a donation of £100 £50 £30

£ (payable to War on Want)

Please send details of covenants

Please tick for receipt

I would like to become actively involved in War on Want's work in Southern Africa

Name _____

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WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE

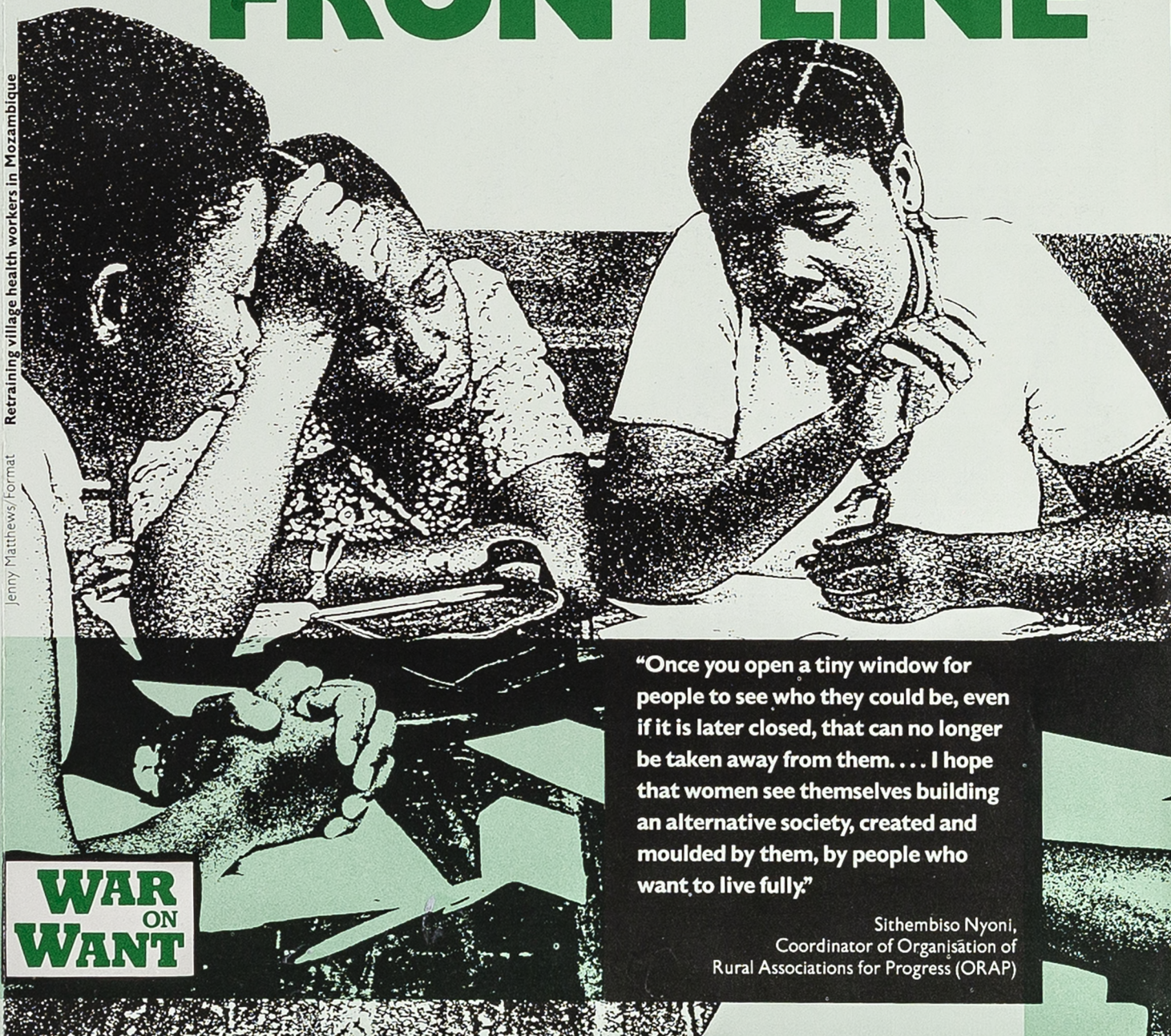
for a change



Jenny Matthews/Format
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People homeless after MNR attack their village, Mozambique

**WOMEN
FOR A CHANGE!**



Jenny Matthews/Format
Retraining village health workers in Mozambique

**WAR
ON
WANT**

"Once you open a tiny window for people to see who they could be, even if it is later closed, that can no longer be taken away from them. . . . I hope that women see themselves building an alternative society, created and moulded by them, by people who want to live fully."

Sithembiso Nyoni,
Coordinator of Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP)

Now many African states neighbouring South Africa are suffering disastrous economic, political and military upheavals — the effects of devastating conflicts and economic subjugation to South Africa.

The achievements of the past ten years in education, healthcare, economic development and the progress made towards equality for women are now under threat.

Agricultural and industrial development is sabotaged, health and education services destroyed and scarce resources have to be channelled into defence.

THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe belong to that tiny minority of the world's nations whose governments recognise the oppression of women and declare that women's emancipation is essential to successful development.

"... Women are the most oppressed, humiliated and exploited beings in society ... The emancipation of women is not an act of charity ... (but) a fundamental necessity for the revolution."

Samora Machel, former president of Mozambique.

This official report for women's rights is designed to create a better society for all women, men and children, in recognition not only of women's participation in the national struggles since the 1960s, but also of the enormous contribution by women to the economic and social development of their countries.

LEGISLATING FOR CHANGE

The government commitment to women in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe has translated itself, in varying degrees, into:

- more education and training opportunities for women and girls, including in fields that are male-dominated
- legislative changes to the discriminatory aspects of colonial and customary laws, for example, women's status, custody of children, divorce and maintenance
- the encouragement of women to participate and take leadership roles in political and community organisations
- the establishment of national women's organisations in each country.

"Most of Zimbabwe's problems can be best solved if the women accept decision-making positions ... Women are very good in leadership positions."

Mrs Useye, local councillor and farmer, Zimbabwe

Before independence women in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe were regarded as minors. A young woman was the property of her father. On marriage, she became the property of her husband. On her husband's death, his family could move in and take control of the children, the house and its contents. The woman had no say.

Now all of this is changing. The new laws

have given women independent status. Women's organisations inform women of their rights, and local village courts implement and protect these rights.

"Early in the struggle, it was clear that public opinion was in favour of women going to literacy classes, party meetings and doing tasks for the women's organisation. But many men were unhappy with this and would beat their wives. Now when men want to be party members, they are confronted in public meetings about how they treat their wives. Those who mistreat their wives are not accepted. To become active in the Party, they must study and put into practice women's emancipation."

Annabella Rodriguez,

They carried out extensive surveys and convened national congresses where women from the poorest rural and urban areas could voice their concerns and discuss future development plans. One result is the new Family Law drawn up in Angola and Zimbabwe and soon to be finalised in Mozambique.

These women's organisations initiated and now manage an impressive range of programmes such as:

- adult literacy schemes, schooling and technical training, for example, in farming.
- improved water supplies and sanitation; health and family planning centres; creche facilities and public laundries.
- mobilising for women's greater participation in decision-making bodies, justice tribunals, cooperatives, local councils and trade unions.

Collecting water in Mozambique



Jenny Matthews/Format

WOMEN ARE ORGANISING

The Organisation of Angolan Women (OMA), the Organisation of Mozambican Women (OMM) and the many national associations of women in Zimbabwe, support initiatives which fall within the overall national development plans of their countries and in turn aim to influence the shape and priorities of these plans.

Health Centre destroyed by MNR attack, Mozambique



War on Want

"We are integrating women into courses for professional training ... Women are now working in jobs never done by women in Mozambique — as electricians, taxi and tractor drivers, shoe-makers, carpenters, car-body painters and mechanics."

Annabella Rodriguez, member of OMM

Today in Southern Africa, particularly in Mozambique and Angola, women are taking a leading role in the military struggle. Women are fighting for peace — peace which will make economic and social development and their own equality possible.

Rural women in Zimbabwe working for progress



War on Want

WAR AND DESTABILISATION

Much has been achieved for and by women since independence, but much remains to be done. All development programmes are now severely hampered by the current political, economic and military upheavals in the region.

Since gaining independence in the mid 1970s Angola and Mozambique have not had one day of peace. UNITA, the opposition

Literacy and numeracy class, Angola



Jenny Matthews/Format

forces in Angola, and the Renamo bandits in Mozambique, both of whom are backed and supplied from South Africa, have pursued wars against them. The rural populations are terrorised, food production is disrupted, trade and transport are interrupted.

These wars have intensified since the formation in 1980 of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) — an alliance of nine Southern African states to further regional development and cooperation and economic independence from South Africa.

● It is estimated that within Southern Africa one million people have died and eight million have been displaced from their homes since 1980. Over 75% of the displaced are women and children.

● Over a quarter of Mozambique's village healthcare centres and three rural hospitals have been destroyed.

Funds which would have been spent in providing health, education, employment, training, childcare, are now swallowed up by extra defence spending. 40% of Angola's and 34% of Mozambique's annual budgets are now spent on defence.

WAR ON WANT AND THE FRONT LINE STATES.

For over ten years, War on Want has supported development programmes which tackle the root causes of poverty in Southern Africa.

