

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-VIOLENCE NETWORK

After two years of groundwork, women of Islamic and non-Islamic Third World countries have formed the International Working Group On Women and the Family.

Says the Group, "We believe 'honour crimes' are just another aspect of women's oppression and male violence against women. It happens everywhere and not only in Islamic countries.

"Our objective is to give the problem, both in Islamic and non-Islamic countries, a woman-centred and feminist perspective. We fight it as part of women's movement against all male aggression everywhere, and while taking into account the cultural context of each country/community."

The Group has members in Morocco, Pakistan, Italy, Iran, and England. It is organizing publicity networks to produce material on violence against women, in all media, and are setting up shelters and centres to accommodate women victims so that women can discuss their experiences and gain strength.

It also wants to establish income-generating co-ops to give women financial independence and the means to say "no" to male aggression.

For more information on the Group, write to them at: A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2, England.

Spare Rib, Issue 152, March 1985

CANADIAN Y SPEAKS OUT

The YWCA of Canada has been publicly addressing several issues of peace and development in recent months.

Citing the "potentially explosive situation" in Nicaragua, the association sent cables to the US and Canadian governments, calling for the US to respect Nicaragua's sovereignty. The cable to Joe Clarke, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, also urged him to oppose any

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attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of Nicaragua.

In another communication with Mr. Clarke, the YWCA said it was "disheartened" at the government's intention to cut \$180 million from Canada's foreign aid programme in 1985-86.

The YWCA is also part of a coalition of Canadian women's groups planning an international peace conference in mid-1985, entitled "Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace." The groups have already voiced dismay over Canada's negative vote on a nuclear freeze at the United Nations.

Common Concern, No. 45, March 1985

POWER TO THE SISTERS

The Sisterhood is Powerful Institute, an international women's organization, was recently created by a group of 25 women from around the world.

Its plans include: participating in organization of international campaigns on behalf of women persecuted for feminist activities; establishment of commissions on women in crisis, such as women of colour in South Africa and the US; an investigation of airlines, tourist agencies and hostels that promote international sex tours; and a boycott of any census or survey that does not count women's unpaid work.

The Institute, which is not connected to any government, is looking forward to the UN World Conference in Nairobi. Members say they will fight any effort to "sidetrack" the meeting on "ideological or other grounds."

Her Say quoted in HERIZONS, Vol. 3 No. 2
March 1985

HARASSMENT AT HARVARD

In the U.S., a Harvard University professor has resigned after a female student filed a sex discrimination suit against him.

According to the Washington Post, this is the first time in the university's history that its officials have publicly discussed a sexual

harassment case. It is also believed to be the first time a professor has resigned because of such charges.

In the past six years, sexual harassment charges have been filed against three Harvard professors. Informed sources say two of them are still with the university.

off our backs, Vol. XV, No. 3 March 1985

SOLIDARITY WITH GUATEMALAN WOMEN

IXQUIC is an organization in Mexico which was set up in May 1983 to document the situation of Guatemalan women and promote solidarity with their cause. It includes women from all sectors of society.

The organization has its headquarters in Mexico City because of the dangers of working openly in Guatemala. Its work in Guatemala is carried out underground to protect the safety of the women involved.

IXQUIC - the name comes from the Mayan meaning "mother" and "the one who transmits knowledge" - also seeks funding for small women's projects in Guatemala.

MATCH Newsletter, Fall 1984 Vol. 8 No. 2

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