

WOMAN

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Struggle

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THE CHANGING STATUS OF NICARAGUAN WOMEN

Nicaraguan women who actively participated in the revolution in an organized way, have continued to participate in the political process ever since.

So says Magda Enriquez, a member of the National Executive Board of the Association of Nicaraguan Women.

"We have women ministers, vice-ministers - in fact, in the two major cities in Nicaragua, the head of the Sandinista Front for the Liberation of Nicaragua (FSLN) is a woman. In the armed forces we have women commanders."

However, the difficulty of integrating men and women at the level of the home and family, and the sharing of domestic responsibility, still prevails.

"It's a lot easier to change economic and political structures than mental structures," says Mrs. Enriquez. "You cannot erase from one day to the next what has been put in the mind from generations through generations.

"That's why one of the functions that we have as a woman's association in Nicaragua has to do with educational programmes."

Mrs. Enriquez is also a member of the State Council of Nicaragua which is currently working to change the laws that discriminate against women.

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"We are fighting against the institutional discrimination in the law that we inherited from the dictatorship. So that means we really have to do not only the changing of the written law, but also the behaviour patterns. You can write beautiful laws, and if people don't agree with them or are not interested or don't know them, you didn't do anything."

UN Radio Series - "Women '83" No: 168

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NIGERIAN WOMEN FORM NEW ORGANIZATION

An organization has been established in Nigeria to work for improvements in the conditions of women in that country.

The organization, Women in Nigeria, was formed in response to the interest and enthusiasm generated at the first national seminar on women in Nigeria, in May last year.

Through meetings, conferences, publications and representation on other bodies, the organization aims at providing the means through which effective strategies and campaigns may be developed and fought in the continuing struggle against women's oppression.

Membership in the organization is open to women and men who subscribe to its aims and objectives.

Meanwhile, the organization is preparing for the second national conference on Nigerian women to be held from April 20-22, at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

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The theme of the conference is "Women and the Family." Sub-themes include: Marriage laws, divorce and custody; inheritance; acquisition of passports, loans, etc.; labour in the family; division of labour; dual career syndrome; ideologies; socialization; stereotyping; family and wider society; forms of sexual relations (within and outside marriage); and, pre-marital sex.

Women in Nigeria Information Sheet
March 1983

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MEETING ON FEMINISM AND THE THIRD WORLD WOMAN

"Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives" is the theme of a conference which takes place at the University of Illinois, U.S., from April 9-13.

The main goals of the conference are to provide a forum where issues pertaining to Third World women can be discussed in relation to the recent developments in feminist theory; and to encourage ongoing dialogue and criticisms between "third world" and "first world" women.

Panels and workshops will be organized around three themes: colonization and resistance; Third World women - images and realities; and, international women's movements.

Further information is available from: Chandra Talpade Mohanty/
Anne Russo, Conference Co-ordinators, Office for Women's Resources and Services, 346 Fred H. Turner Student Services Building, 610 East John Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820, U.S.A.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON CAMPUS

In the U.S., a recently released study has found that more than 40 per cent of the women at the University of Washington in Seattle, have been sexually harassed by male students and professors.

The study was conducted by the University of Washington Women's Commission.

Of the 467 women who answered a survey sent out by the Commission, 193 said they had been sexually harassed by faculty members, teaching assistants, staff members or fellow students. Five per cent of the women had also been victims of rape attempts by their harassers.

The survey results indicate that the rate of reported incidents of sexual harassment has doubled at the University within the past five years.

Her Say November 29, 1982

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WEAVING THEIR LIVES

Since 1974, the women of the village of Oodi in Botswana, South Africa, have been weaving tapestries which portray various aspects of their lives.

Through 26 colourful tapestries the women describe their history, their work in the fields and at home, the effect of their men leaving to work in the mines of South Africa, the problems and challenges of development before and since Independence, their aspirations for their children, and some of their traditional stories.

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The women have formed Lentswe la Oodi Weavers Ltd., a worker owned and controlled co-operative, using part of its surplus to support other development projects in Oodi and neighbouring villages.

A slide-tape of the tapestries has been made, and is now available for sale at U.S.\$100. For each sale, a large royalty is paid to the Oodi co-operative.

For further information, contact: Weaving Our Lives, Participatory Research Group, 29 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Canada M5R 1B2.

Outwrite, No. 12, March '83

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TRAGIC FATE FOR CHINESE GIRL BABIES

In China, just 200 girls survive out of every 500 children born, although the 1982 census shows that the number of baby girls at birth is only marginally less than boys.

These figures, reported in China Youth Daily, highlight the resurgence of female infanticide usually by abandonment, 'exposure', or drowning.

Although the 1980 Marriage Law forbids infanticide, it has remained a common practice.

The rise in the killing of girls is a direct result of China's one-child family drive which seeks to reduce the population of more than one billion.

Many Chinese still believe that without a son there can be no descendants.

Observer, Dec. 12, 1982, quoted in
WIN News Vol. 9 No. 1, 1983.

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WOMEN'S STUDIES

The University of Bradford, England, is inviting applications for its part-time and full-time applied course in women's studies.

The course, which leads to a diploma or a master's degree, combines a range of theoretical/practical studies and projects which relate to women, feminism, and society.

It includes options which provide an opportunity to pursue individual interests in the areas of race and community; class; Third World development; gender and biology; politics; cultural studies; welfare state services; and community programmes in education, health, social work, and equal opportunities.

Persons from a wide variety of education and employment backgrounds, are encouraged to apply.

The part-time programme requires students to attend the University one day per week over two years, while full-time students complete in one year.

Further details may be obtained from: The Admissions Tutor, Women's Studies, Postgraduate School of Applied Social Studies, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP.

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WOMEN MANAGE BETTER

A new report from the Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation in New York, has found that women make better managers because they excel at understanding abstract ideas, observe better and write more quickly than men do.

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In their report, titled "The Potential of Women," Foundation researchers say the results of their study of 250,000 men and women suggest that "theoretically at least, there ought to be more women in management than men."

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We invite your comments and suggestions.