

Women of Europe

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OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Belgium	: Nanette Nannan, 33 rue E. Bouillot, Boîte 9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark	: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153, Copenhagen
France	: Jeanne Chaton, 43 Avenue Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Germany	: Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermanns Weg 23, 2 Hamburg 61
Greece	: Effi Kalliga-Kanonidou, 10 Neofytou Douka St., Athens TT 138
Ireland	: Janet Martin, 2 Claremont Close, Glasvenin, Dublin 11
Italy	: Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, 47 Via Borgognona, 00187 Rome
Luxembourg	: Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands	: Marjolijn Uitzinger, Fivelingo 207, Zoetermeer
United Kingdom	: Peggy Crane, 12 Grove Park Road, Chiswick W 4
European Parliament	: Lidya Gazzo, 17 avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Production	: J.A. Pirlot
Editor	: Fausta Deshormes, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

The wind of crisis blows strong throughout the world. Individuals, firms, whole countries resemble groups of walkers lost in the swirl of a winter snowstorm: they all want to preserve what food and warmth they have yet each wishes to take comfort from the strength of the others. For how can anyone come through such danger all alone? It is together - and only together - that the refuge will be reached.

Whether we are talking about industrial policy or women's place in the labour market, about development aid or energy plans, every decision affecting our future should be judged first and foremost by this simple yardstick - does it represent a victory for egotism or for solidarity ?

Here then, we give you our most sincere wish for 1983 : "MAY WE ALL IN 1983 CONVEY TO OTHERS AND RECEIVE IN RETURN ABUNDANT SIGNS OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCE !"

Happy New Year !

Women of Europe

Women and development

Women's role in development is a factor which is becoming more and more clearly perceived in the various bodies where plans are laid for cooperation between the European Community and the developing countries. Two events in particular give evidence of this trend. Firstly, the Community Member States have set out to define a new Community development policy, put forward in a Memorandum by Mr Pisani, Member of the Commission responsible for this issue and secondly, negotiations will start up again in 1983 between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, to work out the form of the new Convention which is to come after Lome II.

Ms Andrée VANDERHAEGHE has been given the special responsibility in the European Commission's services, for questions relating to women in the recently-created "Human resources" division of the Directorate General for Development.

At its recent meeting in Rome, the Consultative Assembly, composed of members of the European Parliament and parliamentarians from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which signed the second Lome Convention (countries known as the ACP) discussed various reports, among them one on cultural cooperation. The latter, written by Mr Raymond Chasle, Ambassador of Mauritius, has some interesting comments to make on the place of women in the future development of the Third World.

It starts by expressing a concern : *"Development models transposed from the industrialized countries to the developing countries, with their systems of education, transfers of technology and planning methods tend to relegate women in the Third World to a marginal role in development"*.

The report goes on to indicate the objective : *"In order to increase the role played by women in development in the ACP countries it is necessary to recognize their capacity for work, improve their living conditions and offer them the means to participate fully in the community's production and development"*.

One clarification is made very forcibly : *Contrary to the claims made in various international forums that are coloured by certain ideas from the industrialized countries, it is not a question of including and integrating women in the development process. Rather it is a question of creating certain structures and bringing about a fundamental change in attitudes in order better to understand women's role in development, to expand it, and to redefine the ways women participate in development, since development is aimed at every sphere of human social and cultural activity and at the full development of the person, irrespective of sex."*

Even where it seems as though progress is being made, women continue to get the worst of the deal : one such example - out of many - is in agriculture, where new and modern methods being introduced are designed primarily with men in view.

The "Chasle Report" makes a series of recommendations :

- development programmes must take into account the social, family, educational and health aspects of the fight against hunger;
- women must be integrated into more employment sectors;
- schooling and vocational training must be adapted for women;
- women and women's organizations in the ACP must play a larger part in all present and future development projects;
- these projects must include evaluation procedures to assess the extent to which they have improved the situation of women.

The Resolution adopted in Rome by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly *"recommends that the parties negotiating (the next ACP-EEC Convention) ... take into consideration the practical proposals contained (in the Chasle Report) on various specific cultural sectors, especially the socio-cultural sphere, in particular the role of women in development, education, training, ..."*

Ministers in the Ten responsible for development cooperation met recently in Brussels and also took a stand on Community development aid in relation to the status of women in the developing countries.

In adopting its conclusions, the most important of which are described below, the Council of Ministers: *"anxious that its co-operation measures should contribute to the harmonious development of the entire population in the countries assisted, is prepared to take full account of the role of women in development and of the specific problems of women. The Community is aware that development aid projects or operations in favour of women must be carried out in conformity with the development objectives of the recipient country"*.

The orientations given by the European Council of Ministers will be useful in judging not only the Community's aid programme but also its participation in international forums where the situation of Third World women is discussed. An assessment can thus be made of the progress since the Copenhagen meeting in the summer of 1980, when the plight of women in developing countries was so eloquently described.

The text adopted by the Council of Ministers starts by describing the role and status of women, noting that they play a fundamental economic role, though one which is often unrecognized or under-valued, in developing countries. The Ministers find that women are generally underprivileged in comparison with the male part of the population and do not participate equally in the development process, though it is difficult to generalize because of the significant variations which exist between regions and countries within regions. The point is also made that modernization and development sometimes have detrimental effects on the status of women especially when they lose their economic independence or when traditional family structures are broken resulting among other things in a substantially heavier work-load for women.

Concerning development assistance itself, the text acknowledges that the level of women in development assistance is rather low on the donor side as well as on the recipient side.

The analysis made by the European Communities' Commission of the part of Community aid of special relevance to women has shown that the direct effects of the projects implemented with the Community's assistance are distributed unequally to the detriment of the female population. Furthermore a good number of projects have indirect, unexpected effects which are harmful to the status and situation of women. These mistakes, the Ministers conclude, are due to the fact that when the projects were devised, insufficient account was taken of the diversity of elements within the populations concerned, and to the fact that, for socio-cultural and economic reasons, there is often a fundamental inequality between men and women in the recipient societies as regards negotiating and decision-making powers.

To better achieve its objectives, the Community should take account of certain constraints which add to the problems inherent in development cooperation. Among these constraints are cultural, religious, social and economic factors which determine the status and low level of participation of women in development. There are a number of parameters which must be considered and it must also be remembered that the women of the developing countries do not constitute a homogeneous group.

To raise the level of participation of women, the responsible authorities need to be made more aware of the problem. According to the text adopted *"The Community should enter into a dialogue with developing countries in order to make the responsible authorities heedful to all the advantages that could derive from better integration of women."* In addition, *"the Commission should to the extent possible have contacts with women's organizations in developing countries that have an interest in development assistance"*, and *"in the framework of development projects or programmes, women's groups and organizations should be supported by helping them to organize and to develop their own capabilities and means"*. In the same way, *"the Commission should enhance the participation of female personnel in development projects"*.

It should also be noted that *"the Council (of Ministers) welcomes the decision of the Commission to establish a 'human resources' service including a unit entrusted with the problems of women in developing countries which will have as one of its tasks to raise the level of awareness of this question both within the Commission services and in the delegations in the developing countries"*.

After indicating how the interests of women can be taken into account more in project preparation (more consultation with the local population, better appraisal of the effects on the female part of the population in question, active participation of women at all stages, etc.), the text mentions the areas where the role of women is particularly important : job and income creation, health, education, etc.

The Council of Ministers has agreed to examine in the second half of 1984 the application in practice of these conclusions, on the basis of a report from the Commission.

Useful address :

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General - Development
Human Resources Service
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

School and university education

Young people stay longer in full-time education than was the case ten years ago. For example in the Community of Ten in 1980/81, 36% of 18-year old men and the same percentage of women of the same age were full-time students compared with corresponding figures of 28% for men and 23% for women in 1970/71. A relative increase of an approximately similar nature is to be found in the enrolment ratios for all ages from 15 to 24 years, although considerable differences occur between individual member countries.

The extension to higher ages of the full-time education of young women is particularly noticeable. At ages up to 18 years in 1980/81 the percentage of the Community's population of girls still at school was equal to or slightly higher than that of boys. In fact in five Member States there were more girls than boys in the second stage of second level education : for 100 boys, there were 135 girls in Ireland, 117 in Belgium, 114 in France, 106 in Germany, and 101 in the UK. These figures are the more remarkable as the population of the age group concerned numbered about 5% less girls than boys. (On the other hand, remember that in this age-group part-time education associated with apprenticeship in certain countries is undertaken more by boys than by girls).

Only beyond the age of 19 years and at the third level of education are women still in a minority relative to men; even so, they are now more numerous than they were formerly. For the Ten taken as a whole, there were 67 women for 100 men at this educational level in 1970/71, whereas the figure had risen to 76 by 1980/81, according to an estimate by EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

The figures for individual countries result from a complex set of circumstances making direct comparison difficult. Not attempting any conclusions then, we can simply note that the number of young women in higher education for every 100 young men has risen, over the past ten years, from 52 to 70 in Germany, from 76 to 95 in France, from 60 to 77 in Italy, from 36 to 56 in the Netherlands, from 57 to 80 in Belgium, from 41 to 62 in Luxembourg, from 67 to 68 in the UK, from 51 to 78 in Ireland and from 67 to 96 in Denmark. Figures for Greece rose from 46 in 1970/71 to 62 in 1979/80, the 80/81 figures for this country not being available.

Useful address :

EUROSTAT
B.P. 1907
Luxembourg

FERNAND SPAAK PRIZE

The peoples of the European Community and of the United States of America, through their common origin, share the same ideals of peace and freedom. But if they are to flourish, these common ideals demand constant and mutual effort. Speaking at Harvard University in 1981, the late Fernand Spaak said that being partners required a perception of one another which went beyond the normal needs of diplomacy or understanding. To honour the memory of this European servant, the Commission has created a Fernand Spaak Prize. It will be awarded to a person whose work has contributed to a strengthening of the mutual understanding or the links between the European Community and the United States.

Useful address :

Commission of the European Communities
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Scholarships : where do women stand?

Mechtild von Alemann, Member of the European Parliament, in a written question to the European Commission, asked it to provide a summary of scholarship grants it has awarded to women and girls, indicating in each case the studies, areas of training or subjects concerned, and the conditions on which the grants were made.

In its reply, the Commission stated that it did not provide scholarship grants for women and girls specifically: scholarships went to female and male candidates alike. However, by going through its files, it had been able to come up with some figures that were not devoid of interest.

Since 1977, 52 grants have been awarded to female candidates under the Community's scientific and technical training programme. On the basis of the last competitive examination held in late June 1982, some 10 grants, out of a total of 31, were awarded to female applicants.

With regard to the grants for research into European integration awarded to young university teachers, 7, 2 and 3 grants respectively were awarded to women, out of a total of 17 in 1980, 21 in 1981 and 21 in 1982. Nevertheless, the percentage of grants awarded to female candidates is higher than the percentage of applications received from women.

Since 1979, the first year of the programme for training young European executives in Japan, 10 grants out of a total of 73 have been awarded to women.

Grants for short study visits are also awarded annually in the context of the Community's action programme in the field of education. As regards the visits scheme for local and regional administrators of educational establishments catering for the 11 - 19 age range, from a total of 168 grants in 1980 and 198 grants in 1981, successful women candidates numbered 24 and 16 respectively. As regards the scheme for teaching, research and administrative staff in higher education institutions, there were 27 women out of a total of 132 grant holders in 1980 and 9 out of a total of 73 in 1981.

The number of scholarship grants going to women is somewhat surprising given the growing number of women who undertake third-level studies. Questioned by "Women of Europe", various women lecturers or social scientists offered two explanations : firstly, family responsibilities prevent women from availing themselves of opportunities that do arise and secondly, women are not so accustomed as men to finding out what scholarships are available and applying for them.

Why not apply ?

As part of the Community's Action Programme in the educational sphere, the European Commission intervenes financially, in the form of grants, through two particularly interesting schemes.

The first of these is third-level study programmes in which at least two establishments, in two Member States participate. Financial assistance is given not only for the programme development itself, but also for preparatory visits.

The Commission of the European Communities also contributes financially to study trips of short duration (four weeks maximum) by teachers, research workers, or those with administrative posts in university institutions, to higher education establishments in another Community country.

Further details and application forms for these programmes may be obtained from the Office for Education Cooperation. The closing date for applications is 1 April 1983 for the joint programmes and 15 June 1983 for the short study trips.

Useful address : Office for Education Cooperation
rue de la Concorde 51
1050 Brussels. Tel : (32)(2) 512.17.34.

The European Social Fund

On the joint initiative of Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner for employment, social affairs and education and Mr Antonio Giolitti, Commissioner with special responsibility for the coordination of Community funds, the Commission has proposed changes in the operation of the European Social Fund.

The Commission confirms that the Fund should continue to concentrate its resources in areas of greatest need (the less developed regions and in those areas now experiencing a marked decline of traditional industries) but it must also, in its own way, serve to promote economic growth and encourage a more equitable distribution of employment opportunities.

Among the most important changes envisaged, one concerns young people. Given the particular importance attached to the problems of youth unemployment and the need to ensure that broad-based vocational training (including work experience) is made available to all young people completing compulsory schooling, a separate category of intervention is proposed to cater specifically for the needs of young people under the age of 18.

By this means, the European Social Fund would be supporting efforts by the Member States to establish a "social guarantee" for young people, as proposed by the Commission in its communication on vocational training in the 1980's.

The selection of applications for financing by the Fund should continue to be made by the Commission on the basis of geographical criteria and Community policy priorities. In establishing the ranking order of the different areas of the Community, four separate indicators - general unemployment, long-term structural unemployment, youth unemployment and GDP per head - will be used.

A geographical index would be established on this basis each year by the Commission together with its annual Guidelines. The Commission would identify those applications meeting the criteria for priority set out in the Guidelines (as is currently the case) and the Fund's budget would then be distributed among the priority applications, starting with the most disadvantaged regions.

Survey

In spring 1982, Eurobarometer conducted a survey on behalf of the European Commission, and one of the questions put to the people interviewed was :
"Which of the ideas or causes in the following list are sufficiently worthwhile for you to do something about, even if this might involve some risk or giving up other things ?

1. *Sexual equality*
2. *Protection of the environment*
3. *World peace*
4. *Struggle against poverty*
5. *(Our country's) defences*
6. *My religious faith*
7. *The unification of Europe*
8. *Freedom of the individual*
9. *Human rights*
10. *Revolution*
11. *None of these things*

The striking European consensus that emerged in the reply is worth commenting on.

In all countries without exception one great cause stands out from all the others: peace (67 percent). It is followed by four others, with relatively little to choose between them :

- human rights (45 percent)
- the struggle against poverty (40 percent)
- freedom of the individual (40 percent)
- protection of the environment (35 percent)

The other "great causes" are to be found much lower down :

- (our country's) defences (23 percent)
- my religious faith (16 percent)
- sexual equality (16 percent)
- the unification of Europe (11 percent)
- revolution (3 percent)

It is interesting that only 7 percent of the European public mention no great cause, although this proportion stands between 14 and 16 percent in Denmark, Germany and Ireland.

Useful address :

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General - Information
200 rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels

The Equal Opportunities Committee

The Advisory Committee for equal opportunities between women and men has been continuing its work, one aspect of which has been to examine Point 5 of Community's Action Programme dealing with the application of the principle of equal treatment to self-employed women and to women in agriculture, particularly in family enterprises.

This point in the programme is concerned with improving the professional status of self-employed women and ensuring them equal access to employment, promotion and vocational training. With this in mind, the Commission has undertaken to continue examining the measures taken by the Member States in the various areas regarded as specific to these classes of women and which are outside the scope of the Community's "Equality" directives, with the purpose of defining a professional status for women who are self-employed and women in agriculture and of laying down their rights in matters of pay and social security.

At its meeting in November 1982, the Equal Opportunities Committee examined in detail the aspects which need to be taken into account when drafting a Community instrument on the status of women in these categories.

Parental leave and leave for family reasons were also dealt with (Point 7 in the Action Programme). This point encourages the sharing of family responsibilities, a pre-condition for real equality between women and men. Any future Community instrument relating to parental leave, says the Advisory Committee, must make the system as attractive for fathers as it is for mothers. The feeling on the Committee is that financing must be provided in such a way that it is not the woman who automatically takes parental leave.

Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the Commission responsible for social affairs - and hence for equal opportunities - called on the Advisory Committee shortly after a "Jumbo" Council Meeting (Finance Ministers and Ministers of Employment/Labour from the Member States) and expressed disappointment at the slender outcome of the Council meeting. The Advisory Committee for its part was sorry that the conclusions of the "Jumbo" Council made no mention of the situation of women on the job market.

During the exchange of views on this occasion, Mr Richard announced that the Commission would be undertaking a study specifically on unemployment among women. The Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities was assured that it would be informed of the contents of the report when it was ready.

Useful address :

Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities,
Secrétariat :
Bureau for Employment and Equal Treatment
for Women,
Directorate General - Employment, Social
Affairs and Education,
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM : JOBS FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN

The European Communities' Youth Forum, which conveys the views of young people to the Community institutions, has launched a "Jobs for Youth" Campaign.

As a prelude to the campaign, the Youth Forum made a policy statement on the Commission's "New Community Action Programme on the promotion of equal opportunities for women".

In a paper called "Young Women in Society", the Forum expressed the view that the Action Programme has not given sufficient recognition to the specific problem of young women and girls. Specifically, in this time of economic crisis, the problem of unemployment for girls is even worse than for boys, and "this seems to be direct or indirect discrimination against girls. To give them a chance for equal opportunities, there is not only a need for information networks but also a system of legal networks giving them legal aid when necessary".

The Youth Forum "appreciates" the work done by the Community on the question of equal rights and the fact that a new Action Programme on equal rights has been prepared. But, as well as the criticism already mentioned, the Youth Forum finds that the Action Programme contains too many studies and comparative analyses, while in many of the action points, legislative activities would be necessary. The Forum also fears that the "jargon" of the Action Programme makes it difficult for many people to understand these texts. It would be preferable if such important documents could be written in a language understandable by all, the Forum says.

The Forum then lists its ideas and makes its comments. For example on the question of the status of self-employed women and women in agriculture, it notes : "Here, not only the role of the married women in self-employment should be recognized, but also the role of daughters, especially school-leavers, working in their parents' businesses".

Concerning the evolution in public attitudes, the Youth Forum comments : "Discriminatory behaviour and stereotype attitudes towards women will be especially emphasized by the economic crisis. Women's organizations which have reached many adult women do not reach many girls and young people. The changes that have been achieved in today's society may be undone by the next generation if special support is not given to campaigns in this field directed at youth organizations and schools".

Among several recommendations the Youth Forum makes for improving the situation of young women and girls, one is that the "head of household" title should be abolished in all Community countries.

Another of the report's points states : "Social Security and tax legislation should be changed in such a way that the options of marriage or remaining single are equally attractive and a matter of free choice, not a solution one is driven to in order to gain economic "independence".

At the opening of the Youth Forum's "Jobs for Youth" campaign, Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the Commission for employment, social affairs and education, severely criticized national ministers' attitudes to Community policy : "Ministers around the table chose to take a highly selective interest in the scope for concerted action at Community level, picking out those few specific aspects of Commission proposals which happen to coincide with priorities fixed at national level, rejecting all which seemed to run counter to prevailing national economic ideology ... Rarely was the idea of Community solidarity seen as the way in which Member States can support each other in their specific initiatives for economic and employment recovery".

Speaking of the "social guarantee for young people", Mr Richard said that this guarantee of training is not confined to young people between the ages of 16 and 19 : all young people should have access to a "full-time" programme of preparation for vocational life for an initial period of one year, immediately after they have finished compulsory education, and they should have the right to the equivalent of an additional year's vocational training, to be used on a full-time or part-time basis before they reach 25.

On the occasion of the "public hearing" organized by the European Parliament's Social Affairs Committee and Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport Committee, the Youth Forum invited a hundred young people, either unemployed themselves or looking after the interests of young unemployed persons, to describe what was the real situation in each of the Member States.

The young people's main message was a demand for real work and vocational training directly linked to a job. Expressing both their hope and disappointment in vivid terms, they denounced society's indifference to the plight of the young unemployed. "Who is interested in me ?", asked one young Irish woman. "In five years' time, I'll still be unemployed". She has taken one kind of vocational training after another and has learned nothing to help her find a job.

"It's too hard, it's too hard" a young French man murmured. He has had hardly any training and has not been able to fulfil his ambition of becoming a heavy lorry driver. "Don't say that Parliament can do nothing", one young Dutch man said. "You come from parties in your government - you can bring more pressure to bear for us there".

One observer summed up his impressions thus : "Through their protests, their criticisms, their demands, these young people have given their interlocuters the following message : Parliament can be as powerful as it wants to be : do something practical to help us if you want our vote".

Useful address :

European Communities' Youth Forum
avenue de Cortenberg 66, Bte 10
1040 Brussels.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs Kate Stobel (Germany), the oldest member of the Economic and Social Committee, chaired the first part of its Inaugural Session at the start of its 7th quadrennial mandate. Mrs Grethe Fenger-Møller, in her capacity as Chairman of the Community's Council of Ministers sent her best wishes for the assembly's success.

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mr Giolitti stressed the need for close and constructive collaboration between the Committee and the Commission: in the face of the present economic and social problems, he said, the Community needed the collaboration of social partners to fight unemployment with the available financial instruments.

The new President of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr François Ceyrac (France), in his first speech before the Committee, said "The EEC's most effective creation is perhaps what is the least visible : a tight network of concertation, a habit of exploring problems together, whether among ministers, among officials, or among social partners, as we do here ... It is now no longer possible to take decisions without taking the Community, and its rules of the game, into consideration. It is striking, for example, that in the monetary field, and in spite of the weaknesses of the EMS, it is now considered normal to negotiate changes in the exchange rates. This would have been inconceivable less than ten years ago".

Useful address :

Economic and Social Committee
of the European Communities
Rue Ravenstein 2
1000 Brussels

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

November 1982 Session

The European Parliament's November session was dominated by debates on two subjects : agriculture and Spain and Portugal's membership of the European Community.

Concerning agriculture, Parliament indicated - using for the first time the procedure introduced this year for the budget debate - its general guidelines on agricultural prices for the 1983-1984 campaign. Parliament requested the Commission to submit its price proposals before 15 December, so that a decision could be taken before 1 April 1983. The rapporteur on the matter, Mr Mouchel (France, EPD), asked that the increase in prices be differentiated so as to encourage products that are in short supply and the balanced development of all the regions of the Community. During the debate some parliamentarians praised the Common Agricultural Policy (this was the point of view of many French members), while others complained about the persistence of surpluses (the British and German position).

At this session too, Parliament confirmed its position in favour of the enlargement of the Community, by voting overwhelmingly for the resolution contained in the report by Lord Douro (Brit. Cons.). One of the points in the resolution is that accession negotiations must be finished by 30 March 1983.

The French Socialists abstained in the vote. The reason for this, according to their spokesperson, Yvette FUILLET, was their feeling that in the present situation, enlargement would not be workable, even though they were in favour of the principle. The French Socialist, SUTRA DE GERMA, tabled a report calling for the adoption of a series of measures in the controversial agricultural sector, to facilitate the accession process for the Mediterranean countries. The report urged a strengthening of the organization of the market for Mediterranean agricultural products (principally olive oil, wine, fruit and vegetables) to alleviate the effects of Spanish competition.

Among the Members of Parliament who took the floor in this debate, Mechtild von ALEMANN (German Lib.) thought that the time for hesitation had passed, recalling that reluctance to accept Britain's application for membership had compromised the entire British attitude to Europe.

Gloria HOOPER (UK, Cons.) and Winifred EWING (UK, EPD) took similar positions. Ann CLWYD (U.K. Soc.) insisted that Portugal should in any case not be a "net contributor" to the Community budget.

It will be recalled that at its previous session, Parliament had asked the Commission to make some changes in the "Vredeling Directive", on information to employees in multinationals and undertakings with complex structures. The Commission commented on these changes; it had been able to accept most of them but some divergences still remained. Parliament was due to vote on the resolution in the Spencer (UK, Cons.) report on the directive in question at its December Session.

A woman, Elgi Schöner, who has been working in the European Parliament for sixteen years, was recently appointed as head of the Parliament's Press Office in Germany. This off-shoot of Parliament has been opened in Bonn chiefly to provide an adequate information flow in connection with the 1984 elections.

A debate was held at Parliament's November session on the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Ministerial meeting, which was due to take place a few days later (24-28 November). Mr Davignon, speaking on behalf of the Commission, said the latter was not expecting many results out of the meeting. (The final result, as it is now known, was an agreement which was more or less a mere formality, except on agriculture, where participants were in total disarray. This situation has left the way wide open to possibilities of trade disputes between Europe and the United States).

In the course of the debate, Heidi Wiecek-Zeul (German, Soc.) stressed that the US was adopting a more and more protectionist stance. Sylvie Le Roux (France, Comm.) would have liked the US to be challenged at the meeting concerning their monetary policy. On the whole, most people considered it essential to fight protectionism, even if some, like the French Socialist, Fuchs, wanted to work for a new way of organizing international trade, midway between liberalism and protectionism.

The European Parliament voted on Community aid to Central America. This was approved shortly after by the Commission, which made special provisions for Nicaragua. This resolution had been drafted by Mr Victor Michel, a Belgian member of the European People's Party, who had died just before it was presented.

The need to demand that Human Rights be respected by countries receiving aid, whether they have left- or right-wing governments, was mentioned by Renate-Charlotte Rabbethge (Germany, EPP). Raymonde Dury (Belgium, Soc.) insisted on a strict control of the way aid-financed projects were carried out, especially where agrarian reform was concerned.

At the end of another debate, a motion proposing that Community aid to Ethiopia be cut off was passed (with the Socialists abstaining).

Parliament again looked at the Human Rights issue in Latin America. Uruguay and more particularly Argentina where several EEC citizens have disappeared, were denounced in this respect.

The motion for the resolution the text of which calls for a specific reaction by the European Community, was introduced by Vera Squarcialupi (It. Comm.). Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, for the Socialists, said she thought the Community was capable of going beyond mere words and she reminded her colleagues that the "madrì della Plaza de Majo" (the May Square mothers) had been received in Strasbourg last year. Emma Bonino (It. Radical) stressed the responsibility of the European Governments, accusing them of knowing what was going on but doing nothing about it.

At the November session, parliamentarians also received the long-awaited information from the Commission on butter sales. Mr Dalsager, Commissioner for Agricultural Policy, explained the measures decided on concerning "Christmas butter" sales and export subsidies, giving an assurance that the Soviet Union would not buy its butter on more favourable terms than other purchasers.

Several problems connected with the environment were raised : pollution of the Mediterranean, standards for aircraft noise, the dangers to health from cadmium and lastly the Commission's proposals on the hunting of baby seals, which had been prepared in response to the European Parliament's actions and pressure.

The report on cadmium had been prepared by Beate Weber (German Soc.), but the Assembly was unable to go all the way with her in adopting it. It agreed to a greater reduction in the maximum values and a greater frequency of controls, but could not agree in thinking that the ban decided on in Sweden was a good thing. Some, like Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (Lux., EPP) felt that such a measure had a protectionist ring to it. Christiane Schrivener (France, Lib.) agreed with many of Ms Weber's proposals but pointed out that it was well-nigh impossible to fix maximum values given that there was no substitution-product for cadmium.

It was the British Parliamentarians who several years ago pushed through the idea of "Question Time" in the European Parliament. Questions are usually on up-to-the-minute issues and the result is often a more lively dialogue than with written questions and replies. The system has the additional advantage of opening up the "conversation" to several members of the Assembly.

It was in Question Time that Richard Balfe (UK, Soc.) asked the Commission about the equality of men and women in the field of social security. Replying on behalf of the Commission, Christopher Tugendhat indicated that the Directive is applicable from the end of 1984. Several Member States have already taken initiatives in this direction, and the European Commission, which is in the process of collecting the available information, hopes to prepare a report by the end of 1983. Johanna Maij-Weggen (Neth., EPP) raised the problem posed in Belgium and the Netherlands through the discriminatory distinction between the "head of household" according to whether the person concerned is a man or a woman. Phili Viehoff (Neth. Soc.) thought that care should be taken to ensure that immigrant women were not faced with discrimination.

Clarification : Beate Weber (Germany, Soc.) has asked us to clarify her stand in the debate on asbestos (reported in Women of Europe no. 26). With the rest of the Socialist Group, Ms Weber was hoping for a total and immediate prohibition on the use of asbestos, and the utilization of the substitutes already available.

The community budget

During the December session, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers clashed over the budget. The first exchange of fire took place after the report tabled by Carla Barbarella (Ital. Comm.) on the 1982 supplementary budget. This was designed to use savings made on agriculture for compensation to Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. This compensation had been agreed to in principle by the Council of Ministers in spring 1982.

In her report, Carla Barbarella regretted that, for the third year running, special compensation measures were being resorted to for these countries, going down the dangerous path of a "fair return" policy. The Barbarella report was adopted by a large majority. The Council of Ministers countered with various compromise proposals, but these were also rejected by Parliament, who felt that they did not include any practical undertakings. The amending budget for 1982 was defeated by 258 votes to 79.

A disagreement also existed between Parliament and the Council over the 1983 budget. This hinged on the calculation of the "margin for manoeuvre" accorded to the Assembly for increasing the part of the budget under the heading of "non-compulsory" expenditure, in other words, what was earmarked for new policies.

Parliament increased the 1983 budget as it had been drafted by the Council, to the tune of 137.3 million ECU in payment appropriations and 177 million in commitment appropriations. In doing so, Parliament considered it was within its margin for manoeuvre and that the Council would therefore have to accept the proposals.

DURING THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TOOK TWO IMPORTANT STEPS AFFECTING WOMEN : Parliament re-inserted the sum of 12 450 000 ECU for the Commission's Information Policy, specifying that out of this, 450 000 ECU was to be used specifically for information for women; again, on the Community's Action Programme for Equal Opportunities between women and men, Parliament wrote back into the budget the 600 000 ECU the Commission had originally asked for to implement its Action Programme.

Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women

The Committee of Inquiry conducted a hearing in Rome on the subject of "Women and the Third World". Its purpose was to listen to what women and other leaders from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries had to say about the position of women in the Third World.

Mr Pisani, Member of the European Commission for Development, explained to MPs the main aspects of the new development policy that he was proposing to the Community and the larger scope given to women's roles in it.

Mr Bersani, Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee (made up of parliamentarians from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and from the European Member States) told the Committee of Inquiry about the work of the Joint Committee that was at that moment taking place in Rome. He said that cultural cooperation was shedding particular light on the situation of women in society, in the developing world.

Several non-governmental organizations working in the sphere of development were present at the hearing, and gave their views and experiences in the matter.

Anne-Marie Lizin (Belg., Soc.) gave an outline of the report she is preparing on the situation of women in the Third World. The report will analyze the replies Ms Lizin has received to a questionnaire sent to the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, women ministers in the developing countries, trade and development cooperation ministers in the EEC Member States and NGOs.

The members of the Committee of Inquiry were joined at this meeting by members of Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation.

Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women has been given a copy of the Youth Forum's paper "Young Women in Society", in which it gives its reactions to the Commission's Action Programme on Equal Opportunities.

Single mothers and married women

The Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament has been discussing the problem of discrimination between single mothers and married women and hence of children born within or outside of marriage ("legitimate" and "natural" children). The Committee holds that such discrimination, which is contrary to the general objectives of the Community, is unacceptable. In a motion for a resolution, drafted by Maria Luisa Cinciari-Rodano (Ital., Comm.), the Legal Affairs Committee asks the Commission to examine the possibility of tackling the problem through Community action or other means and, possibly, binding measures. Four of the Community Member States, the report points out, have not yet signed the Council of Europe's Convention in the matter (Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands). Still others have signed but not yet ratified.

UNITED NATIONS - status of women

What we call the United Nations is actually an institution consisting of eleven organizations (of which the best-known are probably UNESCO, FAO, WHO and the ILO). What status do women have in these organizations ? A recent report gives us some idea, at least as far as staff at the professional level and above are concerned. Here are some extracts from the report.

Staff at the professional level and above (excluding field experts) of the 11 United Nations organizations totalled 8,715 in 1976, of whom 82.3 per cent were men and 17.7 per cent women. By the end of 1981 the total professional staff rose to 9,372, of which 80.4 per cent were men and 19.6 per cent women.

Some organizations have made a significant improvement since 1976. For example, the United Nations has had a 33.7 per cent increase of women since 1976, and FAO has had an increase of 28.9 per cent. These figures need to be observed with caution because the proportion of women to men is still unsatisfactory.

The United Nations continues to lead all other organizations in the percentage of women in the professional category, with 24.4%. UNESCO ranks second with 22.4%. In the WHO, there are 18.8% of women in the professional category, in the ILO, 15.6% and in the FAO, 14.6%.

The women employed in these agencies have come out with some rather different statistics. According to them, in the UN women only hold 5% of the top jobs (equivalent to heads of department, heads of division or above). No woman has reached the rank of Under-Secretary General, although there are three women at the Assistant Secretary General level. At the D-2 level, there are three women and 86 men. Below, (D-1), there are 14 women to 240 men. In the grade below this (P-5), there are 74 women and 574 men. "For women, the UN pyramid is a very steep one", said one of the women working there.

The UN's Joint Inspection Unit concludes its report by insisting that new efforts must be made to present qualified women for posts in the top levels of the professional category.

UNICEF, with the status of a semi-independent body, seems to be something of an exception, according to UN employees. One explanation has been given : concerned with the well-being of children, men and women by its very nature, UNICEF knows that the future of children is inextricably linked with an improvement in the status of women.

Useful address :

United Nations
Joint Inspection Unit
Palais des Nations
CH-Geneva

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

GERMANY

Women and politics

Women were prominent during the crisis leading up to Helmut Kohl's taking over from Helmut Schmidt as Federal Chancellor. Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry, and six other women MPs out of the eight in the FDP (Liberal Party) were opposed to the break-up of their party's coalition with the SPD (Social Democrat Party).

These women based their position mainly on the fact that, in October 1980, the electorate had shown their desire for a Liberal-Social Democrat alliance and had voted for FDP candidates to this end. They insisted that the alliance could only be terminated after a general election. Hildegard Hamm-Brücher put her position this way : "I cannot vote against a Chancellor to whom, only a few weeks ago, I gave my vote of confidence".

Two of the women MPs decided that they would have to leave their party altogether. They were Ingrid Mathäus-Meier and Helga Schuchardt. Mathäus-Meier has switched to the SPD, but has also resigned from the Bundestag (German Parliament), seeing this as the only way not to betray the confidence of the people who had voted for her.

Two important judgements

The Bundesverfassungsgericht (Supreme Court for the Constitution) has handed down two judgements of importance to women. The first of these says that it is a breach of the Constitution for single parents (for the most part women) not to receive the same tax benefits as families. It will now be up to the Bundestag to decide whether the tax system has to be altered. Some voices are already being raised to ask for separate taxation for married couples - but what will then happen about the tax advantages presently enjoyed by families?

In the second case, the Court has decided the Constitution requires that the guardianship of a child be entrusted to the two parents after a divorce, if this is in the child's interest. As a result, family law in the matter will now have to be changed. Another point in connection with guardianship being discussed in Germany currently : can the father of an illegitimate child be made its guardian? At present, fathers of illegitimate children only have obligations, one of which is to provide monthly payments for the support of their children, who, incidentally, are entitled to inherit from their fathers.

Useful address :

Bundesverfassungsgericht
Pressestelle
7500 Karlsruhe

In Hesse

Inge Sollwedel, who runs Hesse's Zentralstelle für Frauenfragen (central division for women's affairs), has reason to be satisfied : a recent survey showed that 58% of the men and women living in the Hesse Land (region) know of her office's existence. 65% of the people interviewed also felt that women were discriminated against, and that the office was doing something useful to overcome this.

Replies to some of the survey's other questions showed that the majority of people were aware of the importance of equality at work, as a step to achieving equality in general. 64% of the population believed that women should be paid the same as men, 54% thought they should have equal access to employment, and 51% thought that fathers should take more responsibility in family duties, a necessary step for achieving equality within the home.

Useful address : Zentralstelle für Frauenfragen
Bierstadter Strasse 2
6200 Wiesbaden 1

In Hamburg

In the Hamburg Region's public service, women will be given priority over men in recruitment, provided they have the same qualifications, thanks to a decision of the Region's Senate. During the debate culminating in this vote, the European Community's "Equality" directives were mentioned, as was the UN's convention against discrimination. The Senate's decision is a move in the policy of "positive discrimination", and it is hoped that it will encourage the private sector to follow suit.

The Leitstelle Gleichstellung der Frau (Equality Committee) in Hamburg has brought out a directory entitled "Rat und Hilfe für Frauen" (Advice and help for women), which lists offices, organizations and various groups which can assist women. Places giving advice on legal matters, training, medical and social services, or where women can meet other women, are all included among the 250 addresses given. The booklet also gives valuable information about more general problems such as drugs, old people and the handicapped.

Useful address : Leitstelle Gleichstellung der Frau
Poststrasse 11
2000 Hamburg 36

Mülheim

Only one of Germany's larger towns is run by a woman. It is Mülheim in the Ruhr, and its Oberbürgermeisterin (mayor) is Eleonore Güldenstern.

52-year old Ms Güldenstern has for long played a part in municipal affairs, mostly in the cultural field. She came into office on a CDU (Christian Democrat) and FDP (Liberal) vote, and her political slogan in Mülheim was "Bürgernähe" (neighbourliness and togetherness).

Useful address : Eleonore Güldenstern
Stadthaus
Mülheim/Ruhr

BELGIUM

Thirteen women sacrificed

An industrial dispute with extremely important implications has taken place at Fontaine-L'Évêque, in the Bekaert-Cockerill group's wire-drawing plant. The issue at stake is women's right to work in a time of economic crisis.

The affair began last August, when there was a strike against the loss of 80 jobs. When the dispute was settled half way through October, the employees held a meeting and, by a 64% majority, agreed to an arrangement reducing the number of people under notice to 28 and imposing part-time work on all the women who were not head of their households (28 out of 31), to prevent 13 of the women from being fired. The women working at the plant were sorry to be put on half-time, but they agreed to it to save the jobs of the 13 who were due to be laid off entirely.

However, on seeing how things developed, the women decided they had been tricked. There seemed to be no shortage of work in their section, and it was in the sections where the men were employed that there was not enough to go round. "We've been forced to give up half our work and half our salary so that men can take over our machines", one of the women workers explained. "Instead of this, we've suggested sharing the work out among everyone by all going on short time. Why should we women lose one week out of two while some of the men only lose two days a month ?

The women therefore went on strike, but a committee composed of representatives of the management and the unions agreed to the firing of the thirteen women, who were incidentally the ones who were most active in the dispute. With the movement deprived of its leaders, the unions took up a joint position not to support the strike any longer.

The women workers have obtained the support of other women from factories in the Charleroi region. The pressure group "Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi" (Solidarity-Women-Work) is trying to get other groups to rally. Anne-Marie Lizin, a Socialist member of the European Parliament, is watching the dispute very closely since she sees it as a dangerous precedent in this time of crisis.

The Comité de Liaison des Femmes (Women's Liaison Committee) intends to make a complaint to the European Commission and has presented a petition to the European Parliament.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that putting people on short time, which the women see as the solution, is very expensive for the government.

Mr Richard, European Employment Commissioner, has written to Mr Hansenne, Belgian Employment Minister, expressing his concern and asking to be kept fully informed of any developments in the affair.

Useful addresses :

Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi
Place Quételet, 1a
1030 Brussels

Comité de Liaison des Femmes
Place Quételet, 1a
1030 Brussels

Abortion

Several sentences passed on women and doctors by the Brussels courts have stirred up the abortion debate again. The Court has been careful to make the sentences as light as possible and in its reasoning, the law-makers come in for some sharp criticism.

The Court says, in fact, that penal judges do not make, amend or repeal laws. Referring to the lightness of the sentences, it says that it took into account the fact that abortion laws had been changed in nearly all the European countries and that several bills to do the same in Belgium had been presented. It also pointed out that no prosecutions for abortion had been made for a number of years. In the Court's view, this situation had created some doubt in women's minds as to whether or not abortion was still illegal and had let doctors anticipate a decision which they themselves were hoping for : that of allowing women to terminate their pregnancies in satisfactory medical conditions.

Various demonstrations have been organized demanding that the law be revised quickly. The ball is now back in the law-makers' camp. However, at the moment none of the bills produced by MPs seems to have the consent of the majority.

Local government elections

Following the latest local government elections, Belgium's youngest mayor is a woman. 25-year old Michèle Detaille, who works in the cabinet of the Public Works Minister, was elected mayor of Vaux-sur-Sûre, a local council covering a population of 3 653 in the south of the Ardennes, Belgium's hilly region. Her first job was to make arrangements to clear the snow from 250 miles of road. The Vaux-sur-Sûre local council looks after the affairs of a score of villages, spread over a wide area.

Justice of the Peace

At only 30, Myriam Gauthier has recently become Belgium's youngest JP. Before taking the oath for her new office, Ms Gauthier was a Deputy Public Prosecutor, attached for the past three years to the Juvenile Court.

The Police Force

When for the first time ever, women were accepted in the recruitment examinations organized by the Ecole des Sous-officiers de la Gendarmerie (Police School for NCOs), 213 out of the 2 633 who applied to sit the exams were women. Only a small proportion of candidates could actually be accepted and the results have now been published. 17 men and 21 women got through and can start training as NCOs in the police.

Useful address :

Etat-Major général de la Gendarmerie
rue Fritz Toussaint, 47
1050 Brussels

Easier to choose

Mrs Lucienne Mathieu-Mohin, member of the Belgian Senate, has suggested that ballot papers should in future include candidates' first names, which will help women to vote for a woman.

Useful address :

Mrs Lucienne Mathieu-Mohin
avenue de l'Orée, 24 bte 6
1050 Brussels

DENMARK

Women's rights

Published in English, "Women's Law in Scandinavia" was compiled by the Women's Research Center in Social Science, Copenhagen.

Ruth Nielsen, who runs the centre, was responsible for the book. In her introduction she explains that, usually, conferences concerning women and the law have the title in English "Women and ..." (some aspect of the law). But in Scandinavian languages, although this can still be said, there's another possibility - the two words can be combined into a single word. For instance, in Danish, we have "kvinderet", in Norwegian, "kvinnerett", and in Swedish, "kvin- norätt". In German, the same idea would be conveyed by "Frauenrecht" rather than "Frauen und Recht".

This linguistic comment is important to the understanding that Scandinavian sociologists are trying to see the questions they tackle in a broader way than mere words. "Kvinderet" comes therefore to mean legal research with the object of describing, understanding and explaining women's legal situation, in order to improve women's position in law and in society.

The women who have contributed to the book are all convinced that it is not enough just to know the law, but that what is needed is a perception of the social reality of women if such research is to be useful. In addition, the studies and analyses are explicitly aimed at changing society and women themselves.

This approach can be clearly seen in Lotta Westerhäll-Gisselson's contribution which makes the point that the sentence for violence against a woman depends on whether or not the woman has had a sexual relation with her aggressor - as if a love relationship were to bestow the right to use violence.

In publishing this book in English, the authors are hoping to make contact with other lawyers in Europe who share their concern. "Women's Law in Scandinavia" can be obtained at the price of 50 Danish Kroner payable to the Kvindevidens- kabeligt Forlag's, Giro account N° 1 65 93 08.

Useful address : Women's Research Centre in Social Science
H.C. Andersen Boulevard 38, mezz
DK-1553 Copenhagen V

Women in family businesses

Most women working in their husbands' businesses have thus far been neglected from a sociological point of view and have been lumped together as "family helpers". The time these women spend working and their economic and social conditions have now been brought into the daylight by Mette Mønsted, a socio- logist. Using statistics and the results of interviews, Ms Mønsted has produced a book called "Family labour in small businesses - the situation of family helpers in trade and craft businesses".

When asked about the advantages and disadvantages of this kind of employment, women gave the following replies.

Seen as advantages were : the possibility of staying with one's children, the possibility of not having to rush out in the morning, of being able to get some housework done in the morning; being able to work side-by-side with one's husband (but this was equally seen as a disadvantage by other women); flexibility in the way one could organize one's day, to some extent; close connection between work and free time (but the negative aspects of this were also seen); the shorter hours which some of the women worked.

The disadvantages were seen as : isolation and lack of contact with others; economic security tied to that of the husband; total dependence on one's husband and on his health; being tied to the telephone; over-long hours of work; lack of free time and short holidays; absence of a minimum wage.

Future outlook Ms Mønsted concludes her study by mentioning some of the future possibilities concerning the situation of family helpers. One of the things she mentions is the way in which many small businesses could rationalize their working methods.

For example, it might be possible for firms in the same kind of business to set up a joint service for telephone answering and administration. In this way, a number of wives could be freed so as to find a wage-paying job outside. In the present crisis, there are more and more families running small businesses who have to look for extra income.

Ms Mønsted also looks at the sometimes terrifying aspects of technological progress. For example, computer terminals may be installed in homes allowing women to work on them while running their household and looking after their children. Only family helpers have hitherto experienced this form of isolation in their work. This may be exactly the reason why they will be the best-suited for work with computer terminals.

But Ms Mønsted believes that a warning must be given about this trend which will create even more restrictive working conditions for a larger number of women isolated in their homes. This will pose a serious threat to equal treatment and will also probably result in a lower standard of public services.

Useful address :

Danske Kvinders Nationalrad
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10
1153 Copenhagen K

A conference was organized by the "Dansk Håndværks Kvinder" (Danish craftsmen's wives), at which Mette Mønsted presented some of her book's major conclusions.

An unrecognized group "From the sociological point of view, family helpers represent an unrecognized group, both in the labour market and in the law", said Mønsted. "In a society which tends to equate work with the earning of a salary, family helpers do not fall into any well-defined category. They are neither self-employed nor paid employees".

Always available If one examines the work performed by family helpers, one sees that in a single day they carry out a number of different jobs. They are accountants, book-keepers, administrative assistants, telephonists, messengers, drivers. They play the role of general factotum. If they were wage-earners, they would be paid for doing the accounts, keeping the books, answering the phone, serving customers, doing the housework, the shopping and all the other odd jobs, not only during the hours of business but in the evening and at weekends too.

Salary : according to agreements made with the tax authorities, the longer women work, the lower their hourly wage. The scale ranges from 20 to 45 Danish Kroner per hour, the latter being a maximum. Family helpers have no guaranteed wage. However, if the business is making a profit, the tax people agree that part of this can be put down as their salary.

Wide differences The hours of work and economic situation of women helping in family businesses varies considerably, according to the kind of business or its size. In retail businesses, (e.g., bakers', shops selling electrical or sanitary equipment) they have to serve the customers, be there all the time, and often have to answer the phone outside business hours. In this sector, women are working 40 to 60 hours a week.

In the service sector, where there is no shop to take care of, the absence of customers is offset by more difficult book-keeping and the telephone has to be answered at all times. Here, the number of hours worked a week is between 35 and 40.

In the artisanal sector (e.g. blacksmiths, carpenters), there are generally several people to answer the telephone but there are more odd errands to run; here the average working week is 25 to 35 hours.

Businesses with no direct contact with the public (e.g. in some sectors of the building trade) offer the most satisfactory and regular working conditions. Here, what is generally needed is keeping the books and answering the phone. Hours vary from 10 to 30 per week.

Work and private life One of the main features of the life of someone working as a helper in a family business is the possibility of combining work for the firm with work for the home. Many women would like to be able to combine private life with a job. But by and large, there are a number of different views on the matter and there are very few women who see this as a true advantage.

FRANCE

A quota for the municipal elections

At the end of July last year, French MPs decided that women must account for 25% of the names on the lists of candidates in the municipal elections. They went still further in stipulating that not only must women represent 25% of the list as a whole, but that 3 out of every group of 12 candidates in the order of presentation on the list must also be women. This latter was to ensure not only that women had a place but that it should be a good one.

However, the nine-member Constitutional Council declared that a "quota" for women ran counter to the French Constitution. It should be noted that this body, on which no woman has been asked to serve since 1959, issued its opinion without having been consulted either by the government or by parliament.

"As a member of the government, I have to bow to the decision. As a woman, I question it", said Yvette Roudy, France's Minister for Women's Rights.

The text which was rejected by the Constitutional Council read as follows : "Not more than 75% of the candidates on any list may be of the same sex". Another reaction came from Gisèle Halimi, Deputy for the Isère and leader of the movement, Choisir. She pointed out that the text scrupulously upheld the principle of the equality of the sexes. Men and women would have been subject to the same decision and the same proportion, in all local Councils where the population was three thousand or more. Declared Ms Halimi, *"Choisir has decided to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against the Constitutional Council's ruling, and to give the French government a chance to explain itself in front of new judges"*

The Constitutional Council's reasoning is that citizenship itself guarantees identical rights for all on whom it is conferred, with the result that any new provision would prevent the exercise of this very right to equality. Ms Roudy asks : *"If our Government's composition had needed the endorsement of the Constitutional Council, would we have had a Ministry for Women's Rights, given that, as far as the Constitution is concerned, women already have as many rights as men ? Yet in eighteen months, this Ministry has already corrected many previous inequalities"*.

Other commentators such as Alain Brouillet, a teacher at Paris I University, have pointed out that the three-year term of the present Constitutional Council is up in February 1983. They ask why the President of the Republic and of the two chambers - all of whom may appoint one member of the Constitutional Council directly - do not each nominate a woman.

"This would be an effective way of letting the deed suit the word; it would demonstrate that having one-third of its members women does not prevent the highest constitutional body in the land from carrying out its business just as well as the most humble local council, with a quarter of its members women".

Useful address :

Conseil Constitutionnel
rue de Montpensier
75001 Paris

Live another way, live better ...

GRAIF, standing for groupement régional pour l'action et l'information des femmes, (Regional group for women's action and information) in the Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur region of France has undertaken a study with a difference, with the above title. It consists of an account of some new experiments women have been trying out in the areas of vocational training, job-creation, child-minding, and group activities.

In the introduction, Geneviève Le Bellegou Beguin, who combines being GRAIF's chairwoman with her jobs as Mayor of Aups, a member of the Regional Council and MP for the Var, explains that the study *"is trying to show the contribution that collective initiatives can make to transforming society in general and to the development of women's lives in particular"*.

Some of the projects succeeded and some failed, but all ran into innumerable problems with regulations and funds; however, their merit was that they had existed at all. Geneviève Le Bellegou Beguin talks about *"miniature revolutions"* and says they have the following points in common.

- rediscovery of local resources and values;
- placing the accent on group effort in order to re-make the tissue of society or to create solidarity;
- confirmation of a willingness to have greater equality in enterprises, as a step to self-management;
- attempt to redefine men's and women's roles in society.

In the study, we encounter a dynamic group of women calling themselves "La scie à molette" (untranslatable - an imaginary tool !) two of whom are qualified carpenters and the third a car mechanic. They give courses which are somewhere between serious D-I-Y and vocational training. Then there's "Lutopie", in Nice, which is a women's bookshop, library, restaurant and meeting place combined. Or the child-care centre run by parents "Lou Pitchoun" (Little Kids, in Provençal dialect). And so the list continues ...

Each scheme is described in detail : location, background, the kind of public being reached, aims, funding, description of the experiment, difficulties, future outlook ... At the end of each section, those who carried out the schemes give their own ideas, often leading to new ones. To sum up, a study which deserves to be read by many people besides those who live in the region described. A real gold-mine of ideas !

Useful address : G R A I F
 300, avenue du Prado
 13008 Marseille

Household jobs

There's good news in a recent survey conducted by SOFRES and published in the magazine "Femme Pratique": 48% of men now think that housework should be shared, a percentage rising to 62% for men under 25. Men also have a very accurate idea of how much time their wives devote to domestic chores.

When it comes to the bottom line however, things do not look so good. Men don't really do much more than give a token hand. The figures for the various jobs are : shopping 32%, cleaning 17%, cooking 20%, bringing up children 30%. They do a bit better in occasionally laying or clearing the table (40%), but very few would dream of making beds (14%). In the circumstances, it's hardly surprising that 80% of the men said that they were "very satisfied" with the work women do in the home !

GREECE

The Bank of Greece

For the first time, a woman has been appointed to the Administrative Board of the Bank of Greece. She is Alice Marangopoulos-Yotopoulos, Rector of the Political Science Institute "Panteios" and Chairwoman of the "Syndesmos gia ta dikaiomata tis gynaikas" (League for women's rights). We apologize to Ms Marangopoulos-Yotopoulos and our readers for the errors which occurred when we reported this appointment in Women of Europe no. 26.

Useful address :

Ms A. Marangopoulos-Yotopoulos
Recteur de l'Ecole des Sciences Politiques "Panteios"
1, rue Lycavittou
Athens 135

Fact-finding visit

Thirty or so Greek women journalists (from the press, radio and two TV channels) visited Brussels on a fact-finding mission to the Commission of the European Communities.

During their stay, the journalists took a close look at the way information is directed to female audiences, the Community's Action Programme on Equal Opportunities, problems posed by the enlargement of the Community, the European Social Fund and how the European Community plans its aid to developing countries, in relation to the situation of women in those countries.

The women participating were already extremely well-informed on Community matters which enabled the subjects to be discussed very thoroughly and gave rise to a very fruitful exchange of experience. Much of the visit was recorded by TV cameras.

At the end of the Greek women's stay, the Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente organized a meeting between them and members of Belgian women's groups. Several dozen women took part, despite a strike which was paralyzing part of the country.

Family law

The special committee set up under the chairmanship of Professor A. Manassis to propose changes in family law has presented its findings to the Justice Minister, Mr C. A. Mangakis.

The new text being submitted revises the Civil Code by eliminating all discrimination based on sex, in accordance with Article 4 (2) of the Greek Constitution. There are major changes as regards the sharing of responsibilities within a marriage, property and inheritance, parental responsibility and so on.

The Committee has suggested some innovations in connection with marriage such as the proposal that, at the time of marriage, a woman may keep her own name if she has come to be known by it professionally. Similarly, and for the same reason, a divorced woman may keep her married name after separation. Concerning children born out of wedlock, the Committee's text gives them the same right as legitimate children.

The text was submitted to Parliament and was due to be approved by the end of 1982.

At a press conference, the Syntonistiki Epitropi Gynekon Ekprosopon Somation (Coordinating committee for representatives of women's organizations) said that it was doubtful whether the Government would get the bill, as submitted by the special committee, through in a hurry. The biggest problem area was in the clauses dealing with divorce, which the coordinating committee thought would provoke fresh tension between the Orthodox Church and the Government.

Other women's groups have launched campaigns to spread information about the special committee's proposals and to encourage a change in public attitudes, a necessary adjunct to any purely legal modifications in the law.

The Synergazomena Gynekia Somatia (group for cooperation among women's associations), to which some of the oldest women's groups in Greece belong, organized a public meeting at which two of the women serving on Professor Manassis's special committee explained the proposed changes and replied to questions.

Local government elections

In last autumn's local government elections, there were a surprisingly large number of women candidates. In Athens itself, for the first time in history, a woman ran for mayor. She was Ms. V. Tsouderou, already a Member of Parliament for the past few years.

However only four out of the 276 "Demos" (local councils), ended up with a woman mayor. One of these, in a suburb of Athens, was re-elected, the other three take up office for the first time. In two cases, the results showed that the phenomenon is no longer confined to the larger towns, for two of the places returning women mayors were Arachova (near Delphi) and Nigrita (in central Macedonia), both villages.

ITALY

An Equality Committee

Signed by Italy's Minister for Employment and Social Security, Mr Di Giesi, a Ministerial decree dated 8 October 1982 and published on 4 November 1982 instituted the Comitato nazionale per l'attuazione dei principi di parità di trattamento e di opportunità delle lavoratrici (National Committee for achieving the principle of equal treatment and opportunity for women workers).

Chaired by the Minister or his representative, the Committee is to be composed of the Ministry's Directors General, and representatives from the Council of Ministers, and the Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education, Health and Finance Ministries. Twelve further members of the body are to be appointed on proposals by political parties, organizations and other interested movements, three will represent the employers and three other the unions. The last member will represent the committee of the cooperative movement. They will all sit on the Committee for three years.

A division of the Ministry of Employment dealing with employment relations will take on the Committee's day-to-day running.

The Committee itself will examine and formulate proposals for the achievement of the principle of equality in order to eliminate discrimination and other obstacles. It will propose changes in the present law and see that these are coordinated with other legal provisions.

One of the Committee's first tasks will be to draw up a Code of Practice aimed at ending direct or indirect forms of discrimination. The Committee will also look into women's complaints - even from individual women - when it appears that the principle of equal treatment is not being applied.

The ministerial decree makes specific reference to Community bodies responsible for matters relating to equal opportunities. The new Committee will be required to keep in touch with such bodies.

Most women's organizations are pleased about the establishment of this body, which is long overdue. However, they are disappointed that they were not consulted more about the definition of the Committee's role. The new body's impact, women observers say, will largely depend on the energy and representativeness of its members.

Useful address :

Ministero del Lavoro
Direzione generale dei rapporti di lavoro
Divisione "Disciplina del rapporto di lavoro"
Via Flavia, 6
Rome

In the Government

In Amintore Fanfani's new government, the Ministry of State Education has been given to a woman, Franca Falcucci, its former Deputy Minister. Ms Falcucci was a former Assistant Secretary in the Christian Democrat Party. Her new Deputy Minister is also a woman, Maria Magnani Noja, a member of the Italian Socialist Party.

Interest in politics

ANDE, the Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici (National Association of Women Voters) sent out 30 000 questionnaires in Italy to find out more about women's involvement in politics. From the first 10 000 replies received, ANDE has been able to see a pattern emerging.

In reply to the question "Why do only a small number of women, anywhere in the world, take an interest in politics ?" 70% of the answers quote reasons connected with woman's traditional role, cultural discrimination or the lack of adequate social structures. The other 30% attribute the lack of interest to "distaste" for politics or male domination which confines women to marginal activities.

Concerning general interest in political life (as judged by voting for a particular candidate, by the attention paid to elected politicians and by following politics in the mass media), the survey showed that the most committed group was formed of women between 30 and 50, especially from Northern or Central Italy. One interesting finding was that, regardless of their age or where they live, the vast majority of women find out about politics through press, radio and television.

Another surprising fact was that 85% of women in the south vote for a particular candidate, whereas only one woman in two in the north does. One explanation for this high figure in the south is perhaps the tradition of patronage which leads even those who are not very politicized to vote for a particular individual.

To the question "Do women who hold high political office run things differently from men ?", 76% of the answers said "Yes" mentioning that women were more committed, more honest and had more practical ideas. But 24% of the replies from women of over 50, especially in the South, disagreed.

Concerning the effects of political involvement on family life, 30% mentioned the demands made on one's time as one of the drawbacks. However 70% thought that the whole family might discover a strong new interest.

This quick glance at the early replies suggests that women have a different way of engaging in politics - a theory ANDE has been putting forward for a long time - and that as far as women are concerned, politics is not a struggle for power but something taken up to serve the common good.

Useful address : A N D E
 Via del Corso 262
 00186 Rome

Responsible parenthood

"Un figlio quando lo vuoi" (a child when you want one) is the title of a widely distributed booklet put out by the Ministry of Health as part of its campaign "Azione Donna" (Women's Action). This is the first time that the Ministry has mounted such a widespread campaign on the theme of birth control.

Useful address : Ministero della Sanità
 Viale dell' Industria 20
 Rome

Nationality Law

New nationality law has been given the go-ahead by the Senate and now has to be finally adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The most important provision of the text is that an Italian woman will be able to transmit her nationality to her non-Italian husband unless he prefers to keep his own nationality. In the same way, any child whose father or mother is Italian will be considered as Italian by birth.

With the increasing number of mixed marriages, it was on the alarming gaps in the nationality law and problems not covered by it at all that last year's "Tribunal of 8 March" decided to focus.

Diadora, flag still flying

Diadora Bussani, who for many years has been struggling to enter the Leghorn Naval Academy and commence her career in the Navy, has been awarded a certificate and the title of "honorary seaman" by the Commander of the "Mount Baker", of the US Seventh Fleet, which was visiting Trieste.

Five months after a decision by the Council of State refusing her entry into the Academy, Diadora Bussani is still waiting to receive official notice of this. Until she obtains it, it will be hard for her, legally, to appeal to the European Court of Justice or the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Those close to Bussani are worried about the continuing cost of long drawn-out litigation. They may appeal for donations on a national level. But why confine this to Italy ? Bussani's efforts are being sympathetically regarded all over Europe - and even beyond.

LUXEMBOURG

Fire prevention and control

The fire brigade in Cessange (in Luxembourg town) has just started a section for women. Thus far, the women have been restricted to giving first-aid and other assistance to victims, but nevertheless, the event is the first attempt in Luxembourg to integrate women in the fire services.

As far as performance and efficiency are concerned, this team of ten young women, one of whom is a reservist, are not doing badly compared with the firemen. In a nationwide competition, the firewomen came a creditable eighth, when competing against 42 teams of firemen.

Action against procuring

Eleven women's associations of all tendencies have made a joint appeal to Colette Flesch, Minister of Justice, expressing their concern about what seems to be the ineffectiveness of the law in dealing with procurers.

As long ago as 1981, several women's associations wrote an open letter to the President of the Chamber of Deputies protesting against the shocking exploitation of women by procurers in Luxembourg. These associations complained that though it was true that dealing with the offence of procuring was sometimes difficult, no serious attempt was being made to do so, despite statements and testimony that had been given.

The law of 1 April 1968 is quite clear and demonstrates the legislator's intention to prosecute and sentence procurers. So, ask the women's associations, why isn't this law applied ? "What silence, what tolerance are pimps met with in our country ! Are the forces of the law really so powerless when the health, dignity and safety of women is at stake ?"

NETHERLANDS

In the Government

For the first time ever, there are two women holding government office in the Netherlands. The first is Dr Neelie Smit-Kroes who heads the Ministry for Transport and Waterways and the second is Dr Eegje Schoo, in charge of development cooperation. They are both members of the VVD (Liberal Party) which is currently in power in a coalition with the CDA (Christian Democrats). Neelie Smit-Kroes has already worked in the Ministry she now heads, as Secretary of State (1977-1981) and Eegje Schoo has come into the Government after chairing the Emancipatieraad (Equality Council), one of its advisory bodies.

Mr Lubbers has formed a cabinet consisting of 14 Ministers and 16 Secretaries of State. Among the latter are three women, Annelien Kappeijne van de Coppello (VVD), responsible for Equality Issues, Virginia Korte-van Hemel (CDA), in the Ministry of Justice, and Nel Ginjaar-Maas (VVD), in Education. All three of them were MPs but this is the first time that they have held cabinet office.

Useful address : Rijksvoorlichtingsdienst
 Binnenhof 20
 The Hague

Change of address

The Emancipatieraad (Equality Council), responsible for advising the Netherlands Government on developments in equality policy has moved into new offices. The new address is :

Emancipatieraad
Lutherse Burgwal 10
NL 2512 CB The Hague

Change in government

"The formation of a new government is a good opportunity for exerting extra pressure, so as to ensure that policy on equality is fully integrated into the government's overall policy", the Emancipatieraad (Equality Council) stated, during the recent political crisis in the Netherlands.

Writing to the man expected to be asked to form the new government, the Emancipatieraad highlighted the essential points in any equality programme, bearing in mind the difficult years looming ahead. The primary demand was that women should be given a larger role in all the bodies where decisions affecting their future are taken. The note also stressed that equality policy should be consistently applied over all the following closely-linked areas : access to employment, economic independence, taxation, and social security.

Since women form the majority in the groups which are worst off economically and socially, they are and will remain for some time the first victims of the economic crisis. This is another reason why more women must be involved in formulating and carrying out political decisions.

Some figures

According to a survey conducted by the Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau, 78% of those interviewed in the Netherlands think that domestic chores are as much the responsibility of men as of women. The figure rises to 83% when the same question is asked about caring for children. 57% of the replies agreed that paid work should be shared around equally between men and women.

A bigger budget

A slight increase has been made to the money for the equality programme in the 1983 budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. There is no dearth of projects; for example, practical courses for women wishing to get back into the work force, special help for women in so-called "minority" groups, and financial support for certain employment projects put forward by women.

Bosses believe in women's ability

A majority of men in management believe that women should be given access to top posts in the business world. Within ten years, they say, women should have made up for their slow start.

This was the finding of the Nederlands Christelijk Werkgeversverbond (Association of Christian Employers) when it questioned about a hundred managers, board members and personnel officers. Only 5% of those surveyed thought that it was "a fact of nature" that women were under-represented in management. Half the people interviewed thought that "active steps" should be taken so that women could get into responsible jobs. One third thought it was up to women themselves to get hold of these jobs.

Useful address :

Nederlands Christelijk Werkgeversverbond
Scheveningseweg 52
The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

Looking towards Nairobi 1985

If the conference in Nairobi, marking the end of the UN Decade for Women in 1985, is to be a success, preparations for it should begin now. This was the theme of Baroness Gardener, UK representative on the UN Commission on the Status of Women, at a conference organized by the Women's National Commission and attended by 200 women from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the press.

"I consider it particularly important that NGOs should have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the preparations for the 1985 Conference", Lady Gardener declared. She and other speakers emphasised the need to be realistic about the conference to avoid disillusionment.

"It is not a workshop writ large, but an inter-governmental meeting", warned Dr Terry Spens, a government spokeswoman who had attended both the Copenhagen and Mexico women's conference.

Useful address : Women's National Commission
 Government Offices
 Great George Street
 London SW1P 3AQ

Under-estimated

A government agency, the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) has accused industry generally of failing to appreciate the social revolution of women pursuing careers and often wanting to raise families at the same time.

In a booklet, "Practical Approaches to Women's Career Development", the MSC points out that women hold less than 20 per cent of all management jobs and very few senior positions. Only 8.5 per cent of industrial managers, for example, are women. The man who edited the report, Professor Cary Cooper, echoes women's comments and points out some of the great difficulties they come up against when they try and attain to management posts.

Useful address : Manpower Services Commission
 Moorfoot
 Sheffield S1 4PQ

"Time, ladies and gentlemen please"

The Court of Appeal recently ruled that the famous Fleet Street Wine Bar, El Vino's, was unlawfully discriminating against women by refusing to serve them at the bar and insisting that they must sit at a table. The Equal Opportunities Commission has used the occasion to remind licensees throughout the country that it is unlawful to treat women less favourably than men whether they are offering goods/facilities/services for payment (beer) or free (darts, dominoes etc.)

The importance attached by the Equal Opportunities Commission to this aspect of life should not be seen as merely frivolous : firstly, pubs are public places where the treatment given to women is a reflection of societal attitudes; secondly, pubs are an important facet of social life, especially in small communities; lastly, the law itself does not consider that the question is a minor one.

For example, a Manchester court recently ruled that the owner of a wine bar had breached the Sex Discrimination Act for having charged an entrance fee to men but not to women. In Great Yarmouth, the Court ruled that a hotel owner had been in breach of the Act for refusing to let women play snooker in a room open to the public. In Cardiff a pub was ruled in breach for refusing to serve a woman with a pint because it thought this quantity of beer should only be imbibed by a man.

The EOC has undertaken to distribute a leaflet to licensees of pubs, hotels and wine bars with the title "Time Ladies and Gentlemen Please".

Useful address : Equal Opportunities Commission
 Quay Street
 Manchester M3 3HN

Management training course

In February 1983, twenty-one women aged 30 to 40 will take part in a special course organized by the City University Business School, London. The only course of its kind in the country, it is aimed at women who are already in positions of executive or technical responsibility but who wish to improve their promotion prospects. Special dispensation had to be obtained under the Sex Discrimination Act to permit it to be for women students only.

A similar course organized last year was well recommended by the students taking part and the large organizations where they work.

Useful address : The City University Business School
 Personnel Research Unit
 Northampton Square
 London EC1V OHB

Women on public bodies

According to an Equal Opportunities Commission survey of 874 public bodies, 304 of them had no women members at all and a further 159 had only one woman each. Those responsible for making nominations and appointments to these bodies undervalue women's particular experience, says the EOC. It goes on to say that women's sense of responsibility, organization and community is just as valuable to the work of voluntary organizations as male experience in commerce and industry.

Choosing a better future

60% of girls going to university study arts subjects and around 35% of arts graduates have no jobs to go to when they graduate. On the other hand, 95% of electrical engineers find permanent employment. This was the reason behind the Equal Opportunities Commission's advertising campaign in teenage and women's magazines during the Christmas holidays, which aimed at helping girls and their parents to make better educational choices.

MILITANT ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Better opportunities for women in agriculture

This was the theme of a seminar organized in Grado, Italy, under the aegis of the women's committee of COPA (Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC), in collaboration with CEPFAR (European Training and Development Centre for Farming and Rural Life), and the Commission of the European Communities.

More than seventy representatives from women farmers' movements in the Ten emphasized the importance of giving recognition to the role of spouses in family farms through introducing some form of professional status for them.

According to the women taking part, a Community Directive is needed, to cover various aspects of the professional status of women farmers and farm workers. The following areas of legislation would have to be embraced : inheritance and ownership laws, tax laws, social security, vocational training, access to cooperatives, acceptance by professional bodies and provisions for relief services.

The Community Directive recommended by the participants should use the following definition of a family enterprise : "a special type of enterprise in which spouses and other members of the family work, irrespective of who owns the means of production".

The seminar paid special attention to the question of the ownership rights. The point was made that in the laws of many of the Community Countries, the contribution made to the family by a woman, personally or in kind, was not recognized, especially when it was work of an essentially domestic nature. This problem became particularly severe when a marriage ended, whether by separation, divorce or death. While it was admitted that the law of ownership did not fall within the scope of Community Law, could the consequences be overlooked when something as fundamental as equal treatment of men and women was at stake ?

The discussion was chaired by Ms Boerave-Derijcke, a Belgian Member of Parliament and Chairwoman of COPA's women's committee. Another point to be raised at the seminar was the necessity for providing relief services, mainly to take some of the burden from women farmers. Such services should be under the direct management of farmers, through their professional organizations, thus ensuring that women farmers would be fairly represented.

A very useful practical insight was provided through a visit by participants to the "Scuola della Famiglia Rurale" (country families' school) in the Villa Chiozza, at Scodovacca di Cervignano. This School has been set up by the regional authorities of Friuli-Venetia-Giulia, with the help of a European Community grant.

Useful address :

C.E.P.F.A.R.
23/25 rue de la Science - bte 10
1040 Brussels

Men and women in the Church

"Women are part of the Church too" - this was the central theme of a conference organized by the international movement, "Men and Women in the Church", and held near Lyon, France. The meeting provided proof that some progress is being made and women are today being allowed to perform roles that were hitherto barred to them, for example, the organization and leading of the liturgy, distribution of the communion, Gospel commentary, the job of almoner in a hospital or school.

However, the testimonies heard at Lyon also showed that these examples were still exceptions to the general rule. "Can one be a feminist and a Catholic ?" members of the movement asked. In France, a recent statement of the Council of Bishops recognized the gathering importance of the place of women in the life of the Church and noted the danger that their services were made use of without any corresponding recognition in the form of co-responsibility in decision-making.

Catholic women often quote the example of the various Protestant churches. The first woman ever to be ordained as a pastor was Antoinette Brown in 1853, when she was ordained into the American Congregational Church. It was in 1947 that a law was passed in Denmark as a result of which the first three women pastors were ordained into the Lutheran Church. In Sweden, this right was not obtained until 1959. Today, 10% of all pastors in Denmark, and 12% in Sweden, are women. The Anglican Church has lagged behind. Only in 1981 did it allow women to become deacons (who are below ministers in the Church's hierarchy).

Useful address :
Femmes et hommes dans l'Eglise
Secrétariat international
58, rue de la Prévoyance
1000 Brussels

6 August 1983

Various women's organizations, meeting in New York on the occasion of the UN Special Session on Disarmament, decided to start a hunger strike on 6 August 1983, Hiroshima Day, unless substantial progress has been made by then on disarmament. "We shall call it a fast for life. That's what it means. We want our action to show that the whole of humanity has a right to live free from the spectre of famine and fear of the holocaust", said Aline Boccardo (Switzerland), Solange Fernex (France) and Dorothy Granada (United States).

Useful address :
Femmes pour la Paix
Solange Fernex
F-68480-Biederthal

German Marshall Fund

Twice a year, the German Marshall Fund sponsors internships in the United States for people interested in promoting equal opportunities for women. The period of stay is six to eight weeks and interns are hosted by public and private American organizations. The main criterion for eligibility is fluency in English; preference will be given to applicants demonstrating ability to transfer back to Europe what they have learnt in the US. The next deadline for receipt of

applications is 1 May 1983. Further particulars are obtainable from the addresses below :

Useful addresses :	German Marshall Fund Ahrstrasse 46 <u>5300 Bonn 2</u>	Atlantic Institute 120, rue Longchamp <u>75116 Paris</u>
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GERMANY

A courageous debate

A brave attempt to hold discussions on a sensitive issue was made at a recent seminar organized by the Deutscher Frauenring (German Women's Circle) in collaboration with the European Communities' Press and Information Office in Bonn. The seminar, held in Fulda, was on the theme of the European Community as a model for peace. Where the courage came in was in broaching the question of the re-unification of Germany.

To start off with, the participants stressed the importance of the Community being endowed with sound democratic institutions. Awareness of European identity would be strengthened by having European passports, European driving licenses, European postage stamps, and so on. The contribution of the European Parliament to the building up of a European spirit was stressed.

Two feelings could be sensed among those taking part in the seminar. Firstly, the idea of a unified Europe raised nostalgia for a unified Germany : the satisfaction of being able to move freely around in Community countries was contrasted with the difficulties experienced when trying to meet the members of one's family in the other part of what was once a single country. Secondly, German women had already tasted the bitter fruit of excessive nationalism.

With emotion, but with courage too, the women at the seminar spoke of the special situation of their country and today's priorities. Two days was not enough to exhaust the subject, but it was agreed that peace and liberty would be likely to flourish by concentrating on building up the European Community.

Useful address :	Deutscher Frauenring E.V. Europa-Ausschuss c/o U. Hammer Im Zeilfeld 31 <u>7447 Aichtal</u>
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Secretaries

The advent of new technologies at work is radically altering the work of secretaries. The Deutscher Sekretärinnenverband (German Secretaries' Association) has turned its attention to the new possibilities opening up to its members, training opportunities and intensified re-training. The Association will be pleased to hear from other organizations with the same aims in other Community countries.

Useful address :	Deutscher Sekretärinnenverband Ritterstr. 53 <u>6700 Ludwigshafen 14</u>
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Sexism in language

"Informationen für die Frau" (No. 9/82) (Information for Women), the magazine of the Deutsche Frauenrat (German Council of Women), has published an interesting glossary which points out how women are discriminated against in our everyday vocabulary. In the first category of discriminatory language, they mention all the cases where women are left out or forgotten, for example, in letter-writing (Dear Sirs), or common expressions (the Founding Fathers, the faith of our Fathers, father's profession). The writers of the article give a non-sexist alternative in each case : Dear Sir, Dear Madam (plural form impossible in English !), the Founders of the Constitution, the faith of our ancestors, mother's profession... father's profession ..., etc.

The second category concerns cases where women are simply tagged on to men: Mr and Mrs Smith, for example. What is wrong with Mrs Smith and Mr Smith, the article asks.

A third type of sexism occurs when the way of referring to a person reinforces the woman's traditional role : "Miss" (to a waitress), "housewives", etc.

The final group are phrases which have overtones of putting women down, feeling sorry for them or worse, "demning with faint praise": the weaker (or fair) sex, old maids, the little woman etc.

The examples given in this magazine have been taken from the specialized magazine "Linguistische Berichte 71/81" (Linguistics Information), published by Vieweg, Wiesbaden. Dr Senta Trömel-Plötz, a linguistics teacher, has written another book (published by Fischer-Verlag), called "Frauensprache: Sprache der Veränderung (The language of women - language of change).

Useful address :

Informationen für die Frau
Deutsche Frauenrat
Südstrasse 125
5300 Bonn 2

Women who run their own businesses

Dr Anne-Rose Iber-Schade, Chairwoman of the Vereinigung von Unternehmerinnen (Union of women who run their own businesses), speaking at this organization's Annual General Meeting, emphasized the growing importance of women in economic life. Official statistics put the number of women managing their own firms in Germany today at more than 100 000.

According to the Chairwoman, the Union must help its members, especially the newcomers, to confront the difficult economic situation we are living through. Women have the courage to go out and start a new venture but sometimes lack the necessary business experience. Dr Iber-Schade also asked women bosses to have more confidence in other women when they are hiring staff. Talking of women's entry into political, economic and labour-relations circles, the Chairwoman said that a lot of doors had now been opened by women but more of us need the courage to go through them into areas that have hitherto been inaccessible.

Useful address :

Vereinigung von Unternehmerinnen e.V.
Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 94
5000 Köln 51

BELGIUM

"Université des Femmes"

This unusual organization, started in 1979 as an offshoot of the group GRIF (Feminist research and information group) has taken "power" as the central theme of its activities this year. The women who run the "University" have this to say : "The issue of power is not a new one in the feminist movement. The latter has automatically rejected any idea of power seeing this to be "phallogratic" by its very nature. But the movement is nonetheless prone to conflicts sparked off by individual power struggles. We talk a lot about this, but only rarely do we analyze the topic thoroughly. (...) The purpose of this year's programme at the "Université des Femmes" is to attempt a definition of power, analyze how it manifests itself, and look into the areas where we are most affected by it".

The "Université des Femmes" brings out a magazine called "Chronique" about six times a year. Besides general articles on the situation of women in Belgium and elsewhere, it contains news of the University's activities, bibliographies, etc.

In the first issue of "Chronique", there are two articles that are especially noteworthy. The first asks "What are Finnish feminists doing ?" and gives some interesting answers. The second is an interview with Emilienne Brunfaut, who throughout her life has been an ardent socialist, trade unionist and feminist. With her strong personality and moral integrity, Emilienne Brunfaut very early on realized the practical value of solidarity. She saw the example of her father who while still young set up a workers' cooperative which had links with the union, the workers' health insurance scheme, an information network for workers in the region, and so on. Emilienne Brunfaut's steady gaze and direct way of talking have made her a well-known figure. The account of her childhood and youth, where we see how a militant character is forged, is particularly moving.

Useful address : Université des Femmes a.s.b.l.
place Quetelet 1a
1030 Brussels

Women and the environment

The women's committee of the European Movement's Belgian wing held a one-day seminar in Brussels on the subject of man's destruction of his environment.

The women's committee Chairwoman, Marijke Van Hemeldonck, who is also a member of the European Parliament, led the discussions which highlighted the watchdog role of voluntary organizations and the part that women's groups can play in the defence of our environment.

Useful address : Conseil belge du Mouvement européen
Commission féminine
rue de Toulouse, 49
1040 Brussels

School textbooks

The working group "Changeons les livres scolaires et les livres d'enfants" (Let's change textbooks and children's books) has carefully read over 300 books in current use in French-speaking Belgian primary and secondary schools. The result of this inquiry published under the title "L'image des femmes et des hommes dans les manuels scolaires" (The portrayal of women and men in school text books) is startling.

The example that is both most striking and most worrying occurs in a mathematics textbook. An exercise on sets is quoted, in which children have to sort out boys' and girls' toys. Here the distribution of roles is forced down with the mathematical theory ! Valerie and Cathy are only supposed to have dolls, dolls' clothes, tea sets, cradles, work baskets, etc. So children who want to defy tradition get bad marks. They've obviously understood nothing about sets if they put "Daddy's newspaper" in among Mummy's things !

The group "Changeons les livres ..." organizes exhibitions, conferences and debates. Reports on the textbooks they analyze are sent to publishers and schools. A booklet suggesting ways of counteracting the sexist influence of textbooks will be sent to parents or teachers interested in the subject.

Useful address :
Changeons les livres scolaires
c/o la Maison des Femmes
29, rue Blanche
1060 Brussels

Managing your time well

The Centre "Repartir" (Fresh start) has just started a workshop on "time-management", aimed at helping people to organize the way they use their time. How to draw up a "time budget", look at it and see where it goes wrong, where it could be improved and how to do this - these are all vital steps on the way to balancing efficiency with pleasure.

Useful address :
"Repartir"
242 avenue Albert
1180 Brussels

Infor-Femmes

Infor-Femmes, an association aimed at giving women, couples and families information, help and training has just set up a series of lectures on the theme "Choosing your job". Part-time work, full-time work, temporary work, self-employment, new forms of work : all these are dealt with thoroughly.

The big turn-out for these lectures shows the extent to which women are realizing the importance of gaining economic independence. It also shows that, increasingly, they are prepared to take decisions on their own. They are also becoming more familiar with the law and so special lectures have been organized to go into details of employment contracts, the implications of various types of marriage contract and the problems that can occur over inheritance.

Useful address :
Infor-Femmes
Place Royale 7
1000 Brussels

DENMARK

Kvinfo

"Kvinfo" is a contraction of the words "Kvinder" (woman) and "information". It is also the name of a multi-disciplinary research centre on women, near Copenhagen's People's University. A course has been introduced to teach "feminology" and the three first topics show a refreshingly new approach. They are: "humour", "the religious sense" and "architecture".

Useful address :

Kvinfo
Folkeuniversitetet i Kobenhavn
Kobmagergade 52
1150 Copenhagen

FRANCE

Boys and girls

Organized jointly by the paper "La Croix" and the Guide and Scout movements, a debate recently took place on the sensitive question of how to educate boys and girls to live together better. For several years, organizations like the Scout movement have been looking into the possibility of combining the activities of boys and girls.

But the French Guide and Scout Movements (which are linked to the Catholic Church) have not agreed to mixing girls and boys in the same troops, unlike the non-denominational "Eclaireurs" and "Eclaireuses" movements. What has been opted for is separate troops which join together on occasion for carefully-prepared activities.

The point was made in the debate that co-education should not lead to increased "temptation" but that it should provide an opportunity for relationships in which individuals keep their own identity and respect those of others.

Useful addresses :

Guides de France	Scouts de France
65, rue de la Glacière	23, rue Ligner
<u>75013 Paris</u>	<u>75020 Paris</u>

Confédération Syndicale des Femmes

Set up just after Women's Day, this Confederation of Women's Unions lodged its articles of association with the Registrar's Office in the Paris Prefecture on 22 April 1982.

But the Employment Ministry has refused to agree to the registration of these articles. According to a communiqué from the Confederation, the Ministry's grounds for this refusal are that women who bear and raise children and women who do not go out to work (a reference to two of the unions in the Confederation) are not directly involved in the national economy. The Confédération Syndicale des Femmes has decided to go ahead with its plans anyway.

Useful address :

C.S.D.F.
2, rue de la Roquette
75011 Paris

Women journalists

Formed over a year ago, the Association des Femmes journalistes sets out to encourage the distribution and coordination of information concerning women. In addition to this, it attacks the discrimination against women existing in the press. The association sends a small newsletter to its members which is full of ideas, news, proposals and cases. One of the latter was the recent famous TV programme to which a large number of journalists were invited to talk about censorship of the press. Was it coincidence or self-censorship that no women appeared among the press ...?

The Association has conducted research into the place and role of women in the organizational chart of the main papers. It sent out a questionnaire to more than 400 women journalists asking about every aspect of the profession: relations with superiors, how leisure-time is arranged, promotion prospects, etc.

Useful address :

Association des Femmes journalistes
61, rue Quincampoix
75004 Paris

Divorced women

A group of divorced women is working for improvements in the law, particularly social security benefits for the ex-partners of a marriage. For example, unless an abandoned woman with no job of her own knows which Social Security Benefits Centre her ex-husband comes under, she cannot qualify for benefits. If her husband has changed his address, then the situation is even worse, for the old Centre is not allowed to pass on the new address. The situation is unfair, absurd, and seemingly insoluble.

(The information received by Women of Europe on this subject unfortunately contained no name or address).

CODIF

CODIF (a guidance, resource and information centre for women) in Marseilles has given us a good example and has been leading the field in this area. It all started in 1973 at the Marseilles Spring Fair, when a stand called "Women-your problems", giving legal advice, job counselling and information on leisure activities, consumers' rights, contraception etc., was visited by more than 5 000 women. Encouraged by this, and with a grant from the Marseilles' authorities, CODIF was launched in 1974, thus becoming France's first women's information centre.

CODIF has three explicit aims : to inform, to initiate activities and to exert pressure. Some of its successes are the formation of the group "Codamies", where women on their own can meet for cultural activities, sports etc., and the "Chouettes", a theatre group, which puts on shows all over the region. As far as lobbying is concerned, CODIF attends meetings with the authorities to make known women's views on a whole range of issues.

Useful address :

CODIF
81, rue Sénac
13001 Marseilles

GREECE

Kinisi Dimocratikon Gynekon

This is a Greek organization (Democratic Women's Movement) started in 1974 with the object of bringing together progressive women dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women. Today its chief activities are the liberation of women as individuals and in society, their cultural and social emancipation, and the abolition of laws and institutions impeding this transformation. The Movement's concerns do not stop at removing discrimination where it exists. It is also hoping that new human values can be discovered which will help both men and women to develop.

The Movement has branches in Athens, Piraeus, Thessalonica, and other provincial towns. The branches keep in regular touch with each other and the national centre, something which is also achieved through its quarterly called "To Deltio" (The Bulletin).

To try and get the Civil Code revised and to oppose call-up for women, the Democratic Women's Movement has allied with other women's organizations in the Syntonistiki Epitropi Gynekon Ekprosopon Somation (Coordinating committee of representatives of women's organizations).

In 1979, the Movement proved its practical worth when it presented the text for a bill on maternity protection. In 1980, it collaborated closely with various independent feminist groups in the setting up of a militant action committee, whose first campaign involved an open-air meeting demanding a revision of family law. In spring of the same year, the first Women's House was opened, run on "Self-help" lines, where women can learn such skills as self-defence, mechanics, how to make the most of public services, etc.

Useful address :

Kinisi Dimocratikon Gynekon
Gennadiou 5
Athens T.T. 142

Women in the home

The Syllogos Ellinidas Nicokyras (Greek association of women in the home) held its first pan-Hellenic conference recently, which was also attended by members of a number of similar organizations throughout the Community. This working session revealed, more sharply than ever before, the problems and realities of the largest category of women in Greece, the 2.5 million-odd women who stay at home.

The conference discussed the role of women in the home in a modern society, mentioning the value of their social and economic contribution, their opportunities for re-joining the paid work-force, the question of their position regarding the social security system. Throughout the conference's work, useful comparisons were made with the situation in other countries. The French "Association pour le soutien et la promotion des femmes au foyer" handed over a complete file of information to its Greek sister association.

ITALY

Equality and the crisis

In this time of crisis, it is more important than ever that women participate in the decision-making process. That, in short, was the view expressed by Margherita Barnabei, Chairwoman of the European Movement's International Women's Committee. The occasion was the opening of a conference organized by the Italian Council of the European Movement and the topic under debate was the Community's Action Programme for Equal Opportunities. Before a full and attentive audience, the Chairman of the Movement's Italian Council, Giuseppe Petrilli stressed that in implementing the Action Programme, account must be taken of the extreme changes which had occurred in recent years both in society as a whole and the working world in particular.

Lorenzo Natali, Vice-President of the European Commission, had no hesitation in painting a realistic picture of the difficulties being encountered today by the European Community. He stressed Europe's need for the full support of its citizens if it was to achieve its goals. In this context, women's demands for peace, democracy and liberty were an invaluable form of support for the Community's institutions.

The women attending the conference, who came from all over Italy and represented all political tendencies, were in broad agreement with Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli when she said that a tremendous effort was needed by women if they were to take part in politics. To change from being an accessory of those in power to assuming a more independent and creative role took a heavy toll in physical effort or in family life. Women's history was only just starting, she said.

Paola Gaiotti, Member of the European Parliament, explained how Parliament, in adopting the Action Programme on Equal Opportunities, had shown its real value as a political force. This gave food for thought : two new political elements - Parliament and women - had successfully joined forces to produce an impact on European society.

Angela Sarcina outlined the recent changes in Italy's equality legislation. She highlighted the importance of the positive action contained in the Community's Action Programme and expressed the wish that it would serve as a model to the Italian Government.

The meeting ended with a round table, chaired by Margherita Barnabei. Representatives of all the political parties outlined the views of their organizations and the principal concerns of their members.

In view of the interest aroused by this conference the Italian Council of the European Movement has decided to publish a report on it which will then be circulated widely and used to launch a series of regional conferences on the same theme in the spring.

Useful address :

Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo
Viale Guido Baccelli, 10
Rome

FIDAPA

During its annual congress, FIDAPA (the Italian Federation of Craftswomen, Professional women and Businesswomen) highlighted the importance of good vocational training and new openings for women in the business world.

Many of the speakers pleaded for closer contact with other women's organizations in Italy which are also engaged in the struggle for equal opportunities between women and men.

The two themes adopted for the organization's work in 1983 are health and volunteer work.

Useful address :

F.I.D.A.P.A.
Via V. Scussa, 5
34126 Trieste

LUXEMBOURG

Women in difficulty

The Paula Bové Home has just been opened, to cater to women in difficulty, whatever their situation : women made homeless through divorce, unemployed women, women suffering from drug-abuse, battered women, and so on. Carmelite nuns from the Convent of Saint-Zithe initiated the idea for the home, named after the founder of the congregation who died in 1885. The home can accept up to thirty women. It is the third women's refuge in Luxembourg, the other two having been started by the Women's Liberation Movement.

Useful address :

Foyer Paula Bové
rue d'Anvers
L-Luxembourg

Info-viol

Info-viol (Info-rape) was started to give moral support and practical help to rape victims. The centre arranges to have someone accompany the victim during all the steps she has to take (hospital, police, court etc.), following rape.

The centre is supported by a large number of Luxembourg women's organizations. With assistance from the Ministry of Health, it has published a useful booklet called "Rape - what to do about it". It is also planning a campaign aimed at secondary schools, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education.

Useful telephone number : 48.59.77 (Family planning)

Family planning in a Youth Centre

In Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg's second-largest town, the authorities have given permission to Family Planning to give consultations in the Youth Centre. Advice used to be given at the organization's own offices, but young people were afraid of what would happen if they were seen entering. Things will be much easier now that Family Planning can operate in the Youth Centre itself, where young people come and go freely all day long.

Useful address :

Planning familial
69, rue Zénon Bernard
Esch-sur-Alzette

NETHERLANDS

Women and the Media

The Stichting Vrouw en Media (The Women and Media Foundation), recently started in the Netherlands, has been awarded a government grant to carry out a detailed survey on the position of women journalists in the daily and weekly press, the way information is used and the attitudes of female readers.

The first short survey shows that women journalists work between 60 and 80 hours a week, not to mention what they do all weekends. This obviously leaves very little time for a private life. For this reason, the Foundation is taking a special interest in the possibilities of part-time work.

Among the women who started this foundation are three women who are journalists themselves, three social scientists (one of whom is Hedy d'Ancona, former secretary of State for Equality), one lawyer and one lecturer at a College of Further Education.

Useful address :

Stichting Vrouw en Media
Jan van Eyckstraat 25
Amsterdam

UNITED KINGDOM

The 300 Group

Campaigning as a Parliamentary candidate in the 1979 General Election, Lesley Abdela decided that there was something absurdly wrong in the way Britain was run - women appeared to have virtually no say whatever. She decided to try and rectify the situation by encouraging more women to stand for Parliament, and the 300 Group was born with the aim of eventually getting 300 women into the House of Commons - a little under half of all MPs, compared with the 21 (3%) that are there now.

The Group draws support from women in all political parties. It has organized conferences and workshops on subjects seldom covered by other women's organizations, for example, defence and arms control and the European Monetary Fund.

In a recent article, Lesley Abdela suggests that proportional representation would help the women's political cause in Britain.

Useful address :

300 Group
Molly Sawbridge 2
The Old Kiln, Nettlebed
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire

Women in Scotland

While more women go out to work in Scotland than in the rest of Britain, and more of them belong to a trade union, they work longer hours and get less pay than their sisters elsewhere in Britain.

These are the findings of a study undertaken, with financial help from the Equal Opportunities Commission, on behalf of the Glasgow Women's Centre by Esther Breitenbach.

Useful address : Glasgow Women's Centre
57 Miller Street
Glasgow G1
Scotland

Training for management

The National Organization for Women's Management Education (NOWME) is a voluntary, non-profit-making organization created to help women be more successful in all levels of management. Launched in the summer of 1982 it seeks to act as a clearing house for information on courses, conferences and seminars concerning women managers, and be a contact point between women and organizations specializing in vocational training at the management level.

NOWME hopes to open a Resource Centre for information in this field, and to carry out research.

Useful address : N O W M E
29 Burkes Road
Beaconsfield
Buckinghamshire

Women's Media Action Group

The Women's Media Action Group wants to encourage positive and balanced images of women "in all aspects of our lives", according to one of the women who started the organization.

The Group is principally interested in abolishing the portrayal of women as sex objects by using women's bodies to sell products, and challenges the assumption that women's interests in domestic matters are trivial and that technical, political, scientific and economic matters are men's domain.

A recent bulletin, Women's Media Action, analyses complaints in sex discrimination referred to the Advertising Standards Authority, and notes that some local authority libraries are beginning to look critically at books with sexist covers.

Useful address : Women's Media Action Group
c/o Woman's Place
48 William IV Street
London W.C.2

Peace demonstration

More than thirty thousand women turned out for the peace demonstration in which they linked hands to circle the military base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, south-west of London. The peace-chain, from which men, male journalists included, were barred, was formed without any violent incidents marring the occasion. The demonstrators also hung symbolic objects on the wire fence surrounding the military camp : children's toys, flowers, baby clothes, balloons. One of the women, Sylvia Tickle said "I don't want today's children to turn into tomorrow's victims".

It was the largest demonstration ever organized by women in Britain.

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

An anthology

"La Questione Femminile" (The Women's Issue) by Paola Gaiotti De Biase and Cecilia Dau Novelli, published by Le Monnier, France, is an anthology with a difference.

Paola Gaiotti De Biase has already written several books [Le Donne Oggi (Women Today), Le Origini del Movimento Cattolico Femminile (The Origin of the Catholic Women's Movement) and Questione Femminile e Femminismo nella storia della Repubblica (Women's and feminist issues in the history of the Republic)]. Here she has been joined by Cecilia Dau Novelli to produce a book specially intended for secondary school pupils - of both sexes.

The co-authors have presented their material in such a way that the women's issue can take its place, as an interdisciplinary problem, in the structure of the official teaching curriculum.

What they have attempted to do is to show pupils, in each area tackled, the objective parameters of the problem and the whole range of views on the matter.

The introduction puts the women's issue into historical context, from its earliest days up to the present. It then chooses extracts from the work of various writers to illustrate its different points : from Engels to Levi-Strauss by way of Sullerot and Ibsen.

In this way, the anthology picks out and develops ideas and actions in the chief areas where women have struggled for equality : suffrage, trade unionism, equal pay, access to universities, etc.

It contains an ample bibliography and a chronological chart linking women's history to major political, cultural and economic events from the mid-eighteenth century to our own times.

At a time when more and more people are realizing that the foundations for prejudice start to be laid in school, this work is a really useful tool for teachers. From it emerges the idea that the struggle for equality did not begin yesterday and that it must continue today and tomorrow.

Employment trends in the family, by Lesley Rimmer and Janey Popay, relates the divorce-rate, the number of single-parent families, the increasing number of married women in the labour market to the various tendencies affecting the employment situation. Many interesting correlations, opening up some new perspectives. Published by the Study Commission on the Family, 3 Park Road, London NW1 6XN at £ 4.25.

Les cahiers d'éducation civique (Notes for civics teaching), in its issue N° 59 (June/July 1982) tackles "Women's situation in a changing world". This particular number deals with marriage contracts, divorce, unmarried couples, filiation (legitimate and illegitimate children), adoption, contraception, abortion, women and employment, women and political life. Enquiries to : L'Union féminine civique et sociale (UFCV) 6 rue Béranger - 75003, Paris.

Listing of women's groups. We have just received the latest edition of this listing which contains a number of changes from the 1981 edition. A new inclusion is groups working for or active in the improvement of women's situation, whether or not they were started for this specific purpose. Programme for improving women's status, Secrétariat d'Etat, Ottawa-KIA 075.

Taking women into account. In the quarterly "People" (vol. 9, N°4. 1982, page 3) Anil Agarwal examines the need for both sexes to take part in programmes on water supply and purification in Third World countries. Anil Agarwal, who runs the Centre for Science and the Environment in Delhi, points out that the lack of success in using new techniques and the continuing high mortality rate due to diarrhoea in the Third World may be because those making the decisions are usually men who seldom consider women's special concerns. A disturbing report that should be read and discussed. "People", a quarterly published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW.Y 4 PW, telephone : 01-839 29 11.

Women and Development. This study, by Caroline Pezzullo, under the auspices of the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America, suggests various approaches for women's development projects and programmes in that region. She points out that women must participate not only in the development process but also in the political decision-making surrounding it. Ecla, Casilia 179 - D - Santiago, Chile.

Women and development in the Sahel. The author of this book, Guy Belloncle, describes how in Niger women's contribution to society is fully recognized with the result that they are accorded their full place in it, in practical terms. Niger is alone among African countries to do this and in most others, while women do fulfil economically and socially important roles, they are usually left out of government or international schemes for education and advancement. The rest of Africa, the author says, should follow the example of Niger and its active women. 212 pages, Les Editions Ouvrières, 12 av. Soeur Rosalie, F-75621 Cedex 13.

Jobstalker is a booklet designed to prepare its readers for job interviews. It covers how to apply for a job, what answers are the best in interviews, how to cope with being turned down for a job. Each of its ten chapters deals with a different aspect of the problem.

Produced by JMK Associates, 48 Bryanston Square, London W1H 7LN, at £ 2.50 plus postage.

Christine de Pisan (Christina of Pisa), by Régine Pernoud, takes us back to the Middle Ages and describes what it was really like in those days, which differs from our usual picture of that period. The real role of women at that time is brought out in this biography. It seems to have been a more active and significant one than in the Renaissance. For example, wages for men and women were the same in the Middle Ages. With the start of the Renaissance, women's pay sank to a mere two-thirds of what men earned.

228 pages, FF 55, Calman Levy.

Women in the House, by Elizabeth Vallance is a brilliant and provocative book. The author examines minutely the reasons why so few women enter Parliament, why their numbers have not increased since the second world war, and why there are fewer today than before a woman was made Prime Minister. Elizabeth Vallance ends with some suggestions for changing this state of affairs.

210 pages, £ 4.95, Athlone Press (1979).

Collaboration entre volontaires et professionnels (Volunteers and professionals working together). This booklet can be obtained from the Association pour le Volontariat, place Brugman 29, 1060 Brussels, tel. (02) 347 31 91. Its purpose is to give practical answers to all the questions put by voluntary workers and professional social workers, in order to help them work together successfully. More and more people are taking up voluntary work and their contribution to the community must be evaluated, their role defined, vis-à-vis professional social workers. The booklet costs Bfrs 50 (+ 20 francs postage).

We remind readers that this same association published a list of all organizations working solely or partly through voluntary help. This is a useful tool as it is in a loose-leaf form to permit easy up-dating.

Cinéma, regard, violence N° 25 of the Cahiers du Grif is dedicated to the filmmaker Jutta Brückner and her fascinating life. By means of this tribute to Jutta Brückner, her films and her ideas, the Cahiers du Grif suggest a way for us to look at ourselves and our own experience.

136 pages, 48 rue Emile Bouilliot, 1060 Brussels, or 36 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris.

C o r r e c t i o n : In our N° 26 (pages 69 and 70) on Politics of the Second Electorate, we wrongly stated that Joni Lovenduski and Jill Hills were the publishers. In fact, they are the authors of the book which is published by Routledge and Kegan Paul, 39 Store Street, London WC 1E 7DD.

Sisters is Irish journalist June Levine's first book. The author played a prominent role in the struggle for women's equality in Ireland and in her book, she recounts her experience as a feminist, describing the progress of the feminist movement in Ireland from the time when she was born up till today. Published by Ward River Press Ltd.,Knocksedan House, Forrest Great, Swords, Co. Dublin.

Women and the Culture Industries. This is the title of a recently-published study by a Marxist Sociologist, Michèle Mattelart. What image of women do national and transnational media convey in industrialized and developing countries ? This is a topic of vital concern in both areas. Documentation File N° 25, in UNESCO's series "Cultural Development".

Quaderni delle donne socialista (Socialist Women's Quarterly). This review, with an introduction by Elena Marinucci, head of the Women's Issues section in the Italian Socialist Party's leadership, gives a region-by-region breakdown of the place occupied by women in the Italian Socialist Party and its policy-making bodies. This is followed by a detailed commentary on the fifteen points which make up the Italian Socialist Party's Action Programme for women. P.S.I., Via del Corso, 476, Rome.

Women's Aim is published by the group AIM, which is trying to bring about changes in family law in Ireland. Issue N° 11, (Autumn 1982) devotes most of its space to articles on working women and gives many personal accounts by women which show very clearly how Irish society is changing. Women's Aim, 13 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

Femmes et Mondes : a magazine put out by the Comité du Nid, attempts to analyze the question of prostitution. Its standpoint is that prostitution must be halted and that to achieve this, attitudes must first be changed. If you would like to find out more about this magazine, write for a free copy to 7 rue de Landry, F-92110, Cliché, tel. (1) 270 92 40.

Mit Leidenschaft (Passionately), by Alice Schwarzer - an account of the ten years of struggle that the author lived through - years shared by other German women. Published by Rowohlt.

Dis maman, y'a pas de femmes dans l'Histoire ? (Mummy, aren't there any women in history ?) This was the question Maryse Wolinski's daughter put to her. Wishing to fill this gap, the author has written a book for 8-year olds and over, describing women who have played a decisive role in our history. Georges Wolinski's illustrations, sometimes ironically humorous, sometimes more biting, show up very clearly the stupidity of anti-feminist remarks. Published by La Farandole.

Consulte femminili - Ruole e prospettive per gli anni 80 (Women's Advisory Committees - role and outlook for the 80s) has published a report on the meeting they held in Rome in spring 1981, at which these organizations, the only ones of their kind in Europe, took stock of the state of Italian Society and suggested the main directions any action should take in the rest of this decade. Consulte Femminile della Provincia di Roma, Palazzo Valentini, Rome.

Cinéaction n° 9 : "Le cinéma au féminisme" (Feminism in the cinema) - explains the impact of feminism on the cinema in the past ten years, in France and elsewhere. It lists 500 films made in France by women. (Cinéaction is a quarterly magazine which devotes each issue to a particular aspect of the cinema). Through the way it treats its subjects, it tries to bring about changes in daily life and in society.

202 pages (for n° 9), FF 45, published by Harmattan, 7 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, F-75005 Paris, tel. (1) 354.79.10.

Women in the NATO forces gives a brief description of the work of NATO's women's committee. It explains the status, organization and terms of employment of women in the 12 armed forces of the Atlantic Alliance. For copies of this booklet, write to : Public Information Advisor, International Military Staff, NATO, 1110 Brussels.

Etre femme sous le IIIe Reich (A woman's life under the 3rd Reich). Protesting against the sexist bias of traditional historians, Rita Thalmann, author of this book, shows the prominent part played by feminist organizations in Germany before 1933, and their annihilation when a rigid male system - which claimed to exalt women - was introduced. The author points out the important role played by women in the opposition, their heroic acts, and the repression that they were subjected to. Published by R. Laffont.

Vrouwenwerk in discussie (Debate on women's work). A pamphlet published by the Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Netherlands Women's Council). It goes into the problem of the unpaid work done by women in voluntary organizations. Women in the Netherlands ask questions about their status in such circumstances. The book is available for Fl. 4, from the N.V.R., Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL The Hague.

Abitare in cooperative (living in a cooperative). N° 1, 2nd Year devotes all its space to a description of the problems of housing, from a woman's angle. Cooperative living enhances solidarity and gives women fresh opportunities for influencing their own environment. Published by Agora, editors' address : Via A. Cesalpino 1, 00161, Rome.

Dix femmes qui ont marqué leur époque (Ten women who influenced their times). Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgian Member of the European Parliament and Marcel Busieau, former Minister, describe the part played by ten women who were active in the workers' movement in their respective countries. Two of the ten are Flora Tristan and Indira Gandhi. The book is available for Bfrs 300, and can be obtained by making a bank transfer to Anne-Marie Lizin's account in Huy 001-0400266-23 or to R. Lhost, in Colfontaine, account n° 270-0320807-81.

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Archimedesstraat 73
1040 Bruxelles — 1040 Brussel
Tél. : 735 00 40/735 80 40

DANMARK

Gammel Torv 4
Postbox 144
1004 København K
Tlf. : (01) 14 41 40/(01) 14 55 12

BR DEUTSCHLAND

Zitelmannstraße 22
5300 Bonn
Tel. : 23 80 41

Kurfürstendamm 102
1000 Berlin 31
Tel. : 8 92 40 28

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Ὁδός Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας 2
Κατ' Ἡρώδου Ἀττικῶν
Ἀθήνα 134
τηλ. : 743 982/743 983/743 984

FRANCE

61, rue des Belles Feuilles
75782 Paris Cedex 16
Tel. : 501 58 85

IRELAND

39 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
Tel. : 71 22 44

ITALIA

Via Poli, 29
00187 Roma
Tel. : 678 97 22
Corso Magenta, 61
20123 Milano
Tel. 805 92 09

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Centre européen
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tél. : 43011

NEDERLAND

Lange Voorhout 29
Den Haag
Tel. : 46 93 26

UNITED KINGDOM

20, Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Tel. : 727 8090

Windsor House
9/15 Bedford Street
Belfast
Tel. : 407 08

4 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tel. : 37 1631

7 Alva Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tel. : 225 2058

ESPAÑA

Calle de Serrano 41
5A Planta-Madrid 1
Tel. : 474 11 87

PORTUGAL

35, rua do Sacramento à Lapa
1200 Lisboa
Tel. : 66 75 96

TÜRKIYE

13, Bogaz Sokak
Kavaklıdere
Ankara
Tel. : 27 61 45/27 61 46

SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA

Case postale 195
37-39, rue de Vermont
1211 Genève 20
Tél. : 34 97 50

UNITED STATES

2100 M Street, NW
Suite 707
Washington, DC 20037
Tel. : 862 95 00

1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Tel. : 371 38 04

CANADA

Inn of the Provinces
Office Tower
Suite 1110
Sparks' Street 350
Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7S8
Tel. : 238 64 64

AMERICA LATINA

Avda Ricardo Lyon 1177
Santiago de Chile 9
Chile
Adresse postale : Casilla 10093
Tel. : 25 05 55

Quinta Bienvenida
Valle Arriba
Calle Colibri
Distrito Sucre
Caracas
Venezuela
Tel. : 91 47 07

NIPPON

Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 102
Tel. : 239 04 41

ASIA

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