

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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ANC SALUTES THE WOMAN

The African National Congress of South Africa has declared 1984 to be the Year of the Woman inside South Africa.

On announcing this, ANC President, Oliver Tambo, said: "It will be our special task this year to mobilize our womenfolk into a powerful, united, and active force for revolutionary change. This task falls on men and women alike as comrades in the struggle.

"Our struggle could be less than powerful and our national and social emancipation could never be complete if we continue to treat the women of our country as dependent minors and objects of one form of exploitation or another.

"In our beleaguered country the woman's place is in the battlefront of struggle."

Black women in South Africa are the most exploited and oppressed section of the population.

Outwrite Women's Newspaper Issue 24,
April 1984.

NIGERIAN WOMEN CALL FOR EQUALITY

Women in Nigeria (WIN) are communicating the message of women's rights to equality on a number of fronts.

Nationally, WIN is working to promote women's issues as areas of legitimate concern. They co-ordinate research on women and organize conferences on women's issues.

At the popular level, WIN uses posters, pamphlets, and radio to publicize programmes of action. To be most effective in reaching illiterate and rural women, the group would like to include video in their mass media work. They also have plans to produce press releases to give women a voice in the

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daily newspapers.

The activities of WIN's regional branches include: campaigns against sexual harassment, discrimination in work and public places. The legal committee reviews discriminatory laws, while another group is studying women's position in factories and attempting to increase women's participation and women's issues in unions.

ISIS-WICCE Newsletter, No. 1 March 1984.

WOMAN COMPENSATED AFTER STERILIZATION FOUL-UP

In the U.S., the Maryland Court of Appeals has awarded a woman U.S. \$70,000 in childbearing expenses, following the birth of her fourth child 14 months after she had been sterilized.

The court found the woman's physician, Dr. Thomas Jones, guilty of negligence in the performance of her tubal ligation.

Dr. Jones' lawyer had argued that even if the woman and her husband did suffer financially from the cost of an unplanned child, "these parents have the compensation of the love and affection of that child. That has a value which has to exceed the cost of living."

But, the court ruled that the joys of childrearing cannot be expected to wipe out the "economic reality" of the expenses that accompany it.

"The parents seek damages," wrote the court, "not because they do not love and want to keep the unplanned child, but because the physician's negligence has forced upon them burdens which they sought to avoid and had a right to avoid by submitting to sterilization."

Off Our Backs, Vol. xiv No. 5 May 1984

WORKSHOP REPORT OUT

The International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) has announced the publication of the report of the Global Feminist Workshop to Organize Against Traffic in Women, which took place in the Netherlands last year.

Entitled International Feminism: Networking Against Female Sexual Slavery, the book presents much original material on the practices of female

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sexual slavery and forced prostitution and their context within the overall subordination of women globally.

It includes the proceedings and conclusions of the workshop itself, five major articles on specific aspects of the problem in various regions of the world, and an appendix with examples of sexual slavery and documents from the United Nations and other groups opposing these practices.

Edited by Kathleen Barry, Charlotte Bunch, and Shirley Castley, the book is being distributed by IWTC, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. The cost of the book is US \$6 by surface mail. Orders of more than 15 copies cost US \$4.

IWTC Press Release, June 1984.

WOMEN GIVEN THE VOTE 64 YEARS LATE

In Mississippi, U.S., the all-male Mississippi Senate has given final voice vote ratification to women's suffrage.

Since 1920, when the 19th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, the Mississippi state legislature has remained convinced that women should not be allowed to vote.

But, the gesture is purely symbolic as American women have been voting for 64 years. Now, ... one other state, Delaware, remains the only one that has not given formal approval to the amendment.

Off Our Backs, Vol. xiv No. 5 May 1984.

WOMEN'S HEALTH TO BE DISCUSSED

The fourth international women and health meeting takes place in Amsterdam from July 22-28 this year.

Organized by the International Contraception Abortion and Sterilisation Campaign (ICASC), the meeting is a follow-up to a similar meeting held in Geneva in 1981.

Called the "International Tribunal and Meeting on Reproductive Rights," the meeting will cover a wide range of issues concerning women's reproductive rights. It will take the form of open tribunal sessions where women will

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present the experiences and struggles in their countries, and discussion sessions where smaller groups can share ways of action and working together on the international level.

Topics for all sessions include: reproductive health, population, infertility, drugs, pregnancy, birth spacing, infant mortality, contraceptive and reproductive technology, self help, specific problems of young women, forced sterilization, and health care systems.

ICASC Release 1984

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