

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

ISSUE NO. 29 - MARCH 1985

IRISH WORKERS TAKE ON APARTHEID

In Dublin, Ireland, a strike by 12 women and one man, in solidarity with exploited South African workers, is having some effects on the community.

The strikers, employees of Dunnes stores in Dublin, are refusing to handle South African goods despite intimidation by managers and scab drivers. A spokesperson for the strikers said they had been pushed and shoved by managers at the door of the stores, and the lone man in the group arrested "although we were all picketing in the same way."

However, the strikers have persisted for over five months, occupying the store at intervals in an attempt to stop backdoor deliveries.

As a result of the strike, one news agent has issued a statement saying South African produce will no longer be stocked, and Dublin city councillors have begun an investigation into how many of the city's fruit markets and casual traders are stocking South African produce.

More recently, Dublin deep sea dockers have decided to impound Dunnes stores' produce. The strikers hope this will force management to move on the issue.

Spare Rib, Issue 150, January 1985

SIGNING FOR PEACE

The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) is getting support from both East and West bloc countries for its World Signatures for Peace campaign.

Proposed at a recent meeting of the Federation, the campaign appeals to affiliated and friendly organizations working for people's right to peace, the rights of women and children, national independence, disarmament.

The Czechoslovak Union of Women, a Federation member, has printed a

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special form for the collection of signatures which reads in part, "No to nuclear weapons on earth, in space. Yes to life, peace for present, future generations."

The WIDF is based in the German Democratic Republic.

WIDF Bulletin, Issue No.2, 1985

A GEOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S STATES

An international atlas of women that will map the social, political, and economic status of women globally is currently in preparation.

To be published in 1986 by Pluto Press (London), the atlas aims to make graphic and accessible the growing bank of data on women's lives. Because of the uneven quality of available data, the atlas will provide an overview of where women "exist" statistically and where they do not.

Designed for a popular audience, the atlas will include approximately 44 individual maps covering such topics as women in the waged and unwaged labour force, mothers, women owning property, rape, pornography, women's legal status, and political power.

Anyone with pertinent information or access to international data is asked to contact Joni Seager, 325A Washington St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02181, USA.

Women and Environments, Vol. 7 No. 1, 1985

and American Friends Service Committee
Women's Newsletter, Vol. 6 No. 1, 1985

MALAYSIAN WOMEN UNITE OVER RAPE LAW

Malaysian women from various political parties, women's organizations, and consumer and professional groups are making a united call for a re-examination of the Penal Code, and are taking action to educate the public on the issue of rape.

A number of groups have begun a campaign to increase public awareness

of issues involved - arguing that changes in legislation must go hand in hand with the provision of support services for victims - and a wider campaign to attack all contributing factors which persist in devaluing women's status in society.

The call for legislative change centres on the issue of consent. At present in Malaysia, as in many countries, the legal procedure places the burden of proof with the prosecution, and not with the defence. The women's groups argue that the defence should have to prove that the woman did consent to sexual intercourse, instead of the prosecution having to prove that she did not.

They also contest the fairness of evidence of "general immoral character" which allows the defence to delve into the background of the victim, subjecting her to often ruthless cross-examination.

Depthnews Women's Feature quoted in WIN
News, Vol. 11, No. 1, 1985

EUROPEAN WOMEN - FEWER JOBS, LESS PAY

Fifty-two per cent of European women aged 14 to 59 have jobs or are looking for them.

Of Europe's estimated total working population of 118 million, women account for 44 million (about 37 per cent) - 69 per cent in services, 25 per cent in industry, and six per cent in agriculture. However, women make up a disproportionate 41 per cent of the unemployed.

One cause of women's joblessness is that their training is not suited to present day economic needs. Despite the stated objectives of equality in education and training, European women continue to suffer inequality of opportunity and inequitable wages for work of equal value.

To promote equal job opportunity, the European Economic Community has created a programme which includes: improvement of the occupational status of self-employed women and women in agriculture; reforms of provisions of the tax system which have a negative impact on the employment of women.

The Courier quoted in WIN News, Vol. 11,
No. 1, 1985