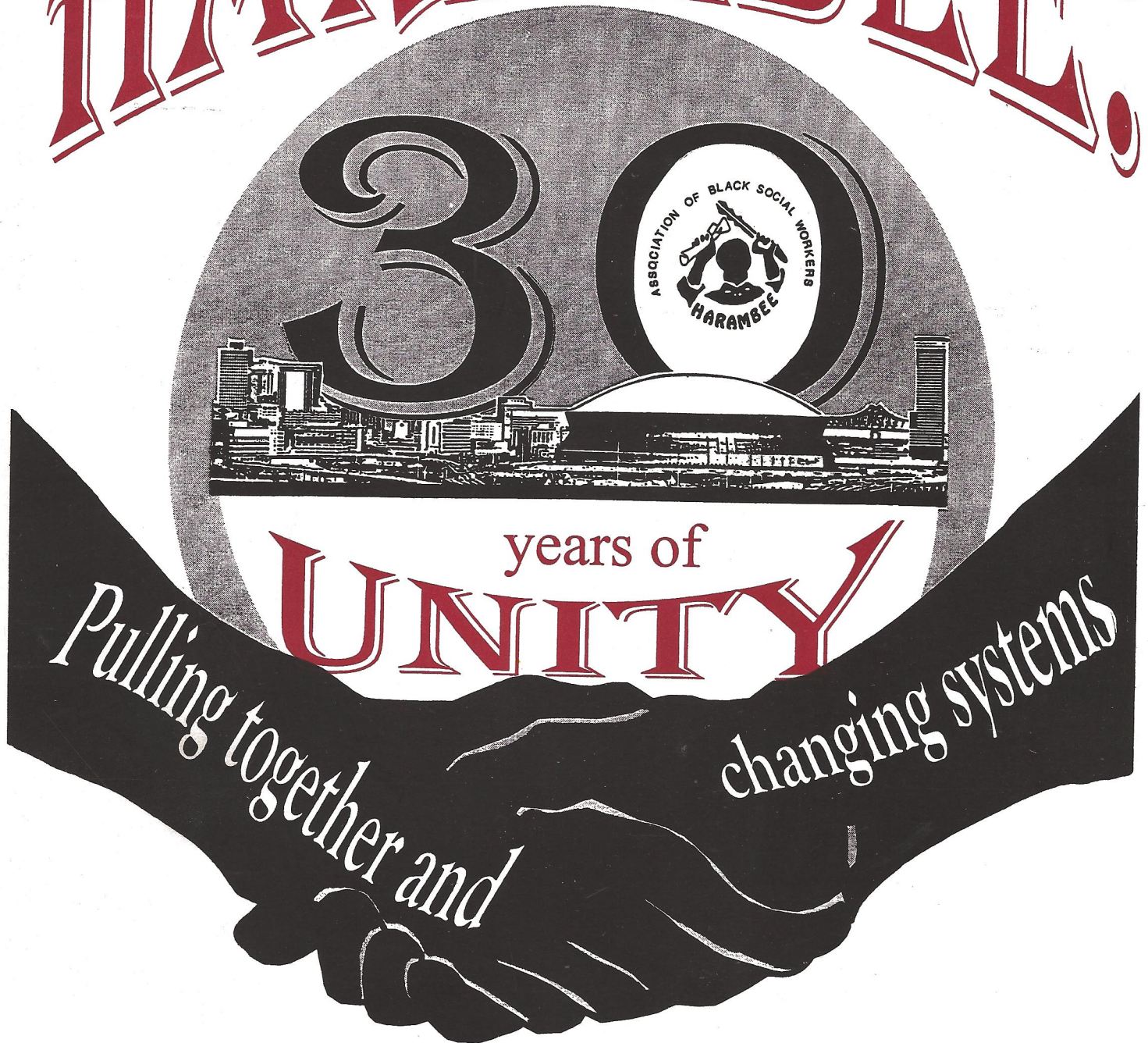


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS

# HARAMBEE!



Thirtieth Annual Conference  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 7 - 11, 1998



**OUR ROOTS  
POSITION STATEMENT**  
**of the National Association of Black Social Workers**  
**May 29, 1968**  
**San Francisco, California**

1. The theme of the National Conference on Social Welfare's 95th Annual Forum and Exposition Program - "An Action Platform for Human Welfare" is inconsistent with the Preamble of the National Conference on Social Welfare Constitution which states "The National Conference on Social Welfare is a voluntary association of individual and organization members who have joined the Conference to promote and share in the discussion of the issues, problems, and methods identified with the field of social welfare and immediately related fields. The Conference provides a forum for such discussion. It does not take an official position on controversial issues and adopts no resolutions except occasional resolutions of courtesy." It further violates its own legitimacy by the message of the president, Wayne Vasey, which is action oriented and states "The need for a massive attack on a wide front of human problems." We, therefore, recommend that the present position of the president and the program theme should be the position of this conference and that the preamble to the constitution be changed accordingly.
2. The National Conference on Social Welfare is an American white institution insofar as the members of the board and planning committee do not reflect an ethnic composition commensurate with its expressed concern.
3. We demand representation of our selection on the executive committee, nomination committee and all planning committees related to National Conference on Social Welfare.
4. We demand that people who speak, write, research, and evaluate the Black community be Black people who are the experts in this area. This will avoid the misconceptions and misinterpretations which have been prevalent so far in this conference. Publications coming out of this conference will be critically evaluated by our group.
5. We direct white social workers to involve themselves with solving the problem of white racism - America's number one mental health problem.
6. We, the Black Social Workers of America, will no longer support social welfare systems and/or programs designed to maintain the unequal participation of the Black community. Our accountability is to the Black communities we serve.
7. We demand that National Conference on Social Welfare publicly repudiate the current welfare system which serves as a tool of oppression of black people as well as the social workers providing services.
8. We demand that National Conference on Social Welfare publicly support efforts to repeal Public Law 90248 which is racist in nature, and declares war on Black AFDC mothers and their children.
9. We demand that National Conference on Social Welfare support the National Welfare Rights Organization composed of welfare recipients by offering free full membership in National Conference on Social Welfare, taking into account their extremely limited financial resources and National Conference on Social Welfare's need for relevant citizen participation.
10. We protest the perpetuation of institutional white racism as typified in the award presented to Wilbur Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, by Child Welfare League of America within the framework of National Conference on Social Welfare. Mr. Cohen has specifically supported the Johnson Administration's denial of the white racism findings of the Kerner Report and is on record as a proponent of the notorious Public Law 90248

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SYSTEMS TO MAKE THEM RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND ARE THEREFORE PLEDGED TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO BRING THESE THINGS ABOUT BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.**

- We request: (1) your support to encourage the Executive Committee of NCSW to meet with the National Association of Black Social Workers, Steering Committee, to discuss the time on the agenda of the general session tomorrow morning. The meeting will be held tonight at the Hilton Hotel at 7:00 p.m., Room 567;
- (2) that you participate actively tomorrow by sitting and standing with us and generally supporting our position.

**ORIGINAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS**

**T. George Silcott, Chairman**  
**Lanny Berry**  
**Shirley Better**  
**Samella B. Everett**

**G.L. Jagers**  
**Audrey Johnson**  
**Milton L. Martin**  
**Georgia Parks**

**Bruce Thomas**  
**Billy T. Tidwell**  
**William K. Wolfe**  
**Doug Glasgow**