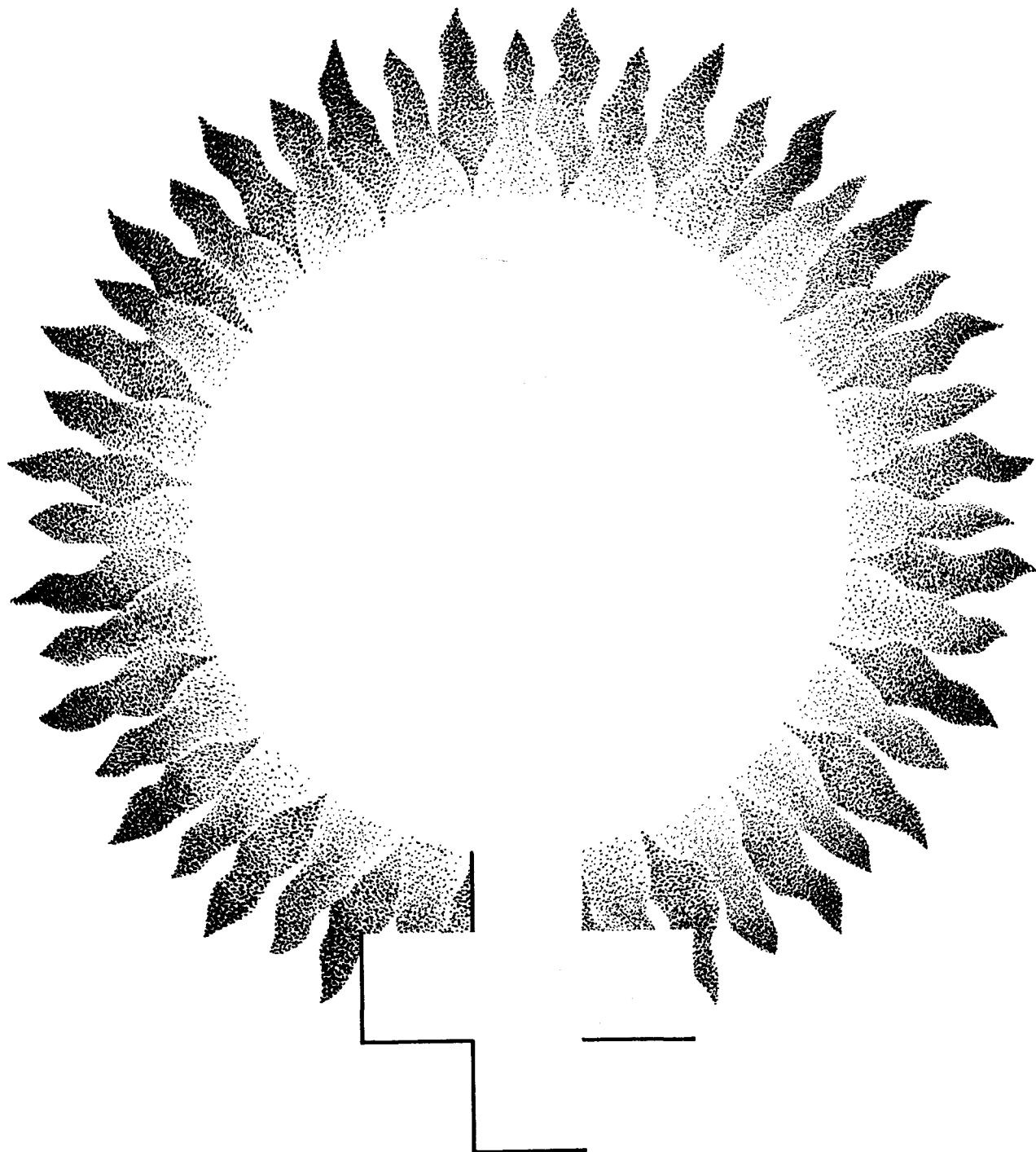


# *Women of Europe*

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITY

*June 1984 : just over a year - hardly more than a year - remains before we shall be voting for the second time for the men and women who will represent us in the European Parliament.*

*At the last elections, the mobilization of women was a major political event: well before the campaign opened officially, there were debates and discussions, concerted action ... The result was that a higher proportion of women were elected to the European Parliament than to any of the national parliaments. Europe's women have been contributing to the democratic process in a remarkably useful way and those elected have spared no effort to bring about improvements in the situation of women in Europe, during their current term.*

*In a system where individual political convictions are respected, women, without a doubt, constitute the largest and most active pressure group in the European Parliament. The crisis notwithstanding, they have scored a number of successes; every issue of "Women of Europe" can bear this out.*

*If we want to preserve and add to this store of authority, solidarity and, dare we say it, political power, we, the women of Europe must start preparing now for our next victory. Increasing the number of women candidates, getting them higher on electoral lists so that more of them win seats -this is one part of the work we must address ourselves to urgently. Discussing programmes, thinking about objectives, getting women to join in the debate and use their votes - this is the other part that it would be dangerous to ignore. Together, the two parts go by the fair name of "democracy".*

*Women of Europe*

Hourly wage

Sile De Valera, member of the European Parliament (Irl. EDP), put a written question to the European Commission concerning the industries where the biggest gaps exist between male and female average rates of pay. In replying, the Commission gave a table based on the statistics provided in the six-monthly publication, Eurostat, on hourly wages and length of the working week. The table gives Community-wide figures (with the exception of Greece) on the industrial sector where the greatest difference exists between average gross rates of pay for male and female workers (reference period, April 1981)

<u>% Difference</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Industrial sector</u>
46.9%	Ireland	Leather industry
39.2%	Luxembourg	Printing and publishing
39.0%	United Kingdom	Printing and publishing
32.8%	Belgium	Primary processing and production of metals
32.3%	Germany	Printing and publishing
28.3%	France	Printing and publishing
24.7%	Netherlands	Paper industry, printing and publishing
24.6%	Denmark	Printing and publishing
21.9%	Italy	Oil refineries

Warning : these differences, which result from averages and reflect a number of structural factors, should be interpreted with caution.

Shift work in Great Britain

"Women and shift work : some facts observed in Great Britain" is the title of a study published recently by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The authors believe that their research sheds some light on the reasons women opt for shift work and the effects this may have on their life. The study shows to what extent women's choice of the hours they work is influenced by responsibility for bringing up their children and that given the inadequacy of child care provisions and the firmly implanted ideology of women's primary role within the family, they must take the kind of work that fits in with their more important family commitments.

The study says that women tend to evaluate the effects of their shift work against the background of this dominant ideology. Types of shift work that are incompatible with this tend to exclude women with family responsibilities.

Useful address : European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,  
Loughlinstown House,  
Shankill,  
Co. Dublin  
Ireland

### Small and medium-sized enterprises

In most of the Community countries, it is the craft industry and the small and medium-sized enterprises which have remained capable of making rapid adjustments to changing market conditions in this time of crisis. Over 90% of all firms in the Community come into the small or medium-sized business category and they employ about 60% of the total work force.

These figures were quoted by Mr Narjes, Member of the Commission of the European Communities at the "Conference to launch the European Year of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises", organized by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities.

In such businesses, women play an important role. This has been further stressed in a recent study on the qualifications and training requirements of family workers in small and medium-sized enterprises, written by Karen Riis-Jørgensen for CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training).

Ms Riis-Jørgensen reveals in her study that in this type of business, the "family worker" is more likely to be a woman than a man, and it is women more often than men who have to perform a number of tasks without adequate training.

Basing her study on documents and interviews in five of the Community countries, the author poses questions like these: to what extent does the marriage partner participate in running the business and what job does he/she perform? What qualifications does he/she possess and to what extent would he/she be interested in acquiring more?

The amount of participation in the business varies from sector to sector, Ms Riis-Jørgensen finds, but it is never less than 25 hours a week. It may rise to 50 hours or more in small service businesses and shops. It goes down if the business employs more than 9 workers. Women under 30 are the ones who give more of their time to the family business.

Where qualifications are concerned, the study reveals that almost 70% of the family helpers have either no or only a partial training. Where qualifications for the job to be done have been obtained, the enterprise benefits considerably.

However, through lack of time or the possibility of finding relief services, women take very little advantage of further training opportunities. They also criticize such training for being too general, too elementary or too theoretical.

What can be done about this state of affairs?

In her last chapter, Ms Riis-Jørgensen proposes a plan of action. All the measures she suggests have a single goal: to make the utmost use of the human and economic potential offered by family workers in small production units.

Useful address:

C E D E F O P  
Bundesallee 22  
1000 Berlin 15

Eurobarometer

For ten years now, the Commission of the European Communities has been conducting public opinion surveys on a wide variety of subjects touching the different areas of its activities, particularly its information policy. The best-known of these are the Eurobarometer surveys it has been publishing every six months since 1974.

The January 1983 issue of Eurobarometer attempted to measure the feeling of dependence on political decisions taken in countries other than the respondent's own. Nearly 7 Europeans out of 10 (rather more in Denmark and fewer in Germany) were aware of their own country's dependence. And more than 80% of the people surveyed - i.e., over half of those who perceived this dependence - believed that it would increase in the years to come.

Asked whether or not they were in favour of the unification of Western Europe, a pro-European majority continued to exist; 70% of the respondents were in favour, 14% against, on average, with each of the individual countries showing a majority, even Denmark (40% for, 37% against) and the United Kingdom (61% for, 21% against).

The idea of unification going as far as joint action was quite well received. 54% of those questioned were in favour of joint action to fight unemployment, while 33% thought that better results would be achieved if their country acted alone. Joint action was chosen in seven of the 10 countries, the three exceptions being Ireland (47% against, 45% for), Luxembourg (46% against, 44% for) and the UK (50% against, 44% for).

But it was another matter if this solidarity had to be put to the test. Asked whether they would be prepared to make some personal sacrifice (like paying extra tax) to help another Member State in difficulties, only 33% of Europeans were prepared to do so, with 54% not willing. Only the Italians produced a majority in favour (48% would make a sacrifice, 38% would not). The most reluctant to do so were the British, of whom, while 22% would agree, 70% were opposed.

Another point to note is that in each EEC country without exception, a sizeable majority of the people interviewed believed that their country had benefitted less than others from membership of the Community.

Concerning the European Parliament, 54% of Europeans said that they had recently heard or read something about it. The percentage varied considerably from one country to another, with Germany (70%) and The Netherlands (66%) in the lead and Denmark (42%) and France (40%) at the bottom.

Amongst those who said they had heard or read something about Parliament, 27% thought that it had been good, 33% had formed a bad impression and, what is probably the most disturbing, 40% were unable to say if it had been good, bad or indifferent.

Useful address:

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1049 Brussels

Reduction and reorganization of working time

The Commission has just approved a memorandum on the reduction and reorganization of working time prepared under the authority of Commissioner Ivor Richard. In it, this whole question is set firmly in the context of the Community's persistent economic problems and the great number of jobless.

In particular, the memorandum warns that, in view of the need to stem the rise of unemployment, "a more positive approach to working time as an instrument of employment policy is urgently required". It examines conditions under which reducing the working time of individual employees can create possibilities for offering employment to a larger number of people.

While in no circumstances can reduction in working time alone resolve the employment crisis, it can mitigate it. So the Commission, after holding consultations with the social partners, intends to make specific proposals in the matter.

In the Commission's view, the eventual claim should be to set a target for a substantial reduction in individual working time, possibly expressed as a percentage range. A guideline of this kind would of course need to be carefully framed to leave room for considerable variations, to take account where necessary of differences in the economic situation in each Member State and of the needs of different sectors and of certain firms.

In order to ensure that the reduction and reorganization of working time contribute to the creation of durable employment and to the recovery of industrial competitiveness, the Commission will recommend accompanying measures. For example, more flexible forms of work organization should be planned to achieve a more efficient utilization of equipment through longer production times which would improve the productivity of capital.

Again, strictly limited wage compensation is the logical corollary of a policy on the reduction of working time when the aim is to create jobs; even where there are gains in productivity, these should, especially in the early stages, contribute to job creation and improved competitiveness and should not be absorbed by wage increases.

In several Member States measures have recently been taken to reduce individual working time. In France, a decree at the beginning of the year reduced the working week by one hour (from 40 to 39 hours), lengthened paid holidays, limited overtime and made more flexible existing regulations concerning the use of the workforce. The French government estimate that 70 - 80,000 jobs have been created or preserved.

In Belgium, the government is proposing to reduce annual working time by 5% in 1983 and to require employers to enlarge their workforces by 3%. In the Netherlands, both sides of industry have reached a nation-wide agreement that the expected increase in pay to take account of higher prices normally due to be paid in 1983 will be earmarked for the creation of additional jobs in combination with shorter individual working hours, the detailed provisions to be negotiated at branch or enterprise level.







EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

January 1983 Session

The European Parliament started the year with a very packed session in which a whole series of important political and economic issues were tackled. Foremost among the political debates was the one when the report by Niels Haagerup (Dan. Lib.) on political cooperation and European security was tabled.

The very fact that this debate took place at all is significant, since hardly more than a year ago, one side of the Parliament was still opposed to any discussion of defence-related issues. Today, the Assembly has gone farther and has discussed security, confirming its right to do so, even if (and this is spelled out clearly in the resolution that was passed) "the European Community has no military dimension of its own". However that may be, Parliament came up with a solid majority (133 to 50) in favour of the resolution's recommendations.

In its final form, the resolution recommends inter alia that a form of coordination take place between the existing machinery for political cooperation (i.e., the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss common political concerns) and the Atlantic Council, but that this must in no way negate political discussions within the Atlantic Alliance.

In other words, the resolution is clearly in favour of an Atlantic approach. According to some Members of the European Parliament, such as the extreme left-winger Luciana Castellina (Italy), it did not take enough distance from the United States, and they therefore voted against it. The text stresses the need for dialogue with the East in the search for peace and it insists on the importance of arms limitation talks on certain conditions.

Even though the resolution makes mention of the peace movements, these are not positive enough. Neither does it come out against the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

These were some of the criticisms voiced by parliamentarians who voted against the resolution, especially people belonging to the parliamentary group favouring disarmament, to which several British Labour MPs, some Dutch and Belgian Socialists and some Italians on the extreme left belong. The French and Greek Communists also voted against the resolution, together with some Danes. The latter were unable to accept that the Community as such had anything to do with defence matters, which in their opinion were strictly the business of the Member States themselves.

Gisèle Charzat (Fr. Soc.) although not denying that the Community could deal with these matters felt that Parliament's point of contact, especially its Political Affairs Committee, should be the Assembly of the Western European Union, the only body with responsibility for defence in Ms Charzat's view.

Among the other political themes, Parliament, by a very large majority, passed a resolution welcoming Mr Andropov's approaches on arms control and another calling for the respect of the legitimate interests of the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Lady Elles (UK, Cons.) put down a resolution, later passed by a large majority, calling for an investigation into the fate of missing persons in Cyprus. Another resolution was passed on the emigration of Jews from the USSR.

January saw a change-over in the Presidency of the Community's Council of Ministers, with Germany taking the seat for the current six months' term. Mr Genscher, the country's Foreign Minister, outlined his programme as President of the Council. Apart from support from some of his political friends, Mr Genscher's long list of tasks to be accomplished was greeted with some cynicism. Altiero Spinelli (Italy, Comm. allies) expressed sorrow that a man like Mr Genscher, at a crucial point in his political career, a career which indicated his "Europeanness", had not looked deeper into himself to produce less bureaucratic ideas about the Community's present and future.

Still in the political area, Parliament adopted a resolution on the Middle East calling for a new European initiative but stressing that this must not compete with the Camp David agreements. In one respect, Parliament went further than the European Council of Ministers has so far done, in speaking of the "option of a possible Palestinian state". The resolution also demanded an immediate end to Israel's policy of occupation.

#### Five Wise People

*A group known as the Committee of the "Cinq Sages" has been formed in the European Parliament. Its task is to consult economists in the Community in order to propose an action programme against unemployment. The "Cinq Sages" are Mr Jacques Moreau (Fr. Soc.), who is Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Ms Hanna Walz (Germ. EPP), Chairman of the Energy Committee, Mr Michel Poniatowski (Fr. Lib.) Chairman of the Development and Cooperation Committee, Mr Pancrazio De Pasquale (It. Comm.) Chairman of the Regional Policy Committee, and Sir Fred Catherwood (UK, Cons.) Chairman of the External Economic Relations Committee.*

*The questions economists will be asked will mainly focus on the strengthening of the European Monetary System, the ways of attracting long-term investment in competitive industries, energy resources and the disadvantaged regions of the Community and the Third World.*

Ms Macciocchi (It.Soc.) tabled her report on conscientious objection. During the debate, Ms Veil (Fr.Lib.) said that the right to be a conscientious objector was one of an individual's rights. In the view of Paola Gaiotti de Biase (It.Chr. Dem.), however, the refusal to do military service should not be seen as an individual refusal but rather as something done to favour collective security by a means other than military. Ms Emma Bonino (It. Rad.) insisted on the fact that civilian duties to replace military service should not represent some kind of punishment. The debate on this question took place in January but the voting was held over until the February session, since the German Socialists demanded a postponement because of the absence of a quorum.

In January's session, the Parliament also had to deal with some controversial economic issues such as aligning the price of olive oil and of competing vegetable oils. Conflicting interests clashed on this item and the voting was determined more by MPs' nationality than their political allegiance. All the "Mediterraneans" were in favour of the alignment proposed by the European Commission whilst some of the Germans (particularly the Socialists) and all of the British voted against it. The British Labour parliamentarian, Barbara Castle was very sympathetic with the mediterranean region who were the "poor relations" of the common agricultural policy, but she would never agree, she said, to a measure that amounted to taxing an everyday consumer product like margarine.

In a far-reaching debate on the effect of Japanese competition on the car industry, the European Parliament voted in favour of more cooperation with Japan - on certain terms - and rejected national restrictions on imports. Parliament was not prepared however to go as far as the original draft of the resolution had wanted towards the organization of a true European automobile market in the framework of Community industrial policy. The right "to be different" was in some ways confirmed.

It will be recalled that in September 1982 (see Women of Europe N° 27) the European Parliament issued an ultimatum and serious warning to the Council of Transport Ministers. In the EEC Treaty provisions exist for the adoption of a common transport policy, but despite proposals both from the Commission and Parliament, no real common policy had been approved. Parliament, calling upon the Council to act, believed that 25 years was too long to wait.

The Council's reply had been viewed as totally unsatisfactory. As a result, Parliament decided on the politically and constitutionally important step of bringing an action against the Council "for failure to act", before the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

#### February 1983 session

About three weeks before the German parliamentary elections, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, addressed the European Parliament and emphasized his government's willingness to proceed along the path towards European unification.

While refusing to turn in on themselves, European countries must continue the process of European unification, build up the domestic market (a major objective that Germany has always insisted on) improve the coordination of economic and marketing policy and fight unemployment. Mr Kohl also thought that all attempts to "uncouple" Europe from its American allies in the Atlantic Alliance must be resisted but that nevertheless, Europe could and should talk about its own defence.

Another important item in the February session was the European Commission's programme for 1983, presented by the President of the Commission, Gaston Thorn.

Mr Thorn indicated five categories of priority actions: making the economic and social environment more favourable (by rechanneling public expenditure, encouraging private investment, fighting youth unemployment); unifying the Community's internal market; launching Community industrial strategy; increasing the resources necessary for social and regional expenditure; innovation and transport; and finally, strengthening the Community's grasp on the international environment.

Mr Thorn also presented Parliament with the Commission's Green Paper on the Community's own resources, which puts forward a range of budgetary options for the future.

During the debate, members of parliament showed mixed reactions, pointing to certain of the inadequacies on one hand and indicating some understanding for the Commission's position on the other. Simone Veil, for one, speaking on behalf of the Liberal Group, said that despite frustrations, it had to be admitted that the Community had stood up to a period of crisis, and this in itself was almost a miracle. Ms Veil urged her colleagues not to accept national or electoral demagogy and to show that they were united.

Parliament also wound up several weeks of discussions with the Council of Ministers and approved the draft supplementary budget for 1983, designed to find a solution to the "British" problem. In December 1982, Parliament turned down the Council's proposals (see Women of Europe N° 28). The Ministers climbed down somewhat, particularly over the amount of "non-compulsory expenditure" on which Parliament has the last word - and it was thus possible, finally, to adopt a compromise.

Another point on which Parliament got its way was over the budget line concerning possible over-payment by Britain. In addition, 10% of the sums earmarked for this country for energy policy measures will only be paid once it is proved that 90% has been spent correctly.

During the February session, Parliament adopted the resolution put down by the British Conservative Sir James Scott-Hopkins and came out "without reservations" against the apartheid policy practised by South Africa.

Considering the plans announced by the South African Government for internal reform to be totally inadequate, the European Parliament made a series of demands on the liberation of all prisoners, equality of educational opportunity, the right of workers to live with their families and so on. On the last point, Ms Gaiotti de Biase (It. EPP), supported by Mr Penders (Neth. EPP), entered an amendment specifying that this problem accentuated the status of women as a segregated group of second-class citizens.

The European Parliament also called for a stricter application of the Code of Conduct for European firms in their dealings with South Africa and an embargo on arms supplies. Amendments that would have extended this embargo to oil products and to advanced technologies did not get through. The European representatives on the left voted against the Scott-Hopkins resolution.

During the explanations of vote, Ann Clwyd (UK. Soc.), Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso (It. Comm.), Raymonde Dury (Belg. Soc.), and Anne-Marie Lizin (Belg. Soc.) all expressed their disappointment, seeing the resolution as a step back from the positions adopted a few months earlier in Rome by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly. To fight apartheid, they repeated, sanctions were needed not declarations.

In adopting the resolution presented by Maria Luisa Cassanmagnano-Cerretti, Parliament was giving its views on the proceedings of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly's Joint Committee, composed of representatives of the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. This provided an opportunity for a more general look at how the institutions of the Lomé Convention function.

Speaking in the debate on behalf of the Commission, Mr Edgar Pisani insisted on the cultural dimension of development in the Convention. This aspect will be very important in the negotiations for the next "Lomé" Convention (see Women of Europe N° 28).

Also on the subject of Africa, the European Parliament asked for Community aid to be given to the victims of expulsion measures in Nigeria. Mr Natali, Vice President of the Commission was able to confirm that 5 million ecus had already been set aside. During the debate, Emma Bonino (It. Rad.) deplored the attitude of many Europeans who had been making a profit out of a development pattern imposed on this country that was quite unsuitable to its needs.

Parliament later in the session voted on the contents, means and objectives of the 1984 European electoral campaign, by adopting the resolution prepared by Mr Beumer (Neth. Chr. Dem.). Speaking on behalf of the Socialists, Ms Viehoff (Neth.) explained why they were voting against it: the resolution mentioned organizations other than the parties but money would only be available to the political groups.

Ms Viehoff's amendment asking for movements or parties that had conducted racist campaigns, especially against migrant workers, to be excluded from the allocation of funds, was rejected.

*Parliament did however adopt the amendments proposed by Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belg. Soc.) calling for specific actions for women and young people. During the debate, Gloria Hooper (UK. Cons.) expressed surprise that the resolution did not mention this point, especially as Mr Natali, on behalf of the Commission, had said that he was in favour of spending money on this type of information. Mr Natali confirmed this.*

Another item on February's agenda was the resolution by Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano (It. Com.) concerning the discrimination between single mothers and married women (see Women of Europe N° 28) which also covered discrimination between natural and "legitimate" children. In July 1981, Ms Lizin (Belg. Soc.) had already drawn Parliament's attention to this matter and asked for a report to the Legal Committee.

In her report, Ms Cinciari Rodano brought out the wide divergences that exist in the legislation in force in the various Member States, and those waiting

to join. She emphasized the injustice there was in penalizing not only single mothers but also their innocent children.

In Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, maternal filiation is automatically established by the birth certificate, whereas paternal filiation has to be established by a separate legal document. In Belgium, Ireland, Spain and Greece, at the time the report was drafted, a natural child had fewer rights both as regards its mother and its father, than a child born to married parents.

The resolution calling upon the Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the European Convention on the legal status of children born outside marriage was passed unanimously. The text also asks the Commission to examine the possibility of tackling these problems through Community action.

*As part of a visit to raise awareness about the fate of women in South Africa and Namibia, who are suffering under the system of apartheid, Ms J.M. Cisse, Guinea's Minister for Social Affairs and Chairperson of the International Solidarity Committee stopped over in Brussels. There she met the President of the European Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn and the Commissioner for Development (Mr E. Pisani) and for Social Affairs (Mr I. Richard). Accompanied by a high-level delegation of women, under the aegis of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, Ms Cisse also held talks with the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the Situation of Women.*

*At a press conference, Ms Cisse stressed that the main purpose of the mission was to obtain the greatest amount of political support for the liberation movements in countries concerned and to find material aid for women in Southern Africa. The delegation suggested several projects, mainly in the area of training and social assistance, that it hoped to promote in order to help women and children who had taken refuge in some of the Southern African countries.*

In a document prepared for the "Youth and Education" Committee of Parliament, Richard Cottrell (UK. Cons.) expressed concern about new religious sects in the Community.

Three sects in particular are attracting attention: Scientology, the Moon Sect (also called the Unification Church) and the Children of God. The controversies surrounding the new sects are heightened by accusations of fraud and other tax crimes. The sects are also accused of interfering with the psychological integrity of individuals and with family solidarity.

The main issue affected by the existence of these sects, according to Mr Cottrell, is that of freedom of association. It is not up to politicians to pass laws in the spiritual domain, but it is nevertheless of concern that these sects should respect the principle of freedom from which they themselves benefit.

BREASTMILK SUBSTITUTES

*The "International code of marketing breastmilk substitutes" is the subject of a report by Luciana Castellina (It. CDI) that has been adopted by Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation.*

*The motion for a resolution "urges the Commission to comply with the undertakings given" and "calls on the Commission to adopt a more constructive attitude".*

*What are the points being made?*

*In the explanatory statement, the paper says that the 34th WHO Assembly adopted a Code on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes which was supported by all the Member States of the Community. The Commission representative present at the meeting fully endorsed the objectives contained in the Code.*

*The WHO Code is only a "recommendation". But the Community did undertake publicly to implement it and representatives of the developing countries requested that appropriate measures be taken to make it operative.*

*On 15 October 1981, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to submit urgently a proposal for a directive to ensure uniform application of the Code. Parliament wanted the Code respected both within the Community and by Community-based firms operating in the rest of the world. But despite the assurances given by the Commission's representative at the time when Parliament debated the resolution, nothing has been done.*

*Although provisions do exist in the different Member States governing the qualitative and quantitative composition and labelling of baby foods they are contained in more general regulations: separate rules are therefore required. Nor is any guidance currently given as regards product advertising and promotion.*

*"... the objections recently put forward by Commission officials to acting on a decision (that has already been taken) are not acceptable" the report sternly notes. It points out that evidence gathered by a number of non-governmental organizations has revealed that violations of the principles in the WHO Code are becoming more and more frequent.*

*Ms Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belg. Soc.) has this to say on the matter: "Here is a concrete example where women's organizations in Europe can take effective action. Pressure must be brought to bear on the European Commission, on governments and on baby food manufacturers. It would also be a very positive gesture of solidarity with the women and children from the developing countries".*



Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women

This parliamentary committee held a meeting in Brussels in January, chaired by Ms Cinciari Rodano (It. Comm.).

Taking part in the discussions was Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner for Social Affairs, who sketched out the Community's social policy for women. Apart from the training programme in the new technologies, already approved by the Council of Ministers, there is the finalization of the vocational training programmes for the Eighties, the review of the European Social Fund and the directive on part-time work which is still at the negotiation-stage. Transition to working life will be one of the items on the agenda at the joint meeting of Education and Employment Ministers on vocational training.

In 1983, the Commission will be submitting three directives. These will cover, respectively, social security, leave for family reasons, and women agricultural workers and independents. The drafts of these directives are currently being prepared, said Ivor Richard.

Turning to proposals for changing the European Social Fund system, the commissioner stressed the fact that the Commission kept a check on the Fund's activities and while there was no special heading for women's applications, any that were made would be given equal treatment provided that the projects were eligible (see Women of Europe N° 28).

Concerning the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities, the Commission was planning to organize a conference at the end of 1983 to work out global strategy in the matter of positive action.

Speaking of women's unemployment, Mr Richard announced that an analysis of the specific situation of women was being prepared. He concluded by calling on everyone to be realistic and to use imagination when facing up to the Community's worsening economic position. Members of the Committee of Inquiry, in replying, asked Mr Richard to bring to the attention of his colleagues in the Commission that women were in a special situation as they were being hit harder by the crisis than were men.

On the question of temporary work, Ms Heidi Wieczorek-Zeul (Germ. Soc.) introduced the report she had written. One of its points is that two out of three people with temporary jobs are women, another is that half of the women in the work force are only employed on a temporary basis. In the debate that followed, Ms Cinciari Rodano emphasized the vulnerability of women and urged that this type of work should be restricted since it was often a way of disguising permanent jobs. Ms Antoinette Spaak (Belg. Non-attached) pleaded for the retention of some latitude, suggesting that protection of temporary work should not lead to unnecessary constraints.

In connection with the directive on part-time work that the Commission has already submitted to Parliament, the latter's Social Affairs Committee has drafted a motion for a resolution. Here, the Committee of Inquiry is asking for amendments which will ensure greater protection for women. A generally-held fear is that any measures supporting part-time work actually hinder women's access to full-time jobs.

Regarding the current review of the operations of the European Social Fund, Ms Johanna Maij-Weggen (Neth. EPP) revealed that only 30% of the appropriations go to women. On her proposal, a number of amendments were approved. For example, daycare should be provided for mothers who are receiving further training, migrant women should be helped to integrate by providing them with language courses, and a representative of women's organizations and youth organizations should sit on the Social Fund Committee. The Committee of Inquiry also agreed that aid given to the Member States by the Social or Regional Funds should be tied to the states' compliance with the three equality directives. One of the women MPs in favour of this proposal was Ms Mechtild von Alemann (Germ. Lib.)

Dame Shelagh Roberts (UK. Cons.) tabled a draft report on systems of taxation and specific problems encountered by women. Dame Roberts believed that women should have an independent economic identity. The social basis for taxation was out-of-date and it was time for married women to take over their own tax affairs and to have the same rights and privileges as men.

The Action Programme for Equal Opportunities, it was pointed out by Mr Richard, did have a section dealing with the effect of taxation on women's employment, and a comparison of the various countries' tax system had been undertaken. Some systems favoured married couples, others single people: neither could therefore be thought of as "neutral".

Regarding the Community's 1983 budget (see Women of Europe N° 28), Ms Marie-Claude Vayssade (Fr. Soc.) expressed delight at the way the Committee of Inquiry had been able to force through its ideas: all the requests for supplementary appropriations (nine in all) had been adopted firstly by the Budget Committee and then by Parliament as a whole. Ms Marlene Lenz (Germ. EPP) has been appointed rapporteur for the 1984 budget.

On the same day, the parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women received a delegation of women dismissed by the firm Bekaert-Cockerill (see Women of Europe N° 28). The problem raised by the sacking of these women workers is extremely important from the point of view of principles, since it is a clear example that challenges women's right to work in a time of recession; in the particular case, men's jobs were specifically protected at the expense of women's.

The Committee of Inquiry considered the facts of the case to be extremely serious. Ms Cinciari Rodano, the Committee's Chairperson, said that "this struggle would be very significant for all the women in Europe". She gave the delegation an assurance that it had the Committee's entire support.

Next, a large delegation from the Youth Forum called on the Committee of Inquiry, to present it with a copy of its report "Young Women in Society". Young women begin to notice that they are not treated equally from their school days on. One after the other, young women from several countries described the difficulties encountered in the area of education, vocational training, health, social security etc.

In the discussion that followed, Ms Maij-Weggen regretted that each new generation of women had to struggle for equality. Ms Vera Squarcialupi (It. Comm. allies) stressed that vocational guidance should give an eye to the long term.

Ms Lenz stressed that young people too were being affected by the introduction of new technologies. She suggested that greater emphasis be placed on manual and technical trades and that geographical mobility be encouraged.

The Youth Forum's Secretary General, Ad Melkert, urged the Committee of Inquiry, in its final report, not to forget about the problems of young women - problems that were even more acute than those of adults.

Thirteen women sacrificed (continued)

An industrial dispute with extremely important implications on the level of principles has taken place at the Fontaine-L'Evêque, Belgium, plant of the Bekaert-Cockerill group. The first strike was called in August 1982, to prevent the dismissal of 80 workers. At the end of the dispute in mid-October, all the staff accepted an agreement cutting down the number of redundancies to 28 and putting all the women who were not heads of their household (28 out of 31) on short time - this to save the jobs of thirteen women.

On thinking things over and realizing that they had been fooled, the women came out on strike again (they saw that there was not enough work in the men's shops, not their own). A joint committee of management and union representatives then agreed to the dismissal of thirteen women - the very ones who had been most active in the dispute. The unions came up with a joint position against continuing to recognize the strike.

Signs of solidarity started flooding in (see Women of Europe N° 28). The Comité de Liaison des Femmes and the Vrouwen Overleg Komitee alerted the general public. Several members of the European Parliament prepared to move resolutions. Ms Marguerite Staquet and other of the women who had been sacked sent a petition to the European Parliament, referring explicitly to the February 1976 directive. Part of the petition reads: "the dismissal is discriminatory in that it affects female workers only, four of whom at least have already been replaced in their positions by men transferred from other sections in the enterprise, who are, moreover, better paid..."

In the Belgian Senate, Ms Miet Smet (CVP - Dutch-speaking Social Christian Party) took the floor to ask the Government for explanations. Because the Belgian Government holds shares in the firm Cockerill, it is therefore a shareholder of Bekaert-Cockerill. The government official responsible for the conciliation aspect of this affair was also criticized for his failure to observe the principle of equal treatment of men and women at work.

In the meantime, the FGTB (Belgian General Workers' Union) started court proceedings for discriminatory dismissal.

When made aware of the case, the European Commission first asked the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Communities for all the details of the affair in the Government's possession.

Mr Ivor Richard, Social Affairs Commissioner, sent a telegram to Mr Glinne, Chairman of the European Parliament's Socialist Group giving an assurance "that the Commission is indeed seized of this matter and will take all necessary steps to ensure the respect of Community law".

Accompanied by Ms Anne-Marie Lizin (Belg. Soc.) and Mr Glinne, a delegation from the women dismissed was received by the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women. At the meeting, Ms Antoinette Spaak (Belg. Non-attached) reported that she had intervened with her colleagues in the Belgian Parliament. Ms Cinciari Rodano, the Committee of Inquiry Chairperson, mentioned that the struggle being waged by the sacked women from Bekaert was an example to others. She assured their delegates that her Committee and Parliament as a whole would be following the affair attentively.

At the end of February, Ivor Richard also received a delegation from the "Thirteen", led by Ms Marguerite Staquet and accompanied by the leaders of the Comité de liaison des femmes and the Vrouwen Overleg Komitee. At the meeting, the women present were informed by Mr Richard of the reply he had just received from the Belgian Minister for Employment, Mr Hansenne.

This reply stated that as legal proceedings had been started, the Minister was unable to comment, given the separation of executive and judiciary powers in Belgium.

The thirteen sacked women have collectively been awarded the "Woman of the Year Prize", organized by the National Council of Belgian Women (see p. 47 for more details).

Useful address:

Ms Marguerite Staquet  
rue du Dr Cailleau 28  
B-6500 Anderlues

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

GERMANY

Election run-up

In the run-up period to the legislative elections called for early March, all the political parties showed particular concern over women's issues. Observers of the political scene noted that women were better placed than ever before and that there were more of them on the electoral lists. The issue of equal opportunities was prominent in the parties' political platforms.

The two main contenders to be the next Federal Chancellor, the Christian-Democrat Kohl and the Socialist Vogel both stated their readiness to bring more women into the country's government.

Useful addresses:	C D U	S P D
	Konrad-Adenauer Haus	Ollenhauerstr. 1
	<u>53 Bonn 1</u>	<u>53 Bonn 1</u>

Women voters

An independent group of women had the idea of campaigning for any prospective members of parliament who would come out clearly in favour of improving the situation of women. Under the name "Fraueninitiative 6 Oktober" (Women's 6 October initiative), the group has also led a campaign to see that women are given a better place on electoral lists.

Useful address: Fraueninitiative 6 Oktober  
Postfach 120401  
5300 Bonn 1

Hamburg : four women Ministers

Following the election of members of the Hamburg Land's Parliament which were held on 19 December, there are now four Ministers of the total of fourteen in the Land's senate who are women, a record both for the Länder and the Federal parliament. It is interesting that the SPD (German Social Democrats), which won the election, obtained 58% of the votes of women voters and 42% of those of man voters.

The new Ministers are Helga Elstner, Minister for Health and Deputy Mayor, Eva Leithäuser, Minister for Justice, Christine Maring, Minister responsible for Federal affairs (in other words, she represents the Hamburg Land's interests in Bonn) and Helga Schuchardt, Minister for Culture.

The last of these women used to be a popular member of the FDP (Liberal Party), but she resigned from it last autumn as a sign of protest, when it broke its alliance with the SDP. Helga Schuchardt is not a member of any party at the moment.

Some facts on abortion

The "Pro Familia" Centre (Family Centre) in Bremen has been questioning the effects of the abortion legislation. In 70% of cases, the reasons given by doctors for agreeing to an abortion are "social", which means that the national and private social security funds make a heavy contribution to the costs. In Bremen alone, 3 579 abortions were performed in 1982. In recognized centres, the cost of an abortion ranges from 200 to 300 DM, while in private clinics, it costs anywhere from 800 to 1 200 DM.

Useful address: Pro Familia Bremen  
2800 Bremen

50 years on

*Fifty years after Hitler came to power, a number of events have been organized on the theme "Hitler, fascism, war - never again".*

*These events have once again shown how women played an active part in clandestine political activities in that era: socialist and communist women in particular formed knitting or choir groups, sports or gardening clubs under cover of which they carried out their political work. Two of the books to be published recently describing that turbulent period are "Der alltägliche Faschismus" (Everyday fascism) and "Mein alltägliches Exil" (My daily exile). Inge Stolten is the author and the books are published by Dietz-Verlag.*

Street names in Frankfurt

A group of women at Frankfurt University has come up with an interesting question: why are there only sixteen streets or squares in the whole town with a woman's name - and only one school, the Anne Frank School ?

Bertha von Suttner (an Austrian writer and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905), Selma Lagerlof, and Rosa Luxembourg do have streets named after them, but what about the dozens of other less-famous women who participated in the life of the city but have now been forgotten? The university group intends to make some proposals to the municipal authorities in the near future.

Useful address: Universität Frankfurt  
Pressereferat  
6000 Frankfurt

The Elisabeth Selbert Prize

The Hesse Land has just decided to award an annual prize of 20 000 DM for a piece of journalism or scientific research which promotes the equality of women. Named after the lawyer and politician, Elisabeth Selbert, who strove for women's rights, the prize is the first of its kind in the country. It was through Selbert's efforts that women's equality was specifically mentioned in the German Constitution.

Useful address: Hessischen Ministerpräsident  
Bierstadter Str. 2  
6200 Wiesbaden

Hamburg's Civil Service

Hamburg Land's Senate has recently passed a directive aimed at improving women's position in the public service. The directive covers thirteen specific areas such as salary, job security and promotion.

One of the improvements will be better representation by women in senior grades or in sectors where they are under-represented at present. A special training programme is to be set up designed to help women return to work after an interruption in their careers. Women with the same qualifications as men will be given preference when hiring, in order to achieve a balance in the number of men and women in the civil service. Another plan is to make working hours more flexible, so that both men and women can spend more time with their families.

Useful address: Bundesfrauenvertretung des Deutschen Beamtenbundes  
Dreizehnmorgenweg 36  
5300 Bonn 2

**BELGIUM**

Head of household

The expressions "head of household" and "head of family" die hard. The National Council of Women has just carried out a study, directed by Christiane Bruwier, which brings out some contradictions in this respect. For example, the concept of head of family was removed from Civil Law and replaced by the concept of parental authority as long ago as 1974. But Chapter IX of the Civil Code, dealing with the latter, is still entitled "De la puissance paternelle" (Paternal powers).

In the administrative area, as recently as 1981, in the General Census of the population conducted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, people were asked to indicate the "head of household". As a result of the outcry this raised, the Belgian Home Office issued a circular aimed at giving equality to partners in a marriage as far as the wording used in official documents going out to the public were concerned. But for cost reasons, it was agreed that existing stocks of printed forms, etc., had to be used up first, before the agreed amendments could be incorporated in new forms.

In social security legislation, in particular, the head of household concept has a special legal significance: it is used as the yardstick for the granting of certain rights, as compared with the "persons living alone", "persons co-habiting" and "dependents". Where unemployment benefits, family allowances or pensions are concerned, direct and indirect discrimination undoubtedly still exist.

Useful address: C.N.F.B.  
Section de Liège  
rue du Hêtre Pourpre, 24  
4920 Embourg

### Abortion : Heavy sentences

An eighteen months' prison sentence (even though it was suspended): this was what was handed out to Dr Pierre-Olivier Hubinont, Head of the Gynaecological Department at St Pierre Hospital, Brussels. Hubinont, 63, is a world-renowned gynaecologist and many observers feel his reputation and fame were the reasons for his receiving a heavier sentence than other doctors tried with him who had also performed free hospital abortions.

After his trial, Hubinont declared to the press: "I shall continue". More and more people in political circles are now demanding a parliamentary debate and changes in the existing law.

In Belgium, abortions are performed (illegally) not only in hospitals but also in "centres extra-hospitaliers" (non-hospital centres). It is in such centres that about two-thirds of pregnancy terminations take place. For doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers in these centres, the recent sentences have not made much difference. Some of the people sentenced have stopped performing abortions for the time being, to avoid still heavier sentences if they are "caught" again, but there are enough of their colleagues to ensure that women can still obtain abortions. These "non-hospital" centres refuse to go underground, but they do take the precaution of keeping their records in a safe place to avoid the effects of a raid by police.

Health workers in these centres have this to say about the current situation: women making appointments are just as prepared to take legal risks as before; more and more women are learning how to use contraceptives effectively; pregnancy termination for reasons connected with employment is becoming more common and more striking. This last observation indicates that information on abortion and family planning is beginning to reach the least privileged, least well-educated and poorer sections of the community.

### Divorce

Following a change in the law, the period for obtaining a divorce once separation has taken place has been reduced from ten to five years. The Belgian Association of Women Lawyers has been pressing for this change for two years. (The Association's new chairwoman is Ms Zusanne Oschinsky).

Useful address: Belgian Association of Women Lawyers  
avenue Circulaire 134  
1180 Brussels



Miss or Mrs ?

A parliamentary question on this subject, put by the member from Clippele, received the following reply from Mr Gol, Minister for Justice: "There are no rules governing the use of these two words: it is only determined by usage... I see no need to designate all persons of the female sex as "Mrs". While some unmarried women may have serious reasons for wanting to be called "Mrs", there are others who have just as good reasons for wishing to be known as "Miss". On the other hand, I agree that in official papers or correspondence from government departments, any unmarried woman who makes a request to that effect should be addressed as "Mrs" rather than "Miss".

Useful address:      Ministère de la Justice  
                                 Place Poelaert, 3  
                                 1000 Brussels

Unemployment and part-time work

What is the unemployment entitlement of people who work part-time? The general opinion is that legislation in this area is in serious need of being sorted out. The Conseil national du Travail (National Council on Work) has asked the Minister in charge to simplify the system and give all part-time workers the right to proportional unemployment benefits. If the present legislation can be clarified, it will enable people who are considering part-time work to understand what risks are involved.

The other side of the problem is that full-time workers made redundant can take a part-time job to get back into work. However, in order to do so they have to inform the Office national de l'Emploi (the National Employment Office), remain available for full-time work, take any job offer for which they are suited, earn no more than six times the daily base salary, work no more than 32 hours a week, and finally, calculate their work not in days but in hours a week. A formidable set of conditions for anyone contemplating a reduced working week !

A booklet on the legislation covering part-time employment has been published by the Ministry of Employment and Work, and at the same time, a more complete, though complicated, set of documents on all the regulations has been prepared by the Fédération des Entreprises de Belgique.

Useful addresses:      Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail  
                                 53, rue Belliard  
                                 1040 Brussels

Fédération des Entreprises de Belgique  
rue Ravenstein  
1000 Brussels

DENMARK
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The Danish Ministry of Education has published and distributed a book in the form of cartoon characters, telling the story of a group of adolescents: Susann and Jens, Lene and Torben, Lisbeth, Jeanette and so on ... What are they going to study? What career will they choose? The prejudices, the difficulties, where to find information, all these are dealt with. At the end of each page, readers are gently questioned to see whether they have understood and to encourage them to go further with their own thinking and search for information.

The drawings are by Sussi Bech, and the name of the book is "Hvor gar du hen?" (Where are you going to?). The Committee "Kønsroller og uddannelse" (Sex roles and education) acted as advisor on the book's contents.

Useful address: Kønsroller og uddannelse  
c/o Undervisningsministeriet  
Frederiksholms Kanal 21  
1220 Copenhagen K

Sexroles and education

A useful work, written in English and entitled "Sexroles and Education", although published in 1979, is still worth mentioning. In a hundred-odd pages, it contains the analysis made by the "Kønsroller og uddannelse" group as to why, when and how women end up doing worse out of the educational system, despite the fact that boys and girls and men and women have the same educational rights on paper.

The study gives plenty of figures. One of the most significant tables shows the percentage of males and females studying at the various age levels (1976 figures):

	<u>percentage of girls/women still studying</u>	<u>percentage of boys/men still studying</u>
at 16 years	89%	83%
at 18 years	45%	60%
at 20 years	28%	41%
at 22 years	24%	24%
at 24 years	14%	21%
at 25 to 29 years	6%	12%

The study skims over the factors bringing about inequality but goes into detail on the moments when choices are made, hence when special information is important. Among the points raised in the study is the need to make teachers and parents aware of the problem.

Useful address: Kønsroller og uddannelse  
c/o Undervisningsministeriet  
Frederiksholms Kanal 21  
1220 Copenhagen K

Equality now !

The Danish Equality Council, the Ligestillingsradet, publishes a review "Lige nu!" (equality now!) in which it has started a discussion on the various forms that affirmative action or positive discrimination might take. It talks about where this can best be exercised, how far one can go, what forms it can take at work, in the home, in the educational system. The discussion will be taken up in meetings being organized all over Denmark.

Among the Ligestillingsradet's recent victories is the case of a woman who obtained a job as a bus driver in the port of Kolding. One of the struggles still going on is the provision of toilets and showers in places of work which until very recently only took male employees.

Useful address:      Ligestillingsradet  
                            Frederiksgade 19-21  
                            1265 Copenhagen K

FRANCE

Civil servants

Mr Anicet Le Pors, Civil Service Minister, has given these official figures: "There is not one woman among the 183 prefects (regional administrators) or France's 352 ambassadors. There are only three women among 28 vice-chancellors, six out of the 164 directors of government departments, four out of 102 inspectors in the local education authorities, four out of 129 inspectors-general in the Ministry of Education, and three out of 90 treasury inspectors ..."

The Minister has announced new measures to encourage equal employment opportunities for men and women in the civil service; these are due to come into force in the next few months. Instructions have already been sent to other Ministers to appoint women to top-level posts and to draw up a timetable for achieving a better balance.

The proposed measures include: preferential access for women to retraining in the new technologies; improvements in fathers' entitlements and adjustment of hours and conditions of work for pregnant women; provision of day-care facilities for civil servants' children.

In the spring, a review will be made of all the measures undertaken to remove sex discrimination in appointment procedures. In addition, the Minister has called for regular consultations with the workers' side on whether policies regarding equality and equal access are producing results.

### Tax equality

A new step in the direction of fiscal independence for women has just been taken: the French Parliament, when examining its 1983 finance act, has adopted an amendment introducing joint management by married couples of the family income.

The new text includes these two innovations: firstly, the "head of family" concept is removed from the general rules on taxation of income. Couples are subject to joint assessment for tax purposes, both as far as benefits and income is concerned and in connection with dependent children. The second innovation is that both partners must sign the declaration of their total income. Either partner is allowed to carry out the procedures connected with paying tax on the couple's combined earnings. The declarations or other legal steps taken in the procedure by one of the partners or notified to him or her can be opposed by the other. The tax claim is made out in the name of the partner, preceded by the word "Mr" or "Mrs".

Until now, whatever the employment situation of each partner, only a tax declaration signed by the husband was legally valid. However, it was the woman who was liable for the couple's debts, if the husband failed to pay his taxes.

Another point to mention is that in their next tax return, married couples will be able to deduct the cost of day-care for their children from their earnings. This is already the case for single, widowed or divorced parents. The ceiling is set at 3 000 FF, and sums deducted must relate to care of children who were under four years of age on 31 December in the year of assessment.

Useful address:       Ministère des Droits de la Femme  
                              53, avenue d'Iéna  
                              75016 Paris

### Magistrates

The French President, Mr François Mitterand, has just appointed eight new members to the Governing Council of the Magistracy. Three of them are women: Suzanne Grevisse, Member of the Council of State, Jeanine Loreau, Judge in the Paris Court of Appeal, and Françoise Trouvat, Vice President of the Nantes Court.

### Local elections

Tour-du-Parc, a tiny village on the Sarzeau peninsula in the Morbihan only has 571 inhabitants and it was assumed that the outgoing mayor would be re-elected automatically without any other candidates standing against him. However, fifteen women had other ideas! Their spokesperson, Ms Andrée Mesnard explained: "We are not feminists, far less politicians. We are putting our list forward in alphabetical order, with no elitist arrangement of names. It's simply that we have suddenly realized that local problems affect all of us in our everyday lives".

Women and culture

The Ministry for Women's Rights has just set up a non-governmental committee to review the position of women in cultural life and to make suggestions for cultural policy to assist them.

Simone de Beauvoir has agreed to chair the committee composed of writers, sociologists, women engaged in research and so on. Those on the committee are Colette Audry, Madeleine Rebérioux, Christine Delphy, Benoîte Groult, Danièle Kergoat, Michèle Perrot, Béatrice Flamma, Anne Zelinski, Rita Thalmann, Michèle Coquillat, Marc Paillet and Jacques Durand.

According to Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, cultural and artistic spheres must not be left out of the campaign for equal opportunities. In keeping with her own ideas, Ms Roudy has set an example and is backing a series of shows at the Théâtre de Paris, running from January to May - the name of the series: "The Voice of Women".

Useful address:       Ministère des droits de la femme  
                              53, avenue d'Iéna  
                              75016     Paris

Women, feminism, research

750 participants, 140 speeches: the conference on this theme in Toulouse recently drew large numbers of women and stimulated much comment. Organized with the support of the Research Ministry and the Ministry for Women's Rights, the Conference provided a chance to take a fresh look at the backwardness of feminist education in France compared, for example, to the position of women's studies in anglo-saxon countries.

Although they have received little encouragement so far from academic and university authorities, feminist courses are nevertheless common. They are also imaginative and far-reaching. The women at the conference strongly insisted on the need for work to be interdisciplinary, feeling this to be invaluable despite the difficulties.

Lawyers, sociologists, historians and others asked questions about the meaning, the limits, the nature of their reflections and research. Should an attempt be made to obtain official recognition for women's studies, at the risk of making the subject dull and rigid? For research to achieve its rightful place, the do-it-yourself phase must regrettably be left behind. Traditional strongholds of scientific research are beginning - discreetly - to open up to this new discipline, the very definition of which is still vague: "Feminists' studies", "Women's studies" or "Studies on women"?

The next step is to get the Ministry for Education to collaborate with greater confidence. Enormous difficulties still exist in the universities, where courses on and for women are still viewed with mistrust and even scorn.

The proceedings of the conference are available for consultation at the Marguerite Durand feminist library.

Useful address:       Bibliothèque féministe Marguerite Durand  
                              21, place du Panthéon  
                              75005     Paris

Women and new technologies

Entitled "The training of women in Europe and new technologies", a conference was organized in Paris by the Ministry for Women's Rights with the participation of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

It might seem that the new technologies are now taken for granted in EEC countries. But they are still lagging far behind the United States and Japan in the matter, and much effort still needs to be put into training in Europe. What is women's role in bringing things up-to-date and in redistributing abilities?

First indications are unpromising. Too often, women's initiation into the new technologies is confined simply to teaching them how to use a machine. Many people engaged in this kind of training throughout the EEC came to the conference and made the point that courses were seldom as effective as they should be. Demonstration equipment is very expensive and requires highly qualified instructors. There is an urgent need to spend the money available for this training in a better way.

Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the European Commission responsible for Social Affairs, spoke at the Conference and stressed that new technologies must be introduced on the basis of a consensus and under conditions which make them socially acceptable.

Ms Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, expressed concern about women working at home on a computer terminal. There were drawbacks to this kind of work for women in terms of social security and it would also tend to isolate women in their homes once again.

Another problem, this time raised by Ms Evelyne Sullerot, was that it led to competition between women of different ages. The youngest generation of women have had technical training which makes it fairly easy for them to understand the new technologies. Older women on the other hand will need to receive some basic training to make up for the gaps in their education, before even embarking on courses in the new technologies.

Sexism and advertising

An exhibition consisting of 48 panels covering ten different spheres has been mounted to bring home to the public one face of advertising - sexism - which does not receive sufficient attention. The group responsible is the Association Pub-Ligue and they have called the exhibition "Publicité, tu t'es trompée d'histoire d'amour" (Advertising, you've got it all wrong about love!).

Visitors to the exhibition in Paris are given examples of the wrong ideas advertising can foster. For instance, the hi-fi set that says "Listen to me, touch me, take me".

Stereotypes continue to be exploited in advertising campaigns: the man with his position in society, his skill with machines and tools, and the woman, always beautiful, reigning supreme over her soaps and washing powders: in other words, the reinforcement of traditional roles.

Useful address: Association Pub-Ligue  
c/o Catherine Philippot  
77, rue du Cardinal Lemoine  
75005 Paris

GREECE

Family law

In the early morning on 26 January 1983, following a very long debate, the Greek Parliament unanimously passed the new Civil Code aimed at eliminating all sex discrimination within the family.

Under the new law, the father is no longer "head of the family". All matters of concern to the family must be handled and settled by mutual agreement of the marriage partners. Each must contribute to the family's need, expenses and financial commitments in proportion to the resources, goods or income arising from his/her work. Another major innovation is the abolition of the dowry system. Again, paternal authority is replaced by parental authority and children born out of wedlock have the same rights as legitimate children. To obtain a divorce, separation of four years or more is sufficient cause, without the need to cite other causes, and divorce by mutual consent is now possible under the new law.

The bill came before parliament under the procedure covering Codes, which meant that no amendments could be introduced during the debate. However, the Minister for Justice did accept some changes and improvements, which he himself then incorporated into the bill during the sitting. Certain other amendments, though passed, will be brought up at a later stage and included in the review of legislation governing women's employment and social security.

The next urgent problem needing attention is the conditions for Greek nationality where many discriminations based on sex also exist.

Social security and pensions

Employers' and employees' rights and obligations in this domain, both in the private sector and in government service, vary with the sex of the person employed.

Married men are entitled to a special family allowance and can extend their health insurance to cover their dependents, but until recently, women did not have this possibility. There are many other changes that must be made before women and men receive equal treatment in social security matters.

However, it is fair to point out that there are some provisions that are directly and exclusively in women's favour. To give an example, a daughter is entitled to receive her father's pension for all of her life if she remains unmarried. If she marries and divorces later, the pension is re-established. Women who are in paid employment can take retirement after fifteen years at work if they are married and have a young child.

The most discriminatory provision is a woman's right to a widow's pension (widowers are not entitled to one) which they are granted even if they are still working or if they have qualified for a pension in their own right.

Some women's groups are making a revision of these regulations their next objective. One of the biggest controversies is over early retirement after fifteen years of employment, where the principle of equality calls out for the abolition of this right. But several unions already say they intend to campaign for its retention, at least until all women who are already in paid employment have qualified for the entitlement. This union demand would mean a 15-year transition period, something the authorities will be unable to accept.

#### Equality in employment

The Labour Ministry has announced that it will be introducing a bill on equality between women and men in conditions of work and promotion. It sent out a long questionnaire to women's organizations asking for their ideas and proposals.

Replies were called for by the beginning of January and the bill was drafted in February.

Useful address:      Ministère du Travail  
                         Ms Silia Alexopoulos  
                         40 Piréos  
                         Athens

### IRELAND

#### In the government

For the first time ever, Ireland has a Ministry to deal with women's issues. It is headed by Nuala Fennell, whose post is known as Minister of State for Women's Affairs and the Family. One of her first decisions as Minister was to take over responsibility for the Council for the Status of Women which had hitherto come under the Labour Ministry.

Nuala Fennell is a founder-member of various associations, one of which is Family Aid. She gradually realized that she could do more to help women if she became politically active. She started out as an independent, then joined the Fine Gael party and obtained a seat in the Irish Parliament. Nuala Fennell was Fine Gael's spokesperson on women's issues when the party was in opposition.

Useful address:      Minister of State for Women's Affairs  
                         Department of the Taoiseach  
                         Upper Merrion Street  
                         Dublin 2



In the Ministry for Education

The first woman Minister for Education, Gemma Hussey is also the first woman in her party to occupy a post in the Cabinet. Her debut was not easy, for she had to announce cuts in the spending proposed by her predecessor. A heavier timetable for teachers, a cut in career guidance services and an end to free school transport: some of her proposals were not put into immediate effect but were met with a good deal of protest nonetheless.

Gemma Hussey's career has made rapid strides; a senator for two years, then elected to the Dail (Ireland's Parliament), she was given her post as Minister by Garret FitzGerald within a year. She was a founder member of the Women's Political Association, which she represented on the Council for the Status of Women. This body is regularly consulted on the education of girls, by the Ministry for Education, so Gemma Hussey will have plenty of opportunity for working with her former colleagues there.

Useful address:     Minister for Education  
                          Marlboro Street  
                          Dublin 1

Abortion

Should the Irish Constitution be changed so as to prohibit abortion in so many words? A Fianna Fail Party proposal, when it was in power, to do this, caused deep rifts in Irish society.

The Protestant churches were unanimous in opposing any change in the Constitution along these lines, feeling that such an amendment would reflect the Catholic church's point of view only. A prohibition of abortion in the Constitution could also be seen as a direct threat to some of the methods of birth control accepted by the Protestant churches, but not by Catholics, such as the coil, the pill and the "morning-after" pill. In the opinion of many, changing the Constitution in this way would represent a constraint on private life and individual freedom of choice.

Mr Barry Desmond, Minister for Health, declined to take the responsibility for holding a referendum on the issue. Meanwhile, there was mounting pressure on the authorities and public opinion from both sides.

The producers of a popular TV programme were refused permission to let the various points of view be aired. Another programme was proposed, but those invited to take part felt that the conditions were so restrictive that they turned the invitation down. The newspapers protested vigorously, when in a radio interview, June Levine, the author of a book called "Sisters" in which she speaks of her own abortion, was not allowed to be questioned in any way on the subject.

The father's name

According to the Irish law up till now, the legal father of all children born to a married woman is assumed to be her husband, even if the couple have lived apart for many years. But a High Court judgement has just put an end to this. It is now possible for the child's natural father to be named as such on the birth certificate. This decision is the culmination of a long battle by a couple and the former husband of the woman. When the couple had a child, they and the woman's husband all wanted the true father's name to appear on the birth certificate. When the Registrar refused, the case was taken to the Dublin High Court which pronounced against the authorities and in favour of the parents.

ITALY

Children's nationality

The Constitutional Court has decided that Italy's Nationality Law (passed in 1912) does not enshrine equality of treatment and that it should therefore be revised.

Two clauses come in for special criticism by the Court. The first does not bestow automatic Italian nationality on the child of an Italian woman married to a foreigner. The second withdraws Italian nationality from an illegitimate child who has been recognized by its Italian mother, the moment the child is recognized by its non-Italian father.

The judges regarded these provisions as containing obvious discrimination based on the sex of the parents. In future the law will simply say that any child whose mother is Italian is Italian too. The Constitutional Court made the comment that the 1912 law reflected the state of society at that time. However, the new family law that was introduced in 1975 had the effect of sharing the rights and duties of parents more fairly, in the interests of the moral and legal equality of the couple. This had to be borne in mind, the Court said.

In actual fact, the 1912 law is already in the process of being revised in the two Houses. The Constitutional Court's judgement is meant to remind the law-makers to get on with their job.

Married partners' nationality

A bill that has already passed through the senate and is now being discussed in the Chamber proposes that a foreigner who marries an Italian woman can acquire Italian nationality. In the case of dual nationality, their children can choose one or other of the nationalities in the year after they obtain their majority.

To avoid "marriages of convenience", the bill proposes that the husband can change his nationality after six months of residence or three years of marriage.

### Planned parenthood

A study carried out jointly by the universities of Rome, Padua and Florence, in conjunction with the survey institute, Doxa, shows that 22% of women have an abortion during the first five years of marriage. The figure is twice as high for women in the 34-45 years age bracket.

Abortion is more common among very young women (between 16 and 20) and among women who have not completed their secondary education, where it reaches about 33%.

77% of all couples say that they practise birth control, though the majority make do with natural methods. The pill is not widely used (18%). About 15% of women conceive their first child before marriage. A majority of the couples with more than three children would have preferred fewer. It is only in the south of the country that large families of more than four children are still popular.

### The law against sexual violence

Discussions on the law against sexual violence have been taken up very heatedly in political circles and have resulted in a street demonstration of unusual size.

Those who read Women of Europe N° 27 will remember that, in the report that Angela Bottari (Comm.) presented to her fellow members of parliament, the most important change in the new text concerned the nature of the crime: sexual violence was no longer to be considered a "crime against public morals", but as a "crime against the person".

At a public session, Carlo Casini (C.D.) got an amendment through by 237 votes to 220 saying that sexual violence was an affront to sexual liberty and personal dignity. The final two words were inserted so that pornography could also be brought under the law, the idea being that the image of woman as presented in pornography was an incitement to sexual violence.

However, there was a wide variety of views on this new wording. Ms Bottari saw it as changing her original draft so drastically that she stepped down from the job of rapporteur. She considered that the effect of the amendment was to leave sexual violence under Title IX of the Penal Code, thus maintaining its definition as a crime against public morals. Feminist groups shared her views and they called women out to demonstrate. Almost 50 000 women went into the streets in the biggest women's rally since 1975, under the slogan "Sexual violence is a crime against the person".

Taking the opposite view, the parliamentarian Maria Pia Garavaglia (C.D.) felt that the amendment represented progress, as it wished to cut out the evil at the root: cultural attitudes which treat women as consumer objects. The Christian Democrats also had reservations on the automatic and irreversible nature of prosecutions and on the right of bodies such as women's organizations to press charges. They felt that it was a matter of protecting the private life of victims who did not wish to bring charges and also of avoiding "politicized" trials.

## LUXEMBOURG

### Women and the economy

Mr Georges Als, Director of Luxembourg's central statistical and economic survey service, gave a lecture on the subject of "Women and the economy" that has attracted attention.

He pointed to the fact that the number of women in paid jobs has doubled in Luxembourg during the past nine years, resulting in women now making up one-third of the working population. The percentage of married women in the female work force has gone from 36% to 42% during the last decade. The 1981 Census also shows that 16% of married women who go out to work have four children.

A breakdown of the female working population by sector shows that job segregation is still very marked. 45% of working women are employed in the tertiary sector, 20% in industry and about one-third of the remainder in agriculture. Between 75% and 100% of those employed as hairdressers, cleaners, shorthand-typists and in laundries are women. These are the types of employment where they are most heavily represented. But even in teaching they predominate (53%). 10% of all doctors, 5% of the top administrative jobs and 3% of architects are women.

The place occupied by women in the working population has certain repercussions, one of which is the fall in the birthrate, according to Mr Als. This should be borne in mind when laying down employment policy.

Another point made was that, although until the 70s women's work contributed to economic growth, it may now be having the opposite effect by causing a rise in unemployment.

Turning to the work of women in the home, Mr Als blamed the authorities for not taking into account their "contribution to household costs", which was of considerable importance in volume and in value (about 20%) in the national income.

### Women's earnings and taxation

Each month a deduction at source of about 20% is made on the salaries of married people responsible for "the household's second income tax return". This measure, which in 98% of cases applies to the woman rather than to the man, is intended to facilitate the collection of taxes in all households which can count on two salaries.

No prior notice was given when the amount of the deduction at source was increased at the beginning of the year. Women, who bore the brunt of the measure, are angry that they are being made to pay instead of the people who are defrauding the tax authorities. They feel that this hard selective step will further discourage women wanting to stay in or find a job.

NETHERLANDS

Jobs and their gender

Annelien Kappeyne van de Copello, Secretary of State responsible for Equality, is trying to remove the gender implications from the names of jobs. "Timmerman" (Carpenter) and "Vroedvrouw" (midwife) are obvious examples, but the language abounds in other linguistically discriminatory terms.

If non-sexist job-titles can be found, it will be easier to interest either of the sexes in them, the Secretary of State feels. Language does not easily submit to change, but the effort is worth trying, says Ms Kappeyne van de Copello. She has called on the Emancipatieraad (Equality Council) for its advice.

A working party formed by the equality group "Man-Vrouw-Maatschappij" (Man-Woman-Society) did some work on the subject last year, and Ms Kappeyne van de Copello believes it has come up with some interesting suggestions. (Unfortunately, most of them cannot be explained in another language).

People in the capital, for example, are beginning to talk more and more about "bewindspersoon" (literally, political person) rather than "bewindsman" or "bewindsvrouw", (the normal gender words for "politician" in Dutch). However, not all the reactions to Ms Kappeyne van de Copello's idea have been favourable, one newspaper going as far as describing the proposal as "onbenullig" (stupid).

Useful address:        Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid  
                              Zeestraat 73  
                              The Hague

Job advertisements

Despite the law guaranteeing equal treatment to men and women in employment, plenty of discrimination still exists in the way job vacancies are advertised. This is the conclusion reached by a committee "Gelijke behandeling van mannen en vrouwen" (Equal treatment for men and women), which has studied small ads in the Saturday newspapers over a period of three months.

The group picked up 1783 "infringements". 59% of these were more favourable to men. Where women were given preference was in teaching and health care advertisements. In the hotel and catering sector, and in industry and construction, it was men who were mentioned. There was very little difference between the sexes for ads relating to the service sector (offices and retailing).

The committee has pointed out the errors to the offending advertisers but that is about all it can do. The Ministry for Social Affairs is no better able to act. The only ones who can object, possibly through the courts, are persons affected by the advertisements and the unions.

The Ministry for Social Affairs, under which the committee for equal treatment is placed, has considered publishing a list of the offenders in the Staatscourant (official gazette) and in regional newspapers.

The matter has also been raised in Parliament, where the Government has been asked to take steps, even if it means laying down penalties, to see that the law is enforced.

Mr Koos Rietkerk, Minister for Home Affairs, and as such, in charge of staff policy for the civil service, has announced that, where they are equally well-qualified, women will be given priority over men in recruitment.

### Welfare

The Government's policy to reduce spending on welfare benefits has provoked a strong reaction from the organizations concerned. More than four hundred people, representing various bodies providing assistance to poor families, the elderly and the handicapped, took part in a national day of action organized by the "Waakzame Vrouwen in de Gezinsverzorging" (Caring Women for Family Assistance) Group.

From figures published by the Committee, it would seem that the Government is planning cuts in welfare spending to the tune of 250 million florins. The result of these cuts will be that 50 000 people now receiving help will be excluded, and that a further 20 000, who might apply to family assistance institutions, will be turned away.

Parallel to this, another argument is going on. Should voluntary social work be encouraged or not? In this time of crisis, say some, all signs of goodwill are welcome. In this time of crisis, say the others, voluntary workers must not take the place of paid workers, on the pretext that they are doing something good for society.

Useful address:      Komitee Waakzame Vrouwen in de Gezinsverzorging  
                            p/a Raadkelder  
                            Pauwstraat 7  
                            Utrecht

### Minimum guaranteed wage

A storm of protest has broken out over the government's decision to restrict the guarantee of a minimum wage to married heads of households or single heads of households with a dependent child under 18.

The organization "Breed Platform Vrouwen voor Economische Zelfstandigheid" (Joint Women's Platform for Economic Independence) has sent a petition to the European Parliament pointing out the discriminatory effects this measure will have on married women, given the economic background against which it will come into force.

Useful address:      Breed Platform Vrouwen voor Economische Zelfstandigheid  
                            c/o Kitty Roozmond  
                            Reinier Claeszenstraat 28  
                            1056 WK Amsterdam

UNITED KINGDOM

Equal Opportunities Commission

After more than seven years as Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Baroness Lockwood of Dewsbury will be retiring on 31 March 1983. Under her guidance, the Commission has become a respected and effective institution, able to come out resolutely in favour of women - and men too, in many cases - on all occasions when discrimination has to be fought. Lady Lockwood has been able not only to make the EOC into useful machinery for British women but also to turn it into a model that other countries in the Community could take as an example.

The new Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission (from 1 May 1983) will be Baroness Platt of Writtle. Lady Platt was created a Life Peer in 1981. She trained as an engineer in the aircraft industry and has experience in local government since 1958, specializing in education and finance.

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

In the House of Commons

Following by-elections held last Autumn, two more women have joined the ranks of women members of parliament, bringing their number up to 23 (out of more than 600). Harriet Harman of the Labour Party, who is a feminist and lawyer, is one of the women. Until she won her seat, she worked as a legal adviser to the National Council of Civil Liberties. The other woman is Helen McElhone, also of the Labour Party, who was voted in by her constituency to succeed her husband, who had just died.

In the House of Commons recently, Joan Lester, Labour opposition spokesperson on women's issues, launched an attack against the Government on its economic policy, which according to Ms Lester was hitting women especially hard. Replying for the Government, Peggy Fenner stressed the fact that it was aware of the fact that women made up half of the electorate.

In the debate on this point, Shirley Williams, one of the leaders of the Social Democrat Party, commented that some of her male colleagues' speeches were sexist. The Labour motion was defeated by 296 votes to 243.

Useful address:      House of Commons  
Westminster Palace  
London SW 1

New moves on equal pay

As a result of the European Court of Justice ruling in July 1982 that British law on equal pay infringed Community legislation the UK Government has included amendment of the Equal Pay Act 1970 in its current legislative programme.

To encourage discussion on the matter the Equal Opportunities Commission has produced a "consultative document" including recommendations which it hopes the government will adopt.

The EOC wants a flexible definition of work of "equal value", and suggests an innovation in the appointment of Equality Officers, people experienced in job evaluation, who would be empowered to investigate complaints and make recommendations to the industrial courts.

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

Equal retirement age for men and women

An all-party Committee of the House of Commons has recommended that 63 be the retirement age for both men and women, half-way between the present 60 for women and 65 for men, with freedom of choice about the exact time between the ages of 60 and 65 people want to take their pension.

The recommendation - long pressed by the Equal Opportunities Commission - has been coolly received by the Trade Union Congress and voluntary organizations concerned with the elderly. The scheme would cost employers and employees an extra 30p a week each, and would add £st. 500 million to the pensions bill.

However, the proposal is in line with current thinking among working men and women. Many women resent being automatically retired at 60, while several cases before the courts based on the right to equal treatment with women show that many men would prefer to retire earlier.

The European Social Fund and Women

Last summer, the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland in association with the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland organized a conference on the theme "Women and the European Social Fund". The full report on the conference has now been published and will prove a useful tool for women seeking aid from the European Social Fund.

Useful address:      Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland  
                            Lindsay House  
                            Callender Street  
                            Belfast BT1 5DT



A talent bank

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland has started a "talent bank", in other words a list of women able and available to take up positions on public bodies. The aim is to fill an unjustifiable gap: in Northern Ireland, only 14% of the members of committees and boards are women, whereas the figure for the rest of Britain is 23%.

Commenting on the "bank", Ms Muriel Wilson, Chairman of the N.I. Commission said: "It is impossible to believe that Northern Ireland women are in any way less suitable to play their part in public life. I would ask women who are interested to contact us and complete a short form about themselves, for example, describing their interests and experience. And I appeal to the many women's organizations in Northern Ireland to help make our Talent Bank a success".

Sixty-four organizations, more than one-third of the total and including such bodies as the Council for Continuing Education and the Charities Advisory Committee, do not have a single woman representative.

Useful address:      Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland  
                                 Lindsay House  
                                 Callender Street  
                                 Belfast BT1 5DT

Maternity grant and parental leave

In Britain, the maternity grant, fixed at £ 25 in 1969, has not been increased since. And there is no provision at all, compared say with Denmark and France, for paternity leave.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has now produced a report "Parenthood in the Balance", which urges that the maternity grant should be raised to £ 114 and that fathers should be entitled to five days statutory paid paternity leave. The EOC is also urging a change in the present regulations, requiring a woman to have worked for two years for the same employer before she is eligible for the maternity grant: one year in the job should be sufficient, says the EOC.

Choices available to parents are severely limited in the UK, the EOC considers. Many women have to give up work when a child is born, while others struggle to combine work and motherhood with very little support. Fathers on the other hand are denied all but the obligation to support the mother and child financially. The EOC believes that, especially in the first months of their children's lives, parents should at least be able to decide for themselves how their responsibilities should be shared.

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

## MILITANT ACTIVITIES

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### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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#### Baby food

The International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) suggested that women's groups should do what they can to ensure that women are given a free choice as to how they feed their babies. This is because women, particularly in the developing world, have been subjected to powerful advertising techniques (free samples, saleswomen in nurses' uniforms etc.) encouraging them to use substitutes for breast milk.

In present conditions in those countries, bottle-feeding is more likely to cause illness than to lead to healthy babies. Some of the reasons for this: mothers who cannot read the instructions, dirty drinking water, lack of or incorrect sterilization of bottles, wrong dilution of the milk powder.

The World Health Organization has recognized these dangers and adopted an International Code on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

In one year only, IBFAN has been informed of 2 250 cases of infringement of this code.

The problem is not one affecting the Third World only: in the EEC itself there is no clear or adequate directive governing breast-milk substitutes.

Useful address:     I B F A N  
                          c/o Frères des Hommes  
                          rue de Londres 16  
                          1050 Brussels

#### Coordination

At the invitation of CREW, fifty women, coming from every EEC country, took part in a planning meeting held in Brussels on 13 and 14 January, to look at the possibility of setting up a European women's network. According to CREW's press release after the event, "participants agreed on the establishment of a European network of women to take action on national and European issues at both levels, to coordinate these information circuits, to join and decide upon programmes and to make a platform for pressure and intervention on European and national legislation". Exchanges of information and experiences were also stressed as was support for national campaigns and bringing pressure to bear on the European institutions.

Useful address:     CREW  
                          rue de Toulouse 22  
                          1040 Brussels

Women and power

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Socialist International Women a seminar on the theme "Women and power" was organized in association with the Socialist Group of the European Parliament.

Founded in 1907 by Clara Zetkin and Rosa Luxembourg, the Socialist International Women was already the culmination of many years of political struggle by women. Marx himself, going against the Anarchists, the reformists and the British unions, wanted women's organizations admitted to the First International, and this was agreed to in September 1871.

An Information Note prepared for the seminar by Denise de Weerdt showed the important role of women in developing and spreading socialist ideas. Though Clara Zetkin and Rosa Luxembourg are well-known figures, many others like Henriette Roland-Holst and Angelica Balabanoff have been virtually ignored by historians.

But these women described very clearly the problems which are even today confronting women, whether they are engaged in politics or not: should male power be shared? Should "counter-power" be built up? Should women organize to gain power without entering into traditional power games?

Marie-Claude Vayssade (France), Ien van den Heuvel (Netherlands) and Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belgium) were some of the speakers who defended a point of view summed up by Lydie Schmit (Luxembourg) like this: "Our struggle as women does not boil down to a class struggle, but it must uncover and remove hierarchical relationships of domination ... Someone who is a feminist does not necessarily want to acquire power in order to use it as men have hitherto done". Another of the seminar's working papers explained that women must struggle in their parties - and sometimes against their parties - to abolish patriarchy once and for all.

With almost fifty member-organizations, the Socialist International Women takes a very clear stand on peace and disarmament. Lydie Schmit recalled it as follows: "We are pacifists but we struggle. Of that we are capable - when the goals are equality and justice, progress and a better world. We will not use our strength in the service of death and destruction. And with figures to support us, we shall total up mercilessly the waste of raw materials, creative forces, and money in a world where people are still dying of starvation and sickness, of ignorance and injustice".

Two special issues of the Socialist International Women's Bulletin contain more information about the organization. One of them (ref. 4-5/82) traces the movement's 75-year history and the other (6/82-1/83) gives details about the organization's operations, aims and achievements and those of its member-organizations.

Useful address: Socialist International Women  
88a St John Wood High Street  
London NW8 7SJ

Women refugees

A special status for women refugees is being demanded by a German group called "Terre des Femmes" (Women's Earth). They are putting a very strong and well-documented case for this to women members of the European Parliament. The "Terre des Femmes" action is a follow-up to the work of other groups like "SOS-Femmes Alternative" (France), "Sentinelles" (Switzerland) and the Minorities Rights Group (Britain).

Their specific task is to help women whose life or liberty has been threatened by their family or their community. The most obvious case is that of Muslim women who have been killed or driven to suicide for having sexual relations, even against their will, or for having become pregnant before they were married, for having escaped from an imposed marriage or having been abandoned by their husbands. For the sake of "family honour", the most terrible vengeance is wreaked. "Sentinelle" has, for example, built up a terrifying case-book, composed solely of women's testimony, which is called "Dead princesses".

The worst horror of all is undoubtedly the case of young women put to death by their families because they have been raped.

Legal provisions for being granted refugee status already exist in the Geneva Convention. In its present form, this accords the status to anyone "who has well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion ...". The "Terre des Femmes" group is waging a campaign to get the word "sex" added to the text.

Consulted by Elena Borghese, who is leader of the Group "Santé et Droits de la Femme", the well-known French lawyer Louis E. Pettiti mentioned that it was impossible for the victims to bring a complaint, and this in itself was discriminatory and contrary to the Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Pacts.

According to lawyer Pettini, "the definition of the term 'refugee' in the 1951 (Geneva) Convention must be interpreted more broadly given the social changes that have occurred since 1951 and the more radical awareness that now exists of situations where the international community should act to safeguard human rights, where human means women as well as men".

The text of the Geneva Convention can only be changed at the request of a government. If the European Parliament passes a resolution to this effect, it will be a strong encouragement to governments, but women's organizations must also be prepared to work for the change.

Useful addresses:    Terre des femmes                      Sentinelles  
                                 c/o Ingrid Staehle                      10, chemin du Languedoc  
                                 D-2000 Hamburg 13                      CH-1007 Lausanne

Santé et droits de la femme  
c/o Elena Borghese  
11, rue Haute Val  
F-91530 St Cheron (St Germain)

**GERMANY**

Women in the home

The "Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund" (German Federation of women in the home) have had a good idea in sending out "an international newsletter" to make people in other countries aware of what they have been doing recently. This is a small act of friendship through which the organization wishes to keep a contact with those of either sex who share their concerns, anywhere in the world.

Anneliese Schimke (chairwoman) and Margot Carstensen (in charge of external relations) inform us in the newsletter that the theme chosen by the group for its 1983 activities is "the new media in the family and in the home". The group will take a special interest in how family relations are affected by video and video-games.

The organization has also published a 6-page booklet called "Situation der Hausfrau" (the situation of women in the home), which covers questions connected with status, recognition of housework, social security etc., viewed against the latest statistics and events.

Useful address:       Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund e.V.  
                          Adenauerallee 193  
                          5300 Bonn 1

Deutscher Frauenrat

On the occasion of its Annual General Meeting, the Deutscher Frauenrat (Council of German Women) was addressed by Liselotte Waldheim-Natural, head of the UN's disarmament service in Geneva (and incidentally, daughter of the former Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim). In a speech entitled "What can women do for peace and disarmament?" Ms Waldheim-Natural described the work of the UN General Assembly's special session on this issue. She dwelt at length on women's particular role saying that they should support politicians opposed to the arms race, speak out in debates on every opportunity, make women's voices heard, and ask questions - even the most embarrassing - on all occasions.

Ms Waldheim went on to say that women should seek better information and not leave it to experts to decide. She concluded by saying that if peace was to be achieved, resignation and hesitation must be discarded.

Also at the Annual General Meeting, votes were taken on various resolutions, including one on the protection of widows, in view of the planned revision of the existing pension system.

Useful address:       Deutscher Frauenrat e.V.  
                          Südstrasse 125  
                          5300 Bonn 2

### Today's partners

Encouraged by its legal committee, the Deutscher Frauenring (German Women's Circle) organized a seminar called "Partnerschaft heute - mit und ohne Trauschein" (Partnership today - inside or out of marriage).

Why are so many young couples living together without marriage? Why do couples split up often today? How can a lasting union be achieved? What are the relations (legal and otherwise) between parents and their children when the latter are living together outside of marriage?

These are all very topical issues and the Deutscher Frauenring managed to tackle them without hypocrisy. One of the conclusions to emerge is that marriage is not a thing of the past. In many cases, when a young couple starts living together it corresponds to what used to be the engagement-period. Another conclusion: the legal protection offered by marriage is in the woman's interest. One other point that arose giving food for thought was that more and more people reaching the pensionable age are not afraid of living together without marriage.

Useful address:       Deutscher Frauenring e.V.  
                              Westanlage 46  
                              6300 Giessen

### The family and "the box"

Some interesting information has been compiled by the Adolf-Grimme Institute to encourage thought and discussion on a television series called "Familie am Bildschirm - Neue Medien im Alltag" (The Family on Television - new everyday media).

Using the story of one family, a whole series of questions about the new media and their use are posed, and some misconceptions are cleared up in the statistics offered. For example, it is elderly people rather than young people who spend most time viewing. Viewers between the ages of 14 and 29 spend on average 62 minutes a day in front of the "box", whereas those over 50 spend 131 minutes on average. Another detail is that in 1981, women spent more time than men watching TV (98 minutes as against 86 minutes). But these figures are down on those for 1977, when women's viewing amounted to 109 minutes a day and men's to 100 minutes.

Another false idea that the producers of the study's statistics, the Deutscher Volkshochschul - Verband (the German Association of adult education institutes) gave the lie to is that telematics benefit the consumer. On the contrary, the study found that this new technology brings the greatest benefits to industry and the State.

Useful address:       Adolf-Grimme Institut  
                              Eduard Weitsch-Weg 25  
                              4370 Marl

**BELGIUM**

Thirteen "Women of the Year"

The "Woman of the Year" prize, awarded under the auspices of the Belgian National Council of Women, went to the thirteen women made redundant at the Bekaert-Cockerill factory in Fontaine-l'Evêque. The story behind the award goes like this: the factory put certain women who were not the heads of their household on short-time, in order to provide full-time jobs for male workers. When the discriminatory nature of the move was pointed out, the management proceeded to give notice to thirteen women, the very ones who had stood up against letting their jobs be sacrificed.

The prize, a painting by the artist Claire Guigue, was handed to Marguerite Staquet and her co-workers by Cécile Goor, Minister for the Brussels region, in the presence of a number of well-known people, among them Madeleine Van Raemdonck, who heads the "women's unit" in the Prime Minister's cabinet.

Fanny Fuks, chairwoman of the Belgian National Council of Women (French-speaking section) and Angèle Verdin, head of the Press Commission, mentioned how the case of these women who had been laid off was important to all women in this time of recession; it served both as a warning, since the women were the "first fired", and an example, because they had stood up against the injustice.

Useful address:      Conseil national des Femmes belges (branche francophone)  
                          place Quetelet 1a  
                          1030 Brussels

Carrying on as before

Another of the finalists for the "Woman of the Year" award was Claudine Alaerts de Moor, one of the founders in Belgium of the "Vivre comme avant" (Live like before) movement. Following the long example of women in the United States, this association has been set up to assist women who have had a mastectomy operation.

All the women working in the association are volunteers, and all have undergone the operation themselves at least two years ago, and have got over the devastating effects successfully. They are carefully chosen and trained and are ready to visit women who have just had a mastectomy. By passing on their own experience, they help other women to return to normal life quickly, both on the family and on the career level.

"Vivre comme avant" started up in Belgium in 1978. Its members visit about six hundred women each year. The current Chairwoman, Marcelle Houbeau, explained that the Belgian movement works among French- and Dutch-speaking women but can equally well give assistance to women in English, German, Italian and Spanish if necessary.

Useful address:      Vivre comme avant a.s.b.l.  
                          c/o Maison des Médecins  
                          Boulevard de Waterloo 54  
                          1000 Brussels.

### Green future

At their Annual General Meeting, the Unions Professionnelles Agricoles Féminines (Women Farmers' Unions) stressed the importance of vocational training for women in agriculture. The theme of their meeting was "The Green Future" and delegates also took a look at the outlook for the agri-foodstuffs industry.

Ms Stassart, UPAF's Chairwoman emphasized that for the future, changes in attitudes as well as in machinery were needed. To meet rapidly-changing consumer demand, production patterns had to be sufficiently flexible. Marketing outlets, through which the added-value of farm products could be increased, also had to be found. The farmer's wife today did not simply carry out orders, she helped to run a business. Future changes and adjustments would be brought about by the women in agriculture.

Those attending the meeting were particularly interested to hear what Ms Crolais, a farmer from Brittany who has written a book ("L'Agricultrice", 1982), had to say. Ms Crolais stressed the impact a woman could make in trade union activity on the regional, national and European level.

Useful address: Unions Professionnelles Agricoles Féminines  
rue Antoine Dansaert 94  
1000 Brussels

### Elections for Work's Councils

Belgian workers will be voting for their new work's councils, safety and hygiene committees, and work's improvements committees, between 25 April and 11 May 1983. These bodies are elected for a four-year period, and it is important for women to be prominent and active in the voting and as candidates.

"La Porte Ouverte" (The Open Door), a group which campaigns for the economic liberation of women, recalls in this connection that in 1960, these committees only had 15% of women members. By 1979, the figure had arisen to 25%. One point worth noting is that those elected (and even unsuccessful candidates) receive a guarantee of job security. In addition, a works' committee is a vital place for the defence of women's rights to work.

Useful address: La Porte ouverte  
rue Américaine 16  
1050 Brussels

### NVR : a new magazine

The Nationale Vrouwenraad van België (Dutch-speaking section of the Belgian National Council of Women), whose Chairwoman is Lily Boeykens, has decided to publish a substantial quarterly. This will be aimed at a wider audience than the Council's own member-organizations and individual women may subscribe to it. Some of the chapter headings will be the European Community, the Developing World, the International Organizations. Watch out for its appearance.

Useful address: Nationale Vrouwenraad  
Middaglijstraat 8  
1030 Brussels



Fifty years

The magazine "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui" (Today's Women) is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The first issue of this French-language magazine, printed in the Brussels suburbs and distributed in France as well as in Belgium, came out on 20 April 1933.

Marthe de Prelle, Manager and Editor of the magazine, attributes its lasting success to the fact that it sees itself "immune to passing ideological fads".

Useful address: Femmes d'Aujourd'hui  
avenue Van Kalken 9  
1070 Brussels

Voyelles : a voice no longer

Started in 1979, the magazine "Voyelles" has folded. Although its readership increased steadily, it was unable, finally, to make ends meet.

However, the resource centre which was set up before the magazine was launched is still active. It contains a photo library of more than 2 000 documents. The associated publishing house is also still in business.

Useful address: Centre "L'Une et l'Autre"  
Boulevard de Waterloo 99  
1000 Brussels

FRANCE

Women engineers

It was in 1958 that an "Engineers' Study Circle" was formed within the Association française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (French association of women graduates). It has come a long way in the intervening 25 years, but former Chairwomen of the circle are anxious that it should become still more effective so they are starting an Association française des Femmes Ingénieurs (AFFI).

This association of women engineers has given itself three aims: to represent women engineers in public and private bodies, to increase the number of women studying engineering and to encourage women who have already graduated as engineers to make a real career and take on major responsibility when it is offered.

One of the association's articles says that it intends to assume special responsibility in the dissemination of the scientific message.

Useful address: Association française des Femmes Ingénieurs  
3 rue Vauquelin  
75005 Paris

C R I F

CRIF, the Centre for Feminist Research, Reflection and Information, has decided to launch a quarterly, at least one copy of which will be sent free-of-charge to anyone interested in political and theoretical research by or on women.

The CRIF bulletin will provide source material on university research, articles and other work produced in France or abroad, whether it has been published or not and it will also list French and foreign feminist reviews received. There will also be an "opinions" column for discussing ideas connected with the problems of feminist research.

Useful address: C R I F  
1, rue des Fossés - Saint - Jacques  
75005 Paris

Social advancement

In Chambéry, an interesting experiment has recently been completed on diversifying women's employment. Conducted by the Maison de la Promotion Sociale (Social Advancement Centre) and assisted by European Social Fund money, the scheme has enabled 150 or more women to learn how to repair heating systems, to drive a bus, to do house-painting etc.

The results have been excellent, with 73% of the women trained being able to find jobs. To encourage other women to be more daring in their choice of career, the Centre has produced a video film called "Three for a Thousand" which tells the story of three women who entered a technical field. The film is already proving a success with women audiences in the Savoie region of France. Copies can be bought or hired.

Useful address: Maison de la Promotion sociale  
176, rue Sainte-Rose  
73000 Chambéry

Shorts

The Jean Vigo prize for short films has been awarded to the film director Marie-Claude de Treilhou for her film "Lourdes l'hiver". 21 out of the 74 entries were shorts made by women, and two other films directed by women - "Lointains boxeurs" by Claudine Bories and "Le point d'eau" by Valérie Moncorgé were also among the finalists.

The 25 judges, of whom 8 were women, were very struck by "the inventiveness, originality and professionalism" of the French shorts submitted this year, especially those made by women, of which three reached the finals.

Useful address: Prix Jean Vigo  
Le Cinoche de Bagnolet  
6 rue Hoche  
93170 Bagnolet

The women's movement in France

La Ligue du Droit des Femmes (The Women's Rights League) was started in 1974 and its Chairwoman is Simone de Beauvoir. Without any aid from official bodies it has undertaken some research on the women's movement in France from 1967/68 onwards.

It deals with the social and cultural background of the women who have been active, how the movement was made up, its historical background. The League has tried to shed new light on all these areas and many others besides.

Useful address:      Ligue du droit des femmes  
                             54 avenue de Choisy  
                             75013 Paris

Military service

The movement for the promotion of women's professional image in the postal, telegraph and telephone service (Promo-Femmes PTT) is campaigning doggedly and its members are now waiting to hear the result of an appeal lodged with the Council of State on the subject of military service.

The women in the PTT note that, because of their military service, men climb the promotion ladder quicker than women. What is known as "taking into account" their military service is a device favouring men by ensuring that they do not lose seniority because of the time spent in military service. But what is unfair is that this "taking into account" process can happen several times during the course of a man's career.

Useful address:      Promo-Femmes PTT  
                             B.P. 10907  
                             75326 Paris Cedex 07

<b>GREECE</b>
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New Civil Code

Women have been successful in putting across their ideas on the revision of the Civil Code. One of the actions of the Synergazomena Gynekia Somatia (Joint platform of women's associations) has been to write to the Prime Minister and the Justice and Finance Ministers calling for abolition of the dowry system.

It has emerged, however, that the dowry system is popular chiefly because of the generous tax advantages it bestows. Aware of this side of the question, the government has proposed that the transfer of property as part of the dowry should benefit from a roughly 50% reduction in tax, but that a present of this nature at the time of marriage can equally well be given to sons.

Women's organizations have nothing against the idea of a reduction in taxes on parental gifts. On the contrary, they have claimed that this kind of gift should be possible on other occasions such as opening a shop or starting a new career.

Both to avoid abuse of the system and to ensure social justice, it has been agreed to limit to five million drachma the total amount of a gift which is eligible for tax reduction.

#### Sexual violence

A meeting for women only, which lasted twelve hours, discussed sexual violence and problems connected with rape. Public opinion on the subject has been roused by the arrest, in Northern Greece, of a man accused of various attacks on women including several murders.

The meeting was held in the centre of Athens at the French Institute. The main originator was the group Spiti ton Gynekon (A women's refuge) in conjunction with various independent groups and the Women's Group from Athens University's Philosophy Faculty. Discussions centred on the legal aspects, the role of the press, the "ideology" of rape, and societal attitudes.

One point mentioned was that rape is not committed by a particularly brutal type of man, but rather by someone "very ordinary" who is more or less "normal" in other circumstances. It was also stressed that the reaction of society discouraged women from bringing charges against their aggressors.

Three days later, a demonstration was held in the centre of the town. A long procession of women wearing white masks and carrying banners walked in silence, under police protection, from Zappion to the Ministry of Justice, where they lodged their protest. Along the route, leaflets were handed out explaining the problem.

The slogans were "Change your fear into protest" and "Women will expose the men who have raped you". Spectators along the street seemed surprised by the action but did not attempt to ridicule it or show hostility.

### IRELAND

#### Widowhood

Irish widows have appealed to the Government to make substantial improvements in social welfare benefits and day-care provided for the children of workers. The appeal was made on the occasion of an international seminar held in Dublin on "The problems of widows and widowers in the European Community".

The National Association of Widows in Ireland is also asking for heating costs to be met, a reduction of the pensionable age to 65, free telephones for the elderly and better policing at night.

Useful address:      National Association of Widows in Ireland  
                                 12 Upper Druand Ruay  
                                 Dublin 7

Sexism in schools

Sexism in schools is a problem that has been troubling parents for a long time. Some have come up with the solution of starting their own school.

The North Dublin National School Project is the most recent of three schools started by parents to provide an education that is democratic, non-denominational, mixed and child-centred. The two others are in Dalkey and Bray.

According to the promoters of these schools, the problem stems from the fact that the Irish educational system was established by the churches. This historical fact still leaves its mark, even though educational policy is now in the hands of the Ministry. Boys and girls receive different education and their parents have very little say on what happens in the classroom.

Useful address: Educate Together  
c/o 15 Strangford Road  
East Wall  
Dublin 3

ITALY

The importance of "space"

"Space, time, the quality of the habitat: women must have their say". This was the theme of a meeting organized by the Associazione nazionale cooperativa di abitazione (The National Association for Cooperative Housing) in conjunction with the Lega nazionale delle Cooperative (National League of Cooperatives).

An inquiry conducted among 400 families in ten different Italian regions revealed women's wishes on a number of points: the use of interior space, the form of the family unit, relations with other members of the coop, use of joint facilities, etc.

The research also revealed how individual members of the family used up space and time, and pointed to conflicts that might arise from this use. The "head of the family" spent 52% of his available time sleeping and eating and 5% in household chores, whereas for his wife, these two figures are 34% and 35.7% respectively.

Useful address: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue  
Via Guattani 9  
00161 Rome

### Women Publishers

A seminar was organized in Ferrara on the theme "15 years of feminist publishing". It attempted to find out about the crisis facing the militant press at this time.

Attending the meeting were representatives of well-known papers and magazines such as DWF (Donna-Women-Femmes), Noi Donne (We Women), Quotidiano Donna (Women's Daily), and publishing houses like Felina and Amanda, La Tartaruga, Dalla Parte delle Bambine. But also present were the leaders of a number of small local groups in Italy which publish bulletins or newsletters for a local or specialized audience.

It emerged from the meeting that there is a real and specific market for feminist literature, but that the public making up this market - the feminist movement - is also going through a crisis. It is not easy to read the signs of this crisis hence it is difficult to respond to women's latest concerns.

Theoretical research, dry as it may be, has been able to attract and retain a certain readership, as can be seen by sales of the magazine DWF, and the recent creation of "Memoria" and "Orsaminore" (Little Bear).

The experience of women in Turin, Ferrara, Florence and Bari and a number of other towns has been different, though still very stimulating. These women bring out newsletters containing specific information of immediate interest.

The various forms of publishing have one problem in common - distribution. Would it be possible and practical for women to create their own distribution circuits, to ensure that information reaches more women? Those at the meeting agreed to meet again, next time at the Women's Bookshop, Florence.

Useful address:        Libreria delle donne  
                              via Fiesolana 2b  
                              Florence

### A Research Centre

A research centre has just been opened in Rome called "Centro Studi per la Condizione della Donna" (Research centre on the situation of women). Its aim is to organize courses and research.

It will start out by studying the historical, social and philosophical contribution of feminism and the value of work outside the home.

Gaetana Cazora Russo, the Centre's Director, has also announced that a detailed study will be conducted on women's absence from the decision-making process.

Useful address:        Centro Studi per la Condizione della Donna  
                              via Lago di Lesina 20  
                              Rome

Progetto Donna

Under the leadership of Luisa La Malfa, a centre for career information and development called Progetto Donna (Project Woman) has been opened in Rome. The originators of the scheme are all women who are already working and the Centre will try to help young women looking for their first job and women who want to switch jobs, return to work after a break, or improve their qualifications.

The Centre provides support and information for women in these categories. (It should not be confused with a magazine of the same name that was started recently in Brescia).

Useful address:     Progetto Donna  
                          via del Tritone, 46  
                          00187 Rome

Women at home

Brescia is the headquarters of the association called Movimento Italiano Casalinghe, shortened to MO.I.CA., an Italian Housewives' Movement. The group has a Christian basis and its aim is spiritual improvement, a return to earlier cultural values, and legal recognition and equal economic treatment for women who do not go out to work.

Tina Leonzi, a well-known journalist, has been elected national chairwoman. She explained: "I was a housewife for 24 years after my marriage, before becoming a journalist and engaging in social and cultural activities".

Useful address:     MO.I.CA.  
                          c/o Rivista MADRE  
                          Piazzale Stazione 63  
                          Brescia

Other women at home

OIKIA, which means "home" in Greek, has been adopted by an inter-regional organization of independent housewives. Led by Maria Luisa Tortella, the group hopes to promote the widest possible contacts between women who do not go out to work, including women in other countries. OIKIA describes itself as cultural, non-political and non-denominational.

To provide a platform for housewives is OIKIA's prime objective, and it points out this paradox: women produce almost one-third of the national product yet only own 1% of the country's economic goods.

Useful address:     O.I.K.I.A.  
                          Via Cefalonia 4/a  
                          37126 Verona

N.B.	WE HOPE THAT YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE CORRECTLY CIRCULATED AND USED. HELP US TO ENSURE THIS BY DATING ALL MATERIAL AND INCLUDING YOUR ORGANIZATION'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS.
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LUXEMBOURG

Women and alcohol abuse

The problem of alcohol-abuse among women can no longer be ignored. More and more often the police are issuing summonses to women for driving while under the influence of alcohol. And 30% of the women patients at the neuro-psychiatric hospital in Ettelbruck have been admitted because of alcoholism.

Since February 1983, the Centre thérapeutique at Useldange has been able to accept eight women, for the second stage of their detoxication treatment. The Centre was opened in 1978 and its therapy normally lasts for two or three months. It is chiefly based on group support, accompanied by a return to work and the practice of relaxation techniques.

Useful address: Centre thérapeutique  
Useldange  
Luxembourg

Award

Every two years the Centre d'Etudes Libérales (Liberal Studies Centre) names someone as "Personality of the Year", in recognition of the person's disinterested commitment to liberty, equality, and fraternity.

In 1980, the prize was won by Prof. Klecker, President of Amnesty International in Luxembourg. For the 1982/83 period, the judges have chosen Dr Marie-Paule Molitor-Peffer, Director of Planning Familial (Family Planning) in Luxembourg. "Your work over a number of years for the sexual harmony of married couples has convinced us that you should receive the prize", said the panel.

It is well over ten years in fact that Dr Molitor-Peffer has been campaigning for sex education for young women and information on contraception for couples. Planning Familial now has four branches in the Grand Duchy and the number of people coming for advice is continually growing.

Useful address: Planning Familial  
Rue Glesener  
Luxembourg





UNITED KINGDOM

Cinema of Women

Women filmworkers have recently come together in a collective to promote and distribute feminist films. They see films as being useful primarily as starting points for discussions questioning women's role in society and encouraging possibilities of change.

The women have produced an attractive booklet listing films from several countries, together with instructions on how to work a projector. COW considers it important to discuss films after seeing them, if the discussions are women-only, as this gives women the chance to talk openly and feely, often for the first time.

Useful address: Cinema of Women  
Feminist Film Distribution  
27 Clerkenwell Close  
London EC1R 0AT

Moving overseas

The Women's Corona Society, founded in 1950, helps British people to get to know the country they will be moving to, through a one-day course before they leave Britain and by friendly support from members of the Society once they arrive.

In addition to this direct information and advice, the Society also provides a little booklet on the new country for people "on the move". Some of the countries covered in the series are Belgium, France, Germany and Greece, with booklets on Spain and the Netherlands in preparation.

Useful address: Women's Corona Society  
501 Eland House  
Stag Place  
London SW1E 5DH

Surgical training for women

A delegation from the Medical Women's Federation held discussions in Edimburgh, Scotland, with the Royal College of Surgeons, to talk about the many difficulties facing women who want to become surgeons.

The Royal College agreed that comments and advice to those seeking a surgical career should be based only on candidates' merit, not their sex. "The surgical ladder is a hard and shaky one for everyone to climb" said Amelia Marrow, one of the MWF delegation.

Useful address: Medical Women's Federation  
Tavistock House North  
Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9HX

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Nobel Prize. Here is the full, correct list of women who have been awarded the Nobel prize and the area in which they have won it.

1903	Marie Sklodowska CURIE	Physics
1905	Bertha von SUTTNER	Peace
1909	Selma LAGERLOF	Literature
1911	Marie Sklodowska CURIE	Chemistry
1926	Grazia DELEDDA	Literature
1928	Sigrid UNDSET	Literature
1931	Jane ADDAMS	Peace
1935	Irène JOLIOT-CURIE	Chemistry
1938	Pearl Sydenstricker BUCK	Literature
1945	Gabriela MISTRAL	Literature
1946	Emily Greene BALCH	Peace
1947	Gerty Therese RADNITZ-CORY	Physiology/medicine
1963	Marie GOEPPERT-MAYER	Physics
1964	Dorothy CROWFOOT-HODGKIN	Chemistry
1966	Nelly SACHS	Literature
1976	Mairead CORRIGAN and Betty WILLIAMS	Peace
1977	Rosalyn YALOW	Physiology/medicine
1979	Mother TERESA of Calcutta	Peace
1982	Alva MYRDAL	Peace

Madri e Figlie degli anni 80 (Mothers and daughters in the Eighties), by Anna Maria Boileau and Ardea Moretti, is a piece of research on women in the Friuli region of Italy. It was sponsored by the Centro Italiano Femminile and uses the case to exemplify Italy's rural population. 271 p. Lit 12 000, published by Grillo, Udine, 1981.

Research Judith Whyte is carrying out a research project on the differences between girls and boys in the educational system. The title of the study is "Girls, science and technology". Any information from people interested in the following questions would be very welcome: Does a problem actually exist? Why do girls avoid science subjects? Do schools attempt to put girls off science careers? What strategies can be used? - Manchester Polytechnic, Faculty of Community Studies, Didsbury School of Education, 799 Wilmslow Road, Manchester M20 8 RR.

"Zu Hause bin ich die aus Deutschland" ("Back home, they call me the one from Germany"). Hanne Straube has written a realistic and sensitive account of the identity problems experienced by foreign women living in Germany which also deals with how these women are regarded when they return to their homelands. Published by Ravensburger.

Virago Press This publishing house is still flourishing as its new and voluminous catalogue shows. A summary of the most recent publications and a complete list of earlier works is included in the catalogue. Virago Press, 41 William IV Street, London, WC2.

The Greek woman This is a very interesting magazine brought out in English and Greek together. It describes the Greek woman's changing situation, particularly in the following areas: women's employment under Greek law, equal treatment, the woman and the family, women and work, woman's political participation. Nei Orizontes - 1982. Publication: YWCA Athens.

Towards the microprocessor civilization Published at the end of 1981, this report describes the conference on applied microelectronics held on 11 December 1981 in the series "Moving into the future - the responsibility of European women". Many well-known speakers took part in the conference and their speeches are summarized in the 67-page report, which will be valuable for its information and ideas on the new technologies.

Commission Féminine de l'Organisation Française du Mouvement Européen, 191 Bd St Germain, 75007, Paris.

Research Bo Carlsson's research project, on an international scale, will deal with the exploitation of children, with special emphasis on sexual exploitation. She is appealing, under the auspices of the Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights, to anyone who can send her documents and information, contemporary or historical, on this subject, to assist her in her research. References in literature will also be welcome. (The study will not cover incest). Anti-Slavery Society, 180 Brixton Rd, London SW9 6AT.

Gewerkschaftliche Frauenarbeit, Parallelität ihrer Probleme in Frankreich und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (1949-1979) (The work of women in the unions and comparison of the problem in France and Germany). After six years of research in this field, Angelika Lippe reaches the conclusion that it is just as difficult in France as in Germany to be a woman and prominent in a union at the same time. Angelika Lippe's research on this subject was the first on a woman's theme to receive a study grant from the European Communities. Publisher: Campus, Frankfurt/Main.

Né scuola né fabbrica (Neither school nor the factory). What can be done for young people who leave school and can't find a job? A pilot-project, operating on an EEC subsidy, has been specially designed to assist young people in the Aquila region in Italy. It is described by Guglielmo Malizia. 325 pages, published by L.U. Japadre, Aquila, 1982.

Abuse of Women in the Media

The Penang Consumers' Association in Malaysia has prepared this 90-page booklet showing how the media harm women by turning them into sex symbols. This does not happen only in "sex" magazines; the phenomenon can also be observed in tourist journals, pocket-books, women's magazines, on the TV, and in films. The publication is one of the first of its kind coming from a developing country.

27 Kelawei Road, Pulau Penang, Malaysia.

Survey on women and French politics France has changed because women have changed, write Janine Mossuz-Lavau and Mariette Sineau. They are no longer a-political, conservative and rigid in matters of sexual morality. This detailed piece of research demonstrates that the revolution in women's behaviour has been brought about by the work they do. A book which is essential to our understanding of modern French women. 288 pages. 90 FF. P.U.F., 108 Bd St Germain, F-75006 Paris.

Greek Social Science Review "Aspects of social change in Greek rural areas" is a special number describing the experiences of Bernard Vernier, an Assistant Lecturer in Sociology in the Faculty of Human Sciences, Dijon. He lived for two months in the small Greek village of Echinus (2 500 inhabitants) and his study describes his impressions of the people who live there. He analyses the many ways in which male domination is exercised, both in Echinus and in Greece as a whole.

"Das Gleichberechtigungssystem in den USA und in den Mitgliedstaaten der EG unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Verhältnisses von Männern und Frauen im Arbeitsleben" (The system for promoting equality between men and women in the U.S.A. and in the Member States of the European Community with particular reference to relations between men and women at work). This over-view of equality legislation in the Member States, by Prof. Rolf Seeland, offers a good approach to the regulations and includes comparisons with the United States. Published by Recht und Wirtschaft (Heidelberg)

Research Abortion is a private matter of course. But it needs to be talked about more in public, so say two Californian writers who are doing research on all kinds of writing and information on the problem of abortion. They are hoping to collect as much testimony as possible, direct and indirect, since they believe this will help to shed new light on the discussions currently taking place. Contact Debi Mandel and Stephen Buel, P.O.Box 1028, Berkeley, California CA 94701.

Circoncisione femminile, escissione et infibulazione Originally written in English (Female Circumcision, excision and infibulation) by Scilla McLean of the Minority Rights Group, this book has now been translated into Italian by Gioia Longo and Danila Visca. It is a very accurate account of the extent of female sexual mutilation throughout the world, describing the cultural origins and the women subjected to the practice, giving details of its tragic effects from the physical and psychological point of view. The book ends by making some suggestions about how changes could be made. N° 47, 116 pages, published by Bulzoni, Via dei Liburni 14, 00185 Rome, Italy.

Le travail à temps partiel: pour ou contre (The pros and cons of part-time work). This piece of scientific research was carried out by several women who are members of the Association Genevoise de Femmes Universitaires (AGFU -Association of Geneva University Women). They questioned employers and people offering part-time jobs and describe their findings. AGFU, CP 21, Rive, 1211 Geneva.

A outra face da emigração (The other side of emigration). This study on the position of the Portuguese women who stay behind is by Karin Wall. It paints an unvarnished picture of the Portuguese woman and the life she chooses. If she leaves, why does she go? If she stays, what influences her choice? What are her alternatives? What is her life like in Portugal? What would she like it to be? This monograph of 40 pages was published by the Comissao da Condição Feminina, av. Elias Garcia, 12-1, 1093 Lisbon Codex.

Le droit des femmes dans la vie quotidienne 100 answers to your questions about the law and everyday life. The author, Noëlle Dewavrin, sets out to help women who read the book solve some of the legal problems that crop up in their everyday lives. All the questions asked are ones that women have actually asked. The answers to them are first and foremost practical, but also refer to the appropriate clauses in the Civil Code. Editions Stock, 281 pages.

La Piccola Fronda (The small uprising). The Nuova DWF writes about the place of women in Italy between 1861 and 1924, particularly the political and cultural context of the various phases of women's emancipation during the period. N° 21, 188 pages, Lit 6 000, Viale Angelico 301, 00195 Rome.

Femme et Terre (Woman and Land). Issue N° 7 of the publication Pénélope describes women's links with the land. Which one is the possessor? Some of the subjects which come up are women and agriculture, women peasants, women's authority through land, the complicity of women and the land. The book has a certain mystique in its approach to the subject. It is published by the Groupe d'Etudes Féministes de l'Université Paris 7. Pénélope, 54 Bd Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06.

Equality between women and men This 114-page brochure was published in Strasbourg in 1982 by the Council of Europe. It contains a comparative study of the machinery and structures established by certain countries in order to promote equality between the sexes. The historical development and a descriptive analysis of what has been achieved is given for 15 different European countries.

The Employment of Women in Spain  
The Employment of Women in Portugal

The Bureau for questions concerning employment and equal treatment for women has just published two reports called for by the European Parliament in 1981. (V/2163/82 FR and V/2139/82 FR).

These studies carried out by teams of experts (sociologists, economists, lawyers) are intended to give a complete view of the situation of women in these two countries (employment, legal position, education and training, employment offices, social facilities, unionization, social security and taxation, societal attitudes to the employment of women). Both studies have the same chapter headings, which makes for uniformity and facilitates comparison of the data. The research directors, Maria del Pilar Alcobendas (for the study on Spain) and Maria Manuela Silva (for the study on Portugal) have backed up their descriptive analysis with up-to-date statistics.

Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General for Social Affairs, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

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"La vie quotidienne à temps partiel" (Daily life with a part-time job) is the title of a thesis by Françoise Pissart, a sociology student at the University of Liège. The author has carried out a survey of the experience of a number of women who work part-time. It describes clearly how much time women, including those with children, have free when they work part-time and mentions that women working part-time are critical of women who do not go out to work, from the point of view of the amount of housework they get through. Université de Liège - Faculté de Sciences sociales, Bd du rectorat 7 (Bât.31) B-4000 Liège.

Une politique de l'éducation pour l'Europe In the series "European Documentation", this brochure deals with education and training in a Europe where there were 11 million unemployed in 1982, where millions of migrant workers' children have to be educated, and where young people must be taught the reasons why the peoples of Europe need to unite in order to survive and flourish. This study (4/82) may be obtained from the Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

Mujer y sociedad en Espana (1700 to 1975) (Women and Society in Spain from 1700 to 1975). This book was produced by a group of women, one of whom, Rosa Maria Capel Martinez, coordinated their work. It ranges from women's place in the social structure in 18th century Spain up to their contribution to contemporary politics under Franco's regime. 435 pages, published by the Ministerio de Culture (Ministry of Culture)

Il complesso di Cerenentola (the Cinderella Complex) The Italian translation of Colette Dowling's book has been published by Longanesi. It goes into the unconscious reasons why women put up a fight against becoming liberated. The author discussed her work with the members of the Club delle Donne (Women's Club) recently. Piazza Ippolito Nievo, 5, 00153 Rome.

Humanisierung der Arbeit im Bürobereich unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Einsatzes von Textautomaten (Humanization of office work, particularly the use of word-processors). This document was commissioned by the Senator responsible for Education in the Berlin Land, as a contribution to training schemes in the new technologies (Available in German only).

El trabajo y la educación de la mujer en Espana (1900-1930) (Work and education of women in Spain from 1900 to 1930) In this 600-page major work, Rosa Maria Capel Martinez conducts a detailed historical investigation into Spanish women's place in society from 1900 to 1930. With a doctorate in literature, the author is Professor of Modern History at the University of Madrid. The study includes a vast bibliography. Published by the Ministerio de Cultura (Ministry of Culture), Madrid.

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