

Carra News

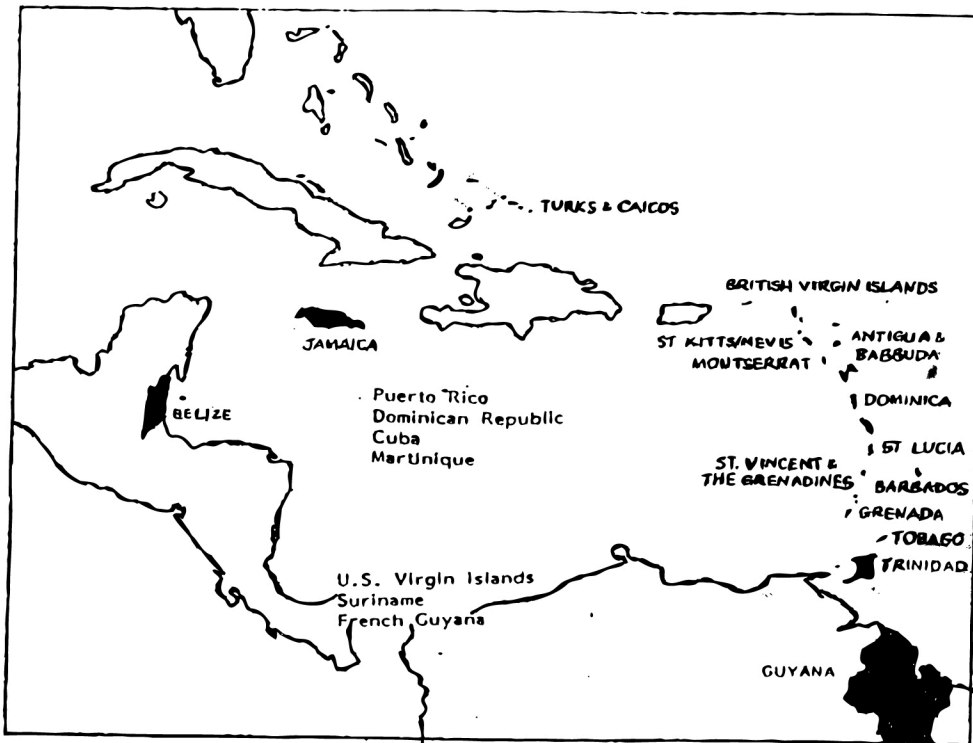


NEWSLETTER of The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA).

Vol. 1 No. 2

December 1987

CAFRA



STRUCTURE

1. The Secretariat
2. National Representatives
3. Regional Committees
 - Finance & Funding
 - Documentation
 - Research
 - Action/Internal Education
 - Public Information

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

General Aims:-

- To:-
- 1(i) develop an approach to women's problems from the perspectives of race, class and sex, specifically to show how the exploitative relationship between men and women facilitates the continuation, maintenance and reproduction of exploitative capitalist relations, and how the capitalist system benefits from this situation.
 - (ii) develop an approach to the analysis of relations between men and women in non-capitalist and socialist societies.
 2. Develop the feminist movement in the entire Caribbean region.
 3. Promote the interrelationship between research and action.

Objectives:-

- To:-
1. Develop research priorities based on the needs of the women's movement in the region.

2. Provide a supportive atmosphere for individual feminists.
3. Bring a feminist perspective to bear on the work of existing progressive organizations and shatter the myth that "feminism divides the struggle".
4. Provide a focal point for bringing together feminist organizations in the entire region.
5. Foster greater communication and collaboration on events and issues relevant to the feminist movement.
6. Develop a base of documentation on the women's movement in the Caribbean and issues relevant to it.
7. Develop access to available sources of documentation which could be put at the service of women's organizations and struggles in the region.
8. Promote the continuous analysis of language in order to identify and correct the sexist assumptions embedded in its structure which are detrimental to women's expression and development at every level.

CAFRA NEWS is published quarterly by the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), 19 Maraj Street, Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago.

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CAFRA NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 2

December, 1987

Editorial

The main purpose of this editorial is to offer a grovelling apology that the second issue of CAFRA NEWS (advertised as a quarterly) has taken so long to come out - and is even later than its cover date. It would be rash to promise that it won't happen again, but the fact - Great News - that CAFRA now has an office and 2 full-time staff (Co-ordinator and Admin. Assistant) augurs well for the future.

This is an opportune time to express CAFRA's deep gratitude to Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen and Stephanie Pile, who filled the above posts voluntarily for a number of months, juggling the work with their other jobs. Rawwida has now accepted the permanent post. Many thanks also to Joan French, who acted as Co-ordinator while Rawwida was on a fellowship in the U.K. and so efficiently set up the office (among other Herculean tasks; and to Sonia Cuales for her invaluable service on the Secretariat.

Editorial/Production

Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen
Tina Johnson
Stephanie Pile
Cathy Shepherd

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LAST WORDS

Letters

It's great to have CAFRA NEWS at last. Congrats to all of you who "got it together". I also thought it was rather nice of you to recognise my "wasted efforts"!

Re. Content: very informative, but hope we have plans for even one feature per issue for the future - e.g. a group like Esclaves del Fogon or MUDE in the Dominican Republic, or some participatory research event - something to strengthen the ACTION element of CAFRA.

Perhaps we could do a centre spread in the next issue on feminist action around the Caribbean and show how on-the-ground research is being done and used.

Re. format: whoever made that valiant effort with the illustrations and visually attractive headlines deserves commendation. I think that direction is very important. Can the newsletter accomodate photographs?

Joan French, Jamaica

— * —

This is to introduce you to the Women's Feature Service of Inter Press Service - the Third World News Agency which is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

WFS/IPS has a Caribbean Desk, located in Kingston, for which I am Coordinator - mandated, on the one hand, to provide feature material on women's issues region-wide, from a development perspective, through building a network of women writers on women's issues; and on the other, to help market the service to organisations and media throughout the region.

What I'd like to do initially, is to simply establish a channel of information. I'd like you to consider sending any material on your organisation and activities that we may be able to use. In addition - should you be, or should you know of, strong women writers, who could create features for WFS/IPS, we'd be especially happy to learn of that.

We are also interested in marketing the service (and) can help organisations like

yours keep up to date on what other women are doing, around the world.

Suzanne Francis-Hinds, I.P.S., 2 Balmoral Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica

— * —

I'm really excited about joining CAFRA. My status will probably be one of Associate Member - I am a Trinidadian living and writing in the U.S.

I'd like to find out more about the agricultural research project. I'm in the process of designing a project myself which I'd like to share at some point.

Jacqui Alexander
Brandeis University, Massachusetts

— * —

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEWSLETTER! At last it's out. I think it gives a good idea of what is going on in CAFRA. It would be good if the next edition included country reports and also a discussion section or editorial comment on what is going on in the movement or in women's struggles regionally from a CAFRA perspective. This would help to make clear the link between research and action and vice versa. Also perhaps there could be a creative writing page to keep the interdisciplinary focus and do something towards removing the divide between the artist, the intellectual and the activist.

Honor Ford Smith, Jamaica

— * —

I am living in the Caribbean part of Brazil - Salvador, Bahia. I am working in a research centre and teaching a women's studies course in the University, and working on the dissertation. The students I am orienting in the University are developing a research on "Production and representation of feminist ideology among young middle class women".

How is CAFRA and how is my membership situation? I am eager to know how the Anthology of Caribbean Women's poetry is going, as well as other CAFRA projects.

My best regards to CAFRA sisters.

Mary Garcia Castro
Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

CAFRA PROJECTS

WOMEN IN CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

So how is CAFRA's first major research and action project going?

Project teams have been at work in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, doing field work in three agricultural communities in each island. Questionnaires have been administered to women involved in agriculture in 10% of households in each community, and in-depth case studies of selected women in each community have also been carried out.

What is emerging is the very precarious material base of those sisters whose agricultural activity is, in most cases, the mainstay of their families; dependency on landowners, fathers or brothers for access to land; the burden of reproductive work especially where there are young children; the precarious survival system of these farm families in which for the most part what income is available can barely suffice to buy food; the key role of the woman's agricultural activity in supplying the family with food for survival; the unavailability or inappropriateness of agricultural support systems to women in agriculture; and the struggle of the women for autonomy and improved living standards despite the odds - this is only some of the information from the study.

One aspect of the project is that the research teams are comprised mainly of women who have been active in community work among women. This means that the project will leave in each country women with exposure to feminist analysis and research methods who can hopefully continue to use the training they have received for the development of work among women in their countries.

Local agencies working with women or doing community work have also been part of the back-up teams, which have assisted in identifying sources of information, have kept in touch with the

research as it has progressed, have become more and more sensitized to the needs of women in agriculture, and have begun to raise related issues within their organisations. It is hoped that the back-up team network will provide a base for follow-up action to address these needs. Already women in the communities have begun to voice their concern and demonstrate their interest in organisation and action through workshops organised by the research teams.

The facilitating organisations for this research in the project countries are the Committee for the Development of Women in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Small Projects Assistance Team in Dominica, through its women's programme. Nelcia Robinson and Noreen John, both CAFRA members, are the coordinators of the project at the country level. Other members of the research teams are Josephine Dublin, Bertilia Henderson and Martha Joseph (Dominica) and Beverley Warren, Bonnie Millington and Anselma Morgan (St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Valuable assistance has been given by CIPAF of the Dominican Republic in the design and monitoring of the research.

Funding for the project has come from UNIFEM (United Nations Fund for the Development of Women) and HIVOS of The Netherlands. The project has, however, suffered from lack of funding for institutional support, as well as an underestimation of costs generally. Project personnel are trying to see how these problems can be resolved.

So CAFRA's Women in Caribbean Agriculture project is doing well despite a few hitches here and there.

Joan French
Project Co-ordinator

ANTHOLOGY OF CARIBBEAN WOMEN'S POETRY

After being extended for several months, the deadline for entries for the Poetry Anthology has passed. The submissions were many and varied, with nearly every CAFRA territory being represented. The selection and editing of entries is now underway, and there are firm plans for Sister Vision to publish the Anthology in 1988.

INTER-AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (ILSA)

CAFRA is undertaking the co-ordination of a survey of existing legal service institutions throughout the English, French, Spanish & Dutch-speaking Caribbean for the Inter-American Legal Services Association (ILSA). This is with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of women's legal services, women's rights campaigns and encouraging research on issues related to women and the law.

ILSA was created to provide support for those legal service endeavours in Latin America and the Caribbean that seek to protect and promote the rights of the poor and unrepresented in society. It was formally constituted in 1978 as a non-profit corporation, with headquarters in Bogota, Colombia. The Board of Directors is comprised of lawyers, scholars and jurists from throughout the American continent and the Caribbean area.

CAFRA has initiated contact with persons in the various territories who will be responsible for co-ordinating the survey in their respective territories. The overall Co-ordinator of the project, which is expected to last three months, is Gaiety Pargass in Trinidad and Tobago.

WAND/CAFRA WOMEN HISTORY PROJECT

A joint WAND/CAFRA Oral History Seminar was held at the Barbados Labour Union College at Mangrove, St. Philip, during the period October 19-23, 1987. Co-ordinators were Nan Peacocke (WAND) and Ramabal Espinet (CAFRA).

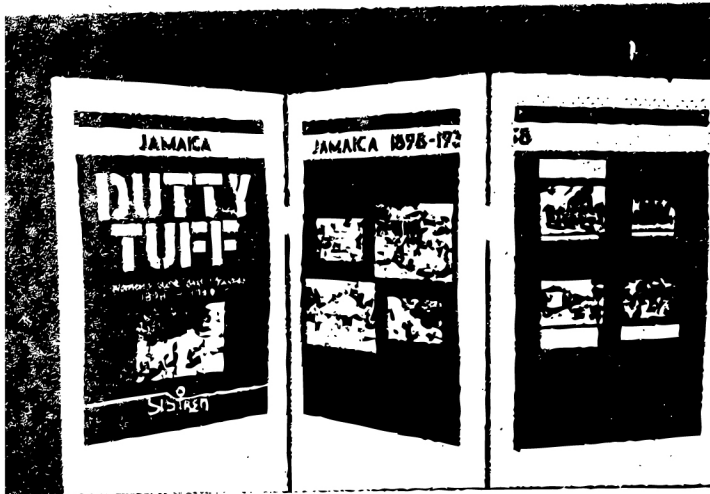
The main objectives were (a) to disseminate to participants selected areas of the research done in the Caribbean project of the ISS, "Women's Movement, Organisations and strategies in a Historical Perspective, with special reference to Colonial and Contemporary Societies"; (b) to introduce the project presently engaging the interests of those participants who have been documenting the history of women in their communities; and (c) to illustrate the historical continuity of women's struggle to resist subordination.

The seminar involved participants from several different organisations and countries, including the Belize Rural Women's Association, SISTREN Theatre Collective (Jamaica), Red Thread (Guyana), The Rape Crisis Centre and The Group (Trinidad), the Small Projects Assistance Team (Dominica), and the Agency for Rural Transformation (Grenad

The seminar was conceived as an exhibit of participants work around which theoretical sessions were built. Added to this, there were related sessions on projects which had been done by participants which were not stationary exhibits, such as slide shows and dramatic enactments of situations.

The ISS project was represented by two exhibits - 'Dutty Tuff' from Jamaica, and 'Bravé Dangé' from Trinidad.

Participants agreed that the seminar had been useful in many ways. Some of the tangible gains were networking, an awareness of other work being done, and the



different artistic and other styles of disseminating material; and a new understanding of regions that are somewhat remote from the rest of the Caribbean (e.g. Guyana and Belize).

WAND and CAFRA are at present discussing more tangible methods of follow-up. Already The Group in Trinidad has benefitted from a meeting with Joan French to discuss their project on 'Women in Organisations'.

Conference Reports

CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, 14-17 October, 1987

The conference was co-ordinated by "Puerto Ricans for Justice and Against Apartheid in South Africa and Namibia," and held at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. The theme of the Conference was "Apartheid: A Crime Against Humanity - For a New South Africa and Namibia Free from Apartheid and Colonialism."

Representatives from several organisations attended, including: The African National Congress (ANC), South West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO), The Anti-Apartheid

Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago, The Anti-Apartheid Organisation of Antigua and Barbuda, Small Projects Assistance Team (SPAT), Partido de los Trabajadores Dominicanos and Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN). CAFRA was represented by Gemma Tang Nain.

The first panel featured Dr. Piri Fernandez of Puerto Rico, Dr. James Millette of Trinidad and Tobago and Ms. Maria Angula of SWAPO, who spoke on the topic "Common social, historical and socio-cultural roots among African and Caribbean Peoples." The second panel dealt with "Apartheid, transnational corporations and the liberation process of Namibia and South Africa." The consensus of the presenters was that transnational corporations, by continuing to operate in South Africa and Namibia, were directly supporting the inhuman and barbaric system of Apartheid in those countries.

The third panel took the form of brief testimonies of peoples' struggles in various territories and the fourth dealt with the issue of "Apartheid as a threat to peace in Africa and the world." Speakers included Magdalena Enrique of Nicaragua and Dr. Moti Lall of Guyana.

Several strategies for follow-up action were proposed and accepted. Among these were:

- * delegates should undertake activities to build awareness in their respective territories about the issue of Apartheid
- * a Continuation Committee, comprising representatives from Antigua, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, SWAPO and the ANC, should meet in Guyana within six months, to review progress made and finalise plans for a further conference
- * a bilingual (English/Spanish) bulletin would be produced in Puerto Rico to publicise the atrocities of Apartheid and activities to eradicate the system.

The Conference did not examine the status of women under Apartheid specifically. In fact, it was only in response to a question from the floor that the issue was

discussed. On behalf of CAFRA, a resolution dealing with the plight of women in South Africa and Namibia was formulated, presented and adopted.

CAFRA should begin lobbying for the issue of women in the South African and Namibian struggles to be dealt with as one of the sub-themes of the proposed 1988 conference.

Gemma Tang Nain

Resolution

WHEREAS the racist system in South Africa and Namibia denies basic human rights to all Africans but that such denials, due to a combination of sexism, racism and imperialism, impact more forcibly on women;

AND WHEREAS women in particular are prevented from entering urban areas and so, for the majority, are forced to spend their lives with their offspring and without their husbands on the barren "bantustans";

AND WHEREAS the women, in spite of grave constraints, have joined in the struggle against Apartheid by resisting forced removal and the issuance of 'passes' to African women, and by actively participating in the Trade Union movement, other social and political organisations, and the liberation movements of ANC and SWAPO;

AND WHEREAS when victory is finally achieved the women of South Africa and Namibia ought to take their rightful place alongside their men as equal partners in the developmental process of those countries, and not be relegated, as has happened in other instances of revolutionary change, to traditional 'feminine' roles;

BE IT RESOLVED that the role of the women of South Africa and Namibia in the struggle against Apartheid be fully recognised, documented and publicised;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assistance be given, particularly by the Women's

Movement in the region, to the Women's section of SWAPO and ANC and other women's organisations involved in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

Submitted by: Gemma Tang Nain
CAFRA National Representative, Trinidad and Tobago

SISTERS IN SUPPORT OF SISTERS IN S.A.

SISA

*Sisterhood in Support of
Sisters in South Africa*

SISA - Suite 383
719 Washington Street
Newtonville, MA 02160



SISA (which means mercy in Xhosa) is an American organisation whose major aim is to "link hands and resources with our sisters in South Africa on the basis of everyday necessities and activities of their lives."

Campaigns include Child Care Facilities, the Maggie Magaba Scholarship Fund, Literacy, Sewing and Knitting Co-operatives, and other activities as requested by South African women.

Donations can be sent to SISA, Suite 383,
719 Washington Street, Newtonville, MA 12160
U.S.A.

**CONGRESSIONAL
STUDY MISSION AND
SYMPOSIUM ON C.B.I.**
Barbados, 18-19 Sept. 1987

The symposium was sponsored by The Development Group for Alternative Policies in Washington and two Congressional Sub-Committees.

According to a release from The Development GAP, it was organised "in an effort to overcome a major shortcoming of the initiative: the failure to consult adequately in the region during the development and implementation of the CBI, particularly with those who could have provided the United States with a better understanding of the local Caribbean reality. The conference participants included representatives of small-farmer, church, women's, development, labour and other non-governmental and grass-roots organisations, as well as government ministers, private-sector leaders and the heads of the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional organisations."

The release noted that there was a strong consensus at the meeting that the CBI had not worked, and that "the primary reason was inadequate consultation." The plan was criticised "for failing to upgrade and build upon the local human and raw-material resource base and local institutional capacities." Numerous proposals were advanced to address these shortcomings, while attention was focussed on the burdens borne by the poor, particularly women.

Joan French, the CAFRA representative at the meeting, was quoted as saying that she hoped the dialogue would be "the first step towards establishing a real partnership between the U.S. and the Caribbean based on mutual respect, mutual understanding and a true comprehension of the difference between U.S.-Caribbean relationships."

The representatives of the Congressional sub-committees announced that they intended on their return to the U.S. "to develop a legislative package based on the recommendations ... received." First on the list of recommendations that they felt merited particular

attention was "special sensitivity to the needs of the poor, particularly women."

The release further stated that the Barbados proceedings were "significant for the broad consensus and dialogue that were established among the representatives of the many sectors in the region." It noted that "more broad-based participation was seen as essential for the successful design of Caribbean policies that build economies from below while reallocating resources from above."

PRESS RELEASE
From CAFRA, 23 November, 1987

Not satisfied with the indefensible arrests, the Guyanese authorities have now laid charges against eight persons, including members and supporters of CAFRA. Among them is the CAFRA National Representative for Guyana, Andaiye.

Six of the Eight persons charged are women. This continues a tradition of militancy among Caribbean women, who have been the backbone of our people's struggles against injustice throughout our history.

CAFRA condemns this attack on the militancy of Caribbean women and the solidarity of Caribbean people, and calls on the Guyanese authorities to withdraw the charges and take active steps to establish and protect human rights in Guyana.

CAFRA condemns the use of state violence in Guyana against Guyanese and other Caribbean people, when the authorities arrested several persons about to participate in a peaceful religious service to highlight the lack of human rights in Guyana.

CUSO's Women in Industry Research Project

'St. Lucia's Assembly-Line Women pay a High Price for Cheap Labour' was the telling headline of one of McNamara's reports from an interview with the Caribbean's CUSO representative, Dominica-born Alicia Mondesire, who is based here.

The interview itself was set against the findings of a CUSO survey in the manufacturing zone in Vieux Fort, known also as St. Lucia's Industrial capital in the South near Hewanorra International Airport.

The exposé revealed that wages averaged EC\$60 per week and ranged between \$25 and \$130. It was also reported that women complained of eye strain from long hours of stitching and assembling tiny electronic components.

Several had to handle toxic chemicals in adhesive and thinners without protective clothing, while others complained of severe stress. The stress, they claimed, was attributed to the "pea" system which requires workers to produce a prescribed minimum quota every week in order to earn a certain wage.

According to the Star report, CUSO found the work at the Vieux Fort assembly-line also "de-skilled" the women involved. It also reported that some regional governments had promised non-interference from trade unions in order to attract foreign investors. Out of 106 women interviewed in the CUSO survey, only 24 belonged to a union.

CUSO says it will examine the impact of female labour on the local economy, and come up with a possible alternative to assembly-line work.

'Eastern Caribbean News', August 7, 1987, submitted by Alicia Mondesire, St. Lucia

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Publication of 'LIONHEART GAL' by SISTREN

(From THE WOMEN'S PRESS press release)

"Ah never tell a soul who de baby belong to ... Me never want Mama fi go kill me when she find out who it belong to. Me was afraid of her ... Mama no beat. She no haffi curse yuh. Her eye dem grey and when she look pon yuh, yuh quail up inna yuhself."

- In twelve compelling life stories of working-class women, members of the world-known Sistren Theatre Collective bring the Jamaican language alive with both humour and insight. The women of Sistren have been together for some eight years, running workshops, performing such world acclaimed dramas as "Muffet Inna All A We" throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere.



'LIONHEART GAL' is based on tapes made over the years by members of the collective and now edited by Honor Ford Smith into a vivid record of women's lives, invaluable records of oral history which retain all the depth of works of the imagination.

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CAFRA FOR WAND COMMITTEE

CAFRA has been invited to serve as a member of the Women and Development Unit's Advisory Committee for the period 1987-1990. Advisory meetings are held annually, and membership is for a period of 3 years. The Committee has been structured to include representatives from National Machinery, CARICOM Governments, Regional Agencies, UWI, as well as individuals in the region with special expertise whose work and concerns will enable them to make a meaningful contribution to the programme.

CAFRA Co-ordinator, Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen, represented the Association at the 1987 meeting held in August in Barbados.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Linda M. Rupert of Indianweg 68, Curacao, Netherland Antilles, has written to CAFRA asking for information for an article she is writing for Latinamerica Press/Noticias Aliadas (a weekly newspaper based in Peru) on the current status of the Caribbean women's movement, and would greatly appreciate being sent any relevant information.

She would be particularly pleased to receive written material - articles, booklets, documents from which she can quote or to which she can make direct reference. Any information she is provided with will be fully credited in her final article.

ORGANISATION-BUILDING IN TRINIDAD

CAFRA has been invited to participate in a programme of organisational development for the women's movement in Trinidad, which is being held with the assistance of WAND at the request of WORKINGWOMEN, a local women's group.

The programme is aimed at strengthening the organisational and interpersonal skills of groups and the movement as a whole.

It is expected that one or two members of a number of different feminist community and working-class oriented women's organisations

will participate.

FEMINIST CHAIN LETTER

A 'Feminist Chain Letter' has been received from Malaysia concerning the detention without trial of 5 women activists. The senders of the letter, staff at the Centre for Extension and Continuing Education in Selangor, are very concerned about the emotional and psychological state of these women under police interrogation. The women include a full-time social worker involved with women in the Free Trade Zones, and a campaigner against violence against women.

CAFRA has sent a letter of protest to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, as requested, and sent the letter on to three women's organisations in the region.

DOMESTICS TO MEET IN COLUMBIA

Mary Castro, living in Brazil, has sent in an announcement concerning a proposed meeting of organisations of domestic workers of Latin America and the Caribbean, in March 1988 in Bogota, Columbia.

The organising committee would like groups to get in touch with them as soon as possible at the following address:

Yenny del Carmen Hurtado,
Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Servicio Domestico,
SINTRASEDOM,
Apartado Aereo 1880,
Bogota, Columbia

LEONA REMY APPEAL

A provisional Leona Remy Defence Committee has been formed and is urging Caribbean women to mobilize support for the 22-year old St. Lucian woman who was charged with the murder of her two children in July.

The Committee is calling on women to:

* send solidarity cards to Leona Remy c/o

P O E M S

by Ramabai Espinet
Trinidad and Tobago

Orthodoxies

Orthodoxies -
I hate orthodoxies
They are an imprisonment
Of essence
Into tight little knots
Orthodoxies and strictures
Definitions, Guidelines
Categories, Dogma
Classification, Schemes
Working codes
Manners and mores
Ideologies
And so on.

Are you a feminist?
Or simply a person person?
A Marxist Feminist?
A Marxist-Leninist Feminist?
An Old Communist
A Socialist Feminist
A Radical Feminist
A Lesbian Feminist

A Dog eat Dog Feminist
A bluestocking, suffragette
Man Hater, Stone Crushes
Ball Breaker
Bumpy Rider
People Person?
No - Person Person
Black Feminist
Caribbean Feminist
Asian Feminist
African Feminist
Indian Feminist
Single-parent Feminist
Man-loving Feminist
Nurturing Feminist
Cookist, Womanist
Superwoman-ist
Not a Feminist
All these orthodoxies
Be damned.

The day we want
To make Real Change
To make it new
We'll throw out these Boundaries
Through the window.
We shall search
For Non-archy
No hierarchy
No Law and Order
Only Harmony
No Binding Categories
Only States of being
Of becoming
Of searching

What do women want?
Only total freedom
In living like others
Only honesty in human relations
For us and others
Only no manipulation
Of us by others
And vice versa
Only no ascriptions
For us and our daughters
Only a burning need
To take our places
Under the burning sun

The Face

While I looked at her serious face
Hard against the page
Our lifestrands crossed
And fixed
In set laburnum rage
At the whole whodunit universe.

Her face set hard against the grain
Lifting convex lines of pain
Resistant calibrations
Lean adumbrations
And living ... living still.

Women in Development and Trade in the Caribbean

It is general knowledge that women have both traditionally and in modern times actively participated in trade and other business activity, both at the national and intra-Caribbean levels. In recent times, some of these movements have extended beyond regional boundaries.

Though significant, the contribution of women to economic trading activities in the region is hardly visible in the official statistics. As a result few institutions have paid attention to women's circumstances. Women's accumulated skills in this area should be seen as a human resource to be developed to the benefit of their own advancement and that of their communities.

In response to the need to investigate and access the social and economic impact of this so-called informal sector in which women are involved, the Women in Development Unit (WID) of United Nations ECLAC, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, initiated the implementation of a project 'Women in Development and Trade in the Caribbean', funded by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Following preliminary research in the inter-island trade sector in the Caribbean within the framework of the project on women traders, the project shifted its focus to the situation of women in the inter-island trade in cash crops in the Eastern Caribbean. In this regard the newly initiated project for the Development of a Database on Selected Areas of Women's Participation in Social and Economic Change could concentrate its first activity on data collection regarding the inter-island traders in cash crops.

The first phase of the workplan for the establishment will concentrate on traders in the informal sector engaged in purchase, transport, shipment and sale of cash crops, moving from the small island states in the Eastern Caribbean into Trinidad and Barbados.

From UN ECLAC Information note, 7.8.87

Publications Received

Asian Women Workers' Newsletter 6 (September 1987).

FRENCH, Joan. "The CBI and Jamaica: Objectives and Impact." Paper prepared for the Development Group for Alternative Policies, March 1987.

_____. "The Lived Experience of the Poor under the CBI with Proposals for Alternative Approaches to Development." Paper prepared for the Development GAP, July 1987.

INSTRAW NEWS 8 (Spring-Summer 1987)

JUNGSCHEGGER, Ineke. Bluestockings in Mothballs. Amsterdam: International Archives for the Women's Movement, 1987

(Describes the collection of the International Archives for the Women's Movement, founded in 1935.

Koudmen: Issues in Dominican Development 3 (August-September, 1987).

MC DONALD, Rose Marie: Participation and Integration of Women in Development in the Caribbean: A Selective Partially-Annotated Bibliography. Castries, St. Lucia: National Research and Development Foundation, 1987. Prepared for CARDI.

Quehaceres 7 (September 1987).

Spearhead 1 (June-August 1987). Published by the Society for the Promotion of Education and Research, Belize

The Belize Woman: Newsletter of the Belize Rural Women's Association 1 (June 1987).

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT. Annual Report for the Period August 1986-July 1987. Pinelands, Barbados: WAND 1987

WELLS, Troth and Foo Gaik Sim. Hasta que tengamos rostros: las mujeres como consumidoras. Santiago: ISIS International, 1987. (Ediciones de las mujeres, 7).

CARIFEM update

CAFRA National Meeting in Jamaica

We have finally had a first meeting towards the formation of a Jamaican chapter of CAFRA.

The present members decided to invite a broad range of individuals and women in organisations they thought might be interested.

About 35 women attended, and of those, seven of us were SISTREN connected. It really turned out that the SISTREN Research team (myself, Honor and Imani Tafari) organised it, with help from other SISTREN members and organisational support from SISTREN.

The aims of the meeting were to introduce the aims and objectives of CAFRA, have participants get to know each other better by sharing information on themselves and the work they were presently doing, as well as their level of interest in gender approaches and analysis, and to establish which of the women were interested in becoming active in a CAFRA Jamaican chapter.

The meeting took the form of a participatory



semi-workshop exercise. The exchange about work showed that interests varied from wanting to do actual academic research, through wanting to use specific skills (e.g. video and slide-tape, art etc.) to support such work, to wanting to get information which would support action at the community level.

The meeting was fairly successful, and has started to bring new forces into the arena of feminist research and action.

Joan French

"November 25th Committee Trinidad and Tobago

Activities to commemorate International Day Against Violence Against Women were co-ordinated by the November 25th Committee which was formed in response to an initiative from Workingwomen. It was comprised of several individuals and organisations including the Rape Crisis Society, the Democratic Women's Association, the People's Popular Movement's Women's Arm, The Group, and Workingwomen.

Two lunch-time lectures were held in Port of Spain, one on 'How to teach your child to deal with sexual abuse', and the other on 'Self-defence for women'.

Members of the Committee took part in TV and radio interviews to publicise its activities and to sensitize the public to the issue of violence against women. They also contributed to a feature section in one of the dailies on November 25th.

The main event, however, was a candle-lit march in Morvant, a community to the North of Port of Spain where 5 women have been raped and murdered over the last 2 years (their assailant has yet to be caught). This was followed by a cultural rally at one of the schools in the district. Some 200 women, men and children took part.

Documentary Film

The Centre for Studies of the Puerto Rican Reality (Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Puertorriqueña, CEREP) has brought to our attention the production of a documentary entitled "The History of All of us", directed by Carlos Malavé, based on "La Otra Cara de la Historia" (The Other Face of History).

This documentary has a duration of 35 mins. and it is available for sale in the format ½" VHS or BETA for \$300 and ¾" KCA for \$350; or for rent at a cost of \$125.

The cost of the exhibition of the documentary, plus a talk, conference or workshop developed by Lydia Milagros González, is \$200. CEREP provides the exhibition equipment for large groups. CEREP also provides copies of posters used for the promotion of the documentary.

Should anyone be interested in acquiring this documentary, CEREP should be contacted directly at the following address:

Apartado 22200, estación de correos u.p.r.
San Juan,
Puerto Rico 00931



LAST WORDS

NEXT ISSUE:

The next issue of the newsletter is due out in March. We need MATERIAL - a feature on your group/organisation; a report on a feminist activity in your country; a poem or short story, etc. etc.

Deadline: February 21. We know that the time is short, so try inventive methods of getting stuff to T & T, like asking someone travelling this way to hand deliver or post locally.

SKILLS BANK:

CAFRA is still attempting to establish a SKILLS BANK that can be used by CAFRA members who need information and/or resource persons. Please send comprehensive curriculum vitae to the Secretariat, P.O. Bag 442, Tunapuna Post Office, Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago, W.I. as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Don't forget that membership fees for 1988 are due, so please send them off as soon as you can. They help keep CAFRA operational.

CAFRA

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION

We are an organisation of feminist researchers and activists committed to understanding the relationship between the oppression of women and other forms of exploitation in the society - and working actively to change this situation.

Members of CAFRA define feminist politics as a matter of both consciousness and action.

PRIORITY RESEARCH/ ACTION AREAS

- (i) The Caribbean Basin Initiative
- (ii) Population control policies in the Caribbean
- (iii) Peace in the Caribbean
- (iv) History of women's labour and struggle in the region
- (v) Women's cultural expression as an instrument for building power
- (vi) Sexual violence
- (vii) Women and trade
- (viii) Women's social and economic conditions
- (ix) Women in Caribbean agriculture
- (x) Caribbean family forms:- history, present trends, future directions
- (xi) Women in Caribbean literature
- (xii) A directory of feminists and female professionals in the region
- (xiii) Examination of existing feminist theory as developed in Europe and the U.S.A. and its application to the Caribbean situation

STRUCTURE OF CAFRA

1. The Secretariat

(a) The Executive
Co-ordinator - Rawwida Baksh-Soodeer
Admin. Assistant - Stephanie Pile

(b) The Committee

- Ramabal Espinet
- Tina Johnson
- Patricia Mohammed
- Galetry Pargass
- Rhoda Reddock
- Cathy Shepherd
- Gemma Tang Nain

2. The National Representatives

Barbados - Kathleen Drayton
Belize - Diane Haylock
Dominica - Noreen John
Dominican Republic - Magaly Piñeda
Guyana - Indra Chandarpal
Jamaica - Joan French
Martinique - Lillane Marchal
St. Lucia - Alicia Mondesire
St. Vincent - Nelcia Robinson
Trinidad and Tobago - Gemma Tang Na

In the following countries, CAFRA has members, but no appointed National Representatives: Anguilla, Bahamas, Curaçao, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico, St. Christopher/Nevis, St. Croix, St. Maarten, Suriname.

There are Associate Members in Canada, Finland, The Netherlands and U.S.A.

MEMBERSHIP

Open to all Caribbean women who support CAFRA's general aims and objectives;

Caribbean women living abroad may become Associate Members.

Annual Membership Fee

Individuals: U.S.\$10.00

Organisations: U.S.\$15.00

(Payable by cheque or money order)