

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

14 June - 22 September 2024

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Ernest Cole: House of Bondage

Please note: The captions were written by Ernest Cole himself, unless stated otherwise. The texts are taken directly from the publication, House of Bondage. Much of the language is specific to South Africa in 1966.



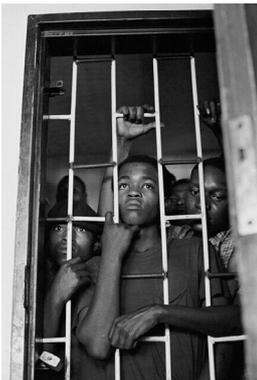
Pensive tribesmen, newly recruited to mine labour, awaiting processing and assignment. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of five young black men standing and staring off into the distance. One of them holds a document in his hand.



Pass raid outside Johannesburg station. Every African must show his pass before being allowed to go about his business. Sometimes police check broadens into search of a man's person and belongings. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white aerial photograph of two police officers stood waiting for a man to retrieve something from his briefcase.



These boys were caught trespassing in a white area. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of several young boys clutching the bars of a jail cell.



Handcuffed blacks were arrested for being in a white area illegally. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white close up photograph of the wrists of two individuals handcuffed together.

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Africans throng Johannesburg station platform during late afternoon rush hour. With no room inside train, some ride between cars. Which black train to take is matter of guess-work. They have no destination signs and no announcement of arrivals is made. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of several men and boys stood between two train cars as they hold on to anything they can.



Doornfontein railway station in rush hour. This picture shows the reality of apartheid without the need for any words. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of a segregated railway platform. On one end the platform is packed with black passengers and the other end has only a few white passengers waiting.



Living in her "kaya" out back, servant must be on call six days out of seven and seven nights out of seven. She lives a lonely life apart from her family. In white suburbs there are no recreation centres open to black servants. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of a black woman in cleaning scrubs sat on a crate as she leans her head in her hand. A white cloth is strewn over her lap.



Segregation signage. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of a white woman sat alone on an outdoor bench with the markings "EUROPEANS ONLY."

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A segregated bridge at Pretoria railway station. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of a railway bridge staircase with two signs, one saying "Non-Europeans Only" and "Europeans Only." Two black men walk up the "Non-Europeans Only" staircase.



Students kneel on floor to write. Government is casual about furnishing schools for blacks. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of several schoolchildren bent over on the floor to write, some write on paper others write on chalkboards.



"Penny baas, please, baas, I hungry." This plaint is part of nightly scene in the Golden City, as black boys beg from whites. They may be thrown a coin, or... they may get slapped in the face. Johannesburg, South Africa, 1960s © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of an older white man slapping a young black boy who is begging. Two other black boys stand to the side, one of whom has his hands outstretched.



Township mother fights losing battle to keep son, age nine, from running off to live life of the streets. She tries to assert authority with threats: "What's your future going to be like without an education?" South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of a mother sat down as she looks over to her son stood in the doorway looking sullen.

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Albert Luthuli, president of ANC, en route to Oslo with wife to receive Nobel Peace Prize for 1960. Then—as now—he was officially in banishment. South Africa. 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph of Albert Luthuli sat with a newspaper in his hands, as he looks directly into the camera. His wife is sat beside him.



From the book, House of Bondage. One of a collection of images from the chapter entitled “Black Ingenuity.” South Africa. 1966. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white photograph a man and woman dancing together in a room. Two other men are stood in the distance.



Typical location has acres of identical four-room houses on nameless streets. Many are hours by train from city jobs. Mamelodi, South Africa, 1960s © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

Alternative Text: Black and white landscape photograph of a row of houses. A girl can be seen walking along a pathway and a group of people are stood outside the houses in the distance.

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