

**No Child's Play: In Prison Under Apartheid**, Caesarina Kona Makhoere, The Women's Press, London (121pp, price not known).

This slim, accessible volume describes the author's experience during six years in detention in South Africa, on charges under the Terrorism Act. She was arrested and detained in October 1976 for involvement in the Bantu education riots (that were met with the Sharpsville Massacre), her whereabouts having been disclosed by her policeman father. She was only convicted a year later, and then given a five year sentence. She was released in October 1982, aged 27, having been in solitary confinement in various jails for almost her entire sentence.

The book is written in a very immediate, informal style, expressing from the heart, the anger, frustration, commitment and courage of this powerful woman. She describes day to day life in various jails, and the continuing battle to improve conditions - with many successes over the years, because of her relentless determination. Despite the harshness of the conditions she maintains her objectivity and even a sense of humour, allied to a sharp sense of irony and justice.

It is the descriptive detail that brings her experiences alive - such as the time a letter to a cousin was rejected on the grounds she had quoted the Bible, the only book to which she had been allowed access for two years. The sheer pettiness of the prison system is amply illustrated, quite apart from the generally inhuman conditions, and, of course, the underlying injustice of an elaborate apartheid system even within prison walls.

For anyone concerned to learn more of the daily reality of political imprisonment in South Africa, Cde Makhoere's book provides a graphic, disturbing and inspiring personal account.

Reviewed by Helen Jackson, School of Social Work, Harare.

**Women Race and Class**, Angela Davis, The Women's Press, London, 1981 (271pp, price not stated).

One of the frequently heard statements in our lives today is 'this is the status of women in such and such a country', as if women in that country live a uniform life and they have the same concerns. For those with this false notion that one can talk about women as one group Angela Davis' book is the book to read. **Women Race and Class** is a journey through the history of American women: black, white, poor, rich, and other groups. Davis shows that even in their struggles for equality women in America were not united. Middle class white women had their own concerns which were different from those of working class whites and from black women.

Says Davis, white middle class women "viewed male supremacy as an immoral flaw in their otherwise acceptable society". For them, being franchised was the only issue. Thus, in the very beginning of the franchise movement both black women and working class white women were not involved. Davis shows that it was only after working class women realised that getting the vote would also enable them to fight for better working conditions that they took up the franchise issue.