

Activists Take a Solidarity Walk as Part of WS Activities

By Linda Zantsi

At the 25th Winter School, the participants were grouped into different departments to plan for the 25th anniversary of the Khanya College Winter School. As part of a dry run for this millstone of an event, the logistics group planned a silent walk from Khanya College to corner Bree and Saur Street in Johannesburg Central Business District (CBD).

This walk was a demonstration of collective planning showing the power of mutual aid and solidarity in the streets of Johannesburg. During planning the logistics group had to brainstorm on what is needed for the walk, what issues and awareness are being raised in this walk and also safety material needed to execute the walk safely such as reflectors, transport for the elderly, posters and flyers to distribute once we arrive at the venue. The team created and designed posters themselves, so that the silent walk could attract public attention, two of the posters were written "Walking in Solidarity" and the other was written 'Together We Can'.

The logistics team had to work hand in hand with other groups to arrange time and constantly check on their progress, especially the theatre group that had to arrive at the venue before the rest of the participants would arrive. Time management was crucial in executing the planning and it was the biggest challenge because the preparation took too long and at some point, the logistic team was not sure when the walk would start.

Fortunately, the walk started right on time at 2:30 pm. At the venue, the theatre group performed a street theatre play about solidarity in our communities. This thrilling play took an hour, then after all groups presented their work and tasks. The groups presented their different campaigns, steps in preparation for the theatre, garden preparation, media strategy and program coordination. Then participants had to walk back to Khanya College and the logistics team marshalled the people back safely.

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