



COMMISSION
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Press Release

'CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE' : EUROPEAN WOMEN TO MEET IN LONDON

One hundred and twenty women from the 12 member states of the European Community, representing 85 organisations with a total membership of more than 50 million, will meet in London at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre from 5-7 November 1987 for the 4th European Community Colloquium for women's voluntary organisations.

The Colloquium - Towards Equality - Campaigning for Change - organised by the Women's Information Service of the European Commission and the Fawcett society - will focus on two main themes: strengthening the role women's organisations can play in influencing Community policies; and developing the relationships between women's organisations and national and Community institutions.

Speakers at the Colloquium will include Angela Rumbold, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, Hedy d'Ancona, a member of the European Parliament and chair of the Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights, Carlotta Bustelo, chair of the Commission's Consultative Committee on Equal Opportunities between men and women, and Tony Venables, Director of the European Bureau of Consumer Unions. Odile Quintin, Head of the Commission's Office for Equal Opportunities, will discuss the Commission's policies for Equal rights for women. Fausta Deshormes, Head of the Women's Information Service, will explain to delegates how the Commission promotes greater understanding of Community law and policies for women.

Since 1975, the European Commission has gained a reputation as the driving force for equal rights in Europe. Five major directives are now in force, guaranteeing equal pay, equal access to jobs and training, and social security rights. A major action programme is now under way to ensure the implementation of these directives and to encourage positive action projects in industry and in public service. The Colloquium will give women's organisations the opportunity to share their experience of influencing the decisions of Community institutions and to plan effective campaigns to keep up the momentum.

The Fawcett Society, one of the most respected of the UK's women's organisations has a track record of more than 100 years in campaigning for equality for women. Speaking for the Society, Dr. Margareth Joachim said: "We were very pleased to be asked to host this event - it's a great privilege. The Colloquium is a marvellous opportunity for women's organisations in Britain to strengthen contacts with their counterparts throughout the European Community."

For more information, please contact Morag Alexander on 01-222 8122 or 0734-780568.