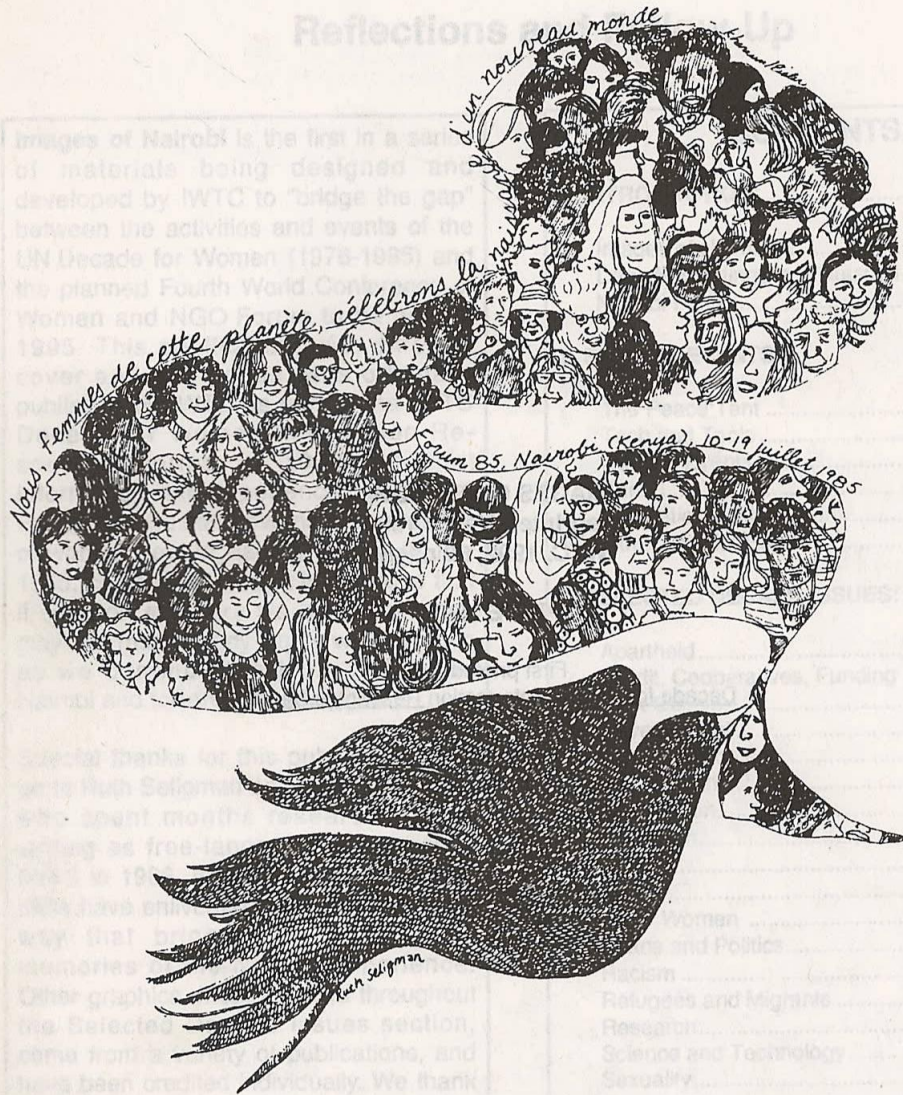


# TOWARD THE YEAR 2000...



2751

**"At Forum '85 we drew strength from the women who had come before us, whose struggles through the years brought us to Nairobi. We drew strength from the thousands of women who gathered with us as we tried to create a vision of a common equitable future. And we drew strength from our sisters who were not there, with whom we had worked side by side during the past Decade and with whom we will continue the journey beyond Nairobi." IMAGES OF NAIROBI, IWTC 1986, P.59.**

tel: (212) 587-9533 Fax: (212) 691-2704



# IMAGES OF NAIROBI

## Reflections and Follow-Up

**Images of Nairobi** is the first in a series of materials being designed and developed by IWTC to "bridge the gap" between the activities and events of the UN Decade for Women (1976-1985) and the planned Fourth World Conference of Women and NGO Forum to be held in 1995. This publication, with different cover and title pages, was originally published by IWTC as part of the IWTC Decade for Women Information Resources series in 1986, so that information and experiences gained at Forum '85, the non-governmental meeting of women held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 1985, could be shared. It is our hope that if we look at where we have been, we may see more clearly where we are going as we continue the journey beyond Nairobi and towards the year 2000.

Special thanks for this publication must go to Ruth Seligman and Linda Firestone, who spent months researching and writing as free-lance consultants with IWTC in 1986. In addition, Ruth's artistic skills have enlivened the first section in a way that brings back many vivid memories of the Nairobi experience. Other graphics, mostly placed throughout the Selected Decade Issues section, come from a variety of publications, and have been credited individually. We thank all of these publications, especially the artists and writers involved, in making this publication possible.

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#### PRODUCED BY:

International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017  
USA

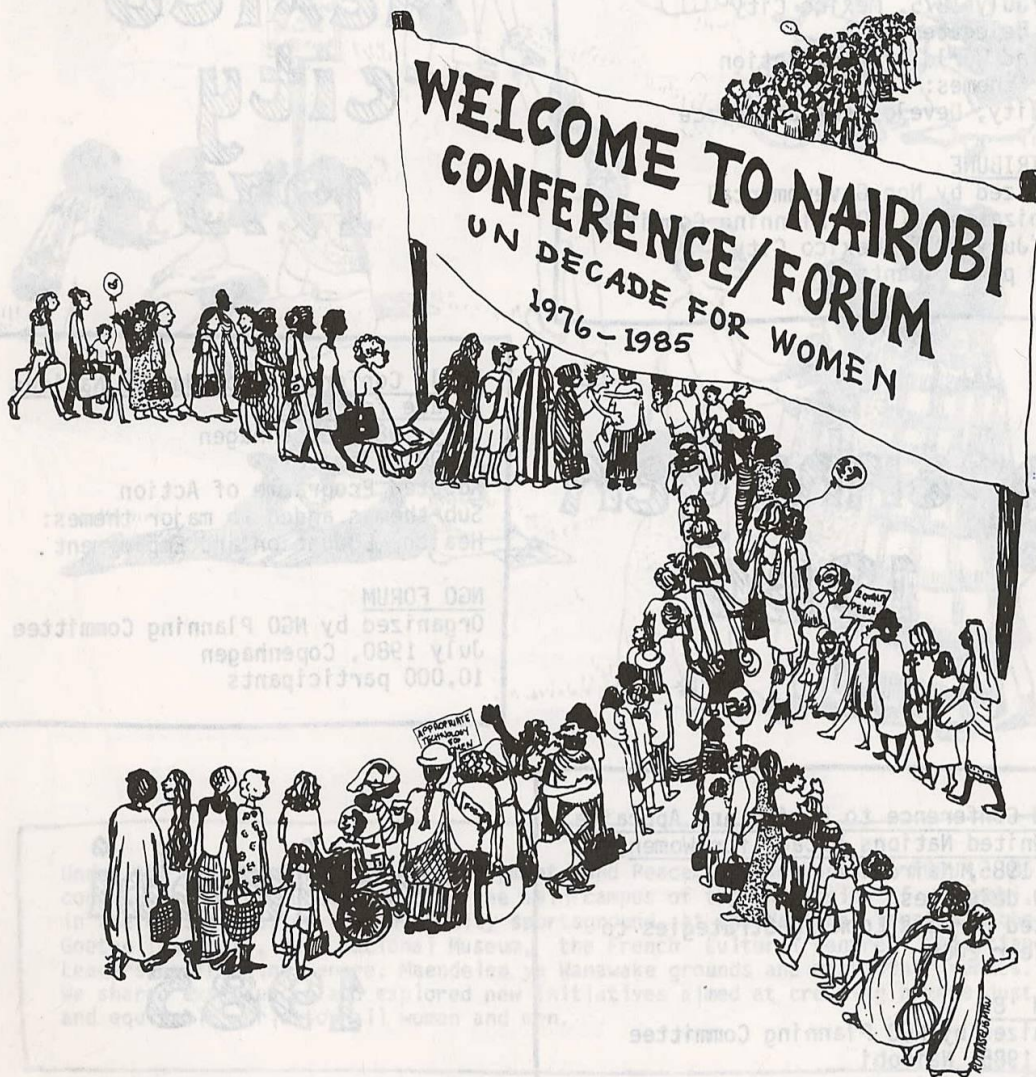
Tel: (212) 687-8633. Fax: (212) 661-2704



# IMAGES OF NAIROBI

In July, 1985, more than 17,000 women converged at Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in the culminating conferences of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985).

It was the third and final gathering to celebrate what began as a year for women, (U.N. International Women's Year, 1975), and developed into the U.N. Decade for Women.



# DECADE MEETINGS IN A NUTSHELL...

World Conference for United Nations  
International Women's Year (IWY)  
June/July 1975, Mexico City  
2000 delegates  
Adopted World Plan of Action  
Major themes:  
Equality, Development and Peace

IWY TRIBUNE  
Organized by Non-Governmental  
Organizations (NGO) Planning Committee  
June/July 1975, Mexico City  
6,000 participants

mexico  
city  
1975

copenhagen  
1980

World Conference for United Nations  
Decade for Women  
July 1980, Copenhagen  
2,000 delegates  
Adopted Programme of Action  
Sub-themes added to major themes:  
Health, Education and Employment

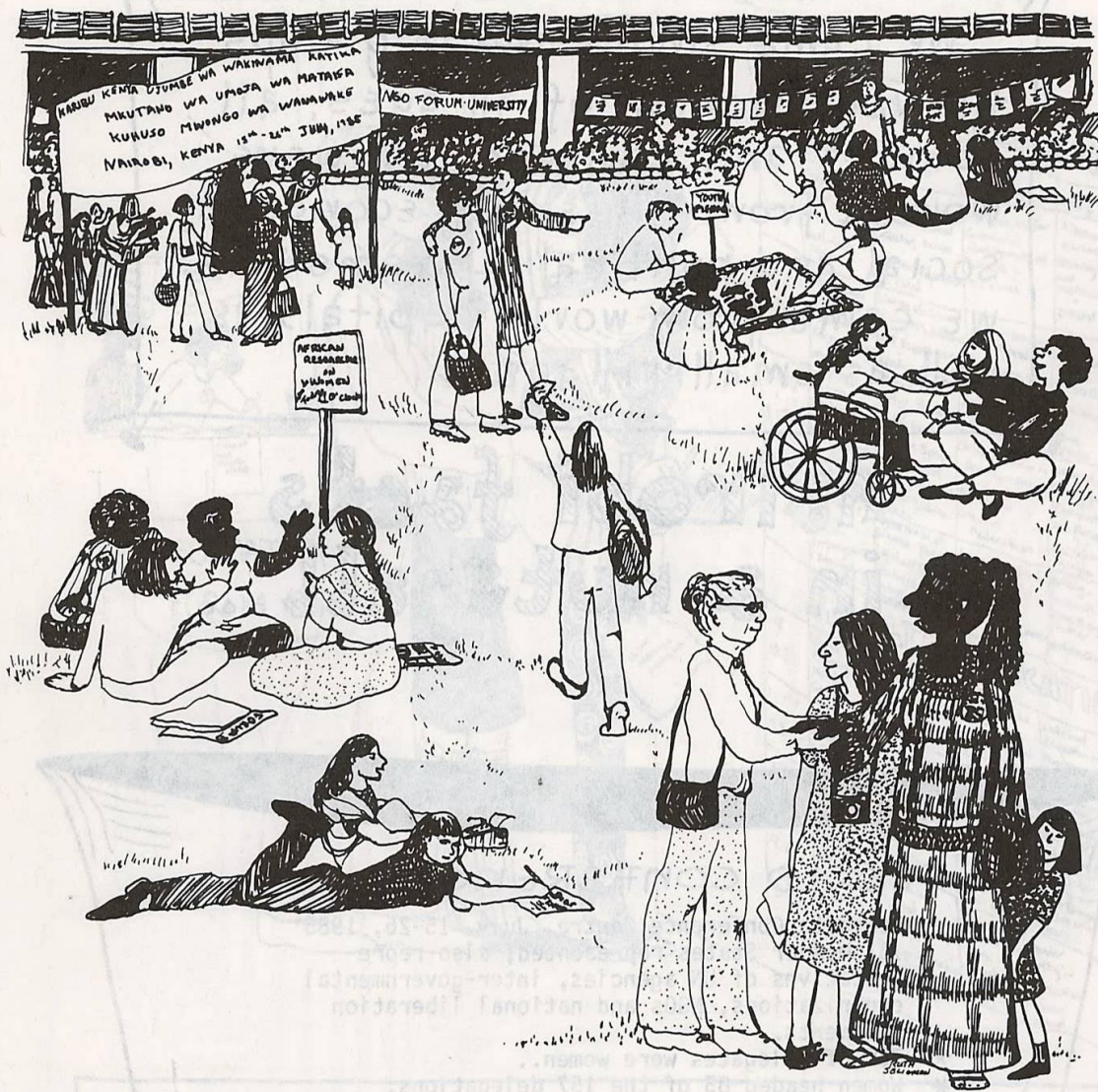
NGO FORUM  
Organized by NGO Planning Committee  
July 1980, Copenhagen  
10,000 participants

World Conference to Review and Appraise  
the United Nations Decade for Women,  
July 1985, Nairobi  
2,000 delegates  
Adopted Forward Looking Strategies to  
the Year 2000

FORUM '85  
Organized by NGO Planning Committee  
July 1985, Nairobi  
15,000 participants

nairobi  
1985





Under the banner of Equality, Development and Peace, participants at FORUM '85 congregated on the Great Court of the main campus of the University of Nairobi, in the classrooms, on the University sportsground, at the National Theatre, the Goethe Institute, the National Museum, the French Cultural Centre, Christian Leadership Training Centre, Maendeleo ya Wanawake grounds and many other venues. We shared experiences and explored new initiatives aimed at creating a more just and equitable world for all women and men.



... We came singly and in groups.  
We were women of all ages, all  
colours and callings. We were  
women from different economic,  
social and political systems and  
we came from world capitals as  
well as small villages...

## nairobi facts in a nutshell...

### WORLD CONFERENCE:

- \* Kenyatta Conference Centre, July 15-26, 1985  
157 Member States represented, also representatives of UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and national liberation movements.
- \* 75% of delegates were women..
- \* Women headed 85 of the 157 delegations.

### FORUM '85:

- \* University of Nairobi, July 10-19, 1985  
15,000 women representing 150 countries  
60% from Third World countries
- \* Open to all
- \* Organized by NGO Planning Committee representing more than 60 International NGOs, with committees in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.





RUTH SELIGMAN

The bulletin board adjacent to the information desk at the main campus of the University of Nairobi listed each day's scheduled workshops. More than 1200 workshops were held during the 10 days of the FORUM. 315 on Development; 215 on Equality; 147 on Peace; 139 on Health; 90 on Employment; 73 on Education. Other workshops focused on a diversity of issues including media, young women and girls, older women, disabled women, refugees and migrants, networking, science and technology, energy and environment, and many more. Special events were organized around specific themes, including women and peace (Peace Tent), appropriate technology for women (Tech and Tools), films and videos by, for and about women (Film Forum), women and religion (Karibu), and a kaleidoscope of cultural activities.

The official NGO Planning Committee report on FORUM '85 is available from: IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.



# THE PEACE TENT

The 3 striped tents that formed the centrally located complex known as The Peace Tent, were an important feature of FORUM '85. They were a safety valve and focal point for some of the more hotly contested and difficult global issues under discussion in Nairobi, and for many, became symbols of the spirit of the FORUM itself. The grassy area around the tents also served as a place for groups to gather, and the oversized patchwork globe at the entrance to the main tent set the tone with its declaration: "As a woman I have no country. My country is the whole world."

For more information on The Peace Tent and any future actions planned, contact:

Feminists International for Peace and Food (FIPF)  
c/o F. Farenthold  
2100 Travis Street  
Suite 1203  
Houston, TX 77002, USA

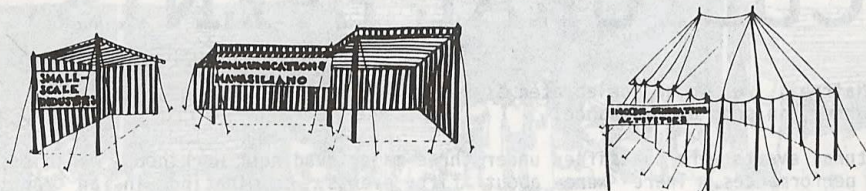


Women in Europe who were involved with The Peace Tent in Nairobi, are planning to hold "Peace Tents" in different countries in Europe during the summer of 1986. Other women are involved in organizing The Great Peace Journey, a campaign to challenge governments on their commitment to peace. After a successful effort in Europe in 1985, the Peace Journey will focus, during 1986, on Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South and Central America. To become involved in your area, contact: The Great Peace Journey, International Secretariat, P.O. Box 228, S-75104 Uppsala, Sweden

Information sources include: Forum '85 Final Report: Nairobi, Kenya (NGO Planning Committee); Decade Postdate (IWTC); FIPF; The Great Peace Journey poster.



# TECH AND TOOLS



Tech and Tools: An Appropriate Technology Event for Women at Forum '85, was the "hand's on" experience of the Forum, and attracted large numbers of women from all over the world, particularly from African and other Third World countries. Along with The Green Belt Movement of Kenya, Tech and Tools occupied the University Sports Ground, five minutes from the main University campus. An entire "village" of buildings, each using different building materials and style to suit each technology, was constructed to house the technologies and workshops, which were grouped around six major topics: health; energy; food processing; communications; income-generating; and agriculture.

The workshops and the displays all focused on women's access to and control over technologies, and the need to determine for ourselves what is really appropriate and what is plainly not appropriate!

Tech and Tools was co-sponsored by: International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC); World YWCA; and Appropriate Technology Action Committee (ATAC) of Kenya. Over 60 organizations from around the world took part. Follow-up resources now available include:

The Tech and Tools Book: A Guide to Technologies Women Are Using Worldwide. Published by IWTC and Intermediate Technology Development Group (UK). 200 pp, 1986, \$10.00

The Tech and Tools Report. IWTC, 20 pp, 1985, \$3.00

Women and Technology: If It's Not Appropriate for Women, It's Not Appropriate Slide/tape, 12 mins., 80 slides, audio tape and script. IWTC, 1986. \$50.00

Red poster and postcards : "If It's Not Appropriate for Women, It's Not Appropriate. Contact IWTC.





*Women of the world, we build the nations. Harvest*

# CULTURAL EVENTS

In Nairobi, we women celebrated a Decade. We celebrated it in music, in laughter, in song and in dance.

Cultural events were classified under three major headings: workshops; exhibits; and performances. There were about fifty events, culminating in an "Arts Harvest", a series of collective presentations staged in the auditorium of the French Cultural Centre in Nairobi, and an extravaganza attended by thousands at the Forum Closing Ceremony on the Great Court of the University of Nairobi.

The Forum itself was a cultural festival, a showcase for groups from different regions of the world. During lunch breaks and in the early evenings, performances of story-telling, poetry readings, mime, meditation, traditional relaxation techniques and peace messages all took place at the "Shrine for Everywoman". Dance, music, crafts, films, videos and photographic displays took place all over Nairobi, with a centre of activities at the French Cultural Centre.

Finally, a recommendation has been submitted to the UN General Assembly asking that a year be set aside as The Year for Indigenous and Traditional Cultures.



For follow-up information, contact:

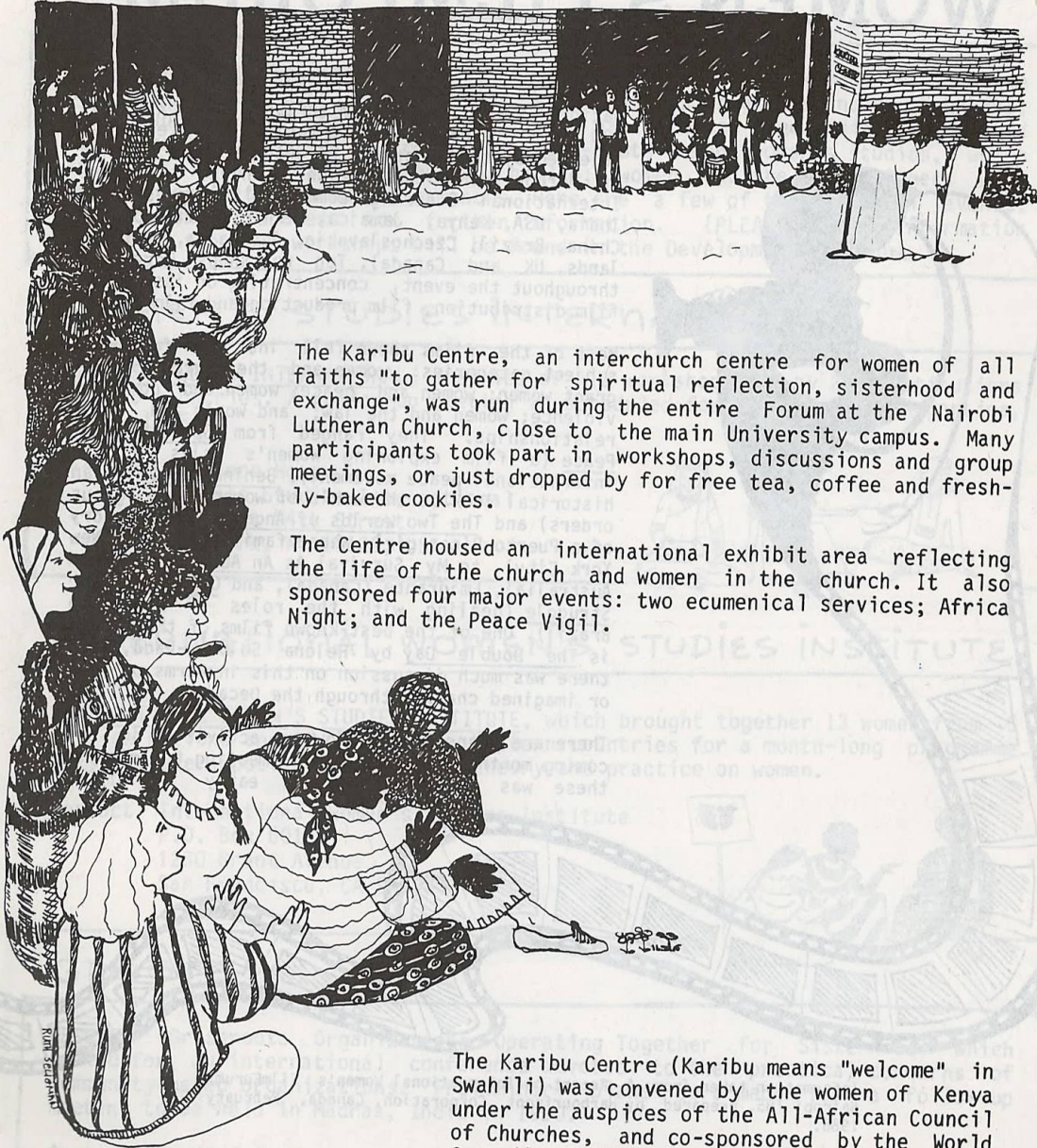
FACE Secretariat/TWITAS  
La Mama  
74a East 4th Street,  
New York, NY 10003, USA

*Women on earth, let's sing together - music to open and close Forum 85 "Mabiti Tugane"*

*All women on earth, let's build together. All*



# KARIBU



The Karibu Centre, an interchurch centre for women of all faiths "to gather for spiritual reflection, sisterhood and exchange", was run during the entire Forum at the Nairobi Lutheran Church, close to the main University campus. Many participants took part in workshops, discussions and group meetings, or just dropped by for free tea, coffee and freshly-baked cookies.

The Centre housed an international exhibit area reflecting the life of the church and women in the church. It also sponsored four major events: two ecumenical services; Africa Night; and the Peace Vigil.

The Karibu Centre (Karibu means "welcome" in Swahili) was convened by the women of Kenya under the auspices of the All-African Council of Churches, and co-sponsored by the World Council of Churches, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, National Council of Churches of Kenya, and the Lutheran World Federation.

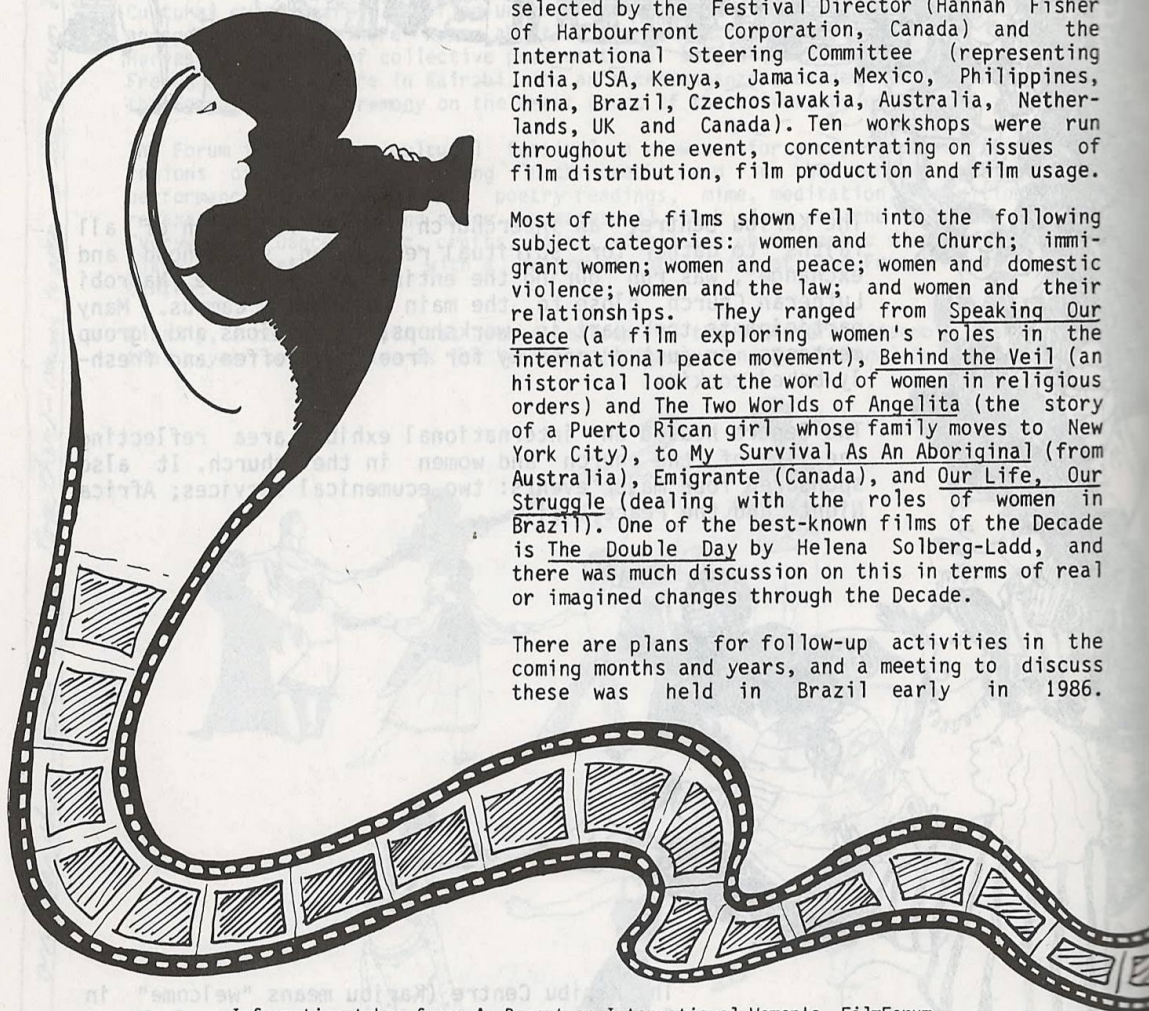


# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILMFORUM

During the ten days of FORUM '85, the International Women's FilmForum screened approximately 120 films (shorts, documentaries and features) selected by the Festival Director (Hannah Fisher of Harbourfront Corporation, Canada) and the International Steering Committee (representing India, USA, Kenya, Jamaica, Mexico, Philippines, China, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Netherlands, UK and Canada). Ten workshops were run throughout the event, concentrating on issues of film distribution, film production and film usage.

Most of the films shown fell into the following subject categories: women and the Church; immigrant women; women and peace; women and domestic violence; women and the law; and women and their relationships. They ranged from Speaking Our Peace (a film exploring women's roles in the international peace movement), Behind the Veil (an historical look at the world of women in religious orders) and The Two Worlds of Angelita (the story of a Puerto Rican girl whose family moves to New York City), to My Survival As An Aboriginal (from Australia), Emigrante (Canada), and Our Life, Our Struggle (dealing with the roles of women in Brazil). One of the best-known films of the Decade is The Double Day by Helena Solberg-Ladd, and there was much discussion on this in terms of real or imagined changes through the Decade.

There are plans for follow-up activities in the coming months and years, and a meeting to discuss these was held in Brazil early in 1986.



Information taken from: A Report on International Women's FilmForum, Nairobi '85, prepared by Harbourfront Corporation, Canada, February 1986.

For further information, contact:

Harbourfront Corporation  
317 Queens Quay West,  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1A2  
Canada

Studio D,  
National Film Board  
P.O. Box 6100, Station A,  
Montreal, Que. H3C 3H5, Canada



# OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

There were other Special Events at Forum '85, and they took many forms. Some were a series of panel presentations, with discussion groups and/or exhibits, all grouped around specific issues, such as: women and media, women and development, energy and environment, grass-roots women, women's studies, women and traditional crafts, women and health; women and the law. Others were open-air exhibitions and performances. Here are a few of these special events, with a contact address for further information. (PLEASE NOTE: Information regarding the DAWN workshops will be found in the Development section).

## WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERNATIONAL:

WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERNATIONAL, a series of 13 workshops run by 26 institutions from 15 countries. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 1986.

Contact: Florence Howe  
Women's Studies International  
311 East 94th Street  
New York, NY 10128, USA



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES INSTITUTE:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES INSTITUTE, which brought together 13 women from 5 African nations and 12 women from Western countries for a month-long programme to study the impact of development theory and practice on women.

Contact: International Women's Studies Institute  
P.O. Box 601  
1230 Grant Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94133



## GROOTS:

GROOTS (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together for Sisterhood) which called for an international conference devoted to the practical concerns of community-based organizations. Preliminary plans were made for a follow-up meeting to be held in Madras, India in 1990.

Contact: Nandini Azad  
No. 55, Brimasena Garden St.,  
Rao, Madras, 600 004, India

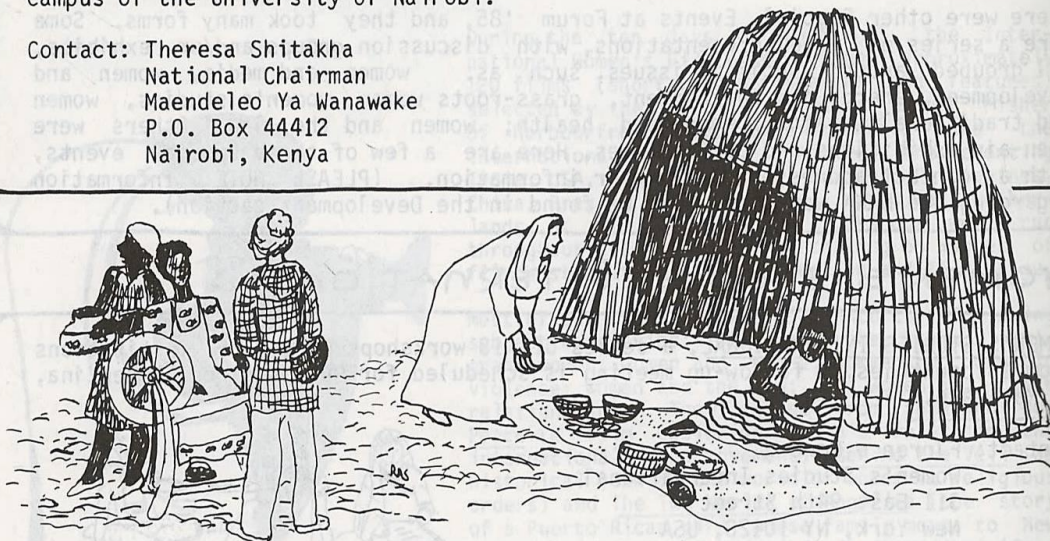
Bertha Gilkey  
Nat'l Congress of Neighborhood Women,  
249 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211



## MAENDELEO YA WANAWAKE:

MAENDELEO YA WANAWAKE (English translation, Development and Women) Kenya's national women's organization, which staged an impressive festival and exhibition of crafts and cultural events in an open field near to the main campus of the University of Nairobi.

Contact: Theresa Shitakha  
National Chairman  
Maendeleo Ya Wanawake  
P.O. Box 44412  
Nairobi, Kenya



## WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT:

WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT, a three-and-a-half day event "to raise the level of awareness of the relationship between women and the environment"; run by the Environment Liaison Committee of Nairobi, featuring a display, panels and discussion groups.

Contact: Environment Liaison Centre (ELC)  
P.O. Box 72461  
Nairobi, Kenya



## WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM:

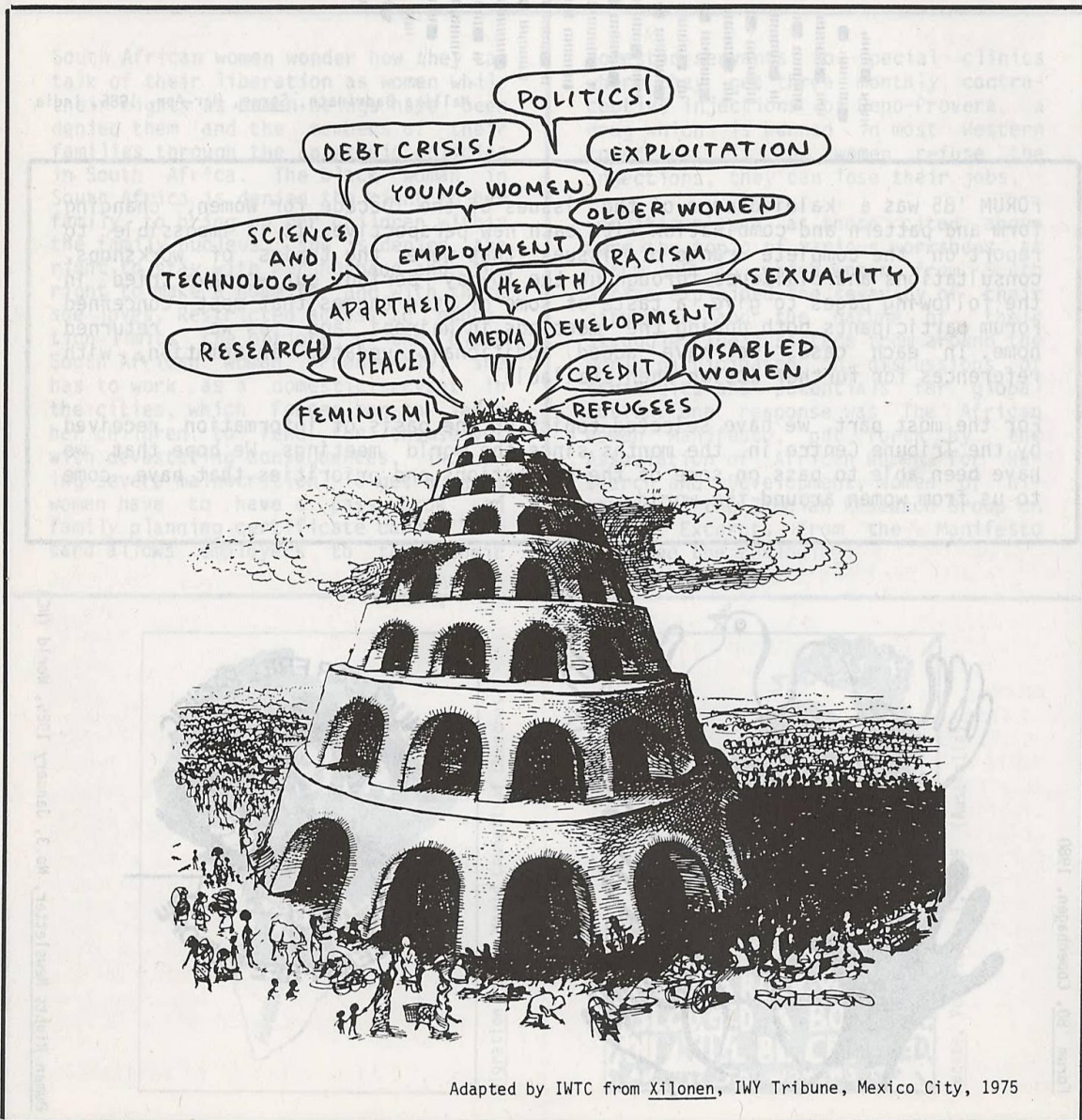
WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM, a project of Overseas Educational Fund (OEF) International. A major recommendation that came out of this week-long event was the decision to work towards the setting-up of an International Commission on Women's Rights.

Contact: WLD Secretariat  
OEF International  
2101 L Street, N.W.  
Suite 916,  
Washington D.C. 20037, USA



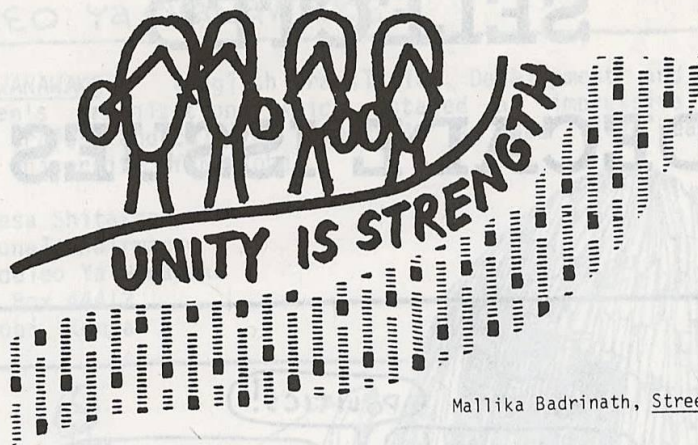


# SELECTED DECADE ISSUES



Adapted by IWTC from Xilonen, IWY Tribune, Mexico City, 1975





Mallika Badrinath, Stree, Mar-Apr. 1985, India

FORUM '85 was a kaleidoscope of the issues of the Decade for Women, changing form and pattern and combination with each new perspective. It is impossible to report on the complete range of issues that were the topics of workshops, consultations and dialogues throughout the 10-day period, but we have tried in the following pages to give a taste of some of the themes that most concerned Forum participants both during the meetings in Nairobi and as we returned home. In each case, we have added additional, updated information, with references for further action when available.

For the most part, we have selected topics on the basis of information received by the Tribune Centre in the months since the world meetings. We hope that we have been able to pass on some of the reflections and priorities that have come to us from women around the world.

Forum '80, Copenhagen, 1980



Human Rights Newsletter, No. 3, January 1986, World YWCA



# APARTHEID

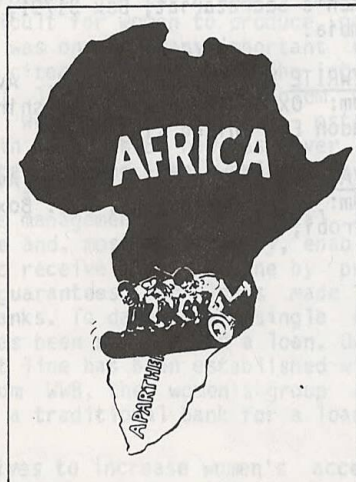
“ Women of the world do not appreciate fully the problems of women under apartheid. If they understood, they would put pressure on their governments to understand our situation. ”

South African women participating in workshop at Forum '85

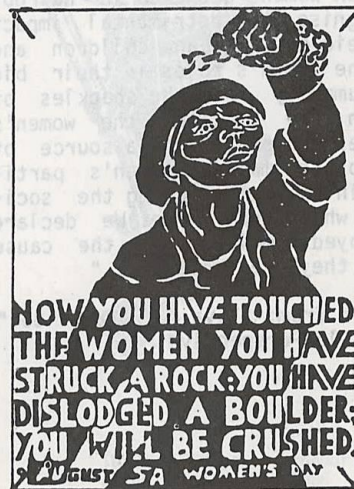
South African women wonder how they can talk of their liberation as women while their rights as human beings have been denied them and the members of their families through the apartheid policies in South Africa. The black woman in South Africa is denied the right to her family, to bring up her children within the family nucleus, she is denied the right to stay with her husband and the right to make a home for and with those she loves. Restricted access to education limits the options of the black South African woman. Frequently, she has to work as a domestic servant in the cities, which forces her to leave her children to fend for themselves with devastating consequences, including severe malnutrition. To get a job, women have to have a pass book and family planning certificate card. This card allows employers to take their

domestic servants to special clinics where they get three monthly contraceptive injections of Depo-Provera, a drug which is banned in most Western countries. If the women refuse the injections, they can lose their jobs.

Conditions such as those cited above were the topic of various workshops at Forum '85 in which women from South Africa explained the severity of their situation and the nature of their struggle. Their sisters from around the world participated in discussions of strategies and potentials for global action. One response was The African Women Manifesto, put forth by the Association of African Women for Research and Development, Women of Nigeria and the Zambian Research Group on Women. Excerpts from the Manifesto included the following:



Migration Today, World Council of Churches



Hecate, Vol. XI, No. 1, 1985 (Australia)



# APARTHEID

"The apartheid policies in South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia and the aggression against the frontline states are totally unacceptable to all African people, particularly to the mothers and daughters of Africa. African people can, and will, fight and struggle for the liberation of all Africa from apartheid, imperialism, economic exploitation and settler colonialism. African women have borne the brunt of the exploitative relationships resulting from apartheid and have been in the forefront of the struggle, and have born new generations to continue that struggle...All conscious, progressive freedom-loving people...must be prepared to provide...material support to the freedom fighters in this struggle for self-determination and to the frontline states so that they can continue to stand firm against the aggression of South Africa and in support of the liberation and self-determination of South Africa and Namibia. Within this struggle, women's organizations should play a leading role in the implementation of...sanctions and provide consistent solidarity to the specific struggle of women within the liberation movement. We affirm the need to address the emancipation of women simultaneously with national liberation.

"We African women gathered in Nairobi '85, recognise the detrimental impact of apartheid on women and children and commend the women's roles in their bid to free humanity from the shackles of oppression. We consider the women's noble roles exemplary and a source of inspiration to massive women's participation in issues affecting the societies in which they live. We declare our unalloyed commitment to the cause for which they are fighting..."

Information from: "Viva;" "Forum '85;" "UN Chronicle Perspective."



## WRITE:

Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)  
Boite Postal 3304  
Dakar, Senegal

African National Congress (ANC)  
P.O. box 31797  
Lusaka, Zambia

SWAPO Women's Council  
P.O. Box 953  
Luanda, P.R. Angola

International Council of African Women  
Box 8676  
Washington D.C. 20011 USA



## READ:

VOICE OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER. Available from: African National Congress, Women's Secretariat, Box 31791, Lusaka, Zambia.

OUTWRITE WOMEN'S NEWSPAPER. Available from: Oxford House, Derbyshire St., London E2, United Kingdom.

VIVA Magazine, July 1985. Available from: Trend Publishers, P.O. Box 46319, Nairobi, Kenya.



# CREDIT, COOPERATIVES, FUNDING

“ Give credit where credit is due. ”

From the IWTC/UNIFEM poster honouring African women farmers, May 1986

The Decade for Women has witnessed a growing awareness that we have been excluded from traditional sources of money. Whether we are talking about funding agencies, lending channels, or cooperative enterprises, women's representation both as beneficiaries of and decision-makers within these institutions has been markedly low.

One of the most encouraging developments of the Decade has been the creation of sources of credit for women's micro-enterprises. Women are organizing in their villages in an attempt to produce income and improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

At the World Conference for International Women's Year (IWY) 1975 in Mexico City, lack of access to credit was identified as a major obstacle to the development of small business enterprises by women. The fact that in most countries, the men hold land and other property in their names, making it difficult for women to produce collateral was one of many important obstacles cited. A response at the international level to this problem was Women's World Banking (WWB), established in 1979. WWB now has over 40 affiliates around the world with a capital fund of US\$3 million. WWB provides management and technical assistance and, most importantly, enables women to receive a credit line by providing guarantees for loans made by local banks. To date, not a single default has been recorded on a loan. Once a credit line has been established with help from WWB, the women's group can turn to a traditional bank for a loan.

Initiatives to increase women's access

to credit by national and local groups have also surfaced during the Decade.

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) started in the Gujarat State of India in 1974, opened its own bank to enable women street vendors to buy raw materials, and to extend technical as-



**GIVE  
CREDIT  
WHERE  
CREDIT  
IS  
DUE**

IWTC/UNIFEM poster honouring African women farmers, May 1986



## CREDIT, COOPERATIVES, FUNDING

sistance and marketing guidance services--as well as the ever-needed credit. Women in Saudi Arabia have their own bank, and a variety of technical assistance projects in Latin America and the Caribbean have been initiated to assist women in starting revolving loan funds.

During the Decade, the difficulties women encountered in raising funds from governmental and non-governmental donors was also recognized. The creation of women's funding agencies was one response. For example, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), previously known as the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women, was set up in 1975 to support women's production activities (both governmental and non-governmental) in developing countries. Its mandate was expanded in 1985 so that it could serve as a vital force in promoting self-reliant, long-term development in the Third World. Women's groups in the Netherlands, Australia and France (to cite a few) now exist with a mandate to educate the public in their own countries and put pressure on government donors to direct more funds to women's projects in the Third World. MATCH, a women's funding group in Canada, receives governmental and public support to aid small women's projects in developing countries. And, throughout the United States, women's funding coalitions are being organized to raise monies for women's projects in low-income communities in the country.

The role of women in cooperatives has also been a topic of great interest. The International Cooperative Alliance undertook a worldwide survey in preparation for the 1985 world meetings which presents data, analyses and forward-looking strategies related to women's participation in cooperatives.

Information from: "Christian Science Monitor;" "UNICEF News."



### WRITE:

Self-Employed Women's Association  
Sri Sadhana Press Building, Laheritola  
Bhagalpur 812002, Bihar, India

Women's World Banking  
684 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10021 USA

United Nations Development Fund  
for Women (UNIFEM)  
DC-2, 13th Floor  
New York, NY 10017 USA

MATCH  
401-171 Nepean  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0B4 Canada

International Cooperative Alliance  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy



### READ:

A GUIDE TO REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS. Available from: UNIFEM, United Nations, DC2-13th Fl., New York, NY 10017 USA

THE TRIBUNE #15: "Women and Credit,"  
THE TRIBUNE #18: "Women Making Money,"  
THE TRIBUNE #33: "Women and Funds."  
Available from: IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA



# THE DEBT CRISIS

“ This year, 1985, the foreign debt of the developing countries rose to the astronomic sum of one trillion dollars. For the countries of Africa, south of the Sahara...it has reached \$150 billion, with \$15 billion in interest to be paid each year. For Latin America, the debt is more than \$300 billion, with \$37 billion in interest...We call...for the solidarity of our sisters living in affluent countries...you need to find the means to force your governments to institute a more just and equitable economic order so that the objectives of the Decade for Women can someday be reached. ”

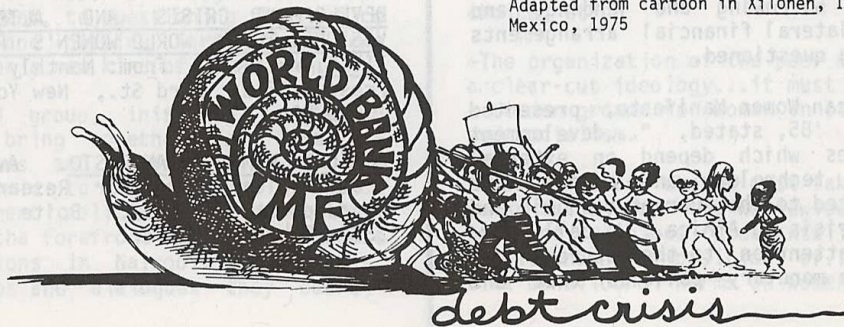
From Rahantavololana Razafindrakotohasina Andriamanjato, president of the Women's Science and Development Assoc., Madagascar

Women around the world have borne the brunt of the world's worsening economy as unemployment rises and the standard of living declines. Today, 570 million women are living in conditions of grinding poverty,, malnutrition, disease and with no protected water supply. For women in the Third World, the crisis is heightened by the increasing debts owed to international lending agencies, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank.

At Nairobi, and in increasing numbers in countries worldwide, women are beginning to write, think and talk about the relationship of the debt crisis to their lives and families. Belinda Coote, a participant at the International Coalition for Development Action's (ICDA) panel on "Women and the Debt Crisis" in Nairobi provided one example of the real-life effects of

what is generally presented as an "abstract" macro-economic issue:

"I was recently dispatched, by OXFAM, to Jamaica to study the sugar industry. Their parting shot was a request that I should also collect data on the social impact of the debt crisis. I nearly wept on the shoulder of my first research contact as I...told her how I wasn't an economist and didn't have any idea...how to go about this terrifying task. I didn't receive any sympathy. She slammed her fist on the table and roared, "You don't have to be an economist to understand the debt crisis! Go down to Trenchtown. Ask the doctors, nurses, teachers, street vendors. They will tell you. She was right...The following day the Prime Minister announced a 20% increase in the price of petrol which he explained was 'the inevitable outcome of the devaluation...'-part of





## THE DEBT CRISIS

the IMF's squeeze on Jamaica's economy.

Within hours of this announcement, the whole island erupted in protest...For the people of Jamaica, the debt crisis means: That in a little over a year, the cost of food items has risen by 61%; That 28% of children under four years of age are malnourished; That unemployment had reached 30% and was expected to rise to as much as 50% by the end of the year...(and) over-whelmingly I discovered that, whilst everyone, particularly the poorest members of a community suffer, it is women who really carry the greatest burden."

Taken from: "Women in Development News Sheet 5," ICDA, October 1985

More women are becoming involved in investigating the personal effects of the debt crisis on women and communities worldwide. In Latin America, with over US\$300 billion owed to foreign banks and social programmes being cut drastically by the austerity programmes imposed by the IMF, grass-roots groups are including demands about the way international lending practices are managed in their petitions and demonstrations. Vilma Espin de Castro, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, speaking in Nairobi, argued: "Latin America can never repay its debt. Brazil must spend 36.5 percent of its export earnings each year to service its \$102 billion foreign debt; the figure for Argentina is 52 percent; and for Bolivia, it is 57 percent. The weight of the foreign debt cannot be put on the shoulders of our people." In Africa and in Asia as well, approaches to aid, borrowing and lending, and other bilateral financial arrangements are being questioned.

The African Women Manifesto, presented at Forum '85, stated, "...development strategies which depend on external finance, technology and advice have contributed to the current economic and social crisis in Africa...We call particular attention to the current restrictive monetary policies that are

being imposed...by international financial and aid donor agencies... These measures affect the majority of the population, especially the poor. However, given...unequal distribution of resources, work and income, women bear the brunt of these policies... we call for the cancellation of debts as these have not benefited the majority of Africa's people, least of all women."

Information from: "Connexions;" "INTERLINK Reports;" "Women and Development News Sheet," by ICDA.



### WRITE:

Federation of Cuban Women  
Paseo esq. A13, Vedad  
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The Debt Crisis Network  
Barbara Weaver  
Board of Global Ministries  
United Methodist Church  
777 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017 USA



### READ:

CONNEXIONS #17/18, "The One Trillion Dollar Question." Available from: Connexions, People's Translation Service, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, California 94609, USA.

DEVELOPMENT CRISIS AND ALTERNATIVE VISIONS: THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES. Available from: Monthly Review Press, 155 W. 23rd St., New York, NY 10010 USA

AFRICAN WOMEN MANIFESTO. Available from: African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD), Boite Postal 3304, Dakar, Senegal.



## DEVELOPMENT

“ It is easier to adopt reformist measures like income generating projects, education, job skills, etc. than to examine root causes of sexism, commercialization of women and marginalization of women. Women's oppression at home, at work and in society in general are not examined... The challenge for women in development work lies in initiating dialogues on the type of society they want and developing strategies to achieve these objectives. ”

From "Asian Women Speak Out," a 14-country alternative Asian Report on the impact of the UN Decade for Women, prepared for Forum '85

Over the ten years of the United Nations Decade for Women, considerable attention has been focused on women's roles in development, both productive and reproductive. It has become abundantly clear that women represent powerful but neglected agents for development: when included, success is possible; when excluded, full development potential is not reached.

One distinguishing feature of the Forum '85 workshops and panels was the emergence of women's international and regional networks who put forth alternative visions and approaches to the process of development. The women who coordinated and participated in numerous series of events - such as the DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era) workshop series, the Asian Women's Research and Action Network workshops, the discussions at Tech & Tools, the International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) workshops or the Environmental Liaison Committee's series on women and the environment (to name a few) - went beyond discussion of women's "integration" into development, to questioning the entire process and putting forth their own ideas for a new kind of development.

The DAWN group, initiated in August 1984 to bring together women from institutions and associations in the Third World to analyse and influence development policies and programmes, was at the forefront of many of these discussions in Nairobi. The panels, workshops and dialogues they coordi-

nated covered a wide range of issues, including the growing crises in food, fuel and water scarcity; debt; militarism; environmental degradation; reproductive health/rights; and massive poverty. They also presented alternative visions and strategies, highlighting the unique organizational experiences and methods employed by women around the world in such areas as housing, employment, trade and awareness-building. Amongst the perspectives put forth at DAWN workshops were included:

-Women's groups and organizations - whether they are trade unions or political parties, whether they are involved in social or economic development - need to be recognised and supported financially and politically as a major vehicle for economic and social restructuring toward a peaceful and equitable world.

-The experience at the grassroots of empowering women in the Third World revealed the need for redefinition and redesign of concepts like capital, labour, urban planning, technological choice, etc.

-The organization of the poor must have a clear-cut ideology...it must develop a common ground for women in capitalism and socialism.

-Strategies for change must take particular account of the worldwide resurgence of religious fundamentalism with its attendant imposition of...oppressive behavioural norms on women.



## DEVELOPMENT

The DAWN group, like a variety of other networks that coalesced in Nairobi, perceived that Forum '85 was just a beginning and met in Brazil during February 1986 to draw up a plan of action for future activities. Their efforts to carry on the dialogues and connections fostered in Nairobi are representative of the numerous individuals and groups who viewed the end of the Decade for Women as the birth of new initiatives and approaches.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM: "Post-Nairobi Donors Meeting on Women and Development" Report on a Conference held at Bellagio Conference Center, December, 1985; "Asian Women Speak Out"



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### READ:

DEVELOPMENT CRISIS AND ALTERNATIVE VISIONS: THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES. Available from: Monthly Review Press, 155 West 23rd St., New York, NY 10010 USA.

POST-NAIROBI DONORS MEETING ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF A CONFERENCE HELD AT BELLAGIO CONFERENCE CENTRE. Available from: IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.

ASIAN WOMEN SPEAK OUT. Available from: AWRAN/Pilipina, 12 Pasaje de la Paz, Project 4, Quezon City, Philippines

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR ORGANIZATION AND ACTION. Available from: ISIS, Via S. Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186, Rome, Italy.

THE TRIBUNE: A WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY. Available from: IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.



# DISABLED WOMEN

“ One of the primary goals of programmes working with women with disabilities must be the development of independence - not the creation of dependence. These bodies should foster self-determination and the development of full potential among women with disabilities...In the developing as well as industrial countries, it is the people who are the basis of development. People with disabilities, both women and men, must be recognized as an essential part of this resource. ”

From recommendations issued by the Disabled Women's Caucus at Forum '85

At Nairobi, more than 150 disabled women met to discuss the problems that face them both in developed and developing countries. They discussed the growing awareness, throughout the Decade, of the problems and needs confronting disabled people worldwide. They also discussed the serious financial, political, economic, and social problems that still exist, despite the progress that has been made in many countries in housing, education and medical care.

Women at Forum '85 acknowledged that in addition to addressing the needs of people who are disabled, serious work also needs to be done to confront the root causes for many forms of disabilities. For instance:

-About ten percent of the world's people (or an estimated 450 million

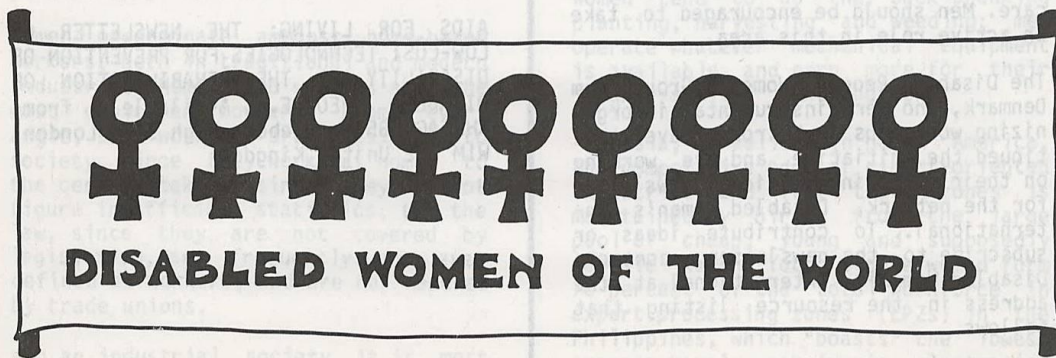
persons) suffer from disabilities.

-Four-fifths of disabled people are in developing countries. Unless decisive action is taken now, the number of disabled people could double by the end of the Decade.

(from Leeds Castle Declaration on the Prevention of Disablement, 12 November 1981, in IMPACT 1983)

What emerged from workshops on disability in Nairobi was the desire to continue discussion and networking. Among topics of concern which many women shared were:

-Disabled women of developed countries desire to become actively involved with disabled women and children in developing countries.



Anne S. Walker, IWTC, 1986



## DISABLED WOMEN

-In many areas of the world, general information on resources, appropriate equipment and its use, and knowledge of innovations in treatment of disabled people was severely lacking.

-Disabled children were in need of positive role models of active disabled adults.

The seeds were also planted for an international disabled women's network and a set of recommendations were delivered by caucus participants to their respective member nations at the official United Nations Conference in Nairobi. Some of the ideas put forth included:

-Women with disabilities must have access to the same health, education, recreation and employment programmes, rights and facilities as disabled men and people without disabilities.

-Women with disabilities must have physical access through appropriate transport systems and architecturally designed accessible buildings in order to give them physical equality with mobile persons.

-While society as a whole is responsible, in reality in all cultures the care of people with disabilities is generally assigned to women. It is essential that these women be given adequate educational and financial support, in order that they will be better able to provide this essential care. Men should be encouraged to take an active role in this area.

The Disabled Peoples Women's Group from Denmark, who were instrumental in organizing workshops in Nairobi, have continued the initiative and are working on their first international newsletter for the network, Disabled Women's International. To contribute ideas or subscribe to the newsletter, contact: Disabled Women's International at the address in the resource listing that follows.



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Pat Wright  
Disability Rights Education and Defense  
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### READ:

WOMEN AND DISABILITY (Development education kit). Available from: Branch for the Advancement of Women, UNCSDHA, PO Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria

AIDS FOR LIVING: THE NEWSLETTER ON LOW-COST TECHNOLOGIES FOR PREVENTION OF DISABILITY AND THE REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE. Available from: AHRTAG, 85 Marylebone High St., London, W1M 3DE United Kingdom



# EMPLOYMENT

“ Women do two-thirds of the world's work, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one percent of the world's property. Or, reversed, men do one-third of the world's work, receive nine-tenths of the world's income and own 99 percent of the world's property. ”

From "Women's Panel: Post Nairobi Strategies" reported in Women in Development News Sheet #5, ICDA, October 1985

During the Decade, a major thrust for women has been to broaden the understanding of the term "employment" to extend from work done in the formal workplace to work done in the home and in the field. The unpaid labour of women in the household, if given economic value, would add an estimated one-third, or \$4,000,000,000,000, to the world's annual economic product. Women's work is multi-occupational and is not defined by remuneration alone.

Where women work in the formal sector, cheap female labour is being used as a "shock absorber" for introducing adjustments in the malfunctioning economic system. With the advent of new machinery, female workers are the first to be dismissed. Women from poor rural and urban households are entering the labour force in larger numbers, but at the lower end of the labour market. Women predominate in temporary and unskilled work, where their services can be terminated at a moment's notice. Many women migrants from rural areas work, for example, in domestic service where the conditions of employment, hours of work, pay and security are particularly exploitative.

Women predominate amongst home-based workers, both in traditional and modern industries. Home-based workers are the most exploited workers. From every angle, such workers are invisible: to society, since they work at home; to the census takers, since they do not figure in official statistics; to the law, since they are not covered by legislation, are frequently not even defined as workers, and are not reached by trade unions.

-In an industrial society, it is most

likely that while there is no open discrimination in the job market, women continue to face barriers looking for a job...being a woman means being less educated, less trained and, thus, less likely to be offered a job. Men outnumber women as managers by over three to one in the US, Norway and Australia; women are five times as likely to be working as secretaries or clerks in most countries.

-In socialist countries, employment is guaranteed and basic education is provided. But, though a woman has a regular income, basic education and continual employment, she will still be doing almost all of the housework. Being a woman means lining up for two to three hours daily for essential household items such as food and clothing.

-Women are the sole breadwinners in one-fourth to one-third of families worldwide. Yet they are clustered in unskilled, dead-end jobs with low pay and little potential. In 1980, for instance, agriculture provided at least two-thirds of the paid jobs for women in the Third World. Yet in agriculture, women tend to do the back-breaking planting, harvesting and weeding; men operate whatever mechanical equipment is available and earn more for their "higher-skilled" contribution.

-In Asia, as well as in Latin America, the competitive edge of export-oriented industries and free trade zones is maintained by hiring from the large pool of cheap, young and supposedly 'docile' women. Young single women form 70 percent of the total workforce in export processing zones (EPZs) in the Philippines, which "boasts" the lowest average hourly earning in electronics



## EMPLOYMENT

of 30 cents and the second lowest in garment manufacturing of 17 cents. In Sri Lanka, 78 percent of the country's industrial workers are women.

-In 1982, in a study of 24 countries, a woman in manufacturing earned only 73 cents for every dollar earned by a man doing similar work.  
(from: The State of the World's Women, 1985" and the ILO)

At Forum '85, response to the petition "Women Count - Count Women's Work" put forth by the International Campaign for Wages for Housework was met with overwhelming enthusiasm by Kenyan and other Third World women. Campaign coordinators observed, "It was obvious that counting women's work is a unifying demand which can bring together Third World and metropolitan women despite many divisions among us."

Among the few but important gains cited at Forum '85 were the following:

-Campaigns to focus attention on the multiplicity of women's work roles resulted in the inclusion of the following proposal in the Forward Looking Strategies to the Year 2000 document: "to quantify the unremunerated contribution of women to the agricultural production, reproduction and household activities, and to take appropriate steps to measure and reflect those contributions in national accounts, economic statistics and gross national product."

-The number of countries which have equal pay legislation in their statutes has increased from 28 in 1978 to 90 in 1983. The equal pay legislation makes it illegal to give men and women different wages for the same work. (From New Internationalist, July, 1985)

Information from: "Women at Work" No.2, 1985; "Women...A World Survey"; "Asian Women Speak Out."



### WRITE:

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Women and Global Corporations Network  
American Friends Service Committee  
1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102 USA

Wages for Housework Campaign  
Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge St.  
London WC1, UK



### READ:

WOMEN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: A GLOBAL STATISTICAL SURVEY (1950-2000), 1986. Available from: ILO/INSTRAW, Cesar Nicolas Penson 102-A, P.O. Box 21747, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

THE KEY TO DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ROLE, "Women and Employment," Dossier E, May 1985. Available from: Branch for the Advancement of Women, UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

WOMEN AT WORK, "Employment for Women: 1975-1985," Issue No. 1, 1984. Available from: International Labour Organization, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland.

INDUSTRIAL WOMEN WORKERS IN ASIA, 1986. Available from: ISIS Int'l, Via Santa Dell'Anima 30, 00186 Rome, Italy OR Committee for Asian Women, 57 Peking Rd 5/F, Kowloon, Hong Kong



# EXPLOITATION

“ There's more where she comes from. ”

caption of a poster showing a beautiful Filipino woman and inviting tourists to come to the Philippines.

“ Women must stand together and speak out about these things. What you read in the media is not half as bad as what it really is. ”

woman from South Africa speaking at "Violence Against Women" workshop at Forum '85

The exploitation of women is at a crisis stage worldwide.

SEX TOURISM is flourishing in Southeast Asia. Historically, the role of militarism in the region, created a demand for prostitutes which has grown into a massive sex industry. Governments of countries like Taiwan, the Philippines and Korea promote sex tourism to earn foreign exchange, which has led rural and urban women to turn to prostitution for survival. The result?

\*In Thailand, 500,000 women (10% of the female population) between the ages of 14 and 24 work as prostitutes or "masseuses."

\*In the Philippines, 29% of the visitors to the country are from Japan, a country where prostitution has been banned since 1958. Package tours offered to Japanese men include shopping, hotels and women.

\*Tourist agencies in Germany advertise "happiness without barriers" by offering Third World women for marriage, touting their "femininity and submissiveness."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE against women continues to be one of the most pressing concerns worldwide. Domestic violence knows no boundaries--not of class, education, culture, economics or nationality. In the U.S., two to six million



Forum '80, Copenhagen, 1980



## EXPLOITATION

women are battered each year. One in every five women treated in hospitals for serious injuries is battered. In West Germany, one in five women is beaten, raped or sexually harrassed. Four out of every 10 crimes in the Third World are reported to be rape.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE, or torture, is often women-specific. Amnesty International reports that women victims are frequently subjected to sexual abuse and that rape is common. In some cases, women raped by their interrogators have been refused abortions. In Iran, it is reported that young women are raped by their guards before being executed, often in front of their families. The Koran forbids a virgin to be killed...

WOMEN THEMSELVES have begun to address the issue of exploitation and are making some headway. The Manila-based Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women now has links in 40 countries and has exerted pressure to condemn "any tour organized expressly for the purpose of sex." Campaigns by women's groups in India against rape, dowry deaths, bride-burning, violence in the family and sexist images of women in the media are beginning to have an effect. In Sweden, women's organizations are joined by local councils representing the whole political spectrum in an effort to cripple the once unrestricted pornography industry. In the U.S., where the first battered women's shelters were opened 11 years ago, there are now more than 700 of these facilities.

Information from: "Forum '85;" "South-east Asia Chronicle;" "WIN News;" "Asian Women Speak Out;" "World YWCA Human Rights Network letter."



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Third World Movement Against  
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Manila, Philippines

Okinawan Women's Group  
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ISIS Latin America Health Network  
Casilla 2067  
Correo Central  
Santiago, Chile

Amnesty International  
1 Easton Street  
London SC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom



### READ:

INTERNATIONAL FEMINISM: NETWORKING  
AGAINST FEMALE SEXUAL SLAVERY.  
Available from: IWTC, 777 United  
Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.



### SEE:

"Prostitution and International  
Trafficking of Women"  
from: InVision Productions, Inc.  
Elaine Trotter  
275 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, CA 94939 USA



# FEMINISM

“ Feminists...know there is a better way of living between men, children and women, that there must be justice in small things for there to be justice in big things, but that power has many faces...we must know all the faces of power and we must change things and change ourselves. ”

Brazilian woman from the "What Is Feminism" workshop, Nairobi, 1985

A clearer understanding that all issues that affect human beings are feminist issues emerged strongly in the global dialogue among women that took place throughout the Decade.

Responding to the challenge posed in a comment made during the Mid-Decade meetings in Copenhagen (1980) that, "To talk feminism to a woman who has no water, no home and no food is to talk nonsense," participants at Forum '85 organized formal and informal workshops and discussions to arrive at different definitions and manifestations of feminism in varying regional contexts. As

Charlotte Bunch, in her book, "Bringing the Global Home" writes: "There is and must be a diversity of feminisms, responding to different needs and concerns of different women, and defined by them and for themselves. The commonality among this diversity of definitions...is opposition to gender oppression and hierarchy. Feminism strives for the broadest and deepest development of human beings free of all systems of domination."

During the Decade for Women, feminist movements have emerged in developing countries throughout the world, perhaps



Adapted from RAIN

Human Rights Network letter, No. 3, January 1986, World YWCA



## FEMINISM

most strongly in Asia and Latin America. Some landmarks of the emergence of feminism as a global movement have included: The convening of two international workshops on feminist ideology, one in Bangkok in 1979 and the other in New York in 1980; the organization of three feminist encounters for women of Latin America and the Caribbean, the first in Colombia (1979), the second in Peru (1983) and the third in Brazil (1985).

Asian women, in "Asian Women Speak Out," prepared for Forum '85 by the Asian Women's Research and Action Network, defined their feminism this way: "We take the position that all four dimensions of women's struggle (nation, class, gender and culture) must be simultaneously pursued...Without ignoring our diverse situations and histories, we Asian women know that our struggles come together in that we believe we must challenge patriarchy in deep-seated attitudes as well as in high-flown programmes, among democratic forces and among conservative ones, within our specific realities and... beyond our national borders."

What is the future of feminism? "Women of almost every culture, color and class are claiming feminism for themselves...But a global movement involves more than just the separate development of feminism in each region...(it) also requires that we learn from each other and develop a global perspective in each of our movements...The strength of feminism has been and still is in its decentralized grass-roots nature, but for that strength to be most effective, we must base our local and national action on a world view that incorporates the global context of our lives." (From "Bringing the Global Home.")

Information from: "Forum '85"; "Bringing the Global Home" by Charlotte Bunch; "Development, Crisis, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives" by Gita Sen and Caren Grown.



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and  
Casilla 2067, Correo Central  
Santiago, Chile

ISIS/Women's International Cross-  
Cultural Exchange, C.P. 2471  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Institute for Women's Studies in the  
Arab World, BUC  
P.O. Box 135053  
Beirut, Lebanon

Asian Women's Research and Action  
Network, c/o Pilipina  
12 Pasaje de la Paz  
Project 4, Quezon City, Philippines

African Association for Women in  
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### READ:



MUJER (a monthly periodical). Available from: Unidad de Comunicacion Alternativa de la Mujer, ILET, Casilla 16-637, Correo 9, Santiago, Chile.

BRINGING THE GLOBAL HOME. Available from: Antelope Publications, 1612 St. Paul, Denver, Colorado 80206 USA.



# HEALTH

“ Women provide most health care. In the family, they care for the sick, teach healthy behaviour, nourish the children, provide clean water and dispose of waste. Almost all traditional birth attendants are women. So are most of the primary health care workers and nurses. But women are under-represented at the higher levels of the health care system. One estimate is that only one percent of female doctors are in positions of authority where they practice. ”

World Health Organization magazine, April 1985

At Forum '85, women from around the world discussed the obstacles they faced and initiatives they were undertaking related to health care. Women from Colombia and Senegal talked about clinics they had started to provide family planning and counselling services to poor women--services which were traditionally only available to the very rich. Women from the inter-African Committee reported on the actions of a 1984 meeting in Senegal, "African Women Speak Out Against Female Circumcision." These women discussed their efforts to explain existing traditions and to eradicate what are harmful circumcision practices in different countries. (Reports from the inter-African committee can be obtained from: Babiker Badri Foundation, Ahfad Women's College, Omdurman, Sudan.)

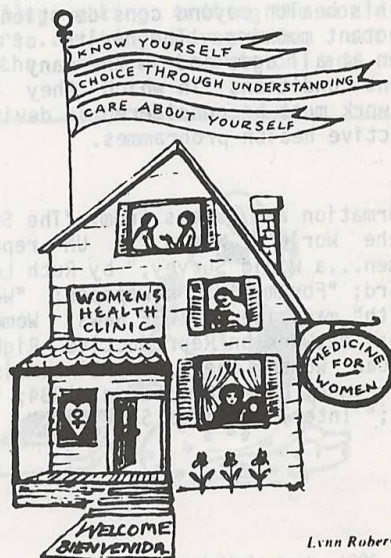
Many women concurred that future health programmes will be successful only if they are broad-based and integrated, consisting of policies and measures relating to nutrition, environmental hygiene and sanitation, maternal and child health care, pre-natal and post-natal care and family planning.

Other health facts related to women:

-Economically disadvantaged women, and their children, particularly girls, are the most severely malnourished people everywhere in the world. In many societies, it is customary for men to eat first, followed by boys, with girls and women last; if protein is scarce, it goes primarily to men.

-Nearly 230 million women in the developing world are suffering from nutritional anemia. This includes almost half of all reproductive-aged women and two-thirds of those who are pregnant and lactating.

-Child-bearing is among the five leading causes of death for women ages 15 - 44. Nearly half of all births take place without the help of a trained attendant. The main causes of death are hemorrhage and infection. Babies born to child mothers (ages 15 - 19) are only half as likely to be born healthy as those born to mature women.



ISIS Women's International Bulletin, No. 29



## HEALTH

-Tens of thousands of women in the Third World die every year from complications due to illegal abortions.

-"It is estimated that 70 percent of women circumcised today are suffering severe pain...girls' circumcision...poses several long-term health hazards...The mutilation may cause wound infections and chronic pelvic infections, scarrings, cysts and abscesses, infertility, difficulties during labour and delivery..." (Dr. O. Koso-Thomas, Sierra Leone)

-Women working in the newly industrializing countries of South and Southeast Asia are often forced to work overtime in unsafe work conditions. Electronics firms hire 35,000 women in the Philippines who stay an average of only three years, usually leaving for health reasons. According to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, electronics is the third most dangerous industry in terms of workers' exposure to cancer-causing substances.

A major issue, throughout the Decade, has been to convince health professionals to extend discussions of women's health beyond considerations of expectant mothers. The health of all women at all ages and in the many different conditions in which they live and work must be considered in devising effective health programmes.

Information and quotes from: "The State of the World's Women," a UN report; "Women...a World Survey," by Ruth Leger Sivard; "Forum '85" newspaper; "World Health" magazine; UNICEF News; Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights; African Women Speak on Circumcision Conference, Khartoum, Sudan, 1984; "WIN News;" Interlink Press Service.



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International Women's Health Coalition  
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ISIS Latin America Health Network  
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### READ:

THE NEW OUR BODIES OURSELVES. Available from: Boston Women's Health Collective, Box 192, W. Somerville, MA 02144, USA

WOMEN'S WORLD: A DOSSIER ON WOMEN AND HEALTH. Available from: ISIS-WICCE, Box 2471, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

MAMAMELIS: MANUEL DE GYNECOLOGIE NATUROPATHIQUE A L'USAGE DES FEMMES. Available from: Dispensaire des Femmes, Geneva, Switzerland.

WOMEN AND HEALTH: A WOMAN'S HEALTH IS MORE THAN A MEDICAL ISSUE. Available from: United Methodist Church, Health and Welfare Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, USA.



# MEDIA

“ Unless women develop their own alternative media, the dominant established media will continue to reflect women's social, political, emotional, sexual and other concerns with a lot of bias, hence leaving many of the world's women ignorant of the causes which have led to their present condition. ”

From "Women's Regional Media Networks" panel at Forum '85

There is a new image of women emerging in all areas of the media and the persons behind the change are women themselves. The words are hers, the situations are hers--all in response to an ongoing review of the portrayal of women in the media that has been going on worldwide throughout the Decade for Women.

In almost every country, this review has revealed a media image of women as almost exclusively housebound, decorative creatures. More often than not, that image has been created by male-controlled media. Women have addressed this problem by training themselves in media skills, learning technologies for producing and organizing information, and creating alternative publications and productions.

At Forum '85, workshops on women's participation in media provided a panoramic overview of the many initiatives women were undertaking to change the messages about women conveyed in mainstream media. At a panel on "Women's Regional Media Networks, coordinated by IWTC, panelists from Chile, Kenya, the Philippines, Barbados and Senegal described projects they coordinated to increase coverage of women's issues and actions. They discussed the importance of alternative media channels for women, especially when those channels reach women that traditionally have limited access, and also have an impact upon the dominant more traditional media channels. They reported on successful efforts to make journalists - in particular, women

journalists - more aware of their responsibilities in reporting about women, to increase the flow of alternative information for and about women at regional and international levels, and to exert pressure on local media to change the images of women.

A panel on "Feminist Publishing in the Third World," coordinated by Kali Press for Women, included representatives from India, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Chile, Brazil and Japan, all of whom offered experiences from their own publishing initiatives and affirmed the importance of opening channels for greater expression. As the panel discussed, "Women have been, and still are, oppressed because they have not gained access to the most significant act of privilege making: writing the world for others...Writing advertising scripts for the American television and film



The Tech and Tools Book, 1986, IWTC



## MEDIA

industries is the equivalent of interpreting religious texts in Pakistan or Morocco; and if our image in both media advertising or religious ordering is what it is today, it is because we women are not allowed to exercise that power. And any one of us trying to do so, is shaking the foundation of the unjust orders."

In all media-related fields, whether we were talking about publishing, folk media (such as puppetry), songwriting, radio programming, film and video production, or any other form of producing images of women by and for women, it was clear at Forum '85 - as it is clear from the many examples of women's productions and publications worldwide - that women are dedicating themselves to representing the diversity of women's lives. The women filmmakers who showed their works at the FilmForum in Nairobi, the women performers who entertained, the women who brought posters and placards from their national organizations were but a small sampling of the explosion in women's commitment to providing alternative and positive images of women worldwide.

Information from: "Forum '85";  
Connexions; WIN News; The Tribune



### WRITE:

Unidad de Comunicacion Alternativa de la Mujer, ILET  
Casilla 16-637, Correo 9  
Santiago, Chile

Depthnews Women's Features Service  
Box 1843  
Manila, Philippines

Caribbean Women's Features Service  
WAND, Extra Mural Dept.  
UWI, Bridgetown, Barbados

African Women's Features Service  
Box 50795  
Nairobi, Kenya

Association des professionnelles  
Africaines de la Communication  
BP 4234, Dakar, Senegal

IWTC  
777 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017 USA

ISIS International  
Via S. Maria dell'Anima 30  
00186 Rome, Italy

Kali Press for Women  
N-84 Panchshila Park  
New Delhi 110017 India

Simorgh Women's Resource and  
Publications Centre  
19-B White House Lane  
Sunderdas Rd., Lahore, Pakistan

Zimbabwe Publishing House  
Women of Africa Series  
Box BW 350  
Harare, Zimbabwe



### READ:

THE TRIBUNE #14, "Women and Media" and  
THE TRIBUNE #23, "Women and Media 2".  
Available from: IWTC, 777 United Nations  
Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.

ISIS/WICCE: WOMEN'S WORLD #2, "Women  
Transform the Media," 1984. Available  
from: ISIS/WICCE, CP 1247, 1201 Geneva,  
2 Switzerland.

CONNEXIONS #16, "Media: Getting to  
Women," Spring, 1985. Available from:  
Connexions, 4228 Telegraph Avenue,  
Oakland, CA 94609, USA.

(All of the organizations listed in the  
"Write" section also have publications.  
Write to them for information on costs  
and frequency.)



# OLDER WOMEN

“ Despite women's vulnerability in old age, we must remember that most older women lead active, healthy lives. They are courageous survivors, and their growing life expectancy is a major resource to societies everywhere. ”

From Louise Crooks, Vice President of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Women will increasingly constitute the majority of the world's elderly population. Among persons aged 60 and over in 1980, women outnumbered men by 45.5 million, a figure which is projected to increase to 75 million in the year 2025. The gender gap in longevity is far more pronounced at ages 80 and above.

The 208 million women aged 60 and over worldwide in 1980 were almost equally divided between developing and developed regions. But by the year 2025, nearly 70 percent of the world's 604 million elderly women will be in dev-

eloping regions.

Despite their vast numbers, older women have long been invisible to policy makers. However, they demonstrated their strength in force during Forum '85 where many participants were over 60 years old -- including some over 80. Five workshops on older women in Nairobi on such topics as "The Economics of Aging", "Family and Community Support", and "Aging in the Third World" drew overflow crowds. One workshop, entitled "Planning Ahead" was of particular interest to midlife women. During discussions it was noted that

FRAN ON SUNDAY

From the Sunday Nation, Nairobi, Kenya. Adapted by IWIC



"If we ignore them, do you think they'll go away?"



## OLDER WOMEN

older women are a diverse group with few apparent similarities between the African woman who has struggled through life carrying mountainous loads and an aging American homemaker. Yet, commonalities do exist. Because of the gender-based differences in life expectancy the world over, older women are more likely than older men to be single, living alone and poor. They share the need for adequate income, health care and housing, particularly in rural areas.

The modernization, urbanization and migration occurring worldwide tend to fragment the traditional family and erode the supports provided in the past for elderly family members. In many developing countries, large scale migration to urban areas is leaving children and the elderly behind in villages. Although food production remains largely in the hands of older women in rural areas, they rarely have access to training or modern farming methods. In urban areas, women have to cope with high unemployment, health hazards, such as rapidly moving traffic, and age barriers. Furthermore, because of the changes in families and communities, many of the traditional functions performed by older women, such as health care, child care, craft production and education of the young, are disappearing. As one 70 year old woman from South Korea commented, "We are in a situation where we cannot live and we cannot die."

Participants also expressed the idea that while some institutions for the elderly, particularly in developing nations are needed, institutions must not become the primary solution to problems of elderly care.

Delegates to the UN Conference focused on older women in paragraph 194 of the "Forward Looking Strategies" in which they urged governments to guarantee social security benefits, including unemployment benefits, to women, on an

equal footing with men. Paragraph 286 broadly addresses issues related to older women by calling for the establishment of long-term policies directed toward providing social insurance for women in their own right; exploration of the possibilities of employing elderly women in productive and creative ways and encouraging their participation in social and recreational activities; expansion of programmes in the areas of primary health care, health services, and suitable housing; and at enabling elderly women to lead meaningful lives as long as possible, in their own home and family and in the community.

At the Forum, workshop participants noted that while governments play a central role in aiding the elderly, national resources are limited. New linkages of individuals, families and organizations are needed to ensure the elderly's social and economic well-being. Proposals for income generation, day care and respite care were considered. Self-help, mutual support and planning for aging were continually emphasized.

While older women were sharing their concerns in Nairobi, some 70 women from 17 nations met in New York to form the Global Link on Midlife and Older Women. Sponsored by the International Federation on Aging in cooperation with the American Association of Retired People, the Global Link, or GLOW, has grown to include a mailing list of 250 persons in 25 countries. Its goals are to promote information exchange and encourage follow-up to the UN Decade and the Forum and Conference. GLOW identified income security/financial independence, health promotion, family life and societal images toward midlife and older women as the issues requiring immediate attention.

Information from: Network News, A Newsletter of the Global Link for Midlife and Older Women.



## PEA OLDER WOMEN TICS



### WRITE:

Global Link on Midlife and Older Women  
IFA Headquarters: Bernard Sunley House  
60 Pitcairn Road  
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 ELL UK

International Federation on Aging  
1909 K Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20049 USA

Nederlandse Federatie voor  
Bejaardenbelei (Dutch Federation for  
Policy on Aging)  
Eisenhowerlaan 114, 2517 km den haag  
The Netherlands

Dr. Sanjota Schdev, President  
Indian Geriatrics Society  
New Delhi, India

Dora Pons de O'Neill  
Agrupacion Nacional de Entidades  
Privadas Pro Bienstar Social del  
Anciano (National Association of  
Private Organizations for the Social  
Welfare of the Elderly)  
Plaza Independencia 838  
Montevideo, Uruguay

Shian-fong Yao  
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
Beijing, The People's Republic of China



### READ:

RESOURCES FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH,  
special issue on, "Women as Elders,"  
Vol. 11, No. 2, July 1982. Available  
from: RFR, Ontario Institute for  
Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St.  
West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1V6

AGING AND THE GLOBAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN:  
CONVERSATIONS IN NAIROBI. Available  
from: AAIA, 1511 K St., N.W. Suite  
1028 Washington D.C. 20005, USA

WOMEN AND AGING AROUND THE WORLD and  
OLDER WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD. Available  
from: International Federation on Aging  
1909 K St., N.W. Washington, D.C.,  
20049 USA



### FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS:

August 18-22, 1986, New Delhi, India  
11th World Congress of Sociology  
"Social Change: Problems and Per-  
spectives" Write: Secretariat, Interna-  
tional Sociological Association, Oude  
Hoogstraat 24, 10012 CE Amsterdam, The  
Netherlands

August 24-30, 1986, Jerusalem, Israel  
"Variations in Aging: Individual, Cul-  
tural and Societal - an International  
Week of Gerontological Events" Write:  
Israel Gerontological Society Secre-  
tariat, Variations in Aging, P.O. Box  
13086, Jerusalem 91130, Israel

August 31-Sept. 6, 1986, Tokyo, Japan  
"International Conference on Social  
Welfare: Strengthening Family and  
Community" (with special interest  
meeting on aging). Write: ICSWC,  
Kostlergasse 1/29, A-1060, Vienna,  
Austria

February 8 - 12, 1987 Jerusalem, Israel  
"International Conference on Housing  
and Services for the Aging" Write:  
International Conference on Housing and  
Services for the Aging, PO Box 3888  
Jerusalem 91037, Israel



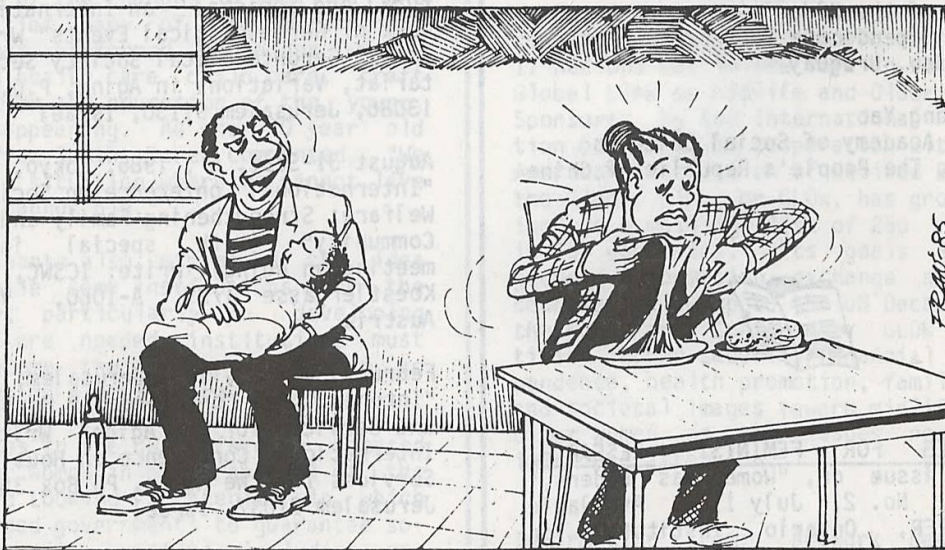
The Daily Nation, Nairobi, Kenya, July 9, 1985. Adapted by IWTC.



"... and don't forget to clean the house, fetch and boil the water, weed the veggies, feed the animals and do the laundry. The girls and I are off to the Forum and who knows when we'll be back..."

The Daily Nation, Nairobi, Kenya, July 20, 1985

Adapted by IWTC



"Dreadful isn't it? Did you add a paragraph to the Forward Looking Strategies on how to teach husbands to cook?"



# PEACE AND POLITICS

“ All issues at this conference are political. To fight for equal pay for equal work, is that not political? To argue for the right of women to have control of reproductive functions, is that not political? To push for the elimination of stereotypes about women in the media, is that not political? ”

Margaret Papandreou (Greece) to the UN World Conference to Review and Appraise the Decade for women, Nairobi, 1985

Women's issues cannot be isolated from any issues that are vital to physical and social survival-- ranging from militarism and the debt crisis, to racism and emergency situations. While some governments and groups have tried to discredit women's meetings and activities by charging that they have been "politicized", women have reacted by pointing out that all of our issues are political issues and, the fact that we express our positions on such issues as nuclearization, the East-West conflict or militarization only reflects of the breadth of our concerns.

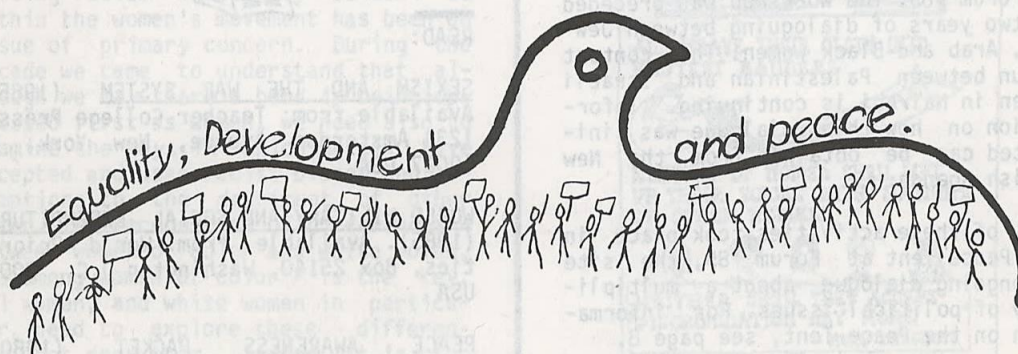
The increased involvement of women in so-called political issues from which they have been traditionally excluded has provided fresh perspectives and

approaches to impending crises:

**NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE ARMS RACE:** In looking at the arms race, women have been focusing on both the economic and social costs. Take, for example, Ruth Sivard's, findings in "World Military and Social Expenditures, 1985":

\*The budget of the US Air Force is larger than the total educational budget for 1.2 billion children in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, excluding Japan.

\*The Soviet Union in one year spends more on military defence than the governments of all the developing countries spend for education and health care for 3.6 billion people.



Mallika Badrinath, Stree, Mar-Apr. 1985, India



## PEACE AND POLITICS

\*There is one soldier for every 43 people in the world, only one doctor for every 1,030.

**CREATING A DIALOGUE ON THE EAST-WEST CONFLICT:** Hundreds of women from the Soviet Union and the United State have been involved in a continuing dialogue on peace and disarmament issues. The dialogue has taken place on a one-to-one basis during visits to each others' countries and to other countries, as well as in public meetings and forums. Following up on initiatives of the NGO Forum in Copenhagen in 1980, two groups convened a workshop in Nairobi on "transforming an enemy into a friend." Pat Schroeder, a US woman who has travelled to the Soviet Union six times since 1980 and who participated in the Nairobi workshop, explained the value of "dialoguing for peace" and how to do it: "We have to utilize our women's experience in dealing with conflict in a particularly non-violent way. We are free to disagree, to be angry, and to let out our emotions...Women are experts on being threatened. We want to reduce the fear and the threat." The next step, said Schroeder, is to continue the struggle for peace through the media and other public forums.

**ENCOURAGING CONTACT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS:** The New Jewish Agenda and the American Friends Service Committee convened a dynamic dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian women at Forum '85. The workshop was preceded by two years of dialoguing between Jewish, Arab and Black women. The contact begun between Palestinian and Israeli women in Nairobi is continuing. Information on how this dialogue was initiated can be obtained from the New Jewish Agenda.

Many of these activities took place in the Peace Tent at Forum '85, the site of ongoing dialogue about a multiplicity of political issues. For information on the Peace Tent, see page 8.



### WRITE:

Continuing the Dialogue  
c/o Rosemary Matson  
PO Box 1710  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924 USA

New Jewish Agenda and American Friends  
Service Committee  
c/o Reena Bernards  
149 Church Street  
New York, NY 10013 USA

Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom (WILPF)  
1 rue de Varembe  
1211 Geneva, 20 Switzerland

General Federation of Jordanian Women  
c/o Taraiz Haddad  
P.O. Box 922126  
Amman, Jordan

Feminists International for Peace and  
Food, c/o F. Farenthold  
2100 Travis Street  
Suite 1203  
Houston, Texas 77002 USA



### READ:

SEXISM AND THE WAR SYSTEM (1985).  
Available from: Teacher College Press,  
1234 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY  
10027 USA

WORLD MILITARY AND SOCIAL EXPENDITURES  
(1985). Available from: World Priorities,  
Box 25140, Washington D.C. 20007  
USA

PEACE AWARENESS PACKET (1980).  
Available from: World YWCA, 37 Quai  
Wilson, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland



# RACISM

“ ...When someone says that racism is something that has been created by men, that all we have to do is forget all of these male constructions and we can all be sisters together, well, I'm sorry, that will not work. Women who want to fight for women's equality also have to fight against racism. ”

Angela Davis at Forum '85

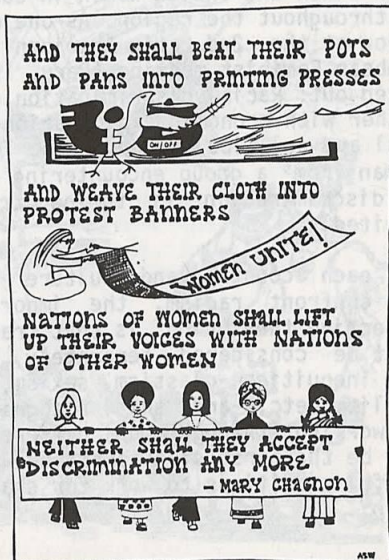
“ For too many years, we black women in the movement listened to our brothers who said that first we had to deal with racism and then we could deal with women's rights. We couldn't take our energy from the racism fight. What we have learned is that you can't do one at a time; women only fall further behind. Becoming empowered as a woman to fight for women's rights doesn't take away from the fight against racism. It helps you. ”

U.S. Black woman at Forum '85

Problems of racism are a constant topic of discussion and dialogue within the women's movement globally. Targets of racism vary from country to country, but effects are amazingly similar. Take for instance the area of income. In the U.S., blacks are more than twice as likely to have incomes below the poverty line than whites; in Australia, aboriginal households receive 60% of the income of white households; in the U.K., 16% of blacks compared with 9% of whites live in poverty; and in New Zealand, Maoris are four times as likely to be unemployed as non-Maoris. (From New Internationalist, October 1983)

For women, throughout the Decade, combatting racism in society as well as within the women's movement has been an issue of primary concern. During the Decade we came to understand that although we may share a bond in being oppressed first as women, we need also to examine the ways in which we all have accepted and used racist biases and assumptions to the detriment of other women. The recognition of differences - between women of color and white women, and among women of color - is the key. All women, and white women in particular, need to explore these differences, not deny them. Indeed, it is the denial - ignorance and ignoring of differences - which is racist. (ISIS, #21)

The Women's Coalition for Nairobi, a diverse, multi-racial coalition of women from women's, labor, peace, civic, religious and political organizations in the United States, was one group that came to Forum '85 to raise and discuss issues of racism with women from around the world. They presented important perspectives on the situation of black women in the United States. For instance:



IWTC poster, 1985



## RACISM

In America, while the number of single female households has grown in the population at large, the number is most pronounced among blacks. By 1980, nearly one-half of all black families were headed by women, and the proportion is climbing. With infrequent exceptions, this situation is equated with poverty and reflects the dual burden of race and gender discrimination. More than half of those families live below the poverty line.

In workshops and interviews, the Women's Coalition for Nairobi presented the view that "women who fight against oppression and for equality must fight racism, classism, fascism and join in solidarity with oppressed people worldwide."

Other initiatives by women, working in coalition to combat racism, are surfacing in different regions. One example is the coalition of indigenous women, including Native Americans and Aborigines who are working together on both analysis of and action against the effects of racism on the economic, social and political involvement of indigenous women. Latin American women are taking up issues of the effects of racism on black and Indian women in countries throughout the region. As one discussion at the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Feminist meeting (Peru, 1983) pointed out: Racial discrimination goes together with economic exploitation and social and political subjugation. To be a woman from a group encountering racial discrimination is to be triply exploited.

From each country and culture that women confront racism, the important perspective they bring is that racism cannot be considered separately from other inequities--classism, sexism, imperialism, etc.--and that recognizing and working through our differences might be the first step toward building forceful coalitions to work for change.

Information from: "Upfront;" "Forum '85;" "Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE);" "VIVA;" "The Effects of Racism and Militarization on Women's Equality," The Women's Coalition for Nairobi.



### WRITE:

UPFRONT - A Black Woman's Newspaper  
P.O. Box 2293  
Washington, D.C. 20013 USA

International Resource Network of  
Women of African Descent  
159-00 Riverside Drive  
Suite 905A  
New York, NY 10032 USA

Indigenous Women's Rights  
World Council of Indigenous People  
555 King Edward Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

African Association of Women  
for Research and Development (AAWORD)  
Boite Postal 3304  
Dakar, Senegal

Pax Romana  
c/o Linda Wirth  
PO Box 85  
1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland



### READ:

THE EFFECTS OF RACISM AND MILITARIZATION ON WOMEN'S EQUALITY. Available from: The Women's Coalition for Nairobi, 130 E. 16th St., New York, NY 10003 USA.



# REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

“ A refugee woman must protect family ties with the past while laying the basis for a future which she cannot guess. ”

Rosiska Darcy de Oliveira (Brazil) at a UNHCR Roundtable on Refugee Women, 1985

“ Talking about...women who are migrants is anything but an easy matter. Too often they are ignored; too often they are talked about in conferences of experts, politicians...; too often their lives are determined by men who inhabit the airconditioned, carpeted offices of transnationals, remote from the world of the migrant woman factory worker. ”

Brigalia Bam (South Africa), World Council of Churches

Women, together with their children, comprise 75% of the world's refugees. They are the ones who face the greatest difficulty coping in a new environment. And it is due to the efforts of women who work with refugees that there has been a slow, but growing, recognition that refugee women are an "at risk" group within an already vulnerable population.

Advocates for special consideration for women refugees spoke out forcefully at both the non-governmental and governmental meetings during July in Nairobi. They pointed out the failure of refugee assistance groups to take women's concerns into consideration, citing such examples as:

-The only specific reference made to refugee women in the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) "Handbook for Emergencies" is to lactating mothers.

-Although physical vulnerability of refugee women is an issue worldwide, almost nowhere is protected housing an option for women in countries of first asylum.

-A need for information about refugee women was recognized during the 35th session of the UN General Assembly in 1980, where a resolution was adopted

requesting UNHCR to examine the situation of women refugees. To date, such data is still almost non-existent.

In Nairobi, women in exile from South Africa, Eritrea, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Palestin, El Salvador and many other countries shared experiences and put forth basic survival strategies for re-



XiTonen, IWT Tribune, Mexico, 1975



## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

fugee women and their children. These included: Increased data collection on the specific situation of refugee women; creation of women's health centres, administered by women, in refugee camps; involvement of women in refugee camps in food distribution and other decision-making functions; training of women in skills such as preventive health care and sanitation while they are in the camps.

The tens and thousands of women who leave their homes and sometimes their families to migrate to another country for reasons of religious or political persecution, or for economic necessity, were also the subject of many workshops at Forum '85. Whether they are Asian workers in Britain, Latin American workers in the United States, Turkish workers in Norway or amongst any other group that has left their country to find greater economic and personal security in another country, these women confront similar problems: they work at the most strenuous, monotonous and lowest-paid jobs, without access to the protection of unions; they pay more for lower quality housing; they often reside in a country illegally and live in constant fear of being forced to leave.

The many women in Nairobi who spoke out on the situation of migrant and refugee women, echoed many of the statements made during a UNHCR round table meeting held on 26 April 1985 in Geneva to discuss the situation of refugee women. Participants in the roundtable, which was attended by women from 13 countries, recommended increased skill training for women refugees and coordination of efforts between countries receiving and groups that work with refugees. Poul Hartling, former UNHCR High Commissioner, made this statement: "Refugee women are not merely vulnerable and needy. Throughout the years, UNHCR has witnessed their moral and psychological strength, their ability to innovate, create and adjust; their energy to struggle and to give a new meaning to life."



### WRITE:

IXQUIC (Guatemalan women)  
Apto Postal 27-008, CP 06760  
Mexico D.F.

Ref/WID Project - OEF Int'l.  
2101 L Street, NW, Suite 916  
Washington, D.C. 20037

World Council of Churches  
150 rte de Ferney  
1200 Geneva 20, Switzerland

National Union of Eritrean Women  
Via Tallone No. 7  
Milan, Italy

Panafrican Women's Organization  
23 Boulevard Colonel Amirouche  
Algiers, Algeria

Organization of Turkish Women in  
Holland, Van Musschenbroekstraat 8  
1099-G Amsterdam, Netherlands

Haitian Women Ad Hoc Committee  
254 Rutland Road  
Brooklyn, New York 11225 USA

Organization of Women of Asian and  
African Descent (OWAAD)  
1 Cambridge Terrace,  
London NW1, United Kingdom



### READ:

MIGRANT WOMEN SPEAK. Available from:  
World Council of Churches, 150 rte de  
Ferney, 1200 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

THE QUILTING BEE. (bi-monthly periodical). Available from: OEF Int'l, 2101 L St., NW, Suite 916, Washington, D.C. 20037 USA

REFUGEE magazine, special issue on "Refugee Women," (No. 18, June 1985). Available from: UNHCR, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland



# RESEARCH

“ Even the most excellent recommendations alone cannot solve all the problems facing women in the contemporary world, unless concrete actions - based on research, data and a better understanding of the interrelationships between the position of women and development efforts at all levels - are taken. ”

Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

One of the major achievements of the Decade for Women was the growth of research by, for and about women at all levels, broadening the scope at academic and private institutions, and increasing the involvement at national and more recently, community levels. At the beginning of the Decade, information on women's status in relation to such areas as education, employment and health was not readily available. As the Decade progressed, new research priorities and means of measuring emerged, making visible the participation in and contribution of women to society. The results of new forms of inquiry brought to light such facts as:

-The unpaid labour of women in the household, if given economic value, would add an estimated one-third, or \$4,000,000,000,000 to the world's annual economic product.

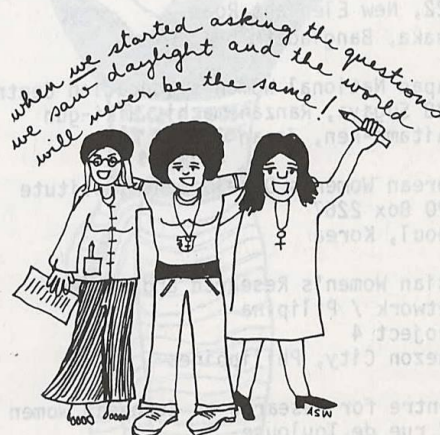
-Rural women account for more than half the food produced in the Third World and for as much as 80 percent of the food production in Africa.

-Although they comprise 50 percent of the world's enfranchised population, women hold no more than 10 percent of the seats in national legislatures. (Taken from "Women...a world survey," by Ruth Leger Sivard.)

Research findings such as those above have been valuable ammunition as women began to confront policy planners with the need to include women in their vision of development and progress. In

the process, a new self-awareness has arisen amongst women, affirming our central place in world society and confirming the need to continue such research.

While research related to women is being undertaken by a wide variety of individuals and institutions, the increased collection and dissemination of these findings has been aided by a growth in the establishment of women-specific research and study centres. The National Council for Research on Women (USA) is one organization that has undertaken to create a comprehensive list of these types of centres worldwide. On the following page are a selection of centres from the list they have compiled thus far:



adapted from LNS/cpf

Adapted by IWTC from Liberation News Service



## RESEARCH



### LIST OF CENTRES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Beirut University College  
Box 13-5053  
Beirut, Lebanon

Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)  
B.P. 3304  
Dakar, Senegal

Women and Development Research Institute / Centre for Inter-Racial Studies  
Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Research Centre for Women's Studies  
University of Adelaide  
North Terrace  
Adelaide 5000, S.A. Australia

Centre for Women's Development Studies, B-43 Panchsheel Enclave  
New Delhi, India 110017

Institute of Social Studies Trust  
M-1 Kanchenjunga, 18 Barakhamba Rd  
New Delhi, India 110001

Women for Women  
222, New Elephant Road  
Dhaka, Bangladesh 5

Japan National Women's Education Centre  
728 Sugaya, Ranzan-machi, Hiki-gun  
Saitama-ken, Japan 355-02

Korean Women's Development Institute  
CPO Box 2267  
Seoul, Korea

Asian Women's Research and Action Network / Pilipina Project 4  
Quezon City, Philippines

Centre for Research on European Women  
22 rue de Toulouse  
Brussels, Belgium 1040

Research and Documentation Centre  
Women and Development  
University of Leiden  
Stationsplein 10  
Leiden, Netherlands

Centre for the Study of Women  
Olleros 2554 P.B.  
Buenos Aires, Argentina 1426

Carlos Chagas Foundation  
Ave. Professor Francisco Morato 1565  
Sao Paulo, Brazil 05513

Programa Interdisciplinaria de Estudios de la Mujer (PIEM)  
Camino al Ajusco 20  
Mexico City, D.F. Mexico 20

Flora Tristan Women's Centre  
Parque Hernan Velarde 42  
Santa Beatriz, Lima 1, Peru

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)  
102A Avenida Cesar Nicolas Penon  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Resources for Feminist Research  
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1V6

Int'l Centre for Research on Women  
1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 501  
Washington D.C. 20036 USA

Centre for Research on Women  
Wellesley College  
Wellesley, MA 02181 USA

National Council for Research on Women  
47-49 East 65th Street  
New York, NY 10021 USA

(There are many more women's research centres than those listed above. Write to NCRW, at the above address, to receive their draft listing of women's research centres worldwide.)



# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“ Men today stand atop a mountain of metal and microchips; rural women remain in its shadow, bound to the boredom and drudgery of menial work in the house and on the farm. ”

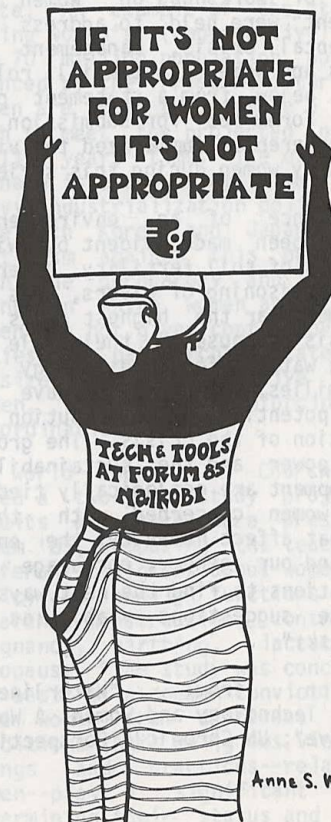
Alexandra Stephens, FAO Regional Officer for Women

The need for women to have access to and control of technologies--to reap their benefits, to be protected from their adverse effect and to have a say in their deployment--is an issue of emerging concern.

Science and technology have accelerated the pace of change in the world. The participation of women in science and technology is essential in determining the future direction and rate of this change. However, the perception, commonly held by many policymakers, development planners and technologists that science and technology are the domain of men has excluded women from participation in determining the direction of technology development, as well, as from the benefits of technological innovation and training. The result is that women can neither obtain the technologies that exist to lighten their workloads and generate income nor can they influence the choices that governments and technology institutes make related to development and deployment of improved and new technologies. This is true in regard to both sophisticated technologies and simple technologies.

Women are taking action on all fronts. Various women's groups in developing countries are forming appropriate technology (AT) groups and undertaking activities to increase access, involvement and influence. For example, women in Zambia organized a nation-wide AT fair for women; women in the South Pacific run AT training courses for women throughout the region; and women in Bolivia and Ecuador have produced their own AT instructional manuals. In relation to advanced technologies, we

have an international network coordinated by the American Friends Service Committee that focuses on effects of the micro-electronics industry on women workers worldwide, and various activist groups working on issues related to reproductive technologies.



IWTC poster for Tech and Tools, Nairobi, 1985



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

At Forum '85, discussions regarding these issues included analyzing access to and uses of appropriate technologies for such activities as agriculture, food processing and health and sanitation, as well as building awareness and activism in relation to advanced technologies such as bio-technology, communications technologies and reproductive technologies. Tech & Tools: An Appropriate Technology Event for Women at Forum '85, was the site of continuous discussions and demonstrations related to appropriate technology (see page 9). Workshops and panels were also held on women's use of micro-computers, energy technologies and strategies for involving young girls in science and technology education.

Finally, it was also at Forum '85 that a series of workshops on "Women and Environment" were held to address the environmental crisis, management of resources and women's potential roles. Excerpts, below, from a statement prepared at Forum '85 for submission to the UN Conference, summarized the views expressed by women during this series:

"The presence of an environmental crisis has been made evident by widespread loss of soil fertility, desertification, poisoning of rivers, seas and air...Women bear the highest costs of this crisis because of their role in providing water, food and energy for their families. Women also have the greatest potential for contribution to the solution of the crisis...The growth of women power and the sustainability of development are ecologically tied... We, as women concerned with these issues that affect humanity, the environment and our gender, encourage the United Nations to find the best ways to make these suggestions viable as an urgent task."

Information from: "Waterlines"; "Science, Technology and Women: A World Perspective"; UN Chronicle Perspective.



### WRITE:

WOMEN & GLOBAL CORPORATIONS NETWORK,  
American Friends Service Committee  
1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA  
19102-1479 USA

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AD HOC ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
National YWCA, Nationalist Road  
Lusaka, Zambia

ISIS/WICCE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY  
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME  
CP1247  
1201 Geneva 2, Switzerland

ENVIRONMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE  
PO Box 72461  
Nairobi, Kenya

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MICROCOMPUTER  
NETWORKING PROJECT  
IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017 USA

WOMEN AND FOOD TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT  
United Nations Development Fund for  
Women, DC2-13th Fl.  
New York, NY 10017 USA.



### READ:

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND WOMEN: A WORLD  
PERSPECTIVE (1985). Available from:  
AAAS, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, D.C.  
20005, USA.

THE TECH & TOOLS BOOK: A GUIDE TO  
TECHNOLOGIES WOMEN ARE USING WORLDWIDE  
(1985). Available from: IWTC, 777  
United Nations Plaza, New York, NY  
10017 USA or ITDG, 9 King St., Covent  
Garden, London WC2 8HE, England.



# SEXUALITY

“ Women should get hold of their bodies and stop men from deciding what they should do with them...Women must control their own fertility which forms the basis for enjoying all other rights...First and foremost, our bodies belong to us. ”

From Mrs. Sally Mugabe, head of Zimbabwe's delegation to the United Nations World Conference

One of the challenges of the UN Decade for Women has been for women to claim their right to sexuality and sexual freedom. There are a broad range of concerns related to sexuality that women are addressing, ranging from concerns about reproduction and control over our own bodies, to the rights of lesbians. These issues were addressed frankly and openly in numerous workshops during the 10 days of Forum '85.

For many African women, the issue of female circumcision and their determination to define and respond to the complexity of the problem, has been of primary concern. At Forum '85, women from the Sudan, Zambia, Benin, Nigeria, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Ghana, Senegal and Egypt described the current realities related to female circumcision in their countries and explained why many women still want to be circumcised. They pointed out that in societies where a woman's survival depends upon being married, it is not possible to take the risk of not being circumcised, since uncircumcised women may have a more difficult time finding a husband.

Women at Forum '85 speaking out on female circumcision, many of whom were part of the Inter-African Committee, emphasized that a great deal of public education needs to be carried out in the countries in which female circumcision is practised and that "Men and women can understand that the practice should be stopped if they can learn that it can lead to women becoming sick and infertile, and that this pain does not have to be accepted as part of 'being a woman'".

In addressing family planning and reproductive policies, women have begun to separate the question of sexual freedom and reproduction, posing the issue clearly as one of control over our own bodies. That effort now has to address new technologies such as in vitro fertilization, genetic engineering and sex determinism. In the Asian Women's Research and Action Network report, the Malaysian representative wrote, "An example of the state dictating women's (reproductive) role is the 70 million population policy announced by the Prime Minister whereby women are urged to conceive 5 children each to meet the projected population in 115 years' time. The official rationale is that Malaysia must adopt a heavy industrialization policy to compete with Korea and Japan...A major criticism against this policy deals with the derogatory and utilitarian manner in which women are treated - women are not given control over their bodies. The patriarchal state has emphasized the reproductive role of women, therefore reinforcing their subordination."

The World Council of Churches sponsored a two-year study project, the results of which were presented at Forum '85, comparing the teachings of different religions about women's sexuality and bodily functions such as menarche, menstruation, contraception, pregnancy, birthing, lactation and menopause. "The study was conceived on the basis of a common conviction among some women from different religious traditions that religious views, teachings and practices--related to women--play a significant part in determining their status and role in



## SEXUALITY

society," said Maria Assad.

The events that took place in July 1985 at both the governmental and non-governmental meetings were notable on many fronts, not the least of which were some of the progressive statements made by governmental delegates to the United Nations conference. In relation to sexuality, the statement made by the head of the Netherlands delegation, Ms. A. Kappeyne van de Coppello, which included reference to the rights of lesbians marked the first time such a statement was made at a United Nations meeting. She said, "Among the many different groups of women who are attending this Conference, lesbian women are in a special position...(and) suffer twice as much in many parts of the world. Repression goes so far that it appears that as a group they do not exist at all. We can regard the fact that lesbian women are beginning to be visible and are articulating their claims to equal treatment as a hopeful sign in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities in which lesbian women share."

Charlotte Bunch, of the International Feminist Networking Coordination Project, has pointed out that, "Lesbians everywhere in the world work on every issue," and the lesbian workshops in Nairobi represented the breadth of their concerns. Lesbians have helped to define violence against women as a male attempt at ownership of women, not a product of human nature or sexual passion. Likewise, lesbians have led the way in challenging domestic violence programmes that define their goal as keeping families together, arguing that this approach may not be in the best interests of women victims of abuse. A priority for lesbians working internationally has been to connect lesbianism with other issues.

Information from: WIN News; "Connexions"; "New World Outlook"; "Listen Real Loud"; "Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights."



### WRITE:

Feminist International Network of  
Resistance to Reproductive and Genetic  
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Box 571,  
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or

Box 583, London NW3 1RQ, England

International Lesbian Information  
Service, Centre Femmes  
5 Bd St., Georges  
1205 Geneva, Switzerland

World Council of Churches  
Sub-Unit on Women in Church and Society  
150 route de Ferney  
CH1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Inter-African Committee  
Babiker Badri Foundation  
Ahfad University College for Women  
Omdurman, Sudan

Women's Global Network on Reproductive  
Rights, Postbus 4098  
1009 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands



### READ:

GLOBAL LESBIANISM I AND II, special issues of Connexions magazine. Available from: People's Translation Service, 4228 Telegraph Av., Oakland, California 94690, USA.



# YOUNG WOMEN

“ Initiatives begun for the 1985 International Youth Year should be extended and expanded so that young women are protected from abuse and exploitation and assisted to develop their full potential. Girls and boys must be provided with equal access to health, education and employment to equip them for adult life. Both girls and boys should be educated to accept equal responsibilities for parenthood... ”

From the Forward Looking Strategies

Perhaps no group of women will be more affected by the UN Conference's Forward Looking Strategies - or any other strategy towards women's equality - than the young women of the world.

In the year 2000 women aged 15-24 will constitute over eight percent of both rural and urban populations in developing countries. The great majority of these women will be out of school and in search of jobs. For those employed, frequent exploitation, long working hours and stress have serious implications for their health. Low nutritional levels and unplanned and repeated pregnancies are also aggravating factors. In recent years there has been an improvement overall in enrollment of girls in school relative to that of boys, but the gap in numbers is getting larger as enrollment expands:

FACT: In 1950, there were 27 million more boys than girls enrolled worldwide in first and second levels of education. Currently boys outnumber girls by 80 million. The gap broadens despite the fact that girls' enrollment in the world's schools and universities rose from 95 million in 1950 to a projected 395 million in 1985.

FACT: In South Asia alone, 38 million more school places would be needed to bring girls' enrollment up to boys' at the present time.

Equality of education for girls suffers not only from lack of access to schooling but also from restrictive stereo-

types outside of school and in the education process itself. Stereotypes of what is "natural" and "acceptable" for each sex create subtle barriers to the full development of intellectual abilities, even when academic access is unlimited.

Recognizing that, whether from developing or developed countries, they shared these concerns, young women spoke for themselves at Forum '85. They met in workshops covering topics ranging from young women in development, to health and education, to the disadvantaged status of young women in industrial and youth cooperatives. Thirty-two young women sponsored by the World YWCA met every evening at dinner to review workshops each had attended during the day and share the experiences gleaned collectively from, what was for most, their first-time participation in an international conference.

They met, also, at a series of youth plenaries sessions to put forth a set



World YWCA poster, 1985



## YOUNG WOMEN

of priorities to address in the future as individuals and through networks they formed in Nairobi. Peace ranked at the top of the list. Education and the community were other focus areas. Representatives of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS), the World YWCA, the World Federation for Democratic Youth (WFDY) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) reported at the end of the plenary that young women stressed the need for solidarity within and across borders in order to attain their own emancipation and the liberation of their peoples or the independence of their countries although priorities differed for each participant according to her circumstances. The question of self-confidence and self-determination was stressed frequently in its relation to access to information, education and opportunities for skilled and independent decision-making or action. Also stressed was the fact that young women should not wait for adults to open doors for them; they talked about the importance of participating in local activities or organizations and of reaching out to other young women to join existing networks, create their own support systems and prepare themselves to take a role in influencing decisions. Another recommendation was that young women could become involved in activities of global significance, by working for the International Year of Peace.

In conclusion, the young women's group pointed out: "Bearing in mind that many girls were not even aware of the existence of a Women's Decade when it commenced in 1976, many young women would welcome further opportunities to review achievements stemming from Decade activities and to formulate further joint strategies."

Information from: The Forward Looking Strategies; "Women...A World Survey; "Forum '85."



### WRITE:

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37 Quai Wilson  
1201 Geneva, Switzerland

UNICEF  
866 UN Plaza  
New York, New York 10017 USA

World Federation for Democratic Youth  
1389 Budapest POB 147  
Hungary



### READ:

YOUTH INFORMATION BULLETIN. Available from: Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

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