

WOMAN

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Struggle

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WOMEN AND THE WAGE GAP

Japanese women working in the manufacturing industries in 1981 earned only 43 per cent of the wages paid to their male counterparts. Furthermore, this wage gap had widened by 2.6 per cent since 1977.

This was revealed in a survey of 19 countries by the International Labour Organisation.

In the same survey Swedish women were more fortunate, their salaries falling short of men's by "only" 9.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., the Bureau of Labour Statistics has disclosed that the highest average weekly salary for a man in 1981 was \$619, as compared to only \$422 for a woman.

The wage gap is evident in the administrative and professional fields, with male doctors and lawyers earning an average weekly salary of \$163 more than their female counterparts.

In the health administration field women earn \$188 less per week than men. Primary and secondary school administrators earn \$520 if male, but only \$363 if female, and the average male engineer - excluding the aeronautical field - earns \$545 weekly, compared to \$371 for women in all engineering fields.

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EUROPEAN WOMEN FORM NETWORK

A network of European women has been formed to monitor European legislation in relation to women.

The network was established earlier this year at a meeting of the Centre for Research on European Women, in Brussels, Belgium. The 50 participants - representatives of women's organizations and groups from all the member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) - agreed to set up a network to take action on national and European issues; to co-ordinate through information circuits; to jointly decide upon programmes; to make a platform for pressure and intervention on European and national legislation; and to push for new directions and campaigns on issues at both national and European levels.

The network will focus on immediate issues such as social security and women's position in the labour market. It will also address topics not presently considered by the EEC, but which might be specifically relevant to certain countries.

It will also exchange information on particular issues which may have been resolved in some countries but are current concerns in others.

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REGIONAL FEMINISTS MEET

The Second Feminist Encounter for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, from July 10-22, has demonstrated the tremendous potential and practicability of the Latin American feminist movement.

This was evident from the many proposals offered to improve women's conditions, the quality of theoretical contributions and political insights, the new issues raised, and the considerable creativity apparent in the use of alternative communications media.

The meeting, which attracted 600 women from throughout the region, was a follow-up to the First Feminist Encounter in Bogota, Colombia, in 1981.

In the intervening two years, although the movement is not yet consolidated nor widespread, women have made substantial gains. The women's

issue is actively raised in the media, universities and grassroots organizations. Moving beyond the initial stage of self-awareness as feminists, women are articulating broader political issues regarding the distribution of power in a male-dominated society.

It was in response to these concerns, that the Lima meeting organized its discussion under the theme "Patriarchy in Latin America."

Participants agreed to meet again in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1985.

Latinamerica Press, Vol. 15 No. 30,
August 25, 1983

WOMEN'S WORK ON THE MOVE

Among the activities planned to mark the end of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1985, will be a travelling exhibition on the value of women's work inside and outside the home world-wide.

The exhibition will attempt to show the value of women's unpaid work in the home, as well as paid work outside, to their countries, the world, and to women themselves to encourage their self-confidence.

It will also show the mutual interests of women "North and South", document their technological contributions and skills, and press for more and better training.

The exhibition will consist of visuals - mainly photographs - texts and a booklet. It will be available for booking world-wide after its inaugural showing at the U.N. End of Decade World Conference.

Interested persons and those who could contribute material such as photographs, video film, or bibliographies of work on methods of establishing values for unpaid work, should write to:

Ms. Leticia Shahani
Assistant General-Secretary
U.N. Centre for Social Development & Humanitarian Affairs
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA

"Women and Visual Images" ISIS No. 27,
June 1983

NEW RIGHTS FOR GRECIAN WOMEN

In Greece, married women will be afforded an equal voice with their husbands in all matters of family life, under a newly passed family law.

The law was unanimously adopted by the Greek Parliament earlier this year. Under it, a man is no longer legally the head of the family with a final say on all matters, and a married woman no longer has to get her husband's permission to set up a business, take their children abroad or choose a school for them.

The other main section of the law provides that, for the first time in Greece, divorce will be possible based on mutual consent.

Other provisions under the law allow a wife to keep her own name for legal questions and to choose whichever family name she wished. Children born out of wedlock will also be guaranteed equal rights with the offspring of married parents.

"This is only the start," says Minister of Justice George Mangakis. "We have won the battle to get the bill passed, but now we need to put it into practice with concrete measures."

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INSTRAW RELOCATES

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) has officially opened its new headquarters in the Dominican Republic.

INSTRAW works co-operatively with components of the U.N. system as well as academic and non-governmental organizations. It is supported by a trust fund to which approximately 40 countries have contributed.

For further information on this U.N. agency contact:

The Director
INSTRAW
120 A Avenida Cesar Nicolas Penson
Santo Domingo, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"Women and Media 2" The Tribune, No.
23, 2nd quarter 1983

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

A five-day international tribunal and meeting focusing on women's reproductive rights, will be held in Mexico in the summer of 1984.

The meeting is a follow-up to three previous international meetings on women and health.

It is being organized by the International Contraception Abortion and Sterilisation Campaign (ICASC), a network of campaigns and groups working around reproductive rights issues; and the Mexico-based Comunicacion Intercambio y Desarrollo Humano en America Latina (CIDHAL). The ISIS Collective in Geneva and Rome and the Boston Women's Health Book Collective ^{also} are collaborating on the meeting.

The meeting will be divided into tribunal sessions and discussion sessions. The former will bring together women to talk about their own experiences and to give information about the experiences of their countrywomen, so as to expose violations of women's right to decide if and when to have children.

In the discussion sessions participants will explore ways they could work to improve the situation for women, the ideas and policies they would support, and how they could work together more closely.

An estimated 500 participants will be drawn from among women who are active in campaigns around some or all reproductive rights issues; women active or involved in women's health issues; women health workers - in women's health centres or clinics, community health workers, paramedics, nurses, midwives, doctors, etc.; and self-help health groups.

The organizers are seeking funding to cover, among other expenses, travel costs for women from Third World countries. For more information write to: ICASC, 374 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, ENGLAND.

ICASC Press Release 1983

COMMITTEE SWAMPED BY REPORTS?

The U.N. Committee on Discrimination Against Women has recommended that, to promote quality and uniformity, reports required under the terms of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against

Women should include concise information.

This information should cover the social, economic, political and legal context for the advancement of women; the implementation of each provision of the Convention; as well as obstacles to women's equal participation in society.

The recommendation arose out of the August 1 - 12 meeting of the 23 experts from countries that are parties to the Convention.

Unable to consider all 13 reports submitted at this meeting, the Committee also recommended that not more than seven governments should report at any one session.

The Committee expects to complete adoption of its report at the third session, scheduled for March 26 - April 6, 1984.

Meanwhile, as of August 16 this year, 51 states had become parties to the Convention, the most recent being Venezuela, Greece and Australia.

"Women and Media 2" The Tribune No. 23,
2nd quarter 1983
