



# Call to Action!

## Hands Off our Grants (HOOG)

This campaign asserts the constitutional right to social security. The Call to Action was launched after months of evidence gathering. Beneficiaries testified that money was deducted from their SASSA bank accounts without their knowledge or informed consent.

We challenge the unlawful, fraudulent and immoral business practices facilitated by the current outsourced SASSA/CPS contract for the national payment of social grants.

We invite you to support and endorse this Campaign in the run-up to the 15th October 2015 announcement of the new SASSA service provider.

We refuse to remain silent about the hardship and struggles of poor and vulnerable people affected by these unauthorised and often fraudulent deductions. As a result beneficiaries experience food shortages and are unable to take their medicines. Many, particularly in rural communities, struggle to find recourse, spending extra money on transport and airtime, often with little success.

### **Please support the demonstrations to be held on:**

- Thursday 15 October: St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town between 12h00 – 13h00
- Thursday 15 October 2015: SASSA Soweto Service Centre, Maponya Mall, Klipspruit, Soweto from 11h00
- Friday 16 October 2015: SASSA House (National office), Cnr Steve Biko and Pretoria street, Arcadia, Pretoria from 11h00

### **The Hands Off Our Grants (HOOG) Campaign calls for:**

- SASSA to in-source the full administration and payment of grants as soon as possible.
- A SASSA-owned and controlled recourse system to be put in place urgently.
- The current service providers (Cash Paymaster Services [CPS], Net 1 and Grindrod bank) and SASSA to take full responsibility for these disputed debit deductions and to refund them with bank charges and interest, backdated to 2012. Beneficiaries must receive the full cash value of the grant.
- SASSA to be obliged to protect the confidential and personal information of beneficiaries, thus reducing their vulnerability to loan sharks and financial service providers accessing these bank accounts – those who only want to profiteer at the cost of the poor!
- The recently established Inspectorate to act swiftly to protect the interests of grant beneficiaries.

**Beneficiaries should register disputed debit deductions with their local SASSA office immediately or approach their local advice office for help.**

**To endorse this campaign and for more information email [handsoffourgrants@blacksash.org.za](mailto:handsoffourgrants@blacksash.org.za) or contact the Black Sash Office: 021 686 6952**

This campaign is supported by among others: the Black Sash, SASSA beneficiaries, The Association of Community-based Offices of South Africa (ACAOSA), Right2Know Campaign, Section 27, Equal Education Law Centre, TCOE, Dullah Omar Institute (UWC), Social Justice Coalition, Cape Metro Health. These unlawful, fraudulent and immoral deductions from Beneficiaries' SASSA branded bank accounts - **must stop!**