



STEVE KITSON ARCHIVE

(KITSON)

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KITSON

Steve Kitson Archive

1976-1992

Name of Creator: Kitson, Stephen (c1957-1997) anti-apartheid campaigner

Extent: 7 Boxes, 2 Loose Folders

Administrative/Biographical History: Stephen 'Steve' Kitson (c1957-1997) was an anti-apartheid campaigner. He was born in London to South African anti-apartheid campaigners David and Norma Kitson, who moved back to South Africa with their infant son in 1959 to further their involvement in the cause. In 1963, David was arrested as a member of the armed wing of the African National Congress and sentenced to 20 years in jail. As a result, Norma, Steve and his baby sister Amandla received so much police harassment in the years after David's incarceration that Norma decided to move her young family back to London. When he reached the age of 16, Steve Kitson used his school holidays to travel to South Africa to visit his father in prison.

During one such visit in 1982, Kitson was held by South Africa authorities who thought him to be part of ANC gathering intel about the Pretoria prison. For six days, Kitson was violently interrogated and was released largely in part to the Free Steve Kitson Campaign which was set up by Norma and her colleague Carol Brickley. This campaign, though short-lived, was for many the first time they participated in anti-apartheid campaigning and so the organisation was reformed to the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group (CAAG) to capitalise on this momentum.

Kitson was a very active member and organiser of CAAG. He often performed with the City Group Singers and taught protesters South African songs during various demonstrations including the 86-day picket in 1982 and the 24-hour picket in 1986 both outside of the South African Embassy. A year later in 1987, CAAG held another 24-hour picket and Kitson was one of four people arrested for protesting - including his mother Norma. Kitson was also one of the first members of the London School of Samba, who were the first protest samba band in the UK. They took part in the huge demonstration in 1990 against the Poll Tax. He died in 1997 at the age of 40.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Amandla Smith via Gavin Brown, February 2020.

Scope and Content: The Steve Kitson Archive includes pages from his diary; papers and photographs relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group meetings, demonstrations and conferences; papers relating to City Group Singers; papers and ephemera relating to other social justice groups including Irish solidarity, miners support, local defence campaigns and other international solidarity movements. (1976-1992)

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

KITSON/1	Education and employment with Rolls Royce	1981-1986
	Papers relating to Kitson's education and employment with Rolls Royce (1981-1986) OPEN	
KITSON/2	Colour photographs	1991-1992
	Colour photographs of Kitson and his father Daniel at home (1991-1992) OPEN	
KITSON/3	Black and white photographs	c1983-1984
	Black and white photographs of protests in London relating to apartheid in Namibia and South Africa, the Trafalgar 9, and David Kitson's incarceration. Also includes photographs of Kitson, his sister Amandla and his mother Norma (c1983-1984) OPEN	
KITSON/4	Defend Academic Freedom - the Case of David Kitson campaign	1984
	Papers relating to David Kitson becoming a Research Fellow at Ruskin College under the sponsorship of TASS and his subsequent suspension from this position, including papers relating to the 'Defend Academic Freedom – the Case of David Kitson' campaign. (1984) APPLY TO ARCHIVIST	
KITSON/5	Correspondence and campaigning	1976-1983
	Correspondence from South African Secretary for the Interior to Kitson stating his visa exemption has been withdrawn; papers relating to Free Steven Kitson campaign including minutes of the Kitson Committee, protest material, TASS and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers correspondence, correspondence written by Kitson and his mother Norma, press cuttings, and handwritten notes; papers relating to the Bristol Anti-Apartheid Group; papers relating to the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) including flyers, conference programmes, circulars, and ephemera; reports published by the United	

Nations Centre Against Apartheid; ephemera relating to the African National Congress, Free Mandela Campaign, Roach Family Support Committee Defence Campaign, Troops Out, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Greenham solidarity, Lebanese solidarity, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Marx Centenary, International Solidarity Front – Iran, SWAPO Women’s Solidarity, Committee for the Defence of the Iranian Revolution (CODIR), Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey, Disabled People Against Apartheid, Haringey Anti-Apartheid, Southern African – the Imprisoned Society, Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, Welsh Anti-Apartheid Movement, North London Irish Solidarity Committee, Moslem Iranian Students Society, The W.O.M.A.D. Festival, United Nations Council for Namibia, Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Information Centre, Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract, Bristol Campaign Against Racist Laws, and United Nations Council for Namibia. (1976-1983)

OPEN

KITSON/6 Papers, leaflets, and ephemera 1983

Paper and notes written by Kitson relating to South Africa and Britain’s legal systems; leaflets and ephemera from the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Campaign Against Namibian Uranium Contract, Committee on South African War Resistance, and the Holland Committee on Southern Africa and the Working Group Kairos. (1983)

OPEN

KITSON/7 South Africa: the Time to Choose: A Conference 1982

Papers relating to ‘South Africa: the Time to Choose: A Conference’ organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and co-sponsored by the UN Special Committee against Apartheid (1982)

OPEN

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| KITSON/8 | Rolls Royce Social and Recreational Users Committee | 1979-1981 |
| | Papers relating to the Rolls Royce Social and Recreational Users Committee (1979-1981)
OPEN | |
| KITSON/9 | Zimbabwe, the Free David Kitson Campaign, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement | 1982 |
| | Hand-written statement by Kitson relating to his experiences in Zimbabwe; greeting cards from the Free David Kitson Campaign; papers from the Anti-Apartheid Movement including flyers and ephemera (1982)
OPEN | |
| KITSON/10 | South African boycott, 24-hour picket and other solidarity campaigns | 1985 |
| | Pages from Kitson's diary; paper written by Norma Kitson relating to her husband David's incarceration; papers and ephemera relating to the Anti-Apartheid Movement, including boycott campaign of South African and the 24-hour picket to free Mandela; leaflets from other solidarity campaigns including Islington Miners Support Committee, Max Holz Committee, Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, and Campaign Against Police Violence (January-February 1985)
OPEN | |
| KITSON/11 | Anti-Apartheid Movement and solidarity campaigns | 1985 |
| | Pages from Kitson's diary and his handwritten notes; papers relating to the Anti-Apartheid Movement; leaflets from solidarity campaigns including SWAPO of Namibia, Free Oscar Mpetha, London Irish Solidarity Committees, African National Congress, Toufique Ahmed Defence Campaign, and Caribbean Labour Solidarity; press cutting relating to Norma Kitson (February-March 1985)
OPEN | |

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| KITSON/12 | Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and other solidarity campaigns | 1985 |
| | <p>Papers and ephemera relating to the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Irish solidarity, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, 'Justice for the Pryces' Support Committee, South Asia Solidarity, Justice for Wilson Silcott, All-African Students Conference, and the Islington Anti-Apartheid Movement (September-November 1985)</p> <p>OPEN</p> | |
| KITSON/13 | Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign | 1985 |
| | <p>Papers relating to the Anti-Apartheid movement, the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, and the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group (November-December 1985)</p> <p>OPEN</p> | |
| KITSON/14 | Anti-Apartheid Defence Campaign | 1984-1985 |
| | <p>Papers relating to the Anti-Apartheid Defence Campaign including statements of those arrested during the Anti-Apartheid demonstration outside South Africa House (June 1984-October 1985)</p> <p>APPLY TO ARCHIVIST</p> | |
| KITSON/15 | Papers, notes and ephemera | 1985 |
| | <p>Pages from Kitson's diary, his handwritten notes, and his charge record from the Metropolitan Police; letter written by David Kitson; newspaper article written by Norma Kitson; ephemera celebrating David Kitson's first year freed from prison; papers relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, London School of Samba, Islington Anti-Apartheid Movement, Anti-Apartheid Movement, British Friends of Palestine, Broadwater Farm : Black People Campaign for Justice (North London), Haringey Campaign Group, Tottenham Labour Party, 'Justice for the Pryces' Support Committee, the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, South London Irish Solidarity</p> | |

Campaign, Philippines Support Group, African National Congress, African Liberation Committee, Greenpeace, Association of Black South African Arts and Culture and African Dawn, Campaign Against Police Violence, WOMAD Festival, Anti-Fascist Action Committee, Gays and Lesbians Against Apartheid, Imperialism and Racism, Eelam Solidarity Campaign, Black Consciousness Movement of Azania, Anti-Imperialist Weekend, Rosmina Defence Campaign, Seminar on the Juche Idea, Zimbabwean Trade Unionists Defence Campaign, National Boycott Conference, SWAPO of Namibia, and Alan Reeve Hunger Strike (February – October 1985)

OPEN

KITSON/16 Notes and papers 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; papers relating to Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Irish solidarity, Miners solidarity, Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contracts, and Homeless Families Occupation Committee (December 1984)

OPEN

KITSON/17 Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and other solidarity campaigns 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; papers relating to Haringey Black Pressure Group, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Southern Africa – the imprisoned society, Homeless Families, Conference on Black Parents and Schools, Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, Tower Hamlets NALGO, and Women's Unit (UK) (November 1984)

OPEN

KITSON/18 Correspondence and campaigns 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary, his correspondence and handwritten notes; correspondence to Kitson's father David; papers relating to South African Embassy Picket Campaign, Anti-

Apartheid Movement, African National Congress, Irish Solidarity, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, South African National Congress Women's Section, Nicaraguan Solidarity, Save the Durban Six!, and the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (October 1984)

OPEN

KITSON/19 Correspondence and campaigns 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary, correspondence and handwritten notes; papers relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Union of Iranian Communists, Sinn Fein, the Occupation of the South London Women's Hospital, Irish Solidarity Movement, Group Lifestyles and Action on Development (G.L.A.D.), Consumer Campaign, Hackney Black People's Association, the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, No to Botha Defence Campaign, South African Embassy Picket Campaign, Mosquito Press, October 29 Scapegoats, and NALGO picket (July-August 1984)

OPEN

KITSON/20 Anti-apartheid and anti-racism 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary and his arrest charge sheet; papers relating to his father David's release from prison, Lambeth's anti-racist year, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Libraries Dispute of Tower Hamlets, African National Congress, and Anti-Apartheid Movement (June 1984)

OPEN

KITSON/21 Correspondence and the 24-hour picket 1978-1983

Kitson's handwritten notes, correspondence, visa applications, and charge sheet; correspondence from Norma and Amandla Kitson; papers relating to the 24-hour picket outside South Africa House, Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, Westminster North Labour Party, South Africa – the imprisoned society, Roach Family Support Committee, the Kitson Committee, SWAPO Women's Solidarity Campaign, Allison Weinburg's murder (July 1978-July 1983)

OPEN

KITSON/22 Correspondence and campaigns 1983

Pages from Kitson's diary, his correspondence and handwritten notes; Norma Kitson's correspondence; papers relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, Kitson Committee, International Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia, anti-racist policing, Anti-Apartheid Movement, South Africa Congress of Trade Unions, Teachers for Peace, SWAPO Solidarity Campaign, Irish Solidarity, Troops Out, African Peoples Historical Monument Foundation (UK), memorial ephemera relating to Yusuf Dadoo, NALGO Tower Hamlets (September – October 1983)

OPEN

KITSON/23 Correspondence, notes and papers 1983

Pages from Kitson's diary, correspondence and handwritten notes; Norma Kitson's medical exam following an incident with the police; Amandla Kitson's report on her visit to South Africa; papers relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, West London El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, Anti-Apartheid Movement, African National Congress, NALGO Tower Hamlets, Greenham Common peace camp, Irish solidarity, the Communist Tradition of Ireland, Disabled People Against Apartheid, Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, racist policing, and the Newham 8 Defence Campaign (July-September 1983)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

KITSON/24 Solidarity campaigns 1983

Pages from Kitson's diary, correspondence and handwritten notes; papers relating to Kitson's arrest, Committee Against Repression and For Democratic Rights in Iraq, Campaign Against the Namibian Contract, SWAPO Women's Solidarity, Benjamin Moloise & ANC 6, Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, 24 Hour Picket, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Irish solidarity, East London Supporters of New

Jewel Movement (UK), and Hands Off
Grenada (November-December 1983)
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

KITSON/25 City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and solidarity campaigns 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary, correspondence, handwritten notes and witness statement; Amandla Kitson's witness statement; papers and ephemera relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, African National Congress, Free the Kassinga Detainees, London Against Racism, Irish Solidarity Movement, nuclear disarmament, Campaign Against the Police Bill, Hands Off Angola!, Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, Friends of James Davey, London Activists Conference (January-April 1984)
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

KITSON/26 Correspondence and campaigns 1984

Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; correspondence to Norma Kitson; papers relating to Tower Hamlets NALGO, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, One Week Picket Outside South Africa House, Anti-Apartheid Movement, General Union of Palestine Students, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, Namibia Support Committee, Guyana solidarity, Hackney's Anti-Racist Year, Blair Peach Festival, African National Congress – 1984 Year of the Woman, City Group Singers, Irish solidarity, Anti-Imperialist Rally, Iranian solidarity, George Moseki Anyona and all political prisoners in Kenya, Save Benjamin Molloise, Reinstate Sri-Asokamala Campaign (April – June 1984)
OPEN

KITSON/27 South African Embassy Picket Campaign 1984

Papers, photographs and press cuttings relating to South African Embassy Picket Campaign (1984)
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

- KITSON/28 Papers, press cuttings and ephemera 1984**
- Pages from Kitson's diary, correspondence and handwritten notes; papers and ephemera relating to South African Embassy Picket Campaign, Save Westminster Services, October 29 Scapegoats, North Westminster Action Committee, Irish solidarity, Aboriginal Land Rights Support Group, Anti-Apartheid Movement, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Women's Peace camp – Greenham Common, Angela Whitelock Action Group, Namibia : Independence Now, Islington Anti-Apartheid Movement, London Campaign Against Racist Checks, Stop the Deportation of Therese Bobe and Her Daughter Sarah, press cuttings relating to Dave Kitson's release from prison, Black Delegation to the Mining Communities, deportation, and the 'No to Botha' Campaign (August-September 1984)
OPEN
- KITSON/29 Notes, papers and ephemera 1985-1986**
- Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; papers and ephemera relating to City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, U.S. Out of Southern African Network, People's Anti-War Mobilization, African National Congress, and Frontline Forum (November 1985 – January 1986)
OPEN
- KITSON/30 Notes, papers and ephemera 1985-1986**
- Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; papers and ephemera relating to the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Iraqi Students' Society – UK, London School of Samba, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, South London Irish Solidarity Committee, the South African Embassy Picket Campaign, March Against Police Repression, Islington Anti-Apartheid Movement, Student Anti-Apartheid : American Committee on Africa, Women's Peace Camp – Greenham, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Free the New Jewel 19 Committee, Political Asylum for Garnett Korler, and the Marxism 86 conference (October 1985 – May 1986)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

- KITSON/31 Notes, papers and ephemera 1986**
- Pages from Kitson's diary and handwritten notes; papers and ephemera relating to London School of Samba, John Laing Lockout Committee (UCATT), Anti-Apartheid Movement, Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, Free the Guildford Four Campaign, Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, African National Congress, South African Communist Party, (June – November 1986)
OPEN
- KITSON/32 Papers and ephemera 1986-1987**
- Papers and ephemera relating to the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Council of Unions of South Africa, Family and Friends of Trevor Monerville Campaign Committee, Anti-Apartheid Movement, Justice for Steve Shaw and Victims of Police Harassment, and the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (December 1986 – March 1987)
OPEN
- KITSON/33 Correspondence, leaflets and ephemera 1987**
- Hand-written notes and correspondence; photocopy of article written by Norma Kitson; leaflets and ephemera from March for Moses Mayekiso, Azania Namibia Forum, Free the Sharpeville Six!, Campaign Against Repression in Iran (CARI), Pan Africanist Manifesto, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, City Group Singers, London School of Samba, and The Long March. (September – October 1987)
APPLY TO ARCHIVIST
- KITSON/34 Papers, correspondence, leaflets and ephemera 1987**
- Papers relating to Kitson's arrest including his statement and defence; hand-written notes and correspondence; leaflets and ephemera relating to Support David Kitson, London School of Samba, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Viraj Mendis Defence

Campaign, Bobby Sands Commemoration
Committee and Non-Stop Picket (February –
June 1987)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

KITSON/35 **Notes, correspondence and leaflets** **1987**

Hand-written notes and correspondence;
leaflets and ephemera relating to Non-Stop
Picket, City Singers, Black Solidarity for a
Socialist Azania, South West Africa National
Union (1987)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

KITSON/36 **Notes, papers and ephemera** **1987-1992**

Papers relating to Kitson's arrest, his hand-
written notes and correspondence; leaflets and
ephemera relating to City of London Anti-
Apartheid Group, Free the Sharpeville 6, The
Uppington 14 Must Not Hang, Friends of Moses
Mayekiso, Justice for Kitson Campaign, (1987-
1992)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST