

BLACK POWER 'A MONSTER MADE BY WHITES'

Legislation might be necessary to penalise people who refuse jobs or homes to people on the ground of their color or race, Miss Kath Walker, the Aboriginal poet, said yesterday.

"I would like to think this might not be necessary," she told Melbourne University students," but we must force people not to discriminate."

Miss Walker, on a nation-wide lecture tour after an overseas trip said: "People are afraid of Black Power overseas.

"The black man has known nothing more than White Power and white violence for years. I say to these people: 'Black Power is your monster, you created it, now live with it.'

"I will help you destroy it, but you must help, too. I am not a black powerist. I am a reformer for human reconstruction.

"Martin Luther King was assassinated because he believed he could negotiate with the white man and I am prepared to lose my life to keep on negotiating."

Miss Walker said Aborigines faced a crisis of culture and the hostility of poor white Australians who believed that more was being done for the Aboriginal than for themselves — "we have to go among the poor white and explain we are not their enemies," she said.

Black Power could be a reality if Australians refused to outlaw White Power and violence, including discrimination on home, schools and jobs.