

Letter to the South African Government

[Letter to the South African Government](#)

Reject the Proposed Amendments (1882, 1883, 1884, & 1885) to the National Health Act & International Health Regulations Act

by [Margaret Anna Alice](#), [Through the Looking Glass](#)

August 4, 2022

Note to my readers: When the world needed them, the people of South Africa [rose up](#) with their fellow Africans to help defeat the [proposed International Health Regulations \(IHR\) amendments](#) that would have given a [documentably accused genocidal war criminal](#) one-world dictatorial powers.

Now the people of South Africa need our help. Please see the instructions after this letter to learn how you can make your voice heard before the August 5 deadline (click [here](#) to see time remaining).

“We cannot trample upon the humanity of others without devaluing our own. The Igbo, always practical, put it concretely in their proverb Onye ji onye n’ani ji onwe ya: ‘He who will hold another down in the mud must stay in the mud to keep him down.’”

–Chinua Achebe, The Education of a British-Protected Child: Essays

Not three decades after [apartheid ended](#), you are considering [proposed amendments](#) to the [National Health Act of 2003’s 2017 regulations](#) that would resurrect this shameful stain on South African history:

- [1882: Regulations Relating to the Surveillance and the Control of Notifiable Medical Conditions: Amendment](#) (National Health Act)
- [1883: Regulations Relating to Public Health Measures in Points of Entry](#) (International Health Regulations Act)
- [1884: Regulations Relating to the Management of Human Remains](#) (National Health Act)
- [1885: Regulations Relating to Environmental Health](#) (National Health Act)

“Apartness” in Afrikaans, “apartheid” is the institutionalized system of segregation. You can change the definitions of the targeted parties, but you cannot change the discriminatory rot underlying this vile legislation.

Sick Until Proven Healthy

(long version [here](#))

The People’s Lawactivist [Sabelo Sibanda](#) explains that under the proposed amendments:

“These regulations basically declare a scenario where everyone will end up in one of three categories where you are either deemed to be a case, or you are considered a suspect, or, alternatively, you are considered as one who has been in contact with someone who is a case.

“And once you fall into any one of those three categories, this is what this means to you. Government says, ‘You may not refuse to be medically examined,’ whereby the medical examination process is whatever government will determine.

“Second to that, you may not refuse to be put in quarantine or put in isolation. And the requirements for quarantine and isolation are such that the majority of the people of South Africa will not be able to self-quarantine so they have to be put in a state institution.

“Further to that, and most critical, is that you may not refuse to take whatever medication that the government says you should take. Your freedom—which is supposed to be guaranteed and protected by the same act in as far as the right to be informed—is taken away. You are caught in a situation whereby government has full control.

“Once you are put in this isolation space, this quarantine space, you don’t have the ability to determine when and how you get out. It will be up to government to decide.

“So now the country of South Africa will be under a permanent state of disaster where masking will be permanent, where social distancing is permanent, through the National Health Act.”

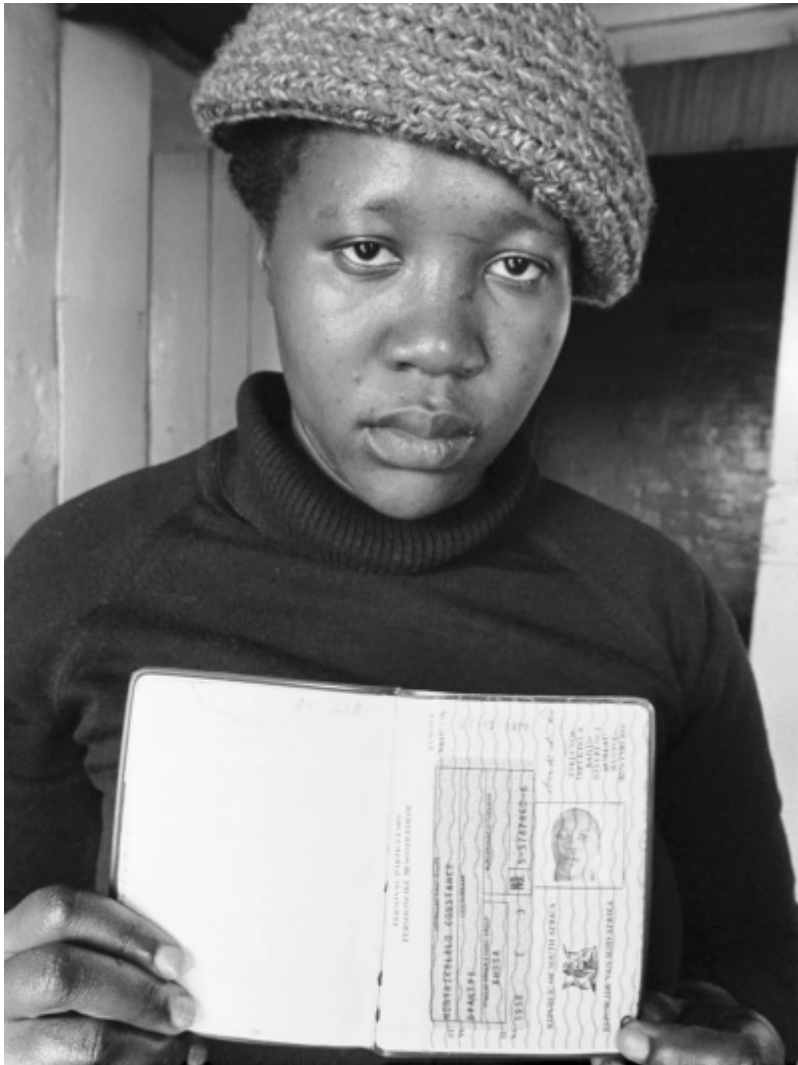
In case you’ve forgotten what it looks like for your government to discriminate against citizens under the guise of a “state of emergency” and to demand people’s papers, here are a couple of reminders:



State of Emergency

Although they continued, they were often met with police and state brutality. South African marines troops stopped this man in Nyanga, near Cape Town, in April 1960 as black protestors tried to march to Cape Town. The state of emergency cleared the way for even more apartheid laws to be put in place.

OFF/AP/WGety Images



Pass Book Identification

Pass laws and apartheid policies prohibited black people from entering urban areas without immediately finding a job. It was illegal for a black person not to carry a passbook. Black people could not marry white people. They could not set up businesses in white areas. Everywhere from hospitals to beaches was segregated. Education was restricted.

Alain Noguees/Sygma/Getty Images

Today, that passport looks like a QR code on your phone.

Please take a few moments to read the following articles to understand why there is no circumstance under which it is ethically or morally acceptable to deprive individuals of their freedoms and human rights in the name of the “public good,” which can be defined according to the whims of despots and demagogues:

<https://margaretannaalice.substack.com/p/letter-to-a-governing-body>

<https://margaretannaalice.substack.com/p/letter-to-the-new-yor>

[k-state-department](#)

<https://margaretannaalice.substack.com/p/letter-to-the-uk-government>

And if you want to understand what it feels like to be institutionalized and have medication forced on you against your will, here's a preview of the world you would be creating:

Nurse Pilbow: Mr. McMurphy?

McMurphy: Huh?

Nurse Pilbow: Your medication.

McMurphy: What's in the horse pill?

Nurse Pilbow: It's just medicine, it's good for you.

McMurphy: Yeah, but I don't like the idea of taking something if I don't know what it is....

Nurse Ratched: If Mr. McMurphy doesn't want to take his medication orally, I'm sure we can arrange that he can have it some other way.

The people of South Africa poured decades of passion, blood, and song into eradicating apartheid:

Do not let that effort be for naught. As Chinua Achebe says:

"The damage done in one year can sometimes take ten or twenty years to repair."

Do not let fear, hatred, panic, and intolerance win. Cast out those totalitarian demons and save your people by rejecting amendments 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885.

“Yet men were afraid, with a fear that was deep, deep in the heart, a fear so deep that they hid their kindness, or brought it out with fierceness and anger, and hid it behind fierce and frowning eyes. They were afraid because they were so few. And such fear could not be cast out, but by love.”

–Alan Paton, Cry the Beloved Country

[Connect with Margaret Anna Alice](#)

cover image credit: [Danie_Bester](#) / pixabay