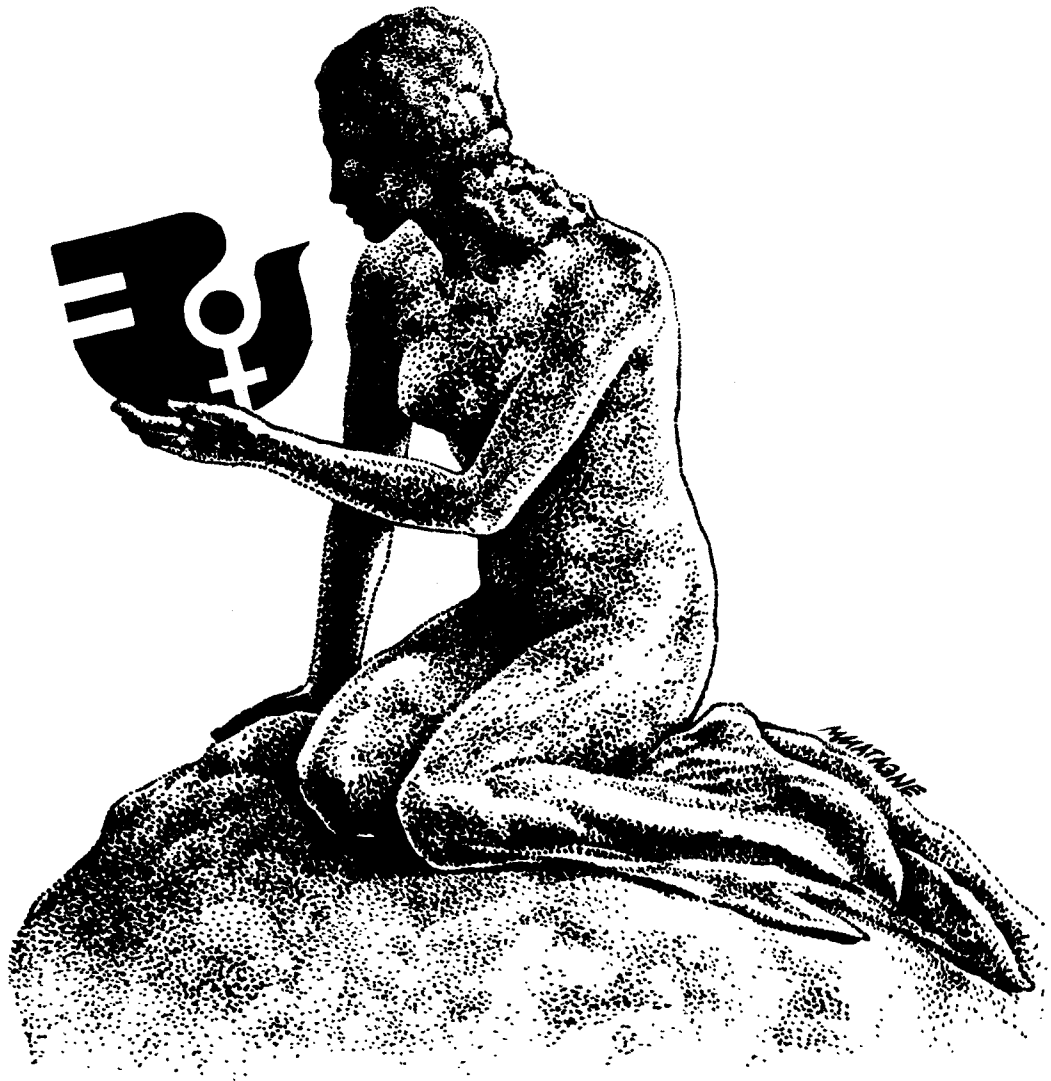


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UNO: A GATHERING IN COPENHAGEN

The United Nations World Conference of the Decade for Women on the theme of Equality, Development and Peace will be held at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July.

Every State has been invited to take part in the conference, their delegates being the official government representatives. Invitations are also being extended to inter-governmental bodies and representatives of national liberation movements having observer status at United Nations general assemblies. In addition, non-government organizations already enjoying consultative status with UNO's Economic and Social Council will be invited as observers.

Mrs. Lucille Mathurin Mair, former Jamaican Ambassador to Cuba and permanent assistant representative to U.N.O., has been asked to make preparations for the conference, with the title of Secretary General.

The conference has a three-fold objective:

- to review the results achieved over the first five years of the United Nations woman's decade (1976-1985), considering the progress that has been made and the obstacles encountered since the implementation of the world action plan adopted at the 1975 Mexico conference;
- to establish a specific action-oriented programme for the next five years, with special emphasis on employment, health and education;
- to examine the tragic effects of apartheid on women in South Africa and plan special measures to help them.

Preparations

More than 300 people are to be mobilized by the United Nations to ensure that the conference runs smoothly. Throughout the second half of 1979, regional meetings have been held to pave the way for the conference, at which the governments of the member states of each of O.N.U.'s regional economic commissions are represented: Latin America, Western Asia, Africa, Pacific Asia and Europe (which includes North America, the whole of Europe and the Soviet Union, not just the European Community as erroneously stated in issue 10/79 of Women of Europe).

The U.N.O. specialist institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have also held sectorial meetings on issues of special concern to women.

The reports submitted by all these meetings will make a valuable contribution to the Copenhagen conference.

Those who wish to keep abreast of the work being done in Copenhagen will find it very helpful to read the "Declaration of Mexico/plans of action"; the full version of the programme adopted at the world conference for International Women's Year. A handy summary version can be obtained by writing to:

Division for Economic and Social Information
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

The tools for the job

Apart from the Secretariat set up specially for the Copenhagen conference, several administrative units at the United Nations are at women's service.

First of all there is the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, led by Mrs. Helvi Sipilä (Finland). This position makes her the highest ranking woman in the UNO Secretariat. It will be remembered that, in 1972, she was the first woman to occupy the position of Under-Secretary General in the United Nations. She has also acted as the Secretary General for International Women's Year and the world conference held in Mexico in 1975, and it is Mrs. Sipilä, among others, who has special responsibility for all activities in the UN Decade for Women (1976-1985).

Within the Centre, the Branch for the Advancement of Women is led by Mrs. Manae Kubota (Japan), who has the title of Assistant Director of the Centre. Mrs. Kubota has invaluable experience of management, for she was for many years a civil servant in Japan with special responsibility for programmes relating to the advancement of women.

NOTE: since the autumn of 1979, the Centre for Social Development, together with its Branch for the Advancement of Women, has settled into new offices at the Donaupark International Centre in Vienna.

Useful address: Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
Branch for the Advancement of Women
Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna (Austria)

The Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women has special responsibility for assisting countries with limited financial resources in launching their plans and programmes for the advancement of women.

Operational since the end of 1977, the Voluntary Fund is coordinated by Margaret Snyder (U.S.). As of this time, about sixty projects have benefited from aid from the Fund.

A body worthy of mention is the International Institute on Research and Training for the Advancement of Women which still has no official headquarters at the time of writing, but which is likely to be established in the Dominican Republic.

Created by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in 1976, the Institute is to be a centre compiling, processing and distributing information based on development and relating to research, training and action projects of concern to women. The board of administration, chaired by Mrs. Delphine Tsanga (United Republic of Cameroon), includes Mrs. Ester Boserup (Denmark) and Mrs. Marcelle Devaud (France) among its members.

Mrs. Danielle Bazin (Haiti), founder member of the African Training and Research Centre for Women, has been appointed to prepare for the setting up of the Institute. Preparations will continue in the UN headquarters in New York until the premises are ready in the Dominican Republic.

Note that the specialist institutions and inter-governmental regional organizations concerned have been invited to send observers to the first meeting of the Institute's board with a view to creating fruitful contacts.

The mid-decade Forum

The Conference of non-governmental organizations, in consultation with the United Nations and the Danish Government, has decided to arrange an independent event to be known as the "mid-decade Forum", to run at the time of the world conference.

The Forum objective is to bring men and women together from all quarters of the globe and different milieux to pool information and views on the position of women half way through the Decade for Women. In this way, a strategy for change may be devised, in particular in those fields covered by the official conference. The Forum as such, however, will take no sides in the discussion of the problems raised and will not pass formal resolutions.

Representatives of voluntary bodies may take part in this Forum, as well as delegates to the official conference, people working on development tasks, those who are active in the fields covered by the official conference and those who pursue the objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace.

Following the successful pattern provided by the Mexico conference, the Forum will spark off inter-cultural discussions, group meetings, workshops, round table meetings, exhibitions, films, etc. A daily newspaper will report on the work of the Forum and the world conference at the same time. There will be translations into English, French and Spanish at the main sessions of the Forum.

To take part in the Forum, each applicant should state his or her name, address, occupation, nationality, organization and the fields of discussion of special concern as well as the language(s) in which those discussions can be understood. Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible to:

Useful address: Mid-Decade Forum
NGO, Room 574, 600 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

Since both the air fares and accommodation are expensive, a number of countries are usually under-represented at international non-governmental organizations. To give the countries who most need to make their voices heard a chance to do so, those people attending the Forum who come from industrialized nations are asked to make a financial contribution, however small, to assist others.

K I K

A broad range of cultural activities has been prepared by KIK (Kulturel Information og Koordination - cultural information and coordination) in Copenhagen. Under the leadership of Annelise Hansen, KIK is arranging exhibitions, films, musical soirées and other events.

Many Danish women's associations have come together to make this Copenhagen meeting a festival of the heart as well as the mind.

History, psychology, theatre, science, religion, music - women's role in all these and many other fields will be discussed during working group and other meetings. A word in the ear of all those who plan to go to Copenhagen!

Useful address: KIK, c/o K.U.L.U.
Købmagergade 67, 1tv
1150 Copenhagen

E U R O P E A N P A R L I A M E N T

Mrs. Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (Parti Chrétien-Social - PCS) has now taken her seat in European Parliament. She succeeds Mr. Jean Spautz on his appointment as Minister of the Interior. Like him, she will be a member of the European People's Party group.

The ad hoc committee on women's rights is pressing on with its work. Faced with such a wide-ranging task, it is already apparent that the committee members will be asking for its mandate to be prolonged beyond its scheduled finishing date in late spring.

As announced, the meetings held on European Parliament premises in Brussels were public sessions. The committee has met Mr. Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, who declared that "Women must not only know their rights but also make sure that those rights are applied in everyday life. To do this, a sound women's information policy must be formulated".

The Parliamentary committee has already arranged for a preliminary exchange of views on the report submitted by Mrs. Maij-Weggen on women's employment and the problems of women immigrants into Community countries. Mrs. Roudy, the chairwoman, has suggested a three-point line of conduct: take note, censure, suggest. Note should be taken that a "furtive but real" campaign is being conducted to incite women to leave the labour market and go back to their homes; the concept that women make up a "reserve army" for today's economy should be censured; and ideas on how this state of affairs can be changed should be suggested.

To keep an ear to the ground, the members of the ad hoc committee have taken part in public meetings in different countries to which they have been invited by the representatives of women's organizations, sharing their experience of problems encountered. With such a full calendar, the committee members cannot travel all the time and they will welcome any comments and suggestions forwarded to them in writing (see address list in Women of Europe no. 13, January/February 1980).

The Liberal members of the committee on women's rights have set up a working group within their political group in European Parliament. They are seeking a "reallocation of men's and women's roles to bring about the sharing of responsibilities between equal partners".

As proposed by Mrs. Squarcialupi (Italian Communist), it was agreed that a questionnaire should be sent to the press associations as soon as possible to help pinpoint the information on women.

With the same concern for more thorough knowledge of the problems, a sample survey is being prepared on discrimination against women in employment. The survey is to be carried out by the European Commission.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the text of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in December 1979. This Convention, however, will not come into force until it has been ratified by at least twenty countries. European Parliament has passed a resolution urging the Community Member States to ratify the Convention. Note that all the EEC Member States represented at the United Nations voted in favour of the Convention in New York.

World hunger was the subject of a public hearing arranged by the Parliamentary Committee on Development and Cooperation. With the benefit of contributions from many international experts, the meeting highlighted the general agreement on three points: the gravity and intolerability of hunger in the world today; the need for a greater effort of political will, for technical and piecemeal solutions are not enough; and the need to maintain a reasonable level of development in industrialized nations so that, through their aid, the less developed nations can break out of the vicious circle of poverty, hunger and ignorance.

European Parliament took note of the public hearing. At the request of Mrs. Focke (German Socialist), one of the joint rapporteurs at the public hearing, it urged more effective emergency measures without waiting for the political decisions to be taken, although without neglecting those decisions that will promote greater justice and solidarity in the battle against the scourge of world hunger.

Speaking out for women in Chile, imprisoned for having taken part in a demonstration on Women's Day on 8 March, Mrs. de March (French Communist) asked Mrs. Veil, President of European Parliament, to intervene with the Chilean Government on their behalf. Mrs. Veil responded favourably to Mrs. de March's request.

Women's role in the next European Commission is a subject that has frequently been raised in recent times. European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee, discussing a report submitted by Mr. Jean Rey (Belgian Liberal), alluded to the possibility that "at least" one woman might be a member of the next Commission in Brussels. A member of the Socialist Group, Mrs. Roudy, thought that at least one third of the Commission Members should be women, while Mrs. Barbara Castle (British Labour Party) argued that there should be no fewer than five women in the new Commission, which is to take office on 1 January 1981.

Did you vote for a man or a woman? Through a EUROBAROMETER survey commissioned by the European Commission, an attempt was made to find out whether women (and men) voted for a woman (or a man) by preference during the European elections. This exploratory enquiry was conducted in Belgium and Italy.

In Belgium, among the women who cast a preference vote, one out of ten said she had voted for a woman; only 4% of men said they had voted for a woman in this way.

The picture is altogether different in Italy, where women used their preference votes far less than men and where they showed little favour for women candidates.

The conclusion - to the extent that any conclusion can be drawn - is that voters' behaviour is mainly influenced by the strategy adopted by political parties which decide on a good - or not so good - ranking in their lists. When a party places its trust in a woman and puts her high on its list, voters rubber-stamp that choice.

A copy of this survey by J.R. Rabier, special adviser to the European Commission, on preference for women or men candidates during the June 1979 election, can be obtained from Women of Europe.

Energy policy was the subject of a lengthy debate leading to a resolution that stressed the need for greater effort at Community level to reduce its dependence on energy, making even greater energy savings and adding to and diversifying all its sources of energy.

The subject of nuclear safety was a central issue. An additional resolution was drawn up calling for a satisfactory solution to the safety problem that arises with nuclear power stations and the storage of nuclear waste, a problem to which a European solution must be found.

The laws governing contraception and the voluntary termination of pregnancy differ very widely from one EEC country to another. Is the European Commission thinking of harmonizing these laws, Mrs. Yvette Fullet (French Socialist) asked.

In substance, the European Commission replied that it will be very interested to hear the views expressed by European Parliament on the subject and that it will then consider whether any steps should be taken.

Not content with this answer, Mrs. Fullet has decided to launch a petition for "the harmonization of legislations now in force in the nine European Community Member States on the subject of contraception and the voluntary termination of pregnancy". The full text of the petition can be obtained by any interested individual or body from Yvette Fullet, Member of European Parliament, 24 rue Montgrand, 13006 Marseilles.

Mrs. Gaiotti De Biase and Mrs. Cassanmagnago Cerretti (Italian Christian Democrats) contested this venture, arguing that "the force representing women within this Parliament should not work in favour of the traditional male alibi - that the problem faced by a woman should be settled by allowing her to have an abortion - but should mobilize all the Community's planning potential to promote research projects in the field of contraception, social organization, the status of the child and population forecasts; in this way it would be acknowledged that the problem does not merely come within the province of the 'guild of women' but concerns the community as a whole".

Consumer representatives flocked to the public hearing in Dublin arranged by the Committee with responsibility for consumer protection. According to Mr. O'Connell (Irish Labour), European Parliament and consumer organizations will not tolerate a truce in European Community consumer policy. Mrs. Seibel Emmerling (German Socialist) enlarged on his argument: "It is unthinkable that directives of importance to consumers should still be bogged down before the Council or Ministers or that the Council should water them down".

A joint war should be waged on drugs, declared Mrs. Squarcialupi (Italian Communist) to the Parliamentary tribune. The resolution was passed.

During the debate, many women shared her concern and determination. Among the speakers were Mrs. Pruvot (French Liberal), Mrs. Chouraqui (in the Group of European Progressive Democrats), Mrs. Spaak (Non-attached Group, Belgian), Mrs. Gredal (Danish Socialist), Mrs. Seibel-Emmerling (German Socialist), Mrs. Gaiotti De Biase (Italian Christian Democrat), Mrs. Krouwel-Vlam (Dutch Socialist) and Ms. Clwyd (British Labour).

Mr. Vredeling, Vice-President of the European Commission, indicated that the drug problem is "on the dividing line between Community Treaties and national legislations". Although this does not rule out joint action, it makes it more difficult.

Readers concerned with the problem can obtain minutes of the sessions from the Secretariat General to European Parliament, Report of proceedings' division Post Box 1601, Luxembourg.

A catalogue of research on women's employment

The Women's Bureau for women's employment is compiling a catalogue of research projects in progress, planned or recently completed relating to women and employment.

The first part of the catalogue, covering Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom, with about 250 items, has already been completed.

The second part - covering Germany, Italy, France, Ireland and the Netherlands - is now being compiled. The cooperation of Women of Europe readers is sought, to ensure that no project of interest is omitted - and all research projects are of interest in some respect.

If you are engaged in research of this kind or if you know about any research that has been done or reports that have been published, please let us know.

Every subject is of importance: school education, vocational guidance and training, rehabilitation and retraining, social security and retirement pensions, maternity leave, day care facilities, part-time work, transportation facilities, employment and working conditions, pay, promotion, unemployment and the trade unions, the attitudes of the family and society to working women, the impact of national measures on women's employment, the effects of EEC directives, etc.

Please address any correspondence on the subject to:

Women's Bureau for questions concerning women's employment
Commission of the European Communities
Directorate-General, Employment and Social Affairs
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

B E L G I U M

After a premature birth

Senator Valmy Féaux has proposed a bill to the Senate under which the post-natal leave of a mother giving birth prematurely would be extended under certain conditions. In principle, her maternity leave would be extended by the number of days that the baby spends in the incubator.

Useful address: Mr. Valmy Féaux
Sénat - Palais de la Nation
Rue de la Loi
1000 Brussels

Housing allowances

The Ministry for the Civil Services is about to end an injustice. Up to this time, only male civil servants have been entitled to a "housing allowance". A royal decree is now being drawn up which will extend this financial benefit to all those who work in the Civil Service.

According to Mrs. Miet Smet (CVP - Dutch-speaking Social-Christian Party) who raised the problem, 160,000 women may be able to obtain the allowance once the decree comes into force.

Useful address: Ministère belge de la Fonction publique
26 rue de la Loi
1000 Brussels

Equal opportunities in education

Belgium's official gazette, Le Moniteur, has published a royal decree setting up an "education committee to achieve equality of roles among men and women in society". The committee is to be attached to the Ministry of Education (Dutch-speaking section). A committee of the same kind was recently set up to cover the French-speaking sector.

Useful address: Ministerie van Nationale Opvoeding
Rijksadministratief Centrum
Arcadengebouw
1010 Brussels

The taxation of husband and wife under attack

The court of appeal in Liège is considering an application submitted by a resident of Gembloux disputing article 73 of the Tax Code which states that a husband's and wife's earnings are lumped together for the purpose of taxation.

The plaintiff's women advocates, Maître L. Thaon-Chantraine and Maître J. Rousseau of the Brussels Bar, pleaded that "article 73 of the Tax Code is unconstitutional and contrary to law and order. It penalizes marriage and the work done by a married women. It respects neither the equality of married people nor the equality of the sexes. Tax law is in conflict with the evolution of civil law and women's rights ..."

On the initiative of the French-speaking section of Belgium's National Women's Council, many women's groups have contributed their support to the couple taking this action. According to comparative accounting studies presented at a solidarity meeting in Liège, it is the smaller income that is most heavily hit by the existing system.

Useful address: Conseil national des femmes
la place Quételet
1030 Brussels

Stop press: the plaintiff lost the case, although he has stated his determination to take it to higher courts. Women of Europe will report on progress.

D E N M A R K

In the Ministry of Culture

Mrs. Lise Oestergaard, formerly responsible for inter-Nordic relations and relations with the Third World, has been appointed as Minister of Culture to replace the late Mr. Niels Matthiasen.

F R A N C E

Rape: heavier penalties

The Chamber of Deputies has unanimously voted for an amendment to the Criminal Code as it pertains to rape. Now defined as "any act of sexual penetration of any nature committed or attempted on another's person by violence, force or surprise", rape is to be punishable by ten to twenty years' criminal seclusion or life imprisonment in the case of collective rape or where there are aggravating circumstances.

On the subject of the public hearing of trials, the Court of Assizes is no longer entitled to order a case to be heard in camera if the victim objects. The Chamber has also amended the law on the freedom of the press by forbidding the victim's name to be mentioned "unless the victim has given written consent".

During the debate, Mrs. Pelletier, the Minister with responsibility for the family and women's status, expressed the hope that "the plaintiff would be allowed to choose the official to whom she makes her statement, for a victim does not necessarily prefer to confide in a woman". In an amendment, the statement is made that "a medical/social team in each hospital shall care for victims of sexual aggression, rape in particular".

Marguerite Yourcenar a member of the French Academy

For the first time in its history, a woman has been elected to the Académie Française, an institution established in the 17th century by Cardinal Richelieu as a body of the forty best French writers.

"It is not a victory for feminism, it is a victory for literature," wrote Jean d'Ormesson, a member of the Academy and a fervent supporter of Marguerite Yourcenar's candidacy, after her election. All too true, of course, but above all it has been a victory for literature over the members of the Academy. From Georges Sand to Simone de Beauvoir, literature has been well served by women, but their merits have never been recognized by those gentlemen who meet in the domed building on Quai Conti. "It is a writer rather than a woman who is to sit under the dome," writes Jean d'Ormesson. And it has been women rather than writers who have been debarred from Quai Conti for so long.

Useful address: Académie Française
Quai Conti
Paris

A right to dignity

The "Bulletin de la Condition Féminine" has devoted its tenth issue to the "right to dignity". The ministerial bulletin gives a good deal of valuable information, including the addresses of about twenty centres where battered women can be sure of refuge.

An important legal point is that a woman seeking shelter at an accommodation centre has not deserted the family home in the eyes of the courts. Nevertheless, the precaution should be taken of telling the police station why the woman has been forced to leave home.

Useful address: Bulletin de la Condition féminine
39 to 43, Quai André Citroën
75015 Paris

An analysis of women's work

A report has been drawn up by a group of civil servants on discrimination and disparity in women's work, in response to a request by Mrs. Nicole Pasquier, Secretary of State responsible for women's employment, and Mr. R. Boulin, Minister of Employment and Participation.

Known as the "Baudoin Report" after the official responsible for its coordination, the document has now been published as issue no. 15 of the journal brought out by the Ministry of Labour, "Pour une politique du Travail".

According to the authors, the battle against discrimination "must be fought on every front, technical, economic, political and social, not on any one front to the detriment of others".

The publication is divided into three sections. The first section is a summary of the legal and de facto features of the situation in France today in relations between men's and women's work. The second is a review of experience in other countries in turn and an inventory of the measures recommended by the bodies and individuals consulted with a view to eliminating the inequalities that have been ascertained. Finally, the third section suggests several measures that the authorities could take which might help to solve the problem.

In its conclusions, the report points out that "if they are to be effective, the measures planned must be backed by a parallel move away from the clichés and prejudices which have created the traditional image of women at work

"For instance, one of the steps towards achieving equality between men and women is to create a balance between parental functions. By making family life more compatible with working life, this will help to solve the problem created by the restrictions on the availability of female labour.

"What must be extirpated are the deep roots of discrimination, the roots that extend far down into the foundations of our society...

"In attempting to eliminate inequality at work, then, to an extent we have to question the organization of our society."

Useful address: Secrétariat d'Etat de l'Emploi Féminin
25, avenue Charles Floquet
75700 Paris

Women and military service

Should we be thinking about national service for women? The issue has been debated both in France and in Germany. Every year the French Army takes in 500 to 600 girl volunteers. A total of 13,850 women are employed by the Army, about 950 of whom are officers.

In a radio discussion, Mrs. Monique Pelletier, Minister for Women's Status and the Family, said: "Yes to voluntary national service for women; no to compulsory military service. When women volunteers are recruited, they are entitled to equality in principle. I do not think they should necessarily be assigned solely to 'social' duties. Nor do I feel it desirable that they should be assigned to fighting units, something that no other country in the world practises. Women are the artisans of peace. They have nothing to gain by making war."

Useful address: Ministère délégué à la Condition Féminine
39-43, quai André Citroën
75015 Paris

Women in political and social life

The French Government has drafted a bill which would establish a 20% quota of women candidates at local elections. Since Parliament already has a full programme, however, it cannot be debated until the autumn. France's next local elections will be held in 1983.

In elections for the industrial arbitration tribunals ("conseils de prud'hommes", some of whose members are elected by the workers, the others by management), 1,391 out of the 13,165 councillors - 10.57% - were women. In the absence of statistics for the previous round of elections, no comparison with earlier tribunals is possible. It is of interest, though, that 1,148 of the 1,391 women were elected by the workers' side of industry, in other words five times more than voted in by the employers (243); the two sides of industry are jointly and equally represented on the tribunals.

The figures for these elections and re-elections for the regional economic and social committees provide evidence that women are making their presence felt in political and social life.

The percentage of women elected to the economic and social committees has risen from 3.1% to 5.5% - still low, but a step in the right direction. A number of seats on the committees are filled by the Government. It is of interest that the percentage of women nominated by the Government has risen to 16.5%.

An analysis of the workings of the political world has shown that there are two barriers to breach. First of all, one must hold a position of responsibility. Then one must be more or less "co-opted" by political personnel who are socially very élitist. Women are handicapped in overcoming this double hurdle: as yet they have only limited access to responsibility; once they have achieved it, they still have to be accepted by a majority of men in political circles. It would be hard to abolish these obstacles by decree.

It is frequently stated that a person fitting the "job profile" for a post which is being allocated must speak several languages, be used to addressing public meetings, have experience in international gatherings and be qualified in what are often technical fields. The effect of these criteria is to rule out many women.

If women hope to speed up the rate at which they enter political and social life, they must place special emphasis on the ability to learn rather than on knowledge, on imagination rather than experience, on dynamism rather than social origin.

Farmers' wives

An outline law on agriculture has now been passed to improve the status of farmer's wives by making them farmers in their own right. The law states, for instance, that "when husband and wife work the same farm together and on their own account they shall be deemed to have given each other the mandate to carry out all acts of administration pertaining to the needs of the farm".

This amendment to the law will promote the political and social emancipation of women, since they will henceforth be entitled to attend general meetings of cooperative, mutual and agricultural credit groups and to be elected to their management and supervisory bodies, just as they are entitled to do when they are owners of farms in their own right.

Women on the teaching staff of universities

The journal published by the Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (French association of women university graduates), "Diplômées", has printed an interesting study produced by Marguerite Cordier on the position of women in the professorial ranks of universities. The following table summarizes the situation on 31 December 1978:

Faculty	Total	Women	%
Law	1,087	77	7.1
Letters	1,730	241	13.9
Science	3,340	247	7.4
Pharmacy	475	74	15.6
Medicine	3,102	123	4.0
Odontology	400	38	9.5
T o t a l	10,134	800	7.9

Advancement in an academic career depends upon "promotions" recommended to the Ministry by the universities' consultative committee. Out of the 60 boards making up the committee, not one is chaired by a woman.

Useful address: Diplômées, c/o A.F.F.D.U.
4, rue de Chevreuse
75006 Paris

G E R M A N Y

An anti-discrimination bill

Many women's organizations have expressed their dissatisfaction with the bill on equality of status for men and women at work. A public hearing arranged by the parliamentary committee on work and social affairs (Ausschuss für Arbeit und Soziales) gave them an opportunity to air their views.

The main criticism is that the bill provides no sanctions against employers failing to comply with the law. According to many feminist experts, a monitoring body should be set up to ensure that the law is being enforced, with the power to intervene on the behalf of women whose rights have not been respected.

There is all the more need for such a body as women are not always aware of their rights and, even when they know about them, they are not always in a position to take proceedings.

For more than 30 years now, the principle of the equality of men and women has been proclaimed by article 3 of the constitution (Grundgesetz), but in many cases it is still not observed in practice. There is a risk that the situation may remain stagnant if the new law fails to provide for sanctions and a watchdog body.

Useful address: Bundestagausschuss für Arbeit und Soziales
Bundeshaus
53 Bonn

Divorce: a fairer share

The Bundesverfassungsgericht (the supreme constitutional court) has approved a new law to regulate the aftermath of divorce and other factors. The divorced couple will now have to share out not only the goods and chattels acquired during marriage but also their pension and annuity entitlements.

Useful address: Pressestelle
Bundesverfassungsgericht
75 Karlsruhe

Part-time work in the Rhineland-Palatinate

To help the 10,000 or so unemployed women seeking part-time work, the Land of Rhineland-Palatinate has decided to launch a pilot venture: firms hiring an unemployed woman on a part-time basis will be granted a special subsidy of DM 3,500 - provided of course that they do not cut down on the number of full-time workers employed.

More than 200 part-time jobs have already been taken in about thirty firms. A specialist institute is looking into the problems raised by this kind of work.

Useful address: Dr. Renate Hellwig, Staatssekretärin
Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Umwelt
Bauhofstrasse 4
6500 Mainz 1

Emancipation and the crime rate

The proportion of women featuring in German police statistics has risen from 15.4% in 1963 to 18.7% in 1977. These figures refer to suspects only; the proportion of women by comparison with the total number of people convicted has risen from 11.4% in 1963 to 15.4% in 1977. It is of note that the percentage of women guilty of crimes in which violence is involved is only 10%, although it is higher in the case of simple theft, obtaining goods under false pretences and fraud.

It is difficult to interpret the statistics, especially as there are political overtones: the number of women involved in terrorist groups, for instance, is large.

Dr. Marlene Stein-Hilbers, who holds the chair of criminology at Giessen University, has made a special study on female delinquency. She notes that the educational system leads women - unlike men - to find a "passive" strategy to overcome conflict and solve problems. The traditional allocation of tasks between men and women used to promote a female behaviour pattern that conformed with the rules of society. In our changing world, women's roles are changing as well as their behaviour. An increase in the crime rate among women is to be expected.

This pessimistic forecast has been disputed. At a time when women are being emancipated, the world of work and social life are becoming more humane. There is less occasion for the expression of aggression

It is difficult to interpret the statistics. For example, until only a few years ago the figures for child-battering were not even included. There used to be a sort of "clandestine crime" among women; no doubt there still is. Another factor to be taken into account is that prostitution provides women with an alternative to the recurring forms of delinquency in which they might otherwise be engaged, such as petty thefts or physical assaults.

In the absence of an adequate number of specialist institutions, serious problems still exist in the social rehabilitation of women coming out of prison, and they all too often relapse into crime.

Useful address: Dr. Marlene Stein-Hilbers
Lehrstuhl für Kriminologie der Universität Giessen
63 Giessen

Madame Minister

Little by little, women are being given ministries that are not within what is seen as the "woman's province". Eva Leithauser and Inge Donnepp have been appointed as Justice Ministers in Hamburg and North Rheinland/Westphalia respectively.

The only regional governments having no women members now are Bavaria and Bremen.

I R E L A N D

Tax and marriage

The Supreme Court has confirmed the decision of the High Court stating that married individuals are entitled to be taxed as equals and that their incomes should not be aggregated for tax purposes. Nevertheless, many other questions now arise. Can married couples claim a refund of tax which they need not have paid since the date of their marriage or since 1967, the year in which the Income Tax Act was brought in and wrongly interpreted by the tax authorities? The Irish Government is faced with a real legal headache, one that may cost it dear. Some people have estimated that the loss of income to the Government is £60 million a year once married women are taxed on the same basis as anyone else, married or unmarried.

A good deal of confusion surrounds the Court decision. Tax experts were already recommending that a husband draw up a legal covenant giving his wife rights to part of his income whether or not she works, thus splitting one income into two and obtaining the tax advantages of lower incomes. The Irish Government referred the matter back to the court, which has now decided that this is not the case.

The splitting of a couple's incomes gives rise to other problems. What kind of wife-taxpayer is recognized by the State? A wife who goes out to work? A housewife? A mother looking after her children? The higher the husband's income, the greater his wife's "value", with the additional injustice that better off families can afford labour-saving gadgets, so that the stay-at-home partner may work less.

Another problem is to determine what is the true advantage to a woman who has to come home after a day's work and take on the role of housewife.

Feminists fear that this income-splitting tax practice will encourage a woman to remain at home and accept her role as a domestic servant. There is no reason to believe that a wife will in fact receive half the contents of her husband's pay packet, nor that the husband has only to give her half to meet his domestic obligations while the rest is his own to do with as he pleases. The debate continues.

Useful address: Married Person's Tax Reform Association
52 Lakelands Avenue, Stillorgan
Co. Dublin

Council for the Status of Women
27 Merrion Square
Dublin 2

Employers threaten to leave Equality Agency

The Employment Equality Agency, headed by Sylvia Meehan, has been strongly criticized by the Federated Union of Employers, which has even threatened to withdraw.

The Agency has considerable powers of instituting investigations into any organizations which it considers to be in breach of the law of equal status. Its enquiries into State-owned companies have led them to alter their policies. The FUE has, however, taken the Agency to task for its investigation into a private company which, the former maintains, has already implemented equal pay.

It has taken almost two years for Grazia Vicario and Marino Rossignoli to win the right to confer both their names on their son Graziano, who will now be called Graziano Rossignoli Vicario. Even this needed the intervention of Mr. Pertini, President of the Republic. While the decision is an important precedent, it applies only to little Graziano.

There is nothing in Italian law to say that children must bear their father's name and his alone; even so, Graziano's parents had to submit written notices of consent from the whole of their family up to the fourth degree of consanguinity.

The new Italian Government

Like its predecessor, the new Italian Government has no woman minister, although it does have two women secretaries of state (out of 56): Mrs. Franca Falcucci (Christian Democrat) for public education, and Mrs. Maria Magnani Noya (Socialist) for industry.

Rape: a Liberal bill

The Liberal Party, in turn, has put forward a rape bill. In addition to the abolition of the concept of crime "in defence of one's honour", the Liberal Party proposes to do away with the practice of the "marriage of redress": as the law stands, a man who commits rape is immune from prosecution if he marries his victim.

The Liberal Party also proposes that the only fact that needs be established during the investigation of a rape is that there has been an "absence of agreement", not that an indecent assault has been committed.

L U X E M B O U R G

A committee on women's work

The Luxembourg Government has decided to set up a committee on women's employment. Representatives of the ministerial departments concerned, trade unions and the employers' federations, as well as women's groups, will sit on this committee, which will have a consultative role in the Ministry of Employment. It will be responsible for considering all points related to women's activities and occupational training. It may also initiate investigations and make proposals, either on its own account or at the request of the government, with a view to improving women's working status.

The new committee is to operate in the same way as the bodies that have already been set up by some of Luxembourg's partners in the European Community and that have acted as catalysts in generating new ideas.

Useful address: Ministère du Travail
Boulevard de la Pétrusse
Luxembourg

The two Federated Union of Employers' representatives out of the eleven-member agency argue that there are areas of greater priority and have announced that "if this type of unnecessary activity, paid for by the hard-pressed taxpayer, is to be regarded by the Agency as a continuing function, employers who have cooperated fully with it to date might be forced to think again about their continuing participation".

Useful address: The Federated Union of Employers
84 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Adultery Irish-style

Under Irish law, a man can sue another man committing adultery with his wife for "criminal conversation". The wife, however, has no right to take similar action against a husband indulging in "unlawful sexual intercourse" with another woman. This is an inequality to which thought should be given, some critics say.

This is not the view of Michael Keating, the Fine Gael opposition spokesman on law reform. He seeks to repeal the old law altogether on the grounds that the action discriminates against women and is based on the old feudal concept that husbands have a proprietary interest in their wives. To erase the anomaly by extending the right to women only gives further legal credence to the notion of "ownership" of a person.

Useful address: Fine Gael
51 Upper Mount Street
Dublin 2

I T A L Y

Pension reversibility

By a decision of the Constitutional Court, a pension towards which a woman has contributed during her working life will no longer be "forfeited" on her death but may be paid to her surviving spouse.

In the light of the constitutional principle of equality of rights between men and women, the Court reviewed one of the measures set out in law no. 903, December 1977, which restricted the reversibility of pensions to cases in which the wives died after the law came into force.

Madam Ambassador

Italy has appointed its first woman ambassador: Mrs. Graziella Simbolotti, aged 39. Having entered the diplomatic career at the age of 22, Mrs. Simbolotti has already been posted to Paris, Geneva and Mexico. Based in Panama, she is now to represent Italy in several Central American countries.

Out of the 900-odd officials in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, no more than 37 are women.

N E T H E R L A N D S

The appointment of women

The Dutch Government has laid down a set of "rules of the game" as they apply to the appointment of women to consultative committees and representative bodies.

Women in general are still under-represented in political life. There are few women on town or provincial councils, in Parliament or even in the Government. In addition, they are very poorly represented on all consultative bodies. The Emancipatiekommissie (emancipation commission) drew the Government's attention to this anomaly several years ago and this is the reason why the latter has now specified the way in which it would like boards, consultative committees and other representative bodies to be made up.

It has been stated, for instance, that all consultative bodies must have women members. If a man and woman are equally competent to hold the position, priority must be given to the woman, the general aim being to make up for the under-representation of women in general.

A free booklet explains the Dutch Government's views on the subject in detail.

Useful address: Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk
Voorlichtingsdienst
Postbus 5406
Rijswijk

School hours

Existing school hours and the lack of facilities for the care of school-children outside those hours obviously cause problems to parents (and to mothers in particular) trying to fit in outside activities with looking after their children. An additional factor is that children who are let out of school unexpectedly run unnecessary risks on the roads.

According to the Emancipation Commission, the authorities should take specific steps to remedy the situation. It recommends:

- national regulations on primary school opening hours so that all the schools in the country start and end at the same times;
- arrangements for permanent supervision in all schools, not just during official school hours;
- a ban on closing school without warning;
- arrangements for facilities for children outside school hours.

Useful address: Emancipatiekommissie
J.C. van Markenlaan 3
Rijswijk

A good address

The regional employment office in Utrecht is holding courses designed for women wanting to work on jobs that have traditionally been done by men. We reported on this achievement in issue no. 12/79, but the address quoted was wrong. This is the right address:

Gewestelijk Arbeidsbureau
William Dreeslaan 113
Utrecht

correspondence to:
Postbus 100.000
35000 MM Utrecht

A double surname

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On an equal footing

"Op gelijke voet" (on an equal footing) is the title of an information sheet published five or six times a year by the directorate responsible for coordinating emancipation policy in the Ministry of Culture.

Distributed free of charge, "Op gelijke voet" is intended to be read not only by women who are active in pressure groups but also - according to the wish expressed by Mrs. E.J. Mulock Houwer, who has signed the first editorial - by Government, provincial and local officials responsible for applying emancipation policy.

The information sheet reflects the work of the Emancipatieraad (emancipation council) which is to take over from the Emancipatiekommissie (emancipation commission) as soon as Parliament has given its consent.

Useful address: "Op gelijke voet"
Directie Coördinatie Emancipatiebeleid
Ministerie van CRM, Postbus 5405
2280 HK Rijswijk

Dutch experience

Under the title of "Review of recommendations issued by the National Advisory Committee on Women's Emancipation in the Netherlands", a booklet has been brought out on what are in many cases very practical suggestions submitted to the Government by the Emancipatiekommissie.

This material, which is in English, makes a valuable contribution towards our store of knowledge on what is being done in our countries.

Useful address: Emancipatiekommissie
J.C. van Markenlaan
Rijswijk

U N I T E D K I N G D O M

A court case that makes history

A historic case before the Court of Appeal has been won by Mrs. Norma Wallace, with the support of the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission.

For several years Mrs. Wallace had been employed part-time as a audio-visual aid technician. When her job was changed into a full-time position she naturally applied for it, but it was given to a man. She brought the case before an industrial tribunal, but lost. The lower court acknowledged that she was better qualified and more experienced than the man selected but declared that she had not furnished evidence that she had been turned down on the grounds that she was a woman.

The Court of Appeal does not seem to think that this evidence is required. Mrs. O'Neill, president of the Equal Opportunities Commission, commented on its judgement as follows: "People do not seem to understand what discrimination is. Contrary to what people might think, there is no need to prove that there has been bad faith or malice. Discrimination is an act, and there is not necessarily any intention to do anyone harm."

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland
Lindsay House, Callender Street
Belfast BTI 5DT

Engineering

The West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association has been designated by the Secretary of State for Employment as a body empowered to carry out a training scheme aimed solely at women.

It is the first employers' organization to do so. It has designed a six weeks' course to help women to become managers in the engineering industry.

Useful address: Mr. H.H. Wood, Head of the Management Development Centre
West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association
13, Broadway, Broadstreet
Birmingham B15 1BQ

Manual jobs for girls

Following intervention by the Equal Opportunities Commission, a school at Keighley (near Bradford) will be providing lessons in carpentry and steelworking for girls as well as boys in the forthcoming academic year.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Commission House, 20 Grosvenor Hill
London W1X 0HX

Abortion: no change in the law

The battle to change the existing abortion law has been lost by Mr. Corrie. The amendments to his Private Members' Bill were so numerous that time for its discussion ran out.

One of Mr. Corrie's proposals was to reduce the time limit within which a legal abortion may take place from 28 to 20 weeks. The House of Commons agreed an amendment to reduce the period to 24 weeks, but a further effort by Mr. Corrie to compromise was not accepted.

A new Deputy Chairman for EOC

Mrs. Jane Finlay is the new Deputy Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission. "Looking back on the four years' existence of the Commission, I am tremendously impressed at the volume of work undertaken", said the new Deputy Chairman. "What is more, I believe the quality of the work is gaining respect for the Commission."

Mrs. Finlay was president of the British Federation of University Women from 1975 to 1978.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House
Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

M I L I T A N T A C T I V I T I E S

8 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Every country has celebrated International Women's Day, 8 March, in its own way, with the events naturally reflecting matters of concern to women and their level of solidarity and organization.

In France, meetings were held in Lyons, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Strasbourg and Paris. In Paris, the Union des femmes françaises (French women's union), held a festival at Porte de Pantin. Under a big top, discussions and shows followed one after another, proving that "you shouldn't try to make one half of humanity happy to the detriment of the other half".

In the streets of Paris, 5,000 women (compared with 1,000 last year) paraded in two processions, one led by the body coordinating women's groups and the other consisting of militant women from the psychoanalysis and political group. To explain the reason for this splitting of the ranks, it should be pointed out that the latter group has set up a statutory association under the name of M.L.F. - standing for women's liberation movement - and that it has been criticized for doing so by the other women's organizations.

Among the slogans paraded were: "Twice the day's work, half the pay: no thanks"; "Last woman hired, first to be fired - we've had enough"; "Yes daddy, yes boss, yes darling - we're fed up" and so on.

The celebrations reflected reality in Luxembourg as well, but on a sadder note. The reel of a film by Colline Serreau with the title of "What do those women want anyway?" was stolen before it could be shown and car tyres were slashed in front of the Maison des Femmes. The Women's Liberation Movement had prepared an exciting programme, however, to include a talk by Kate Millet, an Amnesty International exhibition on the theme of "women, victims of political repression" and "open house" at the Maison des Femmes.

Events were arranged in Brussels as well, with a visit by Kate Millet and a public debate at the Maison des Femmes highlighting the place that women intend to acquire in political and social life.

In Italy, women demonstrators offered mimosa to passers-by, although this way of "saying it with flowers" pointed up the central theme of the day: every woman against violence. All the Italian demonstrations were in furtherance of the two-fold strategy adopted by the movement in Italy: to bring about an acceptance of women as they are, and also to change society.

The Italian European Movement council marked the occasion by a poster saying: "women of Europe for the people's right to freedom, for the protection of human rights, for peace and for safety throughout the world".

The problem of peace - or, to put it better, the fear of war - was in everybody's minds, if not on everybody's lips. Over and above the worries peculiar to each country, a deep concern and a common aspiration for peace could be observed.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

European Union of Women

Following the election of Ingrid Diesen from Sweden to preside the European Union of Women, the general secretariat is to be established in Sweden for the term of her mandate.

Useful address: European Union of Women
Box 1243
111 82 Stockholm

Women and the unions

Over the past ten years, issues relating to the employment of women have featured consistently on the agenda for the consultative committee to the International Confederation of Free Unions for questions of women at work.

During its 12th world congress, the Confederation (CISL) adopted a resolution on the integration of women in union organizations, calling upon all free unions to enter into a public undertaking that they will arrange for women to participate in union activity at every level. The unions are also asked to take a close look at their internal structures to see whether they prevent women from obtaining access to decision-making bodies.

Consistent with its own logic, the congress asked CISL to examine its own conscience and, if necessary, amend its statutes to encourage participation by women.

Useful address: CISL
Rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères
1000 Brussels

B E L G I U M

Women's radio

Every Saturday morning from 10 to 12, a "free" radio programme is put out by women for women. Broadcasting on 102 MHz, the "kleteuses" (in Brussels patois, "klet" is a slap, and "kleteuses" could loosely be translated as "the stingers") make the voice of women heard on the air, in the concert of voices broadcast by the unofficial radio stations.

Useful address: "Les Kleteuses", c/o Radio Alternative
82, rue de la Cible
1030 Brussels

The Book Fair

The Maison des Femmes has taken the initiative of arranging a debate at the recent Brussels Book Fair, on the subject of "women through books". There is a degree of - highly regrettable - consistency in the way that the traditional roles of women are depicted in books, from the school textbook to the novelette told by photographs in strip form.

The Centre d'Information et d'Education Sociale et Culturelle pour la Femme et la Famille - the information and social/cultural education centre for women and the family - is arranging for a "reading workshop" where books can be read with fresh eyes and women can come together from time to time to discuss freely what they have been reading.

Useful address: Infor-Femmes, 7 Place Royale
1000 Brussels

Dulle Griet

The bookshop, Dulle Griet, now sells publications in German as well as in Dutch and English. With all these new books, it has had to move house.

Useful address: Dulle Griet
Duquesnoystraat 10
1000 Brussels

Women in the Socialist Party

At its statutory congress, the Belgian Socialist Party - Socialistische Partij - has decided to amend its statutes to embody new rules: a minimum of one quarter of the membership of its central committee must be women. A women's group is also being organized within the party.

Useful address: Socialistische Partij
Keizerlaan, 13
1000 Brussels

Rape S.O.S.

A group known as "S.O.S. Viol" has been active for several years now in Brussels. Its aims are three-fold: to help women rape victims or potential victims, to ensure that justice is done and to combat rape, a crime to which a sexist attitude is adopted by those responsible for dealing with the offenders.

S.O.S. Viol engages in two fields of action: on the judicial level, by finding out information on trials going on inside and outside Belgium and broadcasting that information; and on the level of providing support to women, with every possible help they may need.

The group hopes to contact bodies pursuing the same aims in other countries.

Useful address: S.O.S. Viol, c/o Maison des Femmes
29, rue Blanche
1060 Brussels tel. 539.27.66

A new refuge for battered wives

A new shelter for battered wives has been open at La Louvière. As in other refuges of the same type, women and their children who have been at the receiving end of violence are taken in and helped to regain their independence, find a school for the children and legal advice, etc.

Useful address: Collectif Femmes Battues
75, rue Kéramis
7100 La Louvière tel. 064/21.43.33
Hostel: tel. 064/21.33.03

The Marie Popelin Prize

The Nationale Vrouwenraad (Dutch-speaking section of the National Women's Council) has decided to establish the Marie Popelin Prize to mark the Council's 75th anniversary. The prize will be awarded to the person - male or female - who has contributed most to the emancipation of women in Belgium.

Useful address: Nationale Vrouwenraad
Queteletplein 1a
1030 Brussels

Rape victims and judicial proceedings

Women members of the Social-Christian Party (PSC) in the district of Verviers have submitted a circumstantial report on the victims of rape and justice. From their investigations, it appears that the procedures adopted in cases of rape vary considerably from one legal district to another, and that the victim sometimes has to submit to a second rape - a moral rape - during the course of questioning and medical examinations.

The report suggests various measures, to include: notification of the judge with responsibility for minors of any indecent assault or exposure committed against a minor; the presence of a suitably trained women whenever a rape victim is questioned; placing a limit on the number of times a victim may be questioned; the presence of a committee of doctors (including the family G.P. or a private gynaecologist) during an exploratory physical examination, if a forensic doctor is required to carry out this examination; a ban on photographs and restriction of questioning to the subjects that are strictly relevant to the enquiry.

Useful address: Femmes P.S.C. de l'arrondissement de Verviers
Rue du Manège, 2
4800 Verviers

D E N M A R K

A women's group squats in a house in Copenhagen

In Copenhagen there is a large old house which was turned into a foundation for "needy working class women" in 1871 by Countess Danner, the mistress of Frederick VII.

Little by little the number of "needy women" accommodated in the house dwindled. Several women's groups asked for the building to be turned over to them so that they could make it into a women's centre. After more than a year spent in negotiating with the foundation's administrative council, they were suddenly told that Countess Danner's house had been sold to a private company which intended to use it as office accommodation.

On 15 November, the house was occupied by women.

Their squat lasted a month and a half. During this time, feverish negotiations were conducted with the authorities, the administrative council and the company that had purchased the house. The upshot was a proposal that the women's groups should buy the building for the sum of 2.8 million Danish crowns. The deed of sale was signed early in 1980, and payment in full was due on 1 April.

How could such a large amount be found in the space of only three months? Through imagination, boundless energy and a spirit of cooperation.

Large sums were contributed by private companies and foundations and by local authorities. In addition contributions both large and small poured in from individuals. A newspaper launched a campaign with the slogan of "give 10 crowns for the women's centre". The bodies concerned sold posters, stickers and postcards. They organized jumble sales, theatre shows and concerts.

The outcome is as impressive as the work that has been done.

What is the house to be used for?

The house will be used to accommodate a wide range of activities. In particular, it will be a reception centre for women in difficulties and for battered and ill-treated wives, providing a haven of peace and safety - something that, alas, has become very necessary in Copenhagen. But the good Countess's house will be used for many other purposes as well. Rooms will be furnished for women arriving from the provinces, Greenland and developing nations. They will be let at a low rent for short or long periods.

There are also plans for a restaurant, a coffee shop, a theatre, exhibition rooms, a music room, a reading room and space for courses and meetings. Another project is to set up workshops where children can potter and enjoy their hobbies. The house is to become a gathering place, a place where women can talk and work.

Since the house is old and in poor condition, the women now have to get down to work and restore it. It is a difficult task, but after all that has been achieved up to this time there is no doubt that it will be done, and done well.

Women for peace

Scandinavian women are currently engaged in action which may well become the greatest collective women's effort ever known in the world.

The movement known as WOMEN FOR PEACE was launched on 15 February. Throughout Scandinavia, including Greenland, Iceland and the Faroes, women have been collecting signatures to protest against world rearmament.

Women do not want war. They want lasting world peace. The people who hold the reins of power must stop this mad rush to arm and divert the billions they spend towards food.

The efforts are directed neither against the East nor against the West but are aimed at all those in power who are joining in the movement for rearmament.

The campaign is to continue until 15 May, when the signatures will be brought together and handed to the United Nations in New York. The women concerned are also thinking of publicizing their efforts at the time of the women's conference to be held in Copenhagen in July. The venture has been favourably received in Denmark, where it has been highly successful. In the space of three weeks, 30,000 petitions were printed and distributed. Each petition provides space for 50 signatures. Money has also been flowing in to cover the cost of printing, forwarding and telephones, while many volunteers have come forward to offer their help.

A number of Danes have protested against what they term sex discrimination, in that only women may sign the petition. The organizers reply that the initiative had been taken by women. The campaign is directed against those in power, most of whom are men. Whether they like it or not, men are identified with power, and this is why their signatures are not wanted.

Even so, men who want to campaign for peace are invited to support the venture by helping to publicize it, by giving money or by helping to collect signatures. There are, moreover, many organizations and bodies working to prevent war and rearmament, and they will accept anyone who wants to commit himself to the cause with open arms.

Don't cry out so loud; the neighbours might hear you

Two women doctors at Copenhagen Hospital have conducted an enquiry to find out the number of women going to the hospital's emergency department over the past year for treatment after being beaten or ill-treated.

The investigation has revealed that the hospital had treated 50,660 people during the year. Of this number, 70 women spontaneously said that they had been assaulted. Aged between 17 and 58, they came from all sectors of the population. Two of them died, eleven were admitted for surgery, two were directed towards psychiatric help and seven were kept under observation for several hours. The remaining 48 women were sent home after they had been examined and had received treatment.

The assaults suffered by these women were of different types: knife cuts, attempts to strangle them and all sorts of blows and other injuries. The two women doctors feel that only a minority of battered women go to the doctor for treatment, and very many women who go to their doctors for treatment of injuries will even deny that they have been inflicted on purpose. According to investigations in other countries, it is a common thing for women to lie about the cause of injuries. The two doctors are convinced that the 70 cases found during their enquiry are only a tiny sample of reality.

As for the reasons why women have to suffer blows and injuries of this kind, the investigations carried out in countries other than Denmark show, the two doctors report, that the men committing these acts of violence are often alcoholics and come from families where violence is part of everyday life. Violence in the family could be called a sort of socially inherited evil.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad
Niels Hemmingsensgade 8
1153 Copenhagen

F R A N C E

Women and women first

Parodying the call that goes up when a ship is sinking, a newspaper that has been launched in the west of France has taken as its title "Les Femmes et les femmes d'abord" - "women and women first". It is being produced by the women of Angers, Caen, Poitiers and Tours.

Useful address: Les femmes et les femmes d'abord
4, rue St-Laud
49000 Angers

Working women: too much exploitation, too little representation

The Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT), the union federation with Liberal and Catholic leanings, has brought out a 150 page paperback stating its position on the subject of "working women: the fight for liberation". On the back cover of the book, whose original title is "Travailleuses - Combat pour une libération", is a pithy summary: "six million working women exploited! It is essential to link the class struggle with the struggle to liberate women. The whole working class, men and women, is involved".

Spring-cleaning its own home first, CFDT notes that, within its own structure, only one out of the ten members of the executive committee and only one out of the 31 members of its national board is a woman.

Useful address: CFDT/Information
c/o Montholon-Services
26, rue de Montholon
75439 Paris Cedex 09

Slavery

"Esclavage" - slavery - is the title of the quarterly dossier brought out by "Equipes d'Action" as part of its campaign against the trade in women and children. To take a few figures at random: in 1978, 26,000 young people ran away from home in France. In 60% of cases, they were found again within 48 hours. What about the others? Another figure: 60% of the prostitutes in Paris are deserted mothers.

The journal sets out the facts and figures and gives advice on a problem that is of direct concern to women.

Useful address: Equipes d'Action
21, rue Sainte Croix de la Bretonnerie
75004 Paris

Le Nid

Le Nid - "the nest" - is a movement inspired by the ideals of Christianity which is also conducting a campaign against the exploitation of prostitutes. With groups working in twenty French towns, Le Nid provides a two-fold service: it helps prostitutes and provides information to the public and the political authorities.

Its journal, "Femmes et Mondes", mirrors the dogged efforts in which Le Nid has been engaged for more than 35 years now.

Useful address: Le Nid
7, rue du Landy
92110 Clichy

International Year of the Child

In the pause following the International Year of the Child, the national working committee of the Non-Governmental Organizations has brought out a "white paper" almost 200 pages long. Its main chapter headings are health, housing, education, the law, mass media and the family - all aspects of the problems with which our society are concerned.

A total of 165 organizations contributed towards the text of this "white paper". The many recommendations with which it concludes have probably earned very broad support, which will prolong the work done during the International Year of the Child far beyond 1979.

Useful address: Marise Goldsmith-Dansaert
Responsable de la Commission de travail des O.N.G.
8, rue Jean Mermoz
78100 - St. Germain en Laye

G E R M A N Y

Women and the "Green movement"

"Die Grünen" - "the Greens" - is a party in which Germany's ecologists have come together. It has decided to allocate a number of seats on all the movement's bodies to women - and also to certain other (?) minority groups.

Daffodils and the atom

Last autumn a number of women came to Gorleben to plant daffodils on the site where nuclear waste is to be stored. At Easter they came back to look at them growing and flowering.

In further protest against nuclear energy, more than 3,000 women have already signed a declaration that they will conduct a "birth strike" over the next two years.

Useful addresses: Frauen Ökologiegruppe
Stresemannstrasse 40
1 Berlin 61

Frauen in Gorleben
3131 Gorleben

More women in Parliament

In the run-up to the forthcoming national elections, Deutscher Frauenrat (the German women's council) has published a special issue of its journal under the title of "Mehr Frauen in die Parlemeute" (more women in Parliament).

The German Federal Parliament numbers only 7.6% women. This percentage is unlikely to change to any extent, despite the promising results achieved by German women elected to European Parliament (almost 15%).

According to the lists of candidates as of this date, the only voters who can be sure of sending an extra member to Parliament in Bonn are in the south of Germany.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat
Augustastrasse 42
5300 Bonn 2

Emma

The magazine Emma has reported that a women's movement may exist in the USSR. The only visible sign is a dossier entitled "Woman in Russia" (in Russian, of course). This is now being translated in France.

Another interesting article in Emma is on a book by Germaine Greer, *The Obstacle Race*, published by Secker and Warburg of London. Germaine Greer argues that the classic remark that there is no such thing as a woman Leonardo de Vinci is malicious and silly. On the contrary, there have been many women artists but they have had to fight and paint with the dual handicap of being a woman and an artist. She quotes names in support of her argument: Elisabeth Vigé Le Brun, Rosalba Carriera, Rachel Ruysch, Angelika Kauffmann, Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Leyster.

Useful address: Emma
Kilpingplatz 1
5000 Cologne 1

I R E L A N D

Journalists and equal rights

Journalists are often accused of perpetuating the traditional images of men and women. They are now fighting back from their own workplaces. At a union congress, the Dublin section of the trade union asked for parental leave, workplace creches, flexible working hours and provision for part-time working so that family responsibilities could be shared out more equitably.

Useful address: National Union of Journalists
Liberty Hall
Dublin 1

Spare Rib censured

The British feminist magazine, Spare Rib, is having problems with censorship in Ireland. In 1977, Spare Rib was banned several months running as a result of a decision taken by Ireland's Censorship Board, on the grounds of "habitual or frequent indecency and obscenity".

After a court had declared that the procedure applied by the Censorship Board was illegal, the institution was put out to grass. But books and newspapers can still be seized at the frontier by the customs authority in pursuance of a law of 1946; unluckily, this is what happened to Spare Rib.

Fewer than 200 copies of the magazine are sold in Ireland, and some are mailed to subscribers direct. Newspaper distributors, however, are reluctant to put Spare Rib on sale. According to the system in Ireland - which follows the same pattern as in Great Britain - the distributor buys the magazine from the publishing house and has to accept all the risks of not selling ... or of confiscation.

Useful address: Spare Rib
27, Clerkenwell
London EC1

Depenalization of abortion

Although abortion is still a taboo subject in Ireland, it seems that the problem cannot be ignored much longer. Only recently a small group of women demonstrated in favour of the decriminalization of abortion before the British Embassy while the Chamber of Commons was debating the subject.

According to known statistics, about 20,000 Irish women have gone to Great Britain for an abortion since the law was liberalized there in 1967. The number of Irish women making the crossing has risen from 64 in 1968 to 2,000 in the first three quarters of 1979.

Prostitution

Dublin prostitutes would like to see a rehabilitation centre set up for those of their number who want to lead a new life. They have appealed to the President of the Republic, Dr. Hillery, and to Mr. Collins, the Minister of Justice, for help in ending the discrimination from which they suffer: it is always the prostitute, never her client, who is charged with "soliciting".

I T A L Y

A consultative committee for European women?

In the course of a debate arranged by Associazione Stampa Romana (Rome press association) on the theme of European Parliament and women's rights, many women in Parliament explained the way that Parliament works and what it can do to help defend women's rights.

During the ensuing discussions between parliamentarians and journalists from the daily and periodical press, the idea of a "women's permanent consultative committee" was launched. This would be along the lines of the Consumers' Consultative Committee or the European Youth Forum, two bodies attached to the European Commission. This would enable women to make their views known before the Community reaches decisions on matters that concern them, not afterwards.

Useful address: Associazione Stampa Romana
Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina 26
Rome

A tribunal on violence in the family

The creation of the anthropologist Gioia Longa, the "Tribunal of the 8th March" has held its first hearing in Rome. The aim is to find out more about the true lot of women today by hearing testimony from women.

This venture was inspired by the observation that equality between men and women still does not exist in concrete terms, despite all the declarations and promises.

At its first session, the Tribunal devoted to the time "violence in the family". Many stories were told to the Tribunal, giving a clearer idea of all the work that has still to be done to help women break away from their submissive condition.

Useful address: Tribunale 8 marzo
Via Colonna Antonina 41
00186 Rome

160,000 signatures in favour of a law

In Italy, there is a system whereby a bill can be placed before Parliament "on the initiative of the people". The prerequisite is that the request should be supported by 50,000 signatures. Not just 50,000 but 160,000 signatures were collected by the Movimento di Liberazione della Donna (Women's liberation movement) and the Union Donne Italiane (Italian women's union) in support of a bill against sexual violence.

With the benefit of experience, the bill says that women's organizations should be entitled to be a party to proceedings in rape trials, that trials should no longer be held in camera and above all that the legal proceedings should not turn the victim into the accused.

The film entitled "Processo di stupro" ("rape trial"), a simple direct account of an actual court case, was a blunt revelation of the way in which men involved in a rape case behave: blunderingly, if not in bad faith.

Useful address: Movimento di Liberazione delle Donne
Via del Governo Vecchio 39
Rome

Women on television

Women journalists working in RAI-TV, Italian television, have asked the parliamentary committee responsible for information problems to take a closer look at the position which women are allowed to take in TV programmes.

"Even today," claim the RAI-TV journalists, "on the radio and television women's world is treated in a light and superficial manner. Is it necessary to point out that women account for more than half of the population of Italy?"

According to RAI-TV itself, over a six month period more than 7,000 items of political information were broadcast in the news programmes on the two channels, out of which 63 related to women's affairs, 1,317 to sport, etc.

Useful address: RAI-TV
Viale Mazzini
Rome

Women's health

"We believe that the information needed for better health education can come only from women and from their experience": this is the thought expressed by the Gruppo Femminista per la Salute della Donna - the feminist group for women's health, established as far back as in 1974.

Without wishing to trespass in the field of official medicine or scientific research, the group hopes to act as a link between women and medicine to the mutual advantage of both.

It would like to set up an information centre which could gather material on women's health: books, studies, political programmes, scientific journals, statements of the views of Italian and foreign feminist groups, etc.

The group would obviously welcome contact with organizations pursuing the same ends in other countries.

Useful address: Gruppo Femminista per la Salute della Donna
Vicolo S. Francesco a Ripa 17
00153 Rome

The avant-garde's better half

"L'altra metà dell'avanguardia 1910-1940" is the title of an exhibition created by Lea Vergine at the Palazzo Reale in Milan. The show of 400 works by 100 women bears witness to the fact that the avant-garde movement in painting in the thirty years between 1910 and 1940 was not the sole province of men.

Side by side with those women artists whose talent has been recognized (Suzanne Valadon, Marie Laurencin), how many have worked in silence and despair? Many of the paintings depict a universe of anguish where solitude reigns.

Useful address: Lea Vergine
Palazzo Reale
Milan

L U X E M B O U R G

In the battered wives' hostel

It has been no more than a few weeks since the first refuge for battered wives opened its doors and all the available accommodation has already been taken. Thought should now be given to opening a second shelter.

The first has provided a refuge for twelve women and children and it goes without saying that demand far outstrips supply. Among these first guests for the time being there is only one Luxembourg woman; all the others are foreigners of various nationalities. Foreign women are less capable of defending themselves since most of them have no income of their own and no family connections in the country. When Luxembourg women suffer from the assaults of a brutal husband, they tend to conceal their unhappiness.

As a result of an agreement between the Ministry for the Family and the association, "Femmes en détresse" (women in distress), a woman monitor and a social worker can devote the whole of their time to their sisters in their time of trouble.

Useful telephone number: Maison pour femmes battues 44.81.81

N E T H E R L A N D S

Men and the kitchen sink

The male members of the leading Dutch trade union, FNV, will be able to take a course at the Epe training centre on the theme of "Men too have a right to the sink".

The aim of the course is to familiarize men with domestic tasks, especially when they have to run their lives efficiently and cope with two jobs in what is after all no more than a 24-hour day.

The number of men having to do the household chores may be surprising. There are those who do housework willingly because they want to share in the responsibility of the home, and there are also the widowers, the men who take "paternity leave", divorced men, the unemployed whose wives are out at work, etc. A creche will be available where fathers attending the course can leave their children.

Useful address: Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging
Postbus 8456
1005 AL Amsterdam

Programme-producers: projecting a male image?

The Netherlands has a system of sharing out radio and television broadcasting time between different programme-producing institutions, which express the views of different social groups. One of these institutions is VARA. It is considered to be close to the Labour Party.

One step ahead of its critics, VARA has asked its audience the question: "Is VARA a man?". In fact it is the women members of the audience who are invited to reply and criticize the way in which the institution complies with its statutes, which speak of "equality among all men without discrimination based on race, sex, etc...".

Women's council in the Hague

In May 1975, a number of women's associations in the city of the Hague (today they number 27) set up the Haagse Vrouwenraad, the Hague women's council. In addition to working to improve the wellbeing of the population of the city, the council acts as a link between the women members of that population and the city authorities. Haagse Vrouwenraad is engaged in a wide variety of activities: from a conference on breast cancer to expressing its views on road traffic in the city. A monthly news bulletin keeps its readers informed of the latest events.

Useful address: Haagse Vrouwenraad
Sweelinckplein 79
The Hague

U N I T E D K I N G D O M

"The only thing you have to do is try!"

"What are you really made of?" is the title of a cheerful little film made by an all-woman TV production team with the cooperation of Thames Television and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The film shows the reaction of schoolchildren to the idea that girls have just as much right to be engineers and men to be nursery school teachers. The interviews show that both girls and boys are much influenced by the sexual roles thought proper by their parents and teachers. Girls wanting to be carpenters or lorry drivers were persuaded to be teachers or secretaries; a boy wanting to knit was frowned on. Then the film shows women working successfully as crane drivers, carpenters and decorators and a man happily teaching small children. The moral is that if you want to do a certain job "the only thing to do is try".

The production team members were Marilyn Gaunt, the director who was a first woman TV sound recordist, and Diane Tammes, the first English camera-woman. Available on cassette or 16 mm film (17 minutes),

Useful address: The Central Film Library
Central Office of Information, Hercules Road
London SW1 7DU

Union boosts women's rights

One of Britain's biggest unions - the General and Municipal Workers' Union - has decided to establish equal rights advisory committees within each region and at national level to encourage women to participate in the union's affairs and to fight for their rights at their place of work.

The committees will have the task of identifying discrimination and advising on action. They will assist in the development of union policy on equal rights.

Patricia Turner, national officer with responsibility for the G&MWU's Equal Rights Department, notes that the level of women's participation in union affairs is low even though they account for about one third of trade union membership. Her union is determined to change that state of affairs.

Useful address: Ms. Patricia Turner, Equal Rights Department, G&MWU
Thorne House, Ruxley Ridge, Claygate
Esher, Surrey KT10 OTL

Widows' Charter 1980

For too long governments have allowed Britain's three million widows to be the poor relations of our taxation and social security systems. So says the Widow's Charter 1980, sent to all members of Parliament by the National Association of Widows.

Founded in 1971 by Mrs. June Hemer, the Association acts as a pressure group to improve the light of widows faced with tax and other problems, but also to help with the emotional side of widowhood by providing company, support and a varied social life.

There are now 95 active branches of the Association plus twelve advisory centres run by branch volunteers, on the principle that widows can best help other widows.

Useful address: Mrs. J. Hemer
General Secretary, National Association of Widows
35 Pennycrofts Court
Stafford

Paternity leave for journalists

A sign of the times: the highly respected newspaper, The Times, has agreed to give its male journalists two weeks' paternity leave. The Sunday Times already gives them three weeks. Maternity leave provisions, among the most generous in Fleet Street, remain at twelve weeks on full pay as a minimum entitlement.

Useful address: The Times
New Printing House Square
Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ

A case before the Luxembourg Court of Justice

The Court of Justice of the European Communities, which sits in Luxembourg, has been hearing the case of Mrs. Wendy Smith, who was amazed to discover that she was being paid £10 a week less than the man who held the same job before her (see Women of Europe no. 11/79).

Everything turned on the wording of the Equal Pay Act 1970, which states that a man and a woman who do the same work "at the same time" must receive equal pay. The Court of Justice (case no. 129/79) did not mince its words. It declared its view that the principle of equal pay applies even when a woman takes over from a man.

Useful address: Court of Justice of the European Communities
Boite postale 1406
Luxembourg

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Development: the work of voluntary organizations

Non-governmental agencies receive substantial aid from the European Community to support their work in developing nations. Since 1956, more than 500 projects have been funded and the amounts budgeted are rising steadily.

Mr. Claude Cheysson, the member of the European Commission with responsibility for development policy, has pointed out that the initial allocation was 2.5 million EUA (1 EUA = FF 5.8 or Bfrs 40.5), compared with the budget of 15 million that the Commission hopes to obtain in 1980, 20 million in 1981.

In theory, the Community may meet up to 50% of the cost of projects although there is a ceiling of 100,000 EUA per project per year over a maximum period of three years.

To qualify for financial aid, the projects must contribute towards economic and social progress among the less privileged sectors of the community. It is also a requirement that the beneficiaries should play a full part in the planning and implementation of the project. Special consideration is given to projects in the rural, educational and social sectors and to multi-disciplinary projects.

Women's special role is not often highlighted. Odette Snoy, who has long been active in MIJARC (Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique - international movement of Catholic agricultural and rural youth), is now trying to improve women's leadership in the region which she covers from Bobo-Dioulasso. In a detailed report on the leadership and structure of women in the rural environment, she aptly quotes Anne-Marie Hochet, who used to write in "Paysannes du Sahel": "Woman produces, processes, transports and sells. She is a complete economic agent and she alone carries out the four essential functions, starting from the soil in her field and ending on the market floor".

Projects of this kind, firmly rooted in reality, are an invaluable contribution by the non-governmental organizations, something of which the Commission is very much aware. At a meeting where about 90 non-governmental organizations were represented, Mr. Cheysson once again expressed the Commission's gratitude for the work done by voluntary bodies. He also stressed one fundamental principle that applies to aid with food and emergency aid. It is a principle which the Community must observe: this humanitarian assistance must not be made subject to political conditions. The Community cannot of course be indifferent to a country's respect for human dignity, but any views or criticisms it may have on this subject must not be allowed to prevent it from going to the aid of peoples whose very survival is under threat. This was a reference to Cambodia where, in a troubled political context, the Community was able to act only through the non-governmental organizations.

Community aid to voluntary organizations reaches all developing nations, not just those which already have special relations with the Nine such as the Lomé Convention signatories.

Useful address: European Commission
Directorate General of Development
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Equality for women: a review of progress and future prospects

The European Commission is holding a conference in Manchester from 28 to 30 May 1980 on the theme of equality for women: a review, the problems and the outlook - a European project.

A conference planned in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Commission, its aim is to spark off an exchange of views among the people in the member states who are responsible for formulating and implementing policies for the advancement of women.

In addition to national officials and the representatives of the consultative commissions concerned, observers from European Parliament are expected in Manchester as well as representatives of employers, workers, farmers and public concerns and observers from international organizations such as the International Labour Office, the Council of Europe and OECD.

Women of Europe will of course be reporting on the work of this conference.

We should remind our readers that 12 August 1980 is the deadline for member states to send the European Commission all the facts and figures on the implementation of the principle of equality of status for men and women in terms of access to employment, training and vocational advancement and in terms of work. In the light of all this information, the European Commission will draw up a comprehensive picture of the situation, to be forwarded to the Council of Ministers in the form of a report.

Exchanges of young workers

The second EEC programme of exchanges of young workers has now taken shape. Through this effort, the Community hopes to promote visits by young workers to other countries within the EEC, with all the beneficial results that can be expected from carefully planned international contact.

To guarantee the success of the operation, the Commission has gone to various European bodies which have acquired sound experience in planning young people's travel - experience not only in administration and practical matters, but also in the educational and social sides of this activity.

Young workers may be attached to an employer in another country for long periods (4 to 8 months) or for short times (3 weeks to 3 months). During their stay they will be entitled to all the social security protection normally granted to young workers in their host countries. The Commission makes a financial contribution towards their travel costs and to the cost of preparatory language courses.

Five specialist organizations have signed a special agreement with the European Commission: Ente Nazionale ACLI istruzione professionale (Italian workers' Christian associations' national vocational education board - ENAIP); European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL); Conférence des Régions Périphériques Maritimes (conference of peripheral maritime regions - CPRM); Central Bureau for Educational and Vocational Exchanges (CBEVE) and Interéchanges (a French organization).

Useful address: European Commission
Directorate General of Social Affairs
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Consumer affairs

When the existing Commission first took up its mandate, in 1977 Mr. Burke, the member of the Commission with special responsibility for consumer affairs, pleaded for a positive and "dynamic" rather than a passive and "protectionist" approach to consumers. The European Commission has made efforts to adopt this approach in practice.

In 1979, for example, the Consumers' Consultative Committee (CCC for short) was consulted on the Commission's proposed agricultural prices; it has stated its views on a number of other proposals put forward by the Commission such as consumer credit, the creation of a European seal of approval and a guarantee of legal protection.

During a meeting with consumers' representatives, Mr. Burke emphasized his hope that consumer protection policy would be developed on the basis of "mutual understanding through communication", so that both manufacturers and consumers realise that their common interests far outweigh their differences.

The first plan of action in favour of consumers was based on five fundamental rights: health protection and safety; the protection of economic interests; information and education; the right to compensation; and the right to representation. The second programme, now being placed before European Parliament for debate, clarifies these concepts and goes into further detail.

Further guidance has become necessary, however, because of the difficult economic situation being faced by the Community. The new programme places stress on the need:

- to pay greater attention to trends in prices for products and services and to the relationship between price and quality;
- to pay special attention to the conditions on which public and private services are rendered to consumers, allowing for their development - in both relative and absolute terms - by comparison with the consumption of products;
- to promote the concept of the consumer as a partner in the economy, fostering a dialogue between producers and consumers;
- to explore the possibility of establishing voluntary Community-level contracts between manufacturers' and consumers' associations to supplement legislation.

Useful address: European Commission
Environment and Consumer Protection Service
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Equality in education

The remarkable study carried out by Eileen Byrne on behalf of the European Commission on equality in general and vocational education for girls (from 10 to 18) has now been translated into all the Community's official languages.

It has now been brought out as part of the "Etudes" collection as no. 9 of the "Education" series.

Useful address: Office for Official Publications of the
European Communities
Boite Postale 1003
Luxembourg

RESEARCH, MEETINGS, BOOKS

Uit Eigen Beweging (on one's own volition) traces the rise of women's organizations in Flanders over the past ten years. Brightly written by Renée van Mechelen and published by Kritak, Vesaliusstraat, 1 - 3000 Leuven (Belgium).

Women in Politics is a useful pamphlet, a factual account of the achievements of women in the political field in Great Britain since 1918, listing the private bills introduced by women that have become law and the ministerial posts held by women. Published by the Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee, this little work of reference costs 40p. and can be obtained from the Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee, Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London SW1.

Die Bessere Hälfte Kämpft und Ihr Recht (the better half's struggle and her rights) by Antje Dertinger is a historical review of the early feminist movements in German, describing women's protracted fight for their political rights. Published by Bund-Verlag of Cologne.

Donna e società nel Seicento (woman and society in the 17th century) is a historical study of the lot of women after the Trento Council, written by Ginevra Conti Odorisio. In the century of the Counter-Reformation women had a hard life, explains Ida Magli in the introduction. Published by Bulzoni, 14 via dei Liburni, 00185 Rome; Lire 7,500.

Women's Work, Men's Work: Virginia Novarra has re-thought the whole concept of work, arguing that economics and sociology mirror and reinforce sex bias. She also looks at the part played by legislation and government agencies, such as equal opportunity commissions. Published by Marion Boyars Publishers Ltd., London, at £5.95 hardback and £2.95 paperback.

Economia e politica dei sentimenti (the economics and politics of feelings) is a fresh analysis of the conflict between paid employment and domestic work, between market production and producers' reproduction. Written by Maria Rosa Cutrufelli and published by Editori Riuniti at L.4,500.

Occupational Segregation in Britain from 1901 to 1971 by Catherine Hakim reveals a curious fact: in 1911 women in Britain were more evenly represented among managers and administrators than at any time since. But this is only one among many facts in a very comprehensive study commissioned by the Department of Employment, from which it can be obtained (Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA).

Les syndicats à l'épreuve du féminisme. The title - "the unions tried and tested by feminism" - speaks for itself, for the unions have been shaken by the militancy of women in the workplace. Margaret Maruani, the author, points out that the French unions under her microscope have had to learn to reckon with the force of worker feminism. Syros publications.

Women and International Human Rights is to be the title of a special issue of the Universal Human Rights journal. Fran P. Hosken, the editor of Women's International Network News, has been appointed as guest editor. The journal has appealed for papers to be submitted for publication in this issue. All the papers must be ready for editing by 15 August 1980. Write for detailed instructions to contributors to: Fran P. Hosken, 187 Grant Street, Lexington Mass. 02173, U.S.A.

Comparative Women's Labour Law is a project undertaken by Ruth Nielsen on the legal position of women in the labour market in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, West Germany and France. It will be interesting to compare the situation in EEC member states and in countries not forming part of the Community. Ruth Nielsen will welcome any information that Women of Europe readers can forward to her.

Useful address: Ruth Nielsen, Research Fellow
Retsvidenskabeligt Institut B
University of Copenhagen, S Udiestrade 6
1455 Copenhagen K

Women and Adult Education is the theme of a seminar to be held by the National Institute of Adult Education in cooperation with the European Bureau of Adult Education from 1 to 5 September. The main objective of the seminar is to discuss the apprenticeship in new roles in a changing world. For details, contact:

European Bureau of Adult Education
Nieuweweg 4
P.O. Box 367, 3800 AJ Amersfoort
Netherlands

3 Défis à l'information - three challenges to information - is the title given to the 9th congress of the International Association of Women's and Home Page Journalists to be held in Bruges from 22 to 26 October. The challenge of technology, the challenge of democracy, the challenge of humanity: these are three problems encountered by women journalists daily.

Useful address: Marianne Burton (who will forward enquiries)
121 avenue des Eperviers
Boîte 29, 1150 Brussels

La politique d'aide au développement - une mission européenne? ("development aid policy - a European mission?") is the question to which an international seminar arranged by the Otzenhausen European Academy will be trying to find an answer from 10 to 12 October 1980. Discussions will be in French and German. For further information, write to:

Liliane Rouday
Académie Européenne d'Otzenhausen
6696 Nonnweiler-Otzenhausen (Sarre)