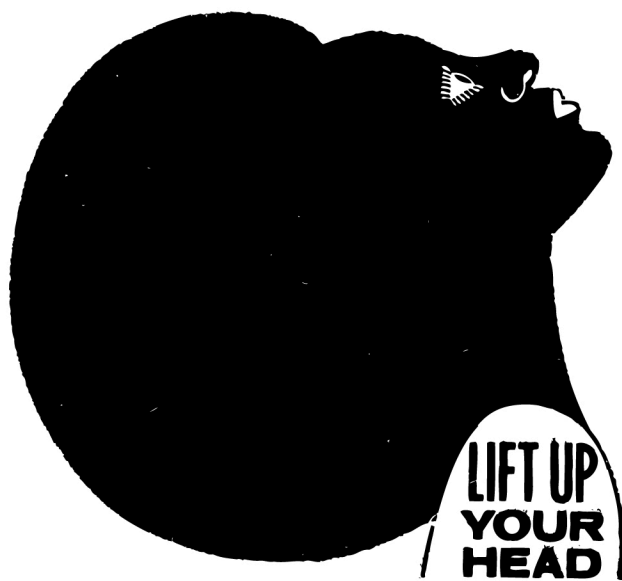
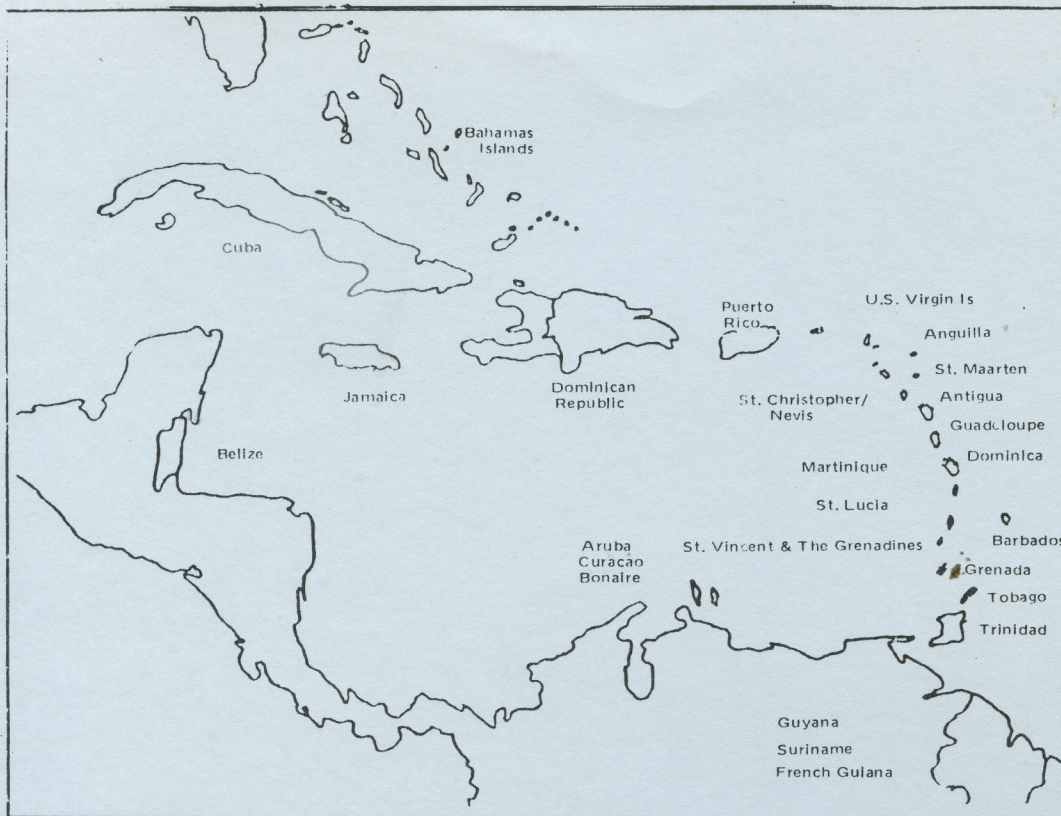


Carra News



Newsletter of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action

Vol. 2 No. 2 JUNE 1988



CAFRA

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Peggy Antrobus
 Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen
 Sonia Cuales
 Honor Ford-Smith
 Joan French
 Rhoda Reddock

Newsletter Team

Tina Johnson
 Cathy Shepherd
 Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen

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; and
3. promote the inter-relationship 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 organisations and shatter the myth that "feminism divides the struggle";
4. provide a focal point for bringing together feminist organisations 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 organisations and struggles in the region; and
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), P.O. Bag 442, Tunapuna Post Office, Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago.
 Subscription: US\$15.00 per annum (free to CAFRA members). Tel: (I-809) 663-8670

editorial

In this issue of CAFRA News we focus on the celebration of International Women's Day (March 8) in a cross-section of countries Caribbean-wide. We have placed the present-day expressions of women on IWD (and, increasingly, International Women's Week) within the context of the emergence of the commemoration of this day during the first decade of the twentieth century in the USA and Europe.

We are pleased to introduce a new occasional feature called 'A CAFRA Opinion'. We bless founding member, Honor Ford-Smith (now on a year's leave from SISTREN Theatre Collective, Jamaica) for her visionary statement on the Caribbean women's movement.

As you will, of course, have noticed, CAFRA News is being printed at last. Goodbye duplicating and photocopying machines. And welcome newer technologies and a more finished look. The Newsletter Team still contributes the typesetting and layout. Also, CAFRA's brochure is now out. And please send to Sister Vision Press of Canada (address inside) for the posters, flyers and cards of CAFRA's forthcoming Anthology of Caribbean Women's Poetry.

Rauwida Baksh-Soodeen

CONTENTS

1. EDITORIAL
2. LETTERS
3. CAFRA PROJECTS: UPDATES
 - Women in Caribbean Agriculture
5.
 - WAND/CAFRA Women's History
 - Inter-American Legal Services Association (ILSA)
6.
 - Anthology of Caribbean Women's Poetry
7. POEM - 'To Andaiye'
8. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
9. IWD ACTIVITIES AROUND THE REGION
 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines
10.
 - Jamaica
11.
 - Puerto Rico
 - Trinidad and Tobago
13. A CAFRA OPINION
14. CARIFEM UPDATE - Suriname; Belize
15. PRESS RELEASE FROM CARIPEDA
16. THE INTER-ISLAND TRADE
18. CONFERENCE REPORTS
20. DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON WOMEN - Trinidad and Tobago
21. NEWS NEWS NEWS
 - MEETINGS, COURSES, FELLOWSHIPS
22. PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED
23. IN FOCUS
 - FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION
24. LAST WORDS

Letters

Congratulations to all the sisters involved in the difficult task of getting CAFRA more established as a working organisation in the Caribbean women's struggle. Currently working through my own research carried out in the region last year, I share the view that there is a profound need for this kind of work.

The newsletter is very informative, but perhaps for the benefit of those of us not based in the region, the next issue could provide us with a more detailed look at what's happening in the movement throughout the Caribbean. Also, since there are so many different women's groups (or groups involved in the women's struggle) in the region, could you let us know CAFRA's goals to link the work being done by them, and how those of us abroad, who would like to, may contribute in our different capacities as activists, intellectuals, practitioners, etc.

Linda Carty, Toronto, Canada

*

Congratulations on CAFRA News. It looks good and has a very pleasant tone which I think will certainly appeal to its readers. Have you considered writing an article about it for a magazine like Caribbean Contact to make its existence known in the region?

Chandra van Binnendijk, Suriname

*

As regards CAFRA News Vol. 2, No. 1, I wish to commend the Newsletter Team on a very interesting and lively issue which I read from page one to the very end. It also filled some of the gaps and needs which I experienced personally since I left the Secretariat.

Sonia Cuares, Trinidad and Tobago

*

I am interested in researching the ways in which multinational corporations are making use of women and men in the Caribbean to do 'information processing' of various sorts (e.g. data entry, word processing, etc.) and

am finding it difficult to get information on specific examples of this phenomenon. I understand that Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic are areas where this is happening. If you could refer me to anything that has been written about this sort of labour exploitation it would be greatly appreciated.

Carla Freeman, Dept. of Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA

*

Your excellent and most welcome CAFRA News has just been pushed under my door. It is most exciting and stimulating. I had no idea of the extensive coverage of CAFRA, nor of its splendid coverage of women's activities in this hemisphere, and realise that I cannot do without it.

Marguerite Wyke, Trinidad and Tobago

*

Congratulations for the second issue; and I think it's a very good source of information for the feminist movement.

I hope you received the proposal for a Caribbean Feminist Congress to be held here next year. We would like CAFRA's help in its advertisement throughout CAFRA's membership and other Caribbean organisations related to women's affairs.

Elsie Done Molina, Dominican Republic

*

I am interested in receiving information on the CBI and anything on people working on the area.

Toxic dumping is also something that people need to be aware of. I'm sure you recall the ship from New York that sailed round the world last year as it tried to dump its garbage in Haiti and other under-developed areas. Even Toronto's dumps are predicted as being filled next year, and so they too will be looking elsewhere. I think you should list this as one of your areas of concern also.

Sandra Awang, 35 Charles St. W #303, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1R6

CAFRA PROJECTS

WOMEN IN CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

'SONG OF THIS BANANA WOMAN'

Many arguments are advanced for the declining representation of women in agriculture. Hannah's story is about one woman who loved her work on the land, who fought hard to stay in it, and who finally gave up, unable to withstand the forces against her. Let us hear the story in her own words:

"I started farming at 16 years. My mother was a farmer and I got to the stage where I felt I should have my own garden. So I got somebody to cut the land and then I started farming. I love it a lot. I love to be in the garden.

"I started planting bananas. I would dig 25 banana holes, rest for a while, then I would dig another 25. I was making 50 holes a day, and not getting extra tired. So I kept on planting bananas.

"But there came a time when the struggle in bananas became grave and hard, and that was when I had to go to the boxing plant to sell it."

In academic circles, they refer to these problems as 'transportation and marketing difficulties'. How did Hannah live and feel these difficulties?

"The road was very bad. I had to take two bunches of banana on my head. The children were too young to help me. Once I had two bananas on my head and I wanted to make a short cut because the road was so bad and the rain was falling and the load is squeezing me and the mud, all the mud and you slipping - and I walk and walk and walk because I thought the track was shorter but actually it was longer and I felt so bad I almost vomit with the bananas on my head.

"Sometimes I would have 25, 30 or

40 or so bunches to carry. Then I would reach the end. I got a lot of rejects, because I had to lift them up myself, and sometimes I tie two together to bring them out, and sometimes they got bruises, so I used to have a lot of loss."

Well, Hannah got her bananas to the plant, so you would expect that to be the end of the marketing story, right? Wrong. In addition to all of that, she had to contend with the unfair practices of the men in getting her bananas in.

"Most of the time when you came to sell, one man would get number one, because maybe this morning you had a little breakfast and it keep you back a little, so this man get number 1. And I would be standing there with my clothes wet from the sweat of carrying the bananas, and many other women would be waiting too, and then when you hear number 1 reach on the scales it would be 6, 7 hours before a woman could even pass two bunch of bananas. Because all the other men giving this one man all their bananas to weigh. One handing to the other, and as soon as this one finish he call another and he is taking that one's bananas, an' is so it go on. Men passing all the while. If you lucky, you might get someone to slip you in, or if you are in that line somebody may do you a favour and pass you on nearer the top so you can sell a batch. Most times I stay there till 5, and the children at home, small, with nobody. When my mother was alive, she used to give me a little help, but after she dead there was no help".

Between the marketing problems and the rejects, Hannah was in a jam. She tried to find a way out and still continue her first love, the cultivation of the land.

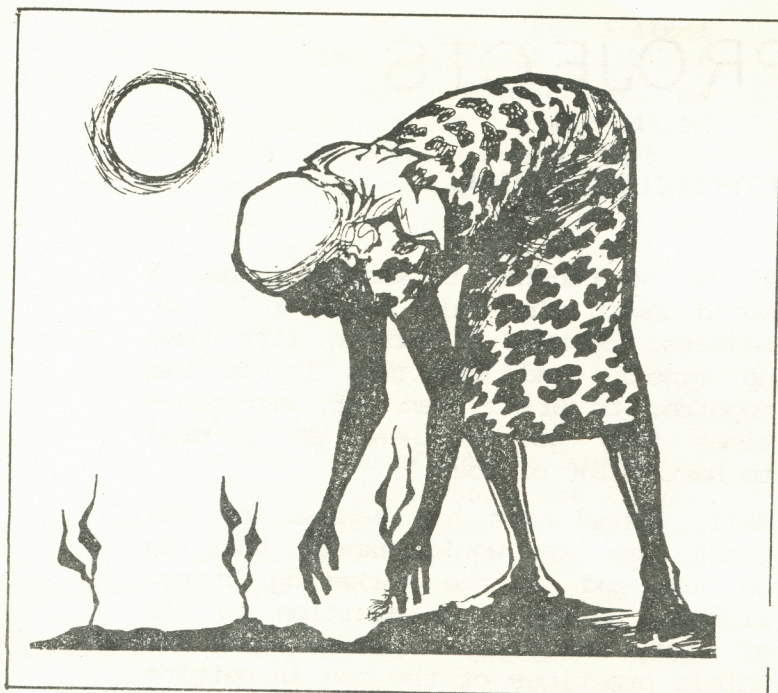


Illustration by Mithradir from Hasta que tengamos rostros, ISIS International, Ediciones de las mujeres 7, 1987.

"When I saw the bananas couldn't really help me, I couldn't put out to really sustain the children or look after myself, I asked a road driver for a job and he gave me a cooking job on the government road. I say, well, alright, during the week I will do it and on Saturday I will look at my bananas. Banana days I will leave early and go and fix up the bananas."

The cooking job was hard. Everybody brought something different to cook, and she had to have it all ready by 9 o'clock for breakfast and 1 o'clock for lunch.

"Most times, I would have to roast plantains and I would have to roast breadfruits and make bakes, and do cucumbers. So I would have to cough myself taking in a lot of smoke. My eyes running, my nose running, and I have to make sure I prepare everything. After a while, I said to myself, 'I'm going back to my backgarden'."

By now, Hannah's son was bigger and stronger, so he would help her lift the load onto her head, and take a small bunch himself. One day he went to school and didn't come back home for

lunch.

"Who give you lunch?"

"Mi father."

"Where you know father from? How come father can give you lunch? I left your lunch for you, why you didn't come and eat it? Don't eat no father lunch. Don't eat no mother-in-law lunch."

But he kept on doing it till finally he decided to go and live with his father.

"It grieve me a lot because he was the strongest one to help me. The doctor had already told me I was carrying too much load. I was pregnant, and he said that anything I was doing I should sit down. But I had no-one to help me, so I continued carrying the load. But one night I got really sick, and this time I had to hear the doctor. When I had the baby, he stopped me from having any more family, because my womb was slacking.

"After a while, it was too much for me. Maybe I start too early with it. Maybe all my energy went in it. I couldn't see any real success in it, because it was just me and the load. I still had plenty bananas, but sometimes I just used to cut up a lot and throw them out, because selling them you just barely get something to buy bread. I just decided I mus' stay home because there is no energy left to fight with bananas. I cannot think bananas anymore, because there is nothing in it."

So what does Hannah do now?

"The Methodist church has a class run by the Minister's wife. They teach us to do different things like roti, fry rice and baking. I have been to the class now for 9 years. I'm doing some little cakes and getting them off my hands, and sometimes I get a little cooking job and I occupy myself with anything else.

"We formed a ladies' group at the church. The church leaders come and talk to us, and it is a great spiritual upliftment. Right now we have a campaign to revive the church. We find it is making progress."

Hannah still loves the land, and is

strong enough to work it. The land produces well. But the road from the land to the market has led her to hand it over to her son. Few young people now remain in farming. Will the road from the plot to the market make him leave it too?

Joan French
WICA Project Co-ordinator

WAND / CAFRA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

Making Our History/Making Change was the theme of the 1st seminar held by WAND and CAFRA jointly, in Barbados in October 1987. The Report of this seminar has now been sent to all participating groups and individuals along with forms for detailing their follow-up needs. Interested persons can also get copies of this report by requesting it from the CAFRA office.

Letters have been sent to organisations requesting information on current history projects and their expected products. Women involved in similar projects, or who have such projects in mind, and who would like to obtain assistance either in conceptualising or implementing such projects are asked to contact the office immediately. Identification of projects is a prime need and we appeal to all members to assist in building our information database.

Two new projects have been received recently. They are both concerned with biography and are as follows:

- (a) Daughters of the Mangrove: The untold stories of Belizean Heroines (Belize: Diane Haylock and Claudia Ford);
- (b) Biographical portraits of women of Trinidad and Tobago (Trinidad and Tobago: The Group).

The project now has a new staff member, Project Assistant Camille Antoine of Trinidad and Tobago.

A sub-regional seminar is being planned for late August/early September. The target islands are: Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Barbados.

Ramabai Espinet
Project Co-ordinator

INTER-AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (ILSA)

The questionnaire to be administered in the survey was received from ILSA and sent to CAFRA National Representatives or CAFRA members in at least ten different territories, those persons having undertaken the responsibility of co-ordinating the survey in their respective territories.



Logo of Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), Washington, U.S.A.

The purpose of the survey initially is to obtain information about the activities in the region that circulate, debate, criticise and propose changes relating to women and the law. The survey thus seeks to incorporate all those institutions, networks, groups or individuals who, being part of public or state bodies or working in non-governmental organisations, systematically include in their women's rights activities a legal element.

The questionnaire, therefore, is to be employed not only with legal services groups whose daily role is to work with women and the law providing legal advice and counsel, proposing law reforms and undertaking community legal education and social and legal research, etc., but also with other women's rights defense organisations such as feminist groups, theatre groups, women's media resources, newspapers, magazines, etc., if these other bodies refer frequently in their work to the law, the police, child welfare authorities and similar law enforcement institutions.

So far, questionnaires have been received from Jamaica (Jennes Anderson), Barbados (Sheila Stuart), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Nelcia Robinson), Belize (Diane Haylock), Antigua (Cleon Athill), and Guyana (Karen de Souza). Questionnaires have also been administered in Trinidad and Tobago.

Results of the survey obtained so far were presented at the Second Meeting of the Planning Committee of the Regional Project for the Defence of Women's Rights (see page 19).

Gaietry Pargass
Project Co-ordinator

ANTHOLOGY OF CARIBBEAN WOMEN'S POETRY

The final selection of poems for the Anthology has been made, and the manuscript has been sent to Sister Vision Press of Toronto, Canada. Publication is now planned for Fall 1988.

A major addition has been an invitation to published poets such as Lorna Goodison, Dionne Brand and Christine Craig to include some of their poems in the Anthology.

Sharon Chacko, a Jamaican batik artist, has supplied the cover illustration, a batik painting entitled "The Tree of Life". Other regional artists have

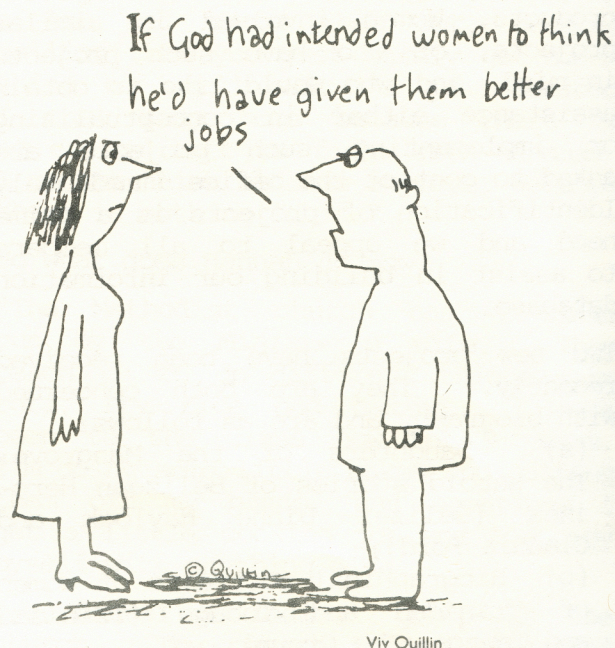
been invited to submit illustrations.

The Anthology is to be arranged by theme rather than author because it was felt that this arrangement provided a more complete picture of the concerns of the region's women. The themes are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Seer | 2. The Artist |
| 3. The Lover | 4. The Mother |
| 5. The Exile | 6. The Mourner |
| 7. The Survivor | 8. The Guerilla |
| 9. The Land | 10. The Region |
| 11. The Worker | 12. The Praise-Singer |

Sister Vision is producing promotional posters and post-cards featuring the cover of the anthology for sale and display at the 3rd Feminist Book Fair in Montreal, Canada in June 1988. Interested CAFRA members or supporters who would like to purchase these posters or post-cards should write directly to Sister Vision Press, P.O. Box 217, Station "E", Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6H 4E2.

Ramabai Espinet
Editorial Committee



by Viv Quillin in *Women Draw 1984*,
ed. Youens & Perkins, The Women's
Press, London

T O A N D A I Y E

If you ask me what I remember
It is the wide eyes, head tilted slightly downwards
And behind the ready skin of your face
The humour rising
Through a skin poised not for smiles
But for fighting;
Opening to the lightness of life
To keep the furnaces of anger and of passion burning
As fire feeds on air, but gently glowing.
We have learnt to laugh
Sometimes wryly
But frustration will not surrender;
It creeps around the edges of your curled lips
Rings your smile in circles of cigarette smoke
Feeds your insomnia;
Returns your feet
To the court and the street
The picket and the demonstration beat
And the batons and betrayals of a land of hope gone sour.
Guyana, Guyana, your daughter came home.
Where is her mother?

Joan French
Feb. 88



'Nana Yah' (Nanny of the Maroons). Card by SISTREN Theatre Collective, Jamaica

INTERNATIONAL

International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated for many years before the UN promulgated it in 1975. Its origin goes back to the beginning of the 20th century, at the time of working women's struggles in the developed countries.

From the 19th century onwards, thousands of women were obliged to work in factories in the USA and Europe. Their wretched conditions were inferior to men's, and it was falsely believed that working women could accept lower wages because, unlike men, they had no dependents. In fact, their important earnings were needed for the survival of the family.

As more women swelled the ranks of the labour force, they began to organise themselves and to strike for better working conditions. The most famous strike, known as 'The uprising of 20,000', began in New York in November 1909. The International Garment Workers' Union called a general strike, and 20,000 workers abandoned their workplace in protest at the appalling conditions.

While working-class women were insisting upon their rights, another movement was agitating for the right to vote in order to achieve equality between men and women. The suffragette movement in the USA and Europe was dominated by women in privileged social positions. As expected, the difference in classes gave rise to divergent interests and viewpoints. The bourgeois women in Europe opposed any kind of protective legislation for women in factories; they felt that it would only increase the differences between men and women. In addition, they asked for the vote to be extended only to women of property. The working-class woman's only 'property' was her working capacity, and she was exploited on two counts: as a woman and as a worker.

The situation was somewhat different in the USA. The bourgeois-controlled



Poster commemorating the 8th of March, U.S.S.R.

suffragettes did not openly support limited suffrage, hence there was greater collaboration between the classes. The workers benefitted from the bourgeois women's public support of 'The uprising of the 20,000', yet their different life-styles prevented continuous collaboration.

Working women in the USA and Europe needed an organisation to fight for their needs as women and workers. The socialist parties offered them a channel for action. In 1907, the second Socialist International and First International Conference of Socialist Women were held simultaneously in Germany. The latter drew up the following resolutions: one, struggle for the right to vote for the working-class woman; two, recognition of a woman's right to work as a fundamental principle (previously seen as a threat by men); and three, offer women political education. These events gave a new thrust to the

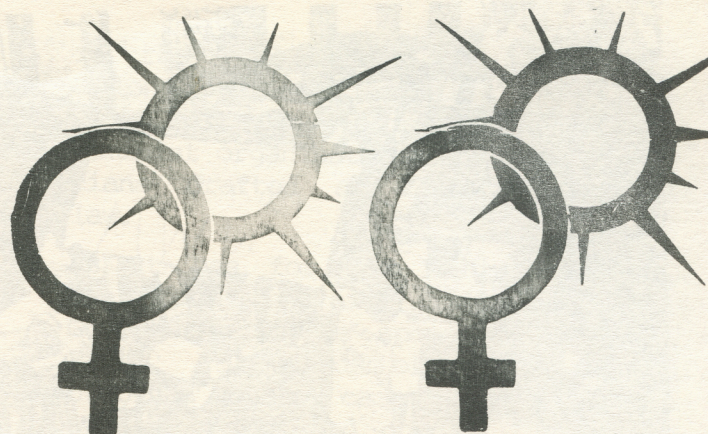
WOMEN'S DAY

struggles of working-class women. In the USA, the Socialist Party in 1909 decided to celebrate International Women's Day as a special day for women to demonstrate and to promote female suffrage.

The following year, during the third Socialist International in Denmark, the 2nd Conference of Socialist Women was held. Under the leadership of Clara Zetkin, 8 March was fixed as IWD. Both the idea and date were taken from a demonstration of socialist women in New York on 8 March, 1908. The struggle for 'Universal Suffrage' became the motto of the 8 March, and IWD has become a time for raising feminist consciousness and affirming women's rights.

The commemoration of 8 March is equally important for salaried and non-salaried working women. The connection between women and paid work is somewhat recent, dating back to the industrialisation period. Even in industrialised societies, the connection between women and work has been considered of minor importance because of the high ratio of male workers to their female counterparts. Men are usually associated with work, and political and socio-economic struggles, whereas women are associated with the home and personal relations. Such a view paints a picture of women as passive human beings, removed from the important events in society. Only in certain circumstances are they perceived differently: when they leave home and join the labour force, or become famous.

Women have always worked, independent of societal recognition. They have been responsible for conception, birth and the bringing up of future generations. They have also carried out a range of tasks that guaranteed the well-being and survival of other members of the family unit. But their work was unpaid and its value unacknowledged. The contribution they made to political and social



struggles was similarly undervalued. The traditional definition of socio-political struggle is linked with public affairs, state machinery, political parties, trade unions - all controlled by men, who have quite a narrow outlook of this type of struggle. The Greek root 'polis', from which is derived the word 'politics', implies a range of values including community aspects, care of others, civic interests and public ethics. Despite the discrimination, salaried and non-salaried working women have always struggled for their families and the entire society.

from 8 de marzo: Luchas cotidianas en favour del bienestar y la igualdad, by Maria del Carmen Baerga and Marcia Rivera. Puerto Rico, March 1988. (Translated by Diana Leung).

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE REGION

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

International Women's Day was celebrated by the National Council of Women over the period March 6-13, 1988, under the theme: "Reaching out to Overcome Violence".

Highlights of the week were church services; 'Views on Issues' radio programme on the theme; a march and rally; and an exhibition of women's work. The Committee for the Development of Women was represented at planning



meetings.

CDW spearheaded a T-shirt and poster campaign with the slogan, "Resisting the Violence of Rape", which formed the visual aids for the week.

The National Association for Mass Education (NAME) published a special issue of its newsletter, focussing on women. It called for an education programme "for women to become more aware of themselves and their worth, to develop their self-esteem and skills, and to articulate their needs; and for men to understand the humanity of women, their needs, their right to freedom, to pay them honour as the weaker vessel or dominated group, and to raise them from that position".

Nelciá Robinson, CDW Co-ordinator

JAMAICA

The 10th Anniversary of the celebration of IWD in Jamaica was indeed a landmark occasion.

It wasn't just the fact that so many events took place over a full week - Sisters' Celebration, exhibitions of women writers and women artists, films, a day of solidarity with women farmers in St. Elizabeth, church services, luncheons, a concert, treat and jumble sale for older women and panel discussions were all activities in the mix.

And it wasn't just the fact that this diary of activities drew participation

from such a broad section of women - clergywomen, working-class and middle-class women, party political activists and women with no political affiliation, young women and old women - and indeed, a whole heap of men as well.

Neither was it only because we as women had the chance to be entertained and educated about ourselves in a more organised and sustained way.

The most significant thing beyond all else was that so many women's organisations and individual women came together to pool their talents for the well-being of all our women - and it worked.



Carlene Davis performs. Photography: Shar Richenstein.

The fourth Sisters' Celebration, organised by Sistren in collaboration with several other women's groups and individual volunteers, surpassed all expectations in terms of turnout, organisation, people's discipline and whole heap ah niceness. A massive crowd packed the amphitheatre and spilled over onto the grounds at the Cultural Training Centre on Tom Redcam Drive in Kingston. And all the artists were at their finest, giving hot, hot performances out of love and respect for Jamaican women..

From Sistren. Vol. 10, #1-88

PUERTO RICO

The 8th of March officially became Women's Day in Puerto Rico in 1976. The observance of this date was the result of pressure exerted by a group of feminists on the local legislature to acknowledge women's past, present and future struggles. Since then, this celebration has become very popular on the island. Today, we not only celebrate IWD, but what is known as Women's Week. For seven consecutive days, multiple activities ranging from the exchange of flowers and gifts, movie showings and art exhibits to conferences, speeches and public demonstrations, take place in universities, schools, workplaces and in public and private offices. Lately, the media has joined the celebration, offering ample coverage of the activities on television, radio and the written press, as well as popularising historical and current research findings on women.



Illustration by Cecilia Marina Romano, in Claridad, March 11-17, 1988.

This year, the commemoration of Women's Week was marked by the ratification of a law against sexual harassment

in the workplace. This culminated a long process (including a three year fight in the legislature) in which feminist organisations and women politicians drafted and lobbied for this law.

As it has for the last three years, the Women's Affairs Commission of the Governor's Office sponsored a "Women's Fair". Thousands of people from all over the country came to attend artistic events, talks and counselling sessions about women's rights and other legal concerns, cancer detection clinics, conferences on diverse themes, books and handicraft exhibits and athletic competitions.

The important thing about the "Women's Fair" is that it brings together feminist organisations, public and private institutions, women politicians and artists as well as women from the community. They all contribute with human and material resources in order to make possible the wide range of activities that characterise the Fair. This is of utmost importance in a context where much more of this type of collaboration is needed.

Another positive development observed in many of the activities celebrating Women's Week this year was a concern with publicizing IWD's historical background. In many instances in the past, it had become just another celebration, like Teacher's Day or Mother's Day. This year, many of the conferences, a published booklet, a photo exhibit, various articles in the newspapers as well as television and radio segments, revolved around the struggles of the thousands of working women in the USA and Europe at the turn of the century, and highlighted the working class and socialist background of IWD.

Maria del Carmen Baerga

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

As far as we know, IWD was first celebrated in T & T in 1958 by the Caribbean Women's National Assembly, a group based in South Trinidad and headed

by Christina Lewis. Since 1981, this day has been observed fairly continuously by organisations such as the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, Concerned Women for Progress, Democratic Women's Association, The Group, and Workingwomen.

This year was no exception. Several events were planned to commemorate the day. On 8 March, the Democratic Women's Association organised a rally in Port of Spain, the theme of which was "Against Poverty and Starvation". This was followed by a march to the home of Christina King, a veteran of the labour movement. Among organisations participating in the rally were The Group, the Rape Crisis Centre and Workingwomen.



The U.W.I. Women and Development Studies Group (St. Augustine) honoured one of its members in celebration of IWD - Dr. Marjorie Thorpe, the first woman Dean of the University of the West Indies. Dr. Thorpe addressed secondary school students on "Changing Gender Roles" at a lecture to commemorate IWD. This Group also hosted a public panel discussion on "Dimensions of Women's Studies: History, Literature and Science".

Workingwomen, a Tunapuna-based feminist organisation, hosted a two-part Women's Consultation on the Economy. Guest speaker was Linette Vassel of the Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC), Jamaica, who addressed the

topic, "Women in the Economic Crisis: The Experience of Jamaica". Local panellists Patrick Watson, Daphne Phillips and Ann Rajack examined "Alternative Strategies of Economic Development". As a result of this consultation, a follow-up workshop has been planned on "Employment for Women: The Free Zone Experience - A Search for Alternatives" on May 21.

Cathy Shepherd



Hand-printed bookmark, Donna Chong, Trinidad and Tobago

The number and strength of Caribbean women's organisations addressing feminist concerns has dramatically increased since 1980 when the idea of CAFRA was born. In 1980 we were few and most of us had little power to affect the quality of life of our membership, let alone affect national policy. Today, we are many: University Women's Studies Groups; women workers groups active around advocacy or small business concerns; media watch groupings; research groups; drama and oral history groups; crisis centres; and artists' groupings.

In direct contradiction to this growth in women's groups, there has been an enormous increase in the difficulties facing women in the region. As the economic crisis deprives us of services in education and health, our responsibility for domestic work and childcare increases. Sexual violence increases. Our governments base their plans for economic development on the exploitation of cheap female labour. On a cultural level, popular expression (especially in songs) asserts our 'wutlessness' on the one hand and the social necessity of male supremacy on the other.

The contradiction between our context and our aim affects us as individuals and organisations. It leaves us vulnerable to attacks from forces who see the increasing organisation of women as a threat to their power. An example of this was a recent attack on Jamaican women's organisations in a leading newspaper column. The article claimed that the newly formed Association of Women's Organisations (AWO) has been formed to fight partisan politics, and that all this stuff about women's unity is really a cover. This occurred a few days before the firing of large numbers of women workers from Free Zone factories where they had just won the right to union representation. These attacks are overt - up front. But mostly we function in a situation of covert opposition and perpetual su-su. The contradiction between the social environment and our purpose undermines the delicate trust between women of different ages, races, classes and political persuasions. Our relations

to each other become mystified. Conflict and suspicion multiply and destroy.

There are a few preparatory steps we can take to deal with our divisive context. First, a general need exists for us to learn the lessons of each other's struggles. Not just our successes. Our failures as well - which too often we conceal because of the need for power, leadership or expansion. More specifically, at a national level we are often unaware of each other's programmes and priorities. We are certainly unaware of each other's histories, specific needs and internal problems. We need a forum - nationally and regionally - to reflect on our organisational growth, style and strategy in a continuing, critical and constructive way.

Just as important is the need to create a space for the mediation of internal conflicts - a space where we can reaffirm the changing motivations that bring us together as women. Our common ground.

At the moment, the movement lacks the skills and the consciousness to develop non-traditional forms of communication as legitimate processes. Both skill and consciousness of this kind are necessary to deal with resolving internal problems. Linked to this is the fact that we also lack original structures and processes for decision-making and dialogue. We may have democracy in theory, but whether in practice it works is another matter. We lack the structures for articulating the ways we feel power working among us - oppressing us and liberating us in practice. We lack a clear concept of leadership, and this is complicated by the myriad kinds of informal power which exist in the Caribbean (race, religion, age, education, class). Often our creative thinking fails, and in exhaustion we borrow structures or unconsciously imitate old models - like parliamentary procedure, for instance. Here is one form which conditions content because it polarises reason and emotion, language and action, argument and truth. We need to spend

time inventing systems of communication which sensitize us to each other's need for support and recognition, and ways of bidding for, using and manipulating power among ourselves. We need a space which allows us to admit what we cannot do as well as what we can.

Our survival and potential to transform our culture depends on our creative ability to prepare for the divide-and-rule wind.

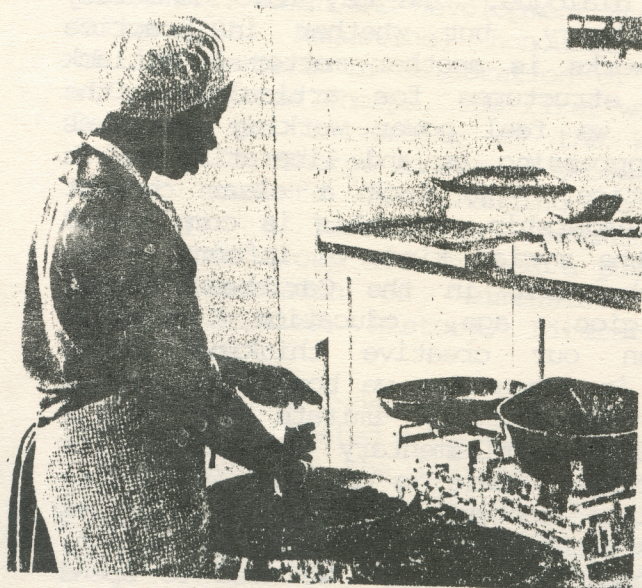
Honor Ford-Smith, Jamaica

C A R I F E M u p d a t e

S U R I N A M E

PRESERVING FRUIT, CREATING JOBS

The National Women's Movement in Suriname (NVB) is making steady progress with its fruit preservation project and has just expanded this activity by now also growing its own fruit. This project was chosen at a seminar in 1984, where suggestions for creating jobs for women were discussed. It got off the ground through the NVB's fund-raising activities, and later received support from West German funding to Suriname and the TCDC (Technical Co-operation programme among Developing Countries) of the United Nations.



Local government support is given by the Ministry of Labour, which pays the 2 women who work full-time; and the Ministry of Education, which exempts the project's part-time manager for 2 days per week.

At the moment, 100 kg. is preserved weekly: papaw, pomegranate, carambola, birami and golden apple. The aim is to increase this amount to 250 kg. weekly, which will mean employment for 10 women, and extension of products with table sauces, wines etc. The prospects are promising, but there are some problems: no suitable working space, and irregular supply of fruits.

The preservation activities take place at the NVB centre, where the fruit is sun-dried and has to be carried upstairs for further handling, which is very impractical. The NVB has not yet succeeded in finding another building.

The problem of irregular supply of fruit can be solved in the near future. The NVB launched a campaign not only among its members but also including other women's organisations, to interest them in growing papaw. The response has been very satisfying - just after Easter, some 600 papaw trees were planted by women who, within 9 months, will harvest the first fruits and sell them for a fixed price to the NVB.

Further expansion is likely, and can provide women with incomes earned through joint efforts.

Chandra van Binnendijk

B E L I Z E

"Women Working Together Towards Our Own Solutions"

The Belize Organization for Women and Development (BOWAND) is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental women's organization concerned with the empowerment of women in Belize.

BOWAND evolved out of the collective concern of a group of Belizean women who participated in a workshop sponsored by WAND (the Women and Development Unit of the Extra Mural Dept. of the

University of the West Indies) on 'Participatory Techniques for Working with Women', held in Belize in July 1979.

As a direct follow-up to this workshop, a small committee began to meet and hold informal discussion sessions. The committee developed a constitution and formally adopted the name of BOWAND, and the motto "Women Working Towards Our Own Solutions" in 1982.



bowand

Programmes and events organised by BOWAND have the following objectives:

- to provide information and referrals to women and women's organisations;
- to develop programmes that meet the needs and priorities identified by the members;
- to create public awareness of women and development issues in Belize;
- to promote the health and well-being of the Belizean woman;
- to provide a meeting space for women and women's organisations;
- to produce materials and gather information that will support the programmes developed by the organisation.

Membership in BOWAND is open to women residing in Belize who are interested in their own and other women's development. Their address is 'My House', 87 Freetown Road, P.O. Box 1243, Belize City, Belize, Central America.

PRESS RELEASE FROM CARIPEDA

Caribbean Peoples' Development Agency, Kingstown, St. Vincent, 21.5.88

Representatives of development agencies meeting in Kingstown, St. Vincent this week decided on a Caribbean-wide programme of action in response to a recently released report highlighting poor working conditions for women employees in Free Trade Zones and other export processing enterprises.

The plan was decided in a meeting held by the St. Vincent-based Caribbean Peoples' Development Agency (CARIPEDA), which brought together delegates from community organisations in the Eastern Caribbean, and from the Centre for Caribbean Dialogue in Toronto, Canada.

Delegates decided to bring the findings of the report to the attention of labour and women's organisations and Government policy makers in the Caribbean, with a view to exploring how to improve working conditions in the Free Trade Zones and the possibilities for alternative sources of employment.

The report was based on an eight-month research project in 1986 and 1987 covering St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbados.

The research, sponsored by CARIPEDA, The Centre for Caribbean Dialogue, and CUSO, a private Canadian development agency, was carried out by Cecilia Green, Dominican academic.

Among problems identified in the report are the inadequacy of current labour laws; the extent of foreign control of the sector; low wages paid to a predominantly female workforce; and the weak response to the situation of labour and women's organisations.

Delegates noted growing concern throughout the Caribbean with the adverse experiences of female workers within the Free Trade Zones, which have recently been the focus of protests in Jamaica.

Adrian Fraser, CARIPEDA Co-ordinator

For a long time, and spanning different periods in the region's history, people have been trading a variety of commodities throughout the Caribbean. This tradition of trade has grown, and with this growth, a number of trading skills have developed. As well, there have been shifts in the numbers of people involved in the trade, in the male/female ratio, in the commodities traded, and in the countries within which this trade is organised. These and other changes have had tremendous impact not only on the people directly involved in the inter-island trade, but also on the economies of the participating islands.

What are the distinguishing features of the present-day inter-island trade? Generally speaking, two kinds of trading exist. Firstly, there is the trade in agricultural produce - fruits from Grenada, vegetables from Tobago, ground-provisions from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for example. Secondly, there is the trade in manufactured goods such as clothing, footwear, crafts and cosmetics. This type of trading is usually referred to as the "suitcase-trade".

Despite the obviously dynamic nature of the inter-island trade, and its significance to the economies of the region, little effort has been made to record information about it. Consequently, available data pertaining to the patterns of movement of commodities between islands, the number of people involved, and the quantities and kinds of goods traded, is scarce. Our efforts to conduct research into the trade, while indicating that information on the trade in agricultural produce is far more accessible than on the suitcase trade, reveals the following:

1. Number of traders There are some 1500-2000 traders in agricultural commodities in the region. In Dominica, the figure is estimated at 700; St. Vincent and the Grenadines has approximately 450; St. Lucia has just under 100; and Grenada about 200. There

is strong reason to believe that traders in non-agricultural produce far exceed this number. There are, for example, at least 3000 suitcase traders in Jamaica alone, and at least 1000 in Haiti.

2. Sex distribution Indications are that historically the inter-island trade has been dominated by women. In some islands, however, trade in agricultural produce started off as being male-dominated. This is especially true in the case of Guyana, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As well, men tend in commodities such as livestock and fish more than women.

3. Residential distribution of traders The majority of traders in agricultural goods originate in the rural areas of the islands. In Dominica, for instance, 560 of the 730 registered traders live in rural areas. These traders, as well as those in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are spread out all over the island. In contrast, suitcase traders tend to be concentrated in urban areas. In Jamaica, for example, more than fifty percent of these, known as the informal commercial importers, are domiciled in towns.

4. Age distribution The majority of traders, and especially the newcomers to the activity, are under thirty years of age. On islands like St. Lucia, where conditions militate against opening up of the trade, the older established traders currently dominate the activity.

5. Movements of traders There is a distinct pattern of movement of agricultural goods between the islands of Anguilla and St. Thomas in the North and Trinidad and Tobago in the South. Dominica, Guadeloupe, St. Christopher/Nevis, St. Thomas and St. Maarten constitute the upper circuit of that trading flow; while St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago demarcate the lower. The primary importing countries within these two circuits

are St. Maarten, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

The little that is known of the suitcase traders originating mainly in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Guyana reveals that they purchase their merchandise in places such as Curacao, Panama, Miami, New York and Puerto Rico for resale in their own territories.

6. Mode of transportation The preferred means of transportation for the agricultural trader is by boat. This is true of traders from Dominica, Tobago and St. Lucia. However, traders from islands such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada cannot enter Trinidad and Tobago by boat because of governmental restrictions.

The suitcase traders usually transport their goods by plane. One noticeable exception is with the Haitian traders - the "Madame Sara's" - who carry out trade with neighbouring Dominican Republic by way of bus.

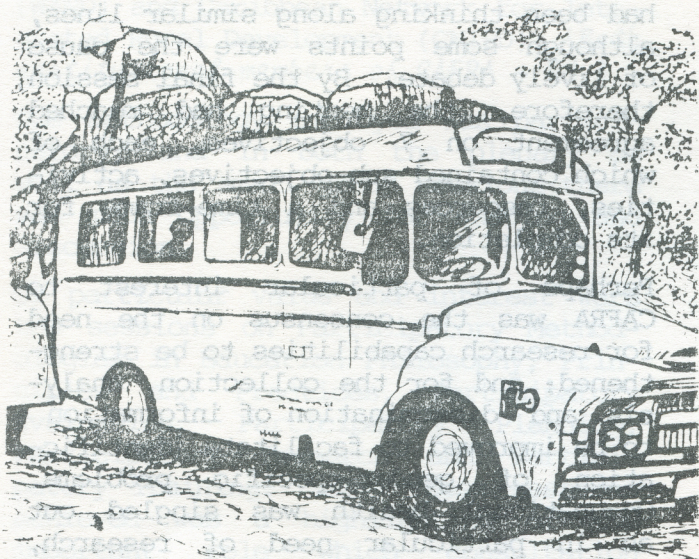


Illustration by Mithradir, from *Hastaa que tengamos rostros*, ISIS International

7. Activity cycle For the traders in agricultural goods, the trading cycle may range anywhere between one week and two months. This cycle is determined by the amount of time taken

in purchasing, collecting, sorting, cleaning, packing and transporting goods to the port, filling out shipping documents, travelling between ports, and selling in the markets.

As yet, there is insufficient data available to enable one to make generalisations regarding the activity cycle of the suitcase trader. What is clear, however, is that in order to avoid excessive costs in overnighting, her period of stay in the country where she purchases her goods is short, sometimes lasting even less than one day.

8. Patterns in trade The suitcase traders seem to be shifting the countries with which they trade more frequently than the traders in agricultural produce. A reason for this seems to be that the suitcase trader goes to a country to buy, and she will stop going to that country if the prices of the commodities she purchases are getting too high, the exchange rates unfavourable, or the accessibility to the country is getting difficult.

The traders in agricultural produce, on the other hand, go to the countries to sell their goods and have to arrange the transport of their goods. Changing of markets is a much more difficult enterprise.

9. Problems The inter-island traders are facing a lot of problems. A whole list of problems have been identified by studies executed in the context of the ECLAC projects "Women and Trade" and "The Development of a Database on Selected Areas of Women's Participation in Social and Economic Change". In the next issue of *CAFRA News* I will elaborate on this.

Monique Lagros
UN ECLAC



"Caribbean Workshop on Women, Health and Development", Trinidad and Tobago, May 4-6, 1988.

Women from all over the region came together for three days in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad for a stimulating workshop on Women, Health and Development held by PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). There were participants from 16 countries, most of them representing their health ministries or national women's machinery, as well as some local observers and myself from CAFRA. The resource people were from PAHO, CARICOM, and donor agencies such as UNIFEM, UNICEF, INSTRAW and the IDB.

After the meeting had been formally opened, participants were addressed by Dr. Luis Ochoa and Ms. Eglá Abrahams of PAHO re. that organisation's structure and regional programme, following which Ms. Marlene Tomlinson gave the CARICOM perspective on WHD. Then Dr. Gloria Scott presented the background paper to the conference: "Women, Health and Development in the Caribbean region - the experience of eight countries". This gave a comprehensive overview of the current situation in WHD, highlighted some of the problems common to the countries selected, and suggested areas of particular concern.

The participants were then divided into four working groups to tackle the objectives of the meeting. These, in brief, were: to review the regional WHD programme; to analyse key health and development problems and identify priority objectives; to develop a sub-regional plan of action to implement these; and to develop guidelines for the national focal points.

As can be imagined, the wide scope of these objectives meant that we were kept hard at work for the 2½ days remaining to us, both in the groups and in the plenaries held twice daily. However, the stimulating discussions and exchanges of national experiences made the whole procedure enjoy-



Women in Action, 1987/3, ISIS International

able as well as productive.

It was clear when the groups reported on the second day on what each considered to be the key health problems and priority objectives that all of us had been thinking along similar lines, although some points were the cause of lively debate. By the final session, therefore, the meeting had reached agreement on 7 objectives, each of which contained sub-objectives, activities, resources and a time-frame for its completion.

Perhaps of particular interest to CAFRA was the consensus on the need for research capabilities to be strengthened; and for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to be improved to facilitate identification of gender-specific problems. Occupational health was singled out as in particular need of research, with working conditions in the Free Trade Zones being mentioned as an important concern.

It is to be hoped that when the report of the meeting appears, participants actively encourage their governments to adopt its recommendations as part of their national policies.

Tina Johnson

"CARCAE Workshop on Participatory Methodologies", St. Vincent and the Grenadines, March 18-23, 1988.

The Caribbean Regional Council for Adult Education (CARCAE) Workshop on Participatory Methodologies was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from March 18-23, 1988 with the main objective of bringing together adult educators, development workers and researchers to revive the Caribbean Participatory Research Network. The more detailed objectives included:

- the discussion of participatory methodologies with particular reference to underlying principles, philosophy and practice; and
- the sharing of experiences and information exchange on the use of these methodologies and techniques in adult education and community development programmes in various countries of the region.

Participants came from Jamaica, the Windward Islands and the French Department of Martinique. Apart from CARCAE itself, there was regional representation by Women and Development Unit (WAND) and Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIIRD). (*Both institutional members of CAFRA - Ed.*)

The methodology employed was participatory, and in both the plenary as well as the small group sessions there was much opportunity for sharing and discussion.

Of particular value and interest were the sessions on Participatory Methodologies in Education Philosophy, Principles and Practices, Participatory Evaluation, Participatory Planning, Participatory Research and Participatory Training. What these sessions achieved was a highlighting of the important role which consultation must play at any stage of the development and implementation of an activity involving people. Further, they stimulated much interest by demonstrating how much more enriching these experiences could be when participatory methodologies are employed.

Participants learned a great deal

and shared a great deal, and everyone went away richer for this experience of sharing.

Regina Dumas, CNIIRD

"Second Meeting of the Planning Committee of the Regional Project for the Defence of Women's Rights", Bogota, Colombia, April 9-10, 1988.

The meeting organised under the auspices of the Inter-American Legal Services Association was held in Bogota, Colombia from 9-10 April, 1988. It was attended by some 20 persons, comprising mainly the co-ordinators of the survey undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the Regional Women's Rights and the Law Project (an initiative of ILSA). I was the representative of CAFRA.

One of the major objectives of the meeting was to analyse the results of the survey with a view to begin elaborating regional minimum agenda proposals and the documents which will be the basic working papers for a Regional Workshop to be held later this year. To this end, representatives from the various participating territories reported on the findings of the survey in their respective territories, and I reported on the Caribbean.

Participants also presented their perceptions of the achievements of the survey thus far, as well as the limitations inherent in a survey of the magnitude undertaken.

The proposed agenda for the Regional Workshop, based both on the findings of the survey and on proposals emerging from workshop discussions at the meeting, will emphasise Constitutional reform, Family Law reform, and Laws relating to Women in the Workplace and Violence against Women. Related strategies will accordingly be developed during the Workshop deliberations.

The meeting also recognised the importance of setting up a networking system to ensure, inter alia, continuity of the project. It is proposed, there-

fore to set up national and sub-regional committees through which the networking can take place. ILSA will function as the main co-ordinating body in this process.

Gaietry Pargass
ILSA Project Co-ordinator

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON WOMEN - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The government of Trinidad and Tobago recently published for comment a draft National Policy Statement on Women. It consists of an introduction, which notes, among other things, that "the family is the foundation of the society and that women have traditionally played a significant role in the maintaining of family relationships, supporting and supplementing family incomes"; some "broad principles to which Government is committed"; and a series of policy objectives.

Local CAFRA members, who met on 26 April to discuss the draft, noted in the comments subsequently sent to the government that "the statement, in general, was characterised by vagueness, and that it suggested a reluctance to accept that women, as distinct from people in general, are subject to certain obstacles and disadvantages in society specifically on account of their sex".

The comments went on to state that "The meeting felt that the perception of the family as the foundation of society is in fact disputable since one can just as easily argue that it is other institutions, primarily the economy and the legal/political system, which dictate the form and function of the family. To suggest that an entity is the foundation of another entity is to suggest that the former significantly shapes and directs the latter. Therefore, to suggest that the family bears such a relationship to society is a dubious assumption at best, since historically the family has reacted and adapted to other changes in society, specifi-

cally changes in the economy and the political/legal system. Even conservative sociological theorists have acknowledged this fact in respect of the family and industrialisation.

"Further, it is stated that women's contribution to family income is supportive and supplementary, and implied in this statement is the view that the nuclear family represents the norm in our society. However, since female-headed households have always been reflective of a significant proportion of families in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago being no exception, one cannot assume that the nuclear family is the 'correct' and 'proper' form. To do this would be to deny the legitimacy of a large percentage of our families, as well as to underestimate the important part played by social and economic factors in the determination of family type.

"Additionally, in female-headed households, it would be incorrect to conclude that women's contribution to family income is supplementary and supportive since, by and large, it is the major contribution. And, paradoxically, even where the nuclear family exists, women's contribution to family income is sometimes significant, and so cannot be considered merely supplementary".

Among other points, CAFRA Trinidad also noted that "Cognizance should be taken of the contributions to development that have been made by women, and government should commit itself to the creation of concrete structures and mechanisms for the recognition, valuation and enhancement of these contributions".

The submission ended with the recommendation that "the U.N. paper 'The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women', which was adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women (July 1985), should serve as a guide to government policy and action".

Germa Tang-Nain, National Rep.

Meetings · Courses · Fellowships · Etc.

JUNE 1988

Belize in Central America and the Caribbean: Development, Peace and Integration, 24-26 June. Regional symposium organised by the Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR). The project proposal for the symposium notes that Belize is "a natural point of contact and possible bridge between Central America and the Anglophone Caribbean". Participants representing the official (institutional), academic and popular sectors of the region have been invited "to come together and discuss the issues from their own perspective but with a view to arriving at a consensus". Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen, CAFRA Co-ordinator, will be presenting a paper on 'Popular Movements and the Peace Process with Specific Reference to Women'. For more information, write to SPEAR, P.O. Box 571, Belize City, Belize.

NOVEMBER 1988

Women and Development, 11-13 November. 12th Annual Conference, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Quebec, Canada. The organizers note that "true development must focus on people as well as the environment affecting them, and not simply on economic growth. The conference will be based on this new concept of development, while also dealing with other topics". For more information, write to GREMF, Faculté des sciences sociales, Bureau 2463, Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada G1K 7P4.

MARCH 1989

Women and Peace, 12-15 March. An International Conference which aims at "reaching across cultural, disciplinary and national boundaries to highlight the visible and invisible contributions of women in the global struggle for peace". Themes include 'Improving the Human Condition: Women, Peace and Development' and 'Women and Grassroots Peace Action'. Proposals for formal papers and/or roundtables and workshops must be submitted by August 15, 1988. For more information, write to Gollie Jansen, Secretary, Conference Planning Committee, School of Social Work, University of Illinois, 1207 W. Oregon St., Urbana, IL 61801, U.S.A.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS
NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

VIDEO ON CARIBBEAN WOMEN

A VHS videotape, "10 Years is not Enough: The Caribbean and its Women", is available to interested organisations. Please contact: Women and Development Programme, UN/ECLAC, P.O. Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

*

SISTREN E.C. /BELIZE TOUR

SISTREN Theatre Collective of Jamaica is planning a regional tour of the Eastern Caribbean and Belize in response to the numerous requests they have received from various Caribbean women's organisations and individuals. The activities of the project will include

popular education workshops on drama skills and drama-in-education techniques, as well as on women's issues such as sexual violence; theatrical productions; exchange workshops and field trips; and the display and sale of SISTREN materials such as textile products and books. The tour is expected to take place in mid-1989.

*

RHODA REDDOCK HONOURED

CAFRA Secretariat member Rhoda Reddock was recently honoured along with six other women by the Business and Professional Women's Club (South) of Trinidad and Tobago. The award pin was designed and made by Gillian Bishop, and featured the profiled head of a woman.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Asian Women Workers Newsletter 7 (March 1988): Using Audio-visuals for Consciousness Raising of Women Workers. Committee for Asian Women, 57 Peking Rd., 4/F Kowloon, Hongkong.

F.A.O. Division de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria. Mujeres campesinas en America Latina: desarrollo rural, migracion, tierra y legislacion. Santiago, Chile: F.A.O., 1987.

Contents: Acceso de la mujer a la tierra en America Latina: panorama general y estudios de caso de Honduras y Colombia/Magdalena Leon, Patricia Prieto and Maria Cristina Salazar; Migracion rural femenina en America Latina y el Caribe y su efecto en las pequenas unidades campesinas/Maria de los Angeles Crummett; Situacion de la mujer campesina frente a la legislación: estudio comparativo de Chile, Guatemala, Peru y Republica Dominicana/Maria Soledad Alvear; Mujer campesina: su situacion y orientaciones para politicas/Margarita Maria Errazuriz.

INSTRAW News 9 (Winter 1987). Special issue on "Women: The Forgotten Producers." INSTRAW, P.O. Box 21747, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Koudmen: Issues in Dominican Development 4 (Jan-Feb 1988). Small Projects' Assistance Team (SPAT), P.O. Box 268, Roseau, Dominica.

Mujeres 7 (February 1988). Special issue on "Trabajadoras de la salud en pie de lucha." Circulo de Estudio Feminista (CEF), Apartado Postal 2790, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Name Newsletter 1 (Nov/Dec 1987); 2 (Jan-March 1988): Special issue on women and adult education. National Association for Mass Education, P.O. Box 304, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Nuestra Palabra/Our Word 2 (June 1987): La Iniciativa para la Cuenca del

Caribe y la reestructuración económica de la región/ The Caribbean Basin Initiative and the Economic Restructuring of the Region. Proyecto Caribeno de Justicia y Paz, P.O. Box 21226, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928.

Quehaceres 8 (March/April 1988). Centro de Investigacion para la acción Femenina (CIPAF), Aptdo. Postal 1744, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Spearhead 2 (February 1988). Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR), P.O. Box 571, Belize City, Belize.

The Tribune: A Women and Development Quarterly 39 (Dec. 1987): Special issue on "Women and Housing". International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT. Trinidad and Tobago's National Policy Statement on Women. Draft. Port of Spain: Government Printery, 1988. (3 p.)

Women in Action 1 (March 1988). ISIS International, Via San Saba 5, 00153 Rome, Italy. Edited by Trinidad and Tobago's own Niala Maharaj.

Women News 18 (Jan. 1988). Branch for the Advancement of Women, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Women 2000 1 (1987); 3 (1987): Report on the Seminar on National Machinery for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women, which took place in Vienna in Sept/Oct. 1987. Branch for the Advancement of Women, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Women Unite Mirror Supplement 1 (1988). Newsletter of the Women's Progressive Organisation, Guyana. Published by New Guyana Co. Ltd., 8 Industrial Site, Ruimveldt, Georgetown, Guyana.

IN FOCUS

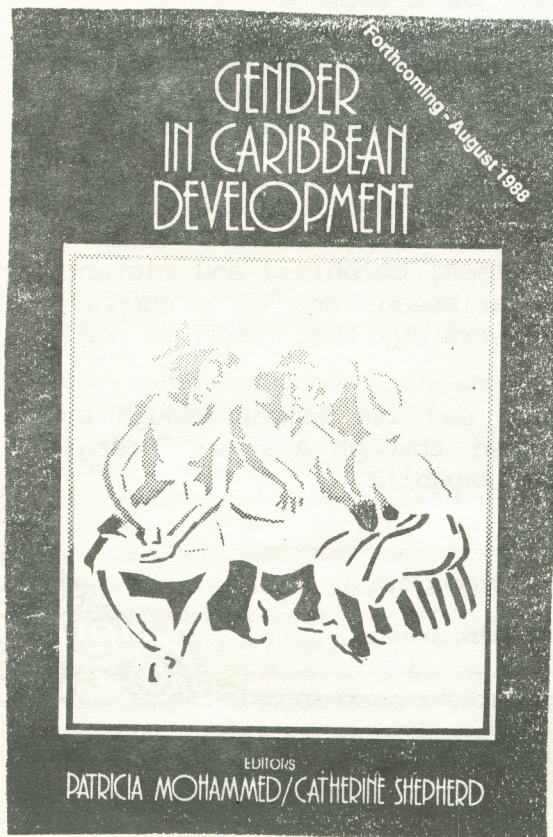
Broadside: A Feminist Review 9 (March 1988).

CAFRA received a copy of Broadside, which is published 10 times a year by the Broadside Collective, P.O. Box 494, Station P, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2T1, Canada. This issue includes articles on feminism in Pakistan and the recent Supreme Court decision that brought down Canada's archaic abortion law. There are reports of a Central American Solidarity Conference held in Toronto in February, and an International Conference on "Homosexuality: Which Homosexuality" held in Amsterdam in December. Also featured is an interview with Rigoberta Menchu, a 29-year-old Quiche Indian, and representative of the Committee of Peasant Unity of Guatemala. Regular features include Movement Matters, which highlights the activities of the Toronto women's movement; film and book reviews; and a calendar of Toronto women's events.

ISIS INTERNATIONAL. Rural Women in Latin America. Translated by Miranda Davies. Rome: ISIS International, 1987 (ISIS International Book Series, 1).

Abstract: Consists of four articles. An introductory article by Magdalena Leon describes the overall situation of rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Articles by the Centro Accion de las Mujeres (Women's Action Centre), the Centro Amauta de Estudios y Promocion de la Mujer (Centre for the Study and Promotion of Women) and the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer (Women's Studies Centre), describe the experiences of rural women in Ecuador, Peru and Chile respectively. Includes a glossary, a list of rural women's organisations and other organisations which support and work with peasant and indigenous women, and a list of audiovisual resources and recommended books.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION



In September 1986, the Inaugural Seminar of the University of the West Indies, Women and Development Studies Project, was held at Mt. St. Benedict, St. Augustine, Trinidad. The Seminar provided a forum for lecturers, researchers and activists in the field of Women and Development to examine some fundamental issues which needed to be addressed.

This volume contains essays by Caribbean scholars and activists in the field and reflects various disciplinary approaches, politics and methods which characterize Women's Studies.

Editors

Patricia Mohammed is Course Director (Seminars), Women and Development Studies Project, University of the West Indies. She is based at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Catherine Shepherd is the Documentalist, Women and Development Studies Project, University of the West Indies and is also based at the St. Augustine Campus.

Contributors

Peggy Antrobus
Christine Barrow
Lynn Bolles
Bridget Brereton
Amrita Chhachhi
Sonia Cuales
Kathleen Drayton
Elaine Savory Fido
Joan French
Norman Girvan
Thelma Henderson
Ralph Henry
Lucille Mathurin Mair
Joycelin Massiah
Patricia Mohammed
Nesta Patrick
Gema Ramkeesoon
Rhoda Reddock
Gordon Rohlehr
Marjorie Thorpe
Rosina Wiltshire-Brodber
Kate Young

Publishers: Women and Development Studies Project
The University of the West Indies,
Cave Hill, Barbados; Mona, Jamaica
and St. Augustine, Trinidad and
Tobago.

Enquires and Order to:

Women and Development Studies
c/o Institute of Social and Economic
Research.
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine, Trinidad,
Trinidad & Tobago.

LAST WORDS

CAFRA General Meeting

CAFRA has not held a general meeting of its membership since our launching 3 years ago because of a lack of funds. This year, we are once more teaming up with the Women and Development Unit (WAND) of U.W.I.'s Extra-Mural Department. They hold their 10th Anniversary celebrations from 7-11 November, 1988 at the Dover Convention Centre, Christchurch, Barbados. We are appending to those dates an additional two days for CAFRA's meeting (12-13), which may or may not be held at the same venue.

WAND's celebrations will include a Consultation and a Symposium. Both activities will focus on the economic and social crisis which the Caribbean is facing at present; how the situation of women and the women's movement fit into this overall scenario; and alternative visions to pull us out of this and move us forward.

This is a week which you must put aside from now, and for which you must start fundraising for travel, etc. Please think about and send ideas for the programme for the CAFRA meeting.

Feminist Encuentro

CAFRA has as yet received no further communication from the Dominican Republic re. the Caribbean Feminist Meeting planned for July 1989. According to the original letter we received from the Co-ordinating Team, however, this meeting has been the subject of discussion at several of the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Meetings held since 1981, since Caribbean women have been decidedly under-represented at such meetings. In October 1987, following the 4th Feminist meeting in Mexico, women from Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic met and decided to hold a Caribbean Feminist Meeting, and to create a provisional Co-ordinating Team to get in touch with feminist groups and women and draft a proposal for the event.

The proposal suggests that the aims of the meeting should be to: analyse the historic movement of feminism in the Caribbean; discuss women's situation in the Caribbean - rural, urban, black, colonized and migrant women; develop a feminist theory for the Caribbean; set up a support network; and define a regional and national strategy that could be used as a basis when working with women.

CAFRA sent information about the association and its member groups to the Co-ordinating Team, who can be contacted through Apartado Postal 482-9, Les Jardines, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

*Cover picture: Adaptation of Edi Fitzroy's Princess
Black Logo by Paul Aiken, for
Organization of Women for Progress, Jamaica.*



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 who are working actively to change this situation.

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

PRIORITY RESEARCH/ ACTION AREAS

PRIORITY AREAS FOR RESEARCH

- (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 the building of power.
- (vi) Sexual violence.
- (vii) Women and trade.
- (viii) Social and Economic conditions of women.
- (ix) Women in Caribbean Agriculture
- (x) Caribbean family forms:— history, present trends and future directions.
- (xi) Women in Caribbean Literature.
- (xii) A directory of feminists and female professionals in the Caribbean 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-Soodeen
Admin. Assistant - Tina Johnson
 - (b) The Committee
 - Ramabai Espinet
 - Patricia Mohammed
 - Gaietry Pargass
 - Stephanie Pile
 - Rhoda Reddock
 - Cathy Shepherd
 - Gemma Tang Nain
2. The National Representatives
 - Belize - Diane Haylock
 - Dominica - Noreen John
 - Guyana - Indra Chandarpal
 - Jamaica - Joan French
 - Martinique - Liliane Marchal
 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Nelcia Robinson
 - Suriname - Marja Naarendorp
 - Trinidad and Tobago - Gemma Tang Nain

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

Open to Caribbean women within the region who support CAFRA's general aims and objectives. Caribbean women living abroad may join as Associate Members.

Annual Membership Fee

Individuals: U.S.\$10.00

Organisations: U.S.\$15.00

(Payable by cheque, money order or cash in U.S.\$ or equivalent local currency).