

Socialist & Marxist Laws of South Africa That I Fear

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INDEX

LAWS THAT I FEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA	2
1. BASIC EDUCATION LAWS AMENDMENT (BELA) BILL	2
2. PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF HATE CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH ACT (HATE SPEECH BILL)	3
3. CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC (CRL) RIGHTS COMMISSION.....	5
OTHER LAWS THAT I FEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA	6
4. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI) BILL)	6
5. EMPLOYMENT EQUITY AMENDMENT ACT (EEAA) & BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (BEE)	7
6. EXPROPRIATION OF LAND WITHOUT COMPENSATION (EWC)	8
7. THE EQUALITY ACT (2003).....	10
8. PERSECUTION DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN SOUTH AFRICA.....	10

Laws That I Fear In South Africa

1. Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill

I believe that children are a blessing and a gift from God. As parents, it is my and my wife's responsibility to bring our children up in "bring them up in [the] discipline and admonition of [the] Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

This would include they are instructed in the Scriptures, the truth is that:

- Salvation is ONLY in One, Jesus Christ and no other.
- His life given on the cross means that through believing in Him, we can have peace with God because He substituted for me.
- There is only one God, Who is our Father, and is Head over all things
- God is three Persons - the Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit.

These are just some examples of what my responsibility to them as a parent would be.

Scripture also instructs me very definitely as to regard for other gods. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 3:20, and "For thou shalt worship no other God; for Jehovah—Jealous is his name—is a jealous God" Exodus 34:14

For me to teach my child the details of religions such Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, for example, and to put them on equality with Christianity, would be blasphemous.

This is where the seriousness of the South African homeschooling laws comes in. As a father of 2 children, 4 years old and 18 months old, I am facing my son being of a school going age within the next few months.

Schooling in South Africa has long been a point of contention since the ANC came into power in 1994. They have attempted to, and have largely successfully, eroded the public schooling system into a state of disarray. This is the Socialist way - break everything down to the ground, and then build it again. However, along with that, they have slowly turned the Curriculum into a subtle influence over children, affecting their way of thinking from a young age.

Schooling in SA is governed by the National Curriculum Statement (NCS). This was originally established back in the early 2000s, and was specifically written to shape what children believe and how they understand and interpret the world around them. It went far beyond the basics of reading, writing and math, and instead infringed into a territory that is the parent's responsibility, not the State's. Following this Statement, the CAPS system was introduced in 2011 as part of a broader curriculum reform to address the issues with earlier versions of NCS.

It is this initial policy that prompted every single member of the church to remove their children from public schools, and begin homeschooling, circa 2001. I was just 3 years old at the time, and therefore never went to a public school. I was homeschooled by my parents, friends and family for my entire life, in order to be protected from these policies.

Religious education is mandatory throughout the National Curriculum. Children are required to learn about all religions of the world, understand their values, as well as identify common values that all religions promote. Religions are to be taught with equity, putting them all on the same level. There are even specific quotes within the books that claim the Muslim god, Allah, is the same person as the Christian God - which is completely false and blasphemous! Yet, I would be required to teach my children this, as part of the Curriculum.

The only way to get around this (previously) was to homeschool our children, and that is why it was done. There was some scope to do this within your own bounds and comfort levels of what to teach, and you were not mandated into a particular Curriculum.

However, in 2018, things began to change. The homeschooling policy changed so that you would need to teach your children in accord with “13(1)(b)(ii) covers the acquisition of content and skills at least comparable to the relevant national curriculum outcomes as determined by the Minister.”.

This meant that you could home school your children, but you were required to teach them in accordance with NCS/CAPS/National Curriculum. The only way to avoid this would be to teach without registering and try to stay under the radar in fear of being discovered.

But this was only the start. The BELA bill, now signed into law in September 2024, Has meant that homeschooling has come under a microscope with much stricter government control. Non-compliance with the government policies is now a criminal offense, meaning we would undoubtedly face persecution if we were to return.

Under the new BELA regulations:

- Every child must attend school from Grade R to at least Grade 9.
- Parents who fail to send their child to school are liable for up to 12 months' imprisonment, and the children will be forced to attend school after the parents are imprisoned.
- In order to homeschool your children, you have to register for approval with the Department of Education.
- The Department of Education will approve the application provided they believe it is in the best interests of the child and that the curriculum is at least comparable to the national curriculum.
- The parents must have the child's education attainment assessed at key milestones to check that they are not inferior to the standard set in the national curriculum. It would very quickly become apparent if the national curriculum was not being followed.
- These assessors would be from the education department and would be very committed to the government's agenda of ensuring that their own curriculum is taught whether at home, in a public school, or a private school.
- The Department of Education must deny any application where these requirements are not met, and this results in compulsory attendance at public schools. If they were not obeyed, the parents would face up to 12 months' imprisonment.

How this affects us:

- We cannot comply with educating our children as to the details of other religions and blasphemous statements that they encourage.
- We cannot comply with the requirements of teaching all religions as equal.
- It would be sin for us to do this, and we would have no choice between either:
 - Trying to illegally school our children with the potential of being found out at any moment and then imprisoned,
 - Or to comply and sin in doing so, bringing distance in our relations with God, and going through the psychological torment of knowing we are doing what is wrong.

Consequences:

- Up to 12 months jail time
- Children forced to go to public schools and be taught National Curriculum.
- With certainty, we would be persecuted by this bill.

2. Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act (Hate Speech Bill)

God desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

While we do not actively proselytize to try and gain more members to our church, we are committed to the preaching of the glad tidings because it is God's power to salvation and He is justified in His righteousness in closing the day of grace.

He will do this in a very soon time to come, and will be justified in doing so because of the Gospel having been presented and every man being given a fair chance to believe in the blood of Jesus.

Part of our belief as a result of this is that the Glad Tidings should be preached on the street so that any man can hear and find relief as knowing his sin is taken away.

However, this is now something that would result in our persecution in South Africa. The Hate Speech Bill is a recently passed bill from May 2024 which criminalizes statements that are deemed harmful or offensive to certain persons or groups. The jail sentences are up to 5 years.

Previously, there was a law in place for hate speech, but it was treated as a civil offense. While now, under the Hate Speech Bill, it is a **criminal offense**.

While there is allowance in the law for a formal sermon that is preached in a church, there is no allowance for an informal setting such as on the streets, in a workplace, or a conversation in a supermarket or anything of this character, which is often where we would proclaim our Faith and encourage persons to believe in the blood of Christ.

How this affects us - these are some examples of what would qualify as “hate speech” under these laws:

- If I were to tell an atheist that he will face hell if he does not believe in God.
- If I were to tell a Muslim that there is only one God, and that Mohammad was an impostor, and Islam is apostasy, and the only way to salvation is to believe in Jesus Christ, the one mediator between man and God.
- If I were to tell a homosexual that what he is doing is against God, and he is “working shame” according to Romans 1.

These are just some examples, and there are many more.

To be clear, I'm not seeking out persons such as these, with a view to be confrontational. However, our belief is that we are required to be faithful and to state the truth, so that we are right before God above everything else. And that can be that what I say can be offensive to someone, and under this law, it would be a criminal offense.

Therefore, I could not actively avoid someone who had the appearance of being an atheist or Muslim or homosexual, but in fact I would be required to say something in faithfulness to them. I preach on the streets in the USA, and often, have been met with persons who are antagonistic, swearing, cursing, shouting at me just for preaching Jesus's name.

Consequences:

- As this is now a criminal offense, the consequences are up to 5 years imprisonment.
- I cannot stop preaching the gospel, and neither can my brethren. We would be repeat offenders, jailed, and suffer persecution as a result.

What Freedom of Religion South Africa (FORSA) said in their expert legal opinion about the consequences for us: *“The potential for ideological enforcement of the Act is real and significant. Already, conservative Christian viewpoints on gender and sexuality, even when respectfully and sincerely expressed, are perceived by some as inherently harmful. Under the current statutory regime, such expressions could become criminally liable, irrespective of intent or context.”*

3. Cultural, Religious and Linguistic (CRL) Rights Commission

The CRL is a Commission that is meant to protect Cultural, Religious and Linguistic rights. In 2015-2017, they launched a nationwide investigation into abuses within religious institutions. While some of these were very valid, it was clear that some extreme situations (which could have been dealt with under existing criminal law), were being used to facilitate much broader regulations of religious gatherings.

This is mentioned in the 2023 US State Report on Religious Freedom (TAB P): *In November, the National Assembly passed a 2016 CRL legislative proposal that would require religious groups to register formally with the government and would create a peer review council, consisting of representatives from various religious groups, that would grant organizations and individual religious leaders permission to operate. At year's end, the President had not signed the measure into law. Several groups, including the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference, Freedom of Religion South Africa (FORSA), and the International Institute for Religious Freedom, opposed the proposal, saying the registration requirement would restrict their religious freedom.*

Chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva has been a big driver of much of this, and following the investigation, the 2017 Report issued by the CRL recommended:

- All religious institutions must register under a peer-review regulatory body, which would be set up by the CRL.
- No one is exempt from registration, both the entity and the place where you intend to hold the gathering.
- Every religious organization must belong to an approved "Umbrella Organization".
- Every religious leader and organization to be vetted to ensure that they were preaching and promoting "acceptable doctrine".
- CRL to be the "final arbiter of religion" with the "final decision powers" in religious disputes.
- CRL to be granted the ultimate power to suspend or dismiss religious leaders – and potentially to shut down religious organizations found guilty of misconduct.

This was focused on all religions and religious gatherings in general. This was a priority to be completed in the years following, and initial steps were made, only for Covid-19 to happen and everything slowed down.

As the Commission works on a 5-year rotation of chairpersons, Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva was cycled out in 2019-2024, but is now back as of 2025, and pushing harder than ever, saying that state regulation of religion is "back on the table" and that "It's not business as usual around churches anymore."

She and Prof Musa Xulu of the Section 22 Committee, set up by the CRL, have made it clear that this is a priority, and that there must be clear recommendations that can be implemented by the end of 2026.

They also have begun referring to these actions needing to be taken in particular against Christian gatherings, and are infuriated by the fact that someone can just start a church, and say whatever they want, and not have to get clearance from the government first.

Chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva also said that those who claim to "speak to God" should see a psychiatrist, showing that she is vehemently against the practice of Christianity.

This is how it would affect us:

- As the assembly of God is heavenly, not part of this earth – she is not, and will never be a registered entity here, and we could never take an official name. This forms the core beliefs of our faith that the Head of the Church (Christ's body) is Christ in heaven.
- We could never subject preachings or Bible reading meetings to peer-review committees to control what is or is not said, as that would be restricting the Holy Spirit to what the government thinks is right or wrong! "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly" 1 Timothy 4:1

- We could never register official positions of ministers/preachers. We do not believe in or have any hierarchy. The Apostle Peter never registered with any organization - he just stood up and preached! Neither did the Apostle Paul, who if alive today would not even be allowed today in the Catholic church, as he was not an ordained clergy. It is against the teaching of Scripture.

While many persons would be willing to comply with this law, we could never. Non-compliance is not yet defined, but the outline from the 2017 report is non-registration would be regarded as operating outside of the law, and these unregistered leaders/institutions would not be allowed to operate as religious bodies.

What Freedom of Religion South Africa (FORSA) said in their expert legal opinion about the consequences for us: *“The “Plymouth Brethren”, by virtue of their sincere beliefs, decentralised governance, and rejection of state licensing or peer review, will not be able to comply with such a regime. This puts them directly in the crosshairs of a system designed to suppress independent expressions of faith. Should they have to return to South Africa under a system of state regulation of religion, there is a high likelihood that they will face harassment, criminal charges, or closure of their worship gatherings (violating their right to association and their communal religious rights), merely for exercising their religious convictions. In short, they would be punished for their faith. **This is not just a risk; it is a clear and credible threat of religious persecution.**”*

See Tab G: “FORSA Expert Legal Opinion”

Regarding the Hate Speech Bill & CRL Bill, FORSA defined the impacts of both of these laws on us, in the conclusion of their professional legal opinion:

“The potential consequences for communities such as the “Plymouth Brethren”, whose deeply held beliefs (and practice of them) are irreconcilable with state interference, are not merely theoretical but imminently practical. The likelihood of punitive measures, including prosecution or suppression of religious gatherings, is no longer speculative (should state regulation be imposed). As this opinion has outlined, both the CRL’s regulatory agenda and the vague, overbroad provisions of the Hate Speech Act create a legal environment in which peaceful, sincere religious expression may be criminalised or administratively curtailed. The cumulative effect is the erosion of a fundamental freedom and the real prospect of religious persecution.”

Other Laws That I Fear In South Africa

These are secondary, but still a violation of our faith, and of deep concern, as they show the willingness of the South African government to persecute minorities, and a disregard for God’s principles.

4. National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill

My body is not my own, and has been “bought with a price”. 1 Corinthians 6:20

For example, I would not have a tattoo on my body, smoke cigarettes, or abuse my body with drugs, as this would be against Scripture.

I care for my body as recognizing it belongs to God, and consider everything done to it with that in mind.

The NHI Bill is establishing a completely new health system in South Africa, including the following:

- One national fund for all healthcare, which would be funded through taxation of citizens.
- Public and private healthcare practices would continue to operate concurrently, but all healthcare would be purchased through the State.
- No one would have a direct relation with a healthcare institution, but instead through the intermediary of the State.

This is blatant socialism.

But on top of that, it would undoubtedly end in persecution for us because of our beliefs.

This is how it would affect us:

- We cannot have someone else in charge of our bodies, who belong to God.
- This includes that we cannot have someone making the decisions for the healthcare/actions to be taken in relation to our bodies.
- We cannot have someone else deciding which doctor, which medicine, which vaccines are suitable for us to take, and which are not.

For this reason, the NHI Bill, which was signed on May 15, 2024, and is in the process of being implemented, will result in persecution for me because of my beliefs.

5. Employment Equity Amendment Act (EEAA) & Black Economic Empowerment (BEE)

South Africa is a complex nation with the scars of Apartheid still very visible. I would like to precursor everything that is said here with the fact that I (and all of my brethren) did NOT agree with Apartheid, and in fact boycotted it for years, not going to beaches, parks etc that were for “whites only”, and much more. We prayed against Apartheid, and believe that a man should be treated as a man, not by the color of his skin. As Scripture says, God “has made of one blood every nation of men”. Acts 17:26

After Apartheid, measures were put in place to try and mitigate the previous disadvantage that blacks and persons of color were put at, due to the policies pre 1994. Affirmative Action was one of these, and it was right. An example being if there is an opportunity to choose between a white and black for an employment role, who were both equally qualified, that the role would be given to the black.

However, in South Africa, the progression of racial laws has gotten steadily worse, and is now far from reversing the wrongs of the past, but instead is making it impossible for a Christian to do business righteously in South Africa.

BEE was a law which was signed in 2003, and then implemented in 2024. It set up a system which required transfer of business ownership to black persons, in order to remain compliant. Businesses were graded between different levels, depending on if they had 51% black ownership, 100% black ownership or 30% black woman ownership.

The system is set up in an extremely subtle way to naturally encourage compliance because you are rewarded or punished according to how compliant your procurement, supply chain, development etc is, as well as your ownership quotas. This means businesses naturally push one another to compliance, especially one who cares more about their B-BBEE score.

While I have no issue doing business with someone of color, Scripture makes it clear that I cannot enter into a legal business partnership with someone who I am not in fellowship with. "Be not diversely yoked with unbelievers". 2 Corinthians 6:14

This forced transfer of business assets is theft, and blatant socialism. We did not comply with this law when in South Africa, and suffered heavily as a result of not having certificates or sufficient levels of rating due to non-compliance.

Further to this law, since we have left, the Employment Equity Amendment Act (EEAA) has been passed as of 2022. Based on this law:

- The Minister of Labour can set sector-specific numerical racial targets for hiring, instead of leaving it only to employers to set their own.
- Employers must align their workforce racial demographics with the economically active population (EAP) and sector targets.
- Employers not complying can be barred from doing business with the state (no compliance certificate = no government tenders).

These quotas are completely subjective according to whatever the Minister feels is fair, and the penalties are enormous, with maximum penalties reaching up to 10% of turnover for repeat offences (yes, that is turnover, not profit!) for non-compliance.

The issue extends beyond business owners too, as many brethren were in businesses in managerial positions where they would be part of hiring decisions. Corporate requirements would be for you to hire and promote black persons only. We would not do this, as it is against our convictions and would be sin before God to treat a man according to the color of his skin. We would therefore lose our jobs, and the same thing would happen at the next business.

In summary, how this affects us:

- We would not be able to comply with this, as it would be sin against God, due to our beliefs according to Scripture that a man is treated as a man, regardless of the color of his skin. Acts 17:26
- We would not be able to enter into business partnerships with persons with whom we are not in fellowship, as it would be sin against God. 2 Corinthians 6:14

Consequences:

- If we follow the law, we go against our own beliefs, sinning and breaking communion with God.
- If we refuse to follow the law, and we run our own businesses, we would go bankrupt, and have to close down.
- If we refuse to follow the law, and if we were an employee who worked in another business, we would be fired for not complying with the law.

As we could never comply, we would be repeat offenders of this act, resulting in larger and larger fines, or no company being willing to hire.

Many of our brethren were business owners in South Africa. I own two businesses in the USA, and if I were to return, I would be persecuted under this law.

6. Expropriation of Land Without Compensation (EWC)

The concept of expropriation without compensation (EWC) is a highly prominent and contentious issue in South African politics, largely driven by the ruling African National Congress (ANC). The longstanding desire of the ANC became a reality in December 2017 when they resolved to pursue expropriation without compensation.

While the ANC argues it aims to address historical injustices stemming from Apartheid, and that black South Africans are desperate for land ownership, studies and polling has shown that the vast majority of black South Africans would prefer financial compensation over land!

Despite public sentiment, the ANC has prioritized EWC, aligning with a broader socialist agenda that is focused on the “abolition of private property” - which is what Karl Marx defined Communism to be.

An initial attempt to implement EWC through a constitutional amendment failed, not due to a lack of parliamentary support for it in concept, but because other parties, notably the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), deemed the proposed amendment insufficiently radical. They wanted something even more aggressive, saying that there should be “state custodianship of all land”!

Consequently, with the ANC desperate to still pass the law, the measure was instead enacted via a bill, rather than a Constitutional amendment. In September 2022, the National Assembly passed the Expropriation Bill, allowing for expropriation of property with “nil compensation”, within the guidelines of the existing Constitution.

Note that the bill specifically says “property”, and while land is the primary thing that has been discussed, the fact is that it could be used for beyond land. Where does “property” start and end? The bill reads as follows under Section 1 (Parliament of South Africa, Act 13 of 2024): *“Property” *means not only land, but any movable or immovable property, including a *right in property, a registered right, a right to minerals, a servitude, or any other right in or to such property, whether corporeal or incorporeal.*

The ANC then took this a step further in passing the Land Court Bill. This was signed in September 2023. The reason for this bill was to replace the Land Claims Court, which the ANC believed was too under-resourced and slow. So this specialized land court would be set up with permanent judges to deal with land-related disputes. The significance of this is outlined in TABs from Anthea Jeffery, where she analyzes the situation and shows clearly the land court bill would be packed with judges that are ANC-aligned, cadres as they call them, who would do the ANC's bidding and operate outside of the standard rule of law that falls under traditional courts.

Under the Land Court Bill the high courts are instead to be barred from dealing with expropriation without compensation and other land disputes. This gives no control over the tribunal being packed with ANC-loyal judges.

Now, with both the necessary legislation in the Expropriation Without Compensation Act and the mechanism by which to execute on this in the Land Court Bill, the ANC is primed for actual implementation.

Consequences & how this law affects us:

- A man is to be steward or master of his own affairs, being in control of his own property, choosing what he pays his workers etc, as the Lord says in Matthew 20:15: “is it not lawful for me to do what I will in my own affairs?” and too Paul saying “seek earnestly to be quiet and mind your own affairs” (1 Thessalonians 4:11)
- It is theft, and theft that is sanctioned by the government. How can I submit to a government that is directly against Scripture? “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15)

The ultimate Socialist goal is abolition of God, private property, business, family relations and more. Expropriation Without Compensation is one step on their path to achieving this end. As a Christian, I cannot live under this, and would suffer persecution.

7. The Equality Act (2003)

The Equality Act forces me to sin because it requires men and women to fulfill the same roles in the guise of prohibiting discrimination. That is, I would be required to have women teachers and preachers in the Assembly, but if I complied with that law, then I would be forced to sin by failing to follow the Scripture that prohibits women from teaching or preaching in the Assembly - "I suffer not a woman to teach or exercise authority over man." (1 Timothy 2:12).

Compliance with the Equality Act also requires me to violate the Scripture setting forth the Biblical order of God, Christ, man and woman - "But I wish you to know that the Christ is the head of every man, but woman's head is the man and the Christ's head God." (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Thus, by enacting these laws that require me to allow women to teach, preach or to be considered equals in every aspect of my life in violation of the Biblical order, the South African government is forcing me to sin by forcing me to violate 1 Timothy 2:12 and by forcing me to violate 1 Corinthians 11:3.

This law was already enacted when we left South Africa, and we disobeyed it for years, thankfully to no consequence. However, with the increased scrutiny on equal rights in South Africa and the heightened monitoring and intention to regulate religious organizations, means that we will not be able to maintain flying under the radar.

If I'm forced to return to South Africa, this is the persecution that I will suffer: that I am forced to go against scripture in order to obey the law. This is sin and brings in distance between me and God, which is unbearable for a Christian who practices separation.

8. Persecution during Covid-19 Lockdown in South Africa

While none of our group was in South Africa at the point of COVID-19 regulations in 2020 and 2021, the effect on our gatherings would have been devastating. Thankfully, every single member had fled by this point, and therefore we were not affected. But many others were.

The treatment of South Africans during this time was clearly disproportionate to favor businesses and to target religious gatherings.

Many of the actions were horrific:

- More than 400,000 persons were arrested for not complying with lockdown restrictions.
- Thousands of these were jailed, tortured, raped and more.
- More than 100 died in police custody.
- Religious gatherings were disproportionately targeted, where there were significant periods of time in which it was legal for gatherings, group singing and sharing of liquid substances to be allowed in bars, pubs and taverns, while religious gatherings were banned, with no group singing or sharing of liquid substances allowed.
- During this time period, the severe lockdown regulations of the South African government would have banned our gatherings for a total of 155 days, and prohibited the Lord's Supper from taking place on 78 occasions during 2020-2021.

This proves beyond reasonable doubt that the South African government is prejudiced against Christians and is more readily willing to regulate churches than they are bars, pubs or taverns.

Yet, the most direct thing that can be looked at today to explain my case is the laws that have been passed. While many of these laws may be what your office would call "general applicability", it is undeniable that these laws disproportionately affect me and my brethren because of our beliefs.

Anyone who is faithful to Christ, practicing the doctrine of separation, remains true to Scripture in every regard, including all of Paul's teachings and the light of the Recovery of the Truth, will be persecuted in South Africa.

Others would be willing to compromise, lower their standards or adjust their way of life or faith in order to compensate for the government's demands, in an attempt to avoid suffering. This was also proved during the COVID-19 regulations when most dominations of Christendom largely gave up on religious gatherings and instead decided to operate via Zoom and other methods which was directly against Paul's teaching of "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the custom [is] with some". Hebrews 10:25

This, we could never do! We would have continued meeting, we could have continued to hold the Lord's Supper, and we would have all been locked up.