

The case of DAVID BRUCE

Our members have also been encouraged to participate in various activities in the community. We have been active in OSSAC (Oxford Shul Social Action Committee) with both teaching and the organisation of activities. We have been a part of the Five Freedoms Forum and the Free the Children Alliance, organisations playing a major role in the white community. We have met with many progressive organisations and individuals.

Before concluding I would like on your behalf to thank the outgoing executive committee for their outstanding work during the past year, as well as those individuals who have contributed so much of their time and energy to the organisation. As I have said our work is often thankless, and it is only through the dedication of these people that we can carry on our important work.

In the new year we will continue our work of raising awareness in the Jewish community, encourage far more contact with other communities and look for creative ways of getting our membership more involved.

Society can be changed and human co-operation can be achieved. Working for social progress not only reflects Jewish ideals but enhances Jewish security. We call on all Jews who share our vision to join us in working to achieve a South Africa where all can live without racism, discrimination and threats to minority rights.

We need your support and look forward to a new year of hope and reconciliation. Thank you.

16 May 1988.

Gary Lubner



As readers of this newsletter will have learnt David Bruce has been tried for refusing to serve in the S.A.D.F.

JSJ is commenting on the case for two reasons:- The first is that David has stated he is "fundamentally opposed to racism" and that he believes that "the SADF is involved in defending the privileged position of a minority of South Africans in what is basically a civil war". Not all in JSJ will see it that way, but when a young man raises conscientious objections because of his opposition to racism, then an organisation founded to oppose racism and apartheid cannot be indifferent to his case and to his plight.

we therefore issued the following statement some weeks ago:-

We in JSJ support you, David, in the stand you have taken to register your opposition to the role of the SADF in both regional warfare and in the suppression of any resistance to apartheid internally.

While we as an organisation have no position on conscientious objection, we believe in your right to object and commend you and your family for your courage in so doing.

Secondly, David's mother, Ursula Bruce, has been a member of our executive committee almost since its inception. She is a hard worker, has supported us loyally and represented us on the Free the Children Alliance. Moreover, she herself suffered from racism in Nazi Germany, before coming to Johannesburg with her parents, just before the outbreak of World War II.

The Rabbi's teach us that every person has a unique role to play in the history of humankind. Perhaps David's unique role is that he has had the courage to highlight the moral crisis confronting many young South Africans who face call-ups.