

# WOMAN

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# Struggle

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WAND'S PEGGY ANTROBUS PROPOSES IDEAS FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

Caribbean unity must play a pivotal role in the search for solutions to the region's economic crisis, a women's development activist has said.

Discussing alternative development models for the region at the second conference of the Caribbean Association of Economists here this week, Peggy Antrobus of the Women and Development Unit of the UWI listed the priorities for economic transformation as diversification and modernisation of the agricultural sector, land reform and the establishment of agricultural cooperatives.

In a paper presented at the conference at Dover Convention centre, she contended that efforts to find alternatives were taking place "in the context of global economic and political realities which do not yet support attempts to find alternative approaches to realising a vision of development, which places the needs of the majority of Caribbean people at the centre of concerns".

Antrobus said it was vital that Caribbean states engage in sustained effort to diversify their international economic and political relations; restructure their external debt so that debt service is reduced to a level compatible with fighting unemployment and poverty; and secure increased levels of development assistance to build the human and physical infrastructure for a more sustainable model of development.

from EC News June 2, 1989

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## SALVATION ARMY HONOURS EIGHT INCLUDING FIVE WOMEN

Eight former members of the Salvation Army School Feeding Committee were honoured for their services at an Award and Installation Dinner held on Saturday 13th May, at the Indian Bay Beach Hotel.

They were Lady (Faustina) Eustace, Lucille Estace, Gwendolyn Lewis, Sheila Douyana, O'Neil McIntosh, Frank Williams, while Pualine Young and Dr. S.A. Sutherland were honoured posthumously.

The Awards which were presented by His Excellency the Acting Governor General, Mr. Henry Williams, took the form of Ceramic Plates appropriately inscribed, and symbolic of the actual school feeding plates. These plates were made by Kathleen Huggins at her new Kathy's Ceramics House at Cane Garden.

At this function also the sixteen members of the School Feeding Committee were installed as the First Salvation Army Advisory Board by Lt. Col. Frank Thompson, Chief Secretary of the Caribbean Salvation Army who journeyed from Jamaica specially for the occasion.

The local Salvation Army Executive Officer is Captain Sydney McKenzie, assisted by Mrs. McKenzie, who also holds the rank of Captain.

From The Vincentian 22 May, 1989

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## SOROPTIMIST BODY PRESSING ON WITH PROJECTS

Soroptimist International of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has has another successful year of community service projects and fund raising ventures, says the body's Public Relations Officer Jean Moore Williams.

Some of these projects included the awarding of a full 5 year scholarship (including accommodation) to a young girl from the country to attend the Girls High School.

Skills training courses for young people here have also been identified by the club as an area that has vast potential, particularly projects that are geared towards providing the individual with a viable skill, that can provide a means of support or employment.

The Salvation Army is making commendable strides in this area. The organisation has pledged support to the Army in the form of a cheque for \$1,000.00.

"We have also assisted the Children's Welfare Fund Committee, who has made significant strides in the field of children's welfare. A cheque for \$500.00 was presented," the Officer said.

From The Vincentian 2 June, 1989

## CLEAN UP POLITICS, SAY CARIBBEAN WOMEN LEADERS

Women politicians of the English Speaking Caribbean who met at a Seminar in Trinidad sponsored by the Bustamante Institute of Public and International Affairs on February 16 and 17, 1989, expressed great concern that many talented women in the region were shying away from politics, and that politics is seen by the general public as being dirty.

Their recommendations came in the final resolution:-

Whereas there seems to be a growing need within the Caribbean for a Code of Ethics for Parliamentarians and Political aspirants.

Whereas it has been noted that capable persons shy away from the political arena because of the mud-slinging and character assassinations.

Be it resolved that political parties within the Caribbean formulate Code of Ethics to embrace:

- a. The screening of candidates for nomination to the political process.
- b. A memorandum of agreement among political parties and individual candidates to cover conduct on the campaign trail.
- c. A Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians.
- d. Sanctions in the event the code of Ethics is not adhered to using as basis the Trinidad and Tobago Code of Ethics for Parliamentarians and the memorandum of agreement signed by the Jamaica Labour Party and the People's National Party.

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## MOTHERS AGAINST MILITARY CALL UP IN SOUTH AFRICA

In a call 'to give them a choice', Women Against War said that the call-up of thousands of young white men had raised dilemmas for them as mothers because their sons were faced with conscription into the SADF. One mother spoke out:

'My son had been in hospital for a week...We were never officially informed of his hospitalisation. While he was there we learnt that troops, some of whom had done basics with him, had been sent into the townships as others had. Township duty was not defending my country from some foreign aggressive force. Our sons were being used to enforce unjust and discriminatory laws right in our country.'

Women Against War said that in taking their stand they were also identifying with black women whose families were deeply affected by the continuing political conflict.

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## WOMEN'S WORK IN AFRICA

At the end of last year Seventh African Regional Conference of the International Labour Office (ILO) was held in Harare (Zimbabwe). The report prepared for the Conference by the Office paints a broad canvas of women's work in Africa and examines their position in the economic sectors where they work. Whatever the sector, the "other" role of women in particular those involved in maternity and domestic life, tend to constrain seriously their income-generating activities, according to the report.

Whether toiling on the land in the countryside (seventy per cent of African female population live in the rural areas) or in commercial or domestic work in town, Africa women endure a long workday because their productive and income-generating activities are combined with multiple household tasks. Despite efforts made in many countries to ease their lot, they continue to suffer from inadequate access to education, training and resources. Women refugees and Black women living under the apartheid face particularly serious problems.

The problems have a multidimensional character. To tackle these problems requires an approach on several fronts, with full participation by the social partners and by women themselves, the report recommends. It is equally important, the ILO report concludes, to encourage women's association and the active participation of women in trade unions and co-operatives.

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## NEW JAMAICA DIVORCE ACT WILL SAVE MARRIAGES

The Matrimonial Causes Bill of 1988 has not made divorces easier, but may well save marriages which are redeemable. The Bill will also rescue those whose marriages have become a living hell.

That was the consensus emerging from a panel discussion held by the Bustamante Institute of Public and International Affairs on Monday, March 6 at the Courtleigh Manor Hotel.

Dr. Eileen Boxhill of the Legal Reform Division, who was representing the Attorney General, the Hon. Carl Rattray, Q.C., gave a history of the discussion leading to the new Bill last year. She pointed out that the revolutionary aspects of the new Bill included -

- legal recognition for the first time of marriage counsellors
- the establishment of the period to two years after a marriage in which a suit for judicial dissolution could be lodged
- the reduction to one year of separation as the sole ground for divorce
- the removal of the concept of a guilty party
- the provision that each party to a dissolution should pay his and her own costs
- the concept of a 'cooling off' period with counselling which might save the marriage.

Mrs. Grant-Woodham denied that divorces were being made easier by the Act, and said that the deliberate decision to call the Bill "Matrimonial Causes" was based on the removal of the concept of guilt which led, under the old Act, to fabricated evidence. Mrs. Grant-Woodham expressed the view that when a marriage ceased to exist in effect, the law should not put obstacles in the way of a dissolution.

With regard to property, she felt that it was time that the marital home be called "Our Home" and not as present "the man's house".

The Rev. Sam Reid said that as the law intervened in marrying people, so the law should take a role in the dissolution of unworkable marriages. He was of the view that the new Bill gives women a fair deal, and eases the bondage which women often suffered in an unhappy marriage. "Being married should be a happy union", and not a punishment, he declared, adding that the old law made an unhappy union a punishment. Mr. Reid said that the dissolution of marriage was less degrading than continuing in an unworkable union, and did not degrade the integrity of marriage as an institution.

Dr. Boxhill told the panel that the legal reform machinery was looking at amendments to the maintenance and property laws so that they might be amended to give equality in maintenance between man and wife, and to give the wife a right to matrimonial property. This reform could take place in the future.

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