

1975 PROCLAIMED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

How the Year Started

For some time in 1970-71, non-governmental organizations of women in several countries had been suggesting the United Nations should designate a Year for women, just as the UN had set aside Years for human rights, population, international co-operation, etc.

The formal initiative for International Women's Year was taken at the UN Commission on the Status of Women when it met in Geneva in 1972. A resolution was introduced asking that 1975 be designated by the UN as a Year to focus attention throughout the world on the status of women and was approved unanimously.

The resolution, after approval by the Commission, then had to make its way through the UN system, going first to the UN's Economic and Social Council for approval and finally to the UN General Assembly which gave its approval in December of 1972.

What is the UN Commission on the Status of Women?

The UN Commission on the Status of Women, which was established in 1946, consists of 32 countries elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Countries are elected for four year terms and may be re-elected. The Commission used to meet annually, but as budgetary problems plagued the UN, the Commission's schedule was changed to meeting every other year. Within the UN system, the Commission reports to the Economic and Social Council.

The United States is a member of the Commission where its representative is Mrs. Pat Hutar of Chicago. She has had extensive experience in working with non-governmental organizations prior to her appointment to the Commission in January of this year. Other countries represented on the Commission are:

ARGENTINA  
BELGIUM  
BYELORUSSIA  
CANADA  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
CHILE  
CHINA  
COLOMBIA  
COSTA RICA  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
EGYPT

FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GREECE  
GUINEA  
HUNGARY  
INDIA  
INDONESIA  
JAPAN  
KENYA  
LIBERIA

MADAGASCAR  
NICARAGUA  
NORWAY  
PHILIPPINES  
ROMANIA  
THAILAND  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
ZAIRE  
NIGERIA

The Commission has been instrumental in directing attention to issues affecting women, and in drafting declarations and international agreements covering many of them. A recent achievement of the Commission was the drafting of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of 1967 which serves as a sort of world guide for the advancement of the rights and responsibilities of women.

Why was the IWY proposed?

The Commission decided to ask for International Women's Year because it felt that such a step would mobilize action on behalf of women throughout the world.

The priorities given to issues affecting women differed among the countries represented on the Commission. For developing countries, there was emphasis on the needs of rural women for such things as a pure water supply, clinics within walking distance, and the availability of elementary schools. For women from developed countries, there was concern over obtaining access to policy-making positions, equal pay for work of equal value, etc. But whatever the differences in priorities, the women on the Commission found that they shared many common concerns, and that in particular they were united in feeling that they were at a disadvantage as compared with the status enjoyed by men. In most countries, constitutions or basic laws granted equal rights to men and women, but various barriers--custom or indifference or fear of competition or official attitudes or other causes--effectively barred women from enjoying the rights legally granted to the full. It was for this reason that a need was felt for a special Year to focus attention on the situation of women and the means of improving their status.

What are the specific objectives of the IWY?

The UN resolution designating 1975 as IWY lists 3 main objectives:

- a) to promote equality between men and women;
- b) to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of national and international life (the UN calls it "integration in development");
- c) To recognize the contributions of women to the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among nations and to world peace.

The Commission, at its recent meeting in New York in January, 1974, suggested that these objectives might be stated briefly as: equality, development, peace.

The UN's proposed program of activities for IWY

The Commission asked the UN Secretary General (Mr. Waldheim) to prepare a draft program of activities as a guide for countries, organizations, and international agencies in their work for IWY. As revised and approved by the Commission, the program consists of a listing of matters which might helpfully be undertaken during IWY, at the national and international levels. It is intended that governments would select from among items listed, those which are best adapted to the particular needs of the women in individual countries. This document should be useful to non-governmental organizations and other groups concerned with IWY, and it will be distributed as soon as it is available.

Will there be a UN-sponsored World Conference during IWY?

In the past, it has been customary for the UN to sponsor a world conference during the Years proclaimed by the UN. Thus, there was a World Conference called by the UN during Human Rights Year, there will be a World Conference of the UN for Population Year this summer, etc. In the case of IWY, however, the UN, while proclaiming the Year, made no budgetary provision for a Conference.

The US representative at the 1974 session of the Commission, acting with the support of developing countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, proposed that the Commission should ask the Secretary General to arrange for a World Conference for women, and to find financial support by rearranging priorities in the existing UN budget. The Commission warmly supported this proposal.

We cannot however yet be sure that there will be a UN Conference during IWY. The Commission's strong recommendation must now go for approval to the Economic and Social Council of the UN which will meet in April. If that Council approves the recommendation--as it is greatly to be hoped that it will--the UN Secretariat can begin essential preparatory work for the Conference, even before the proposal reaches the UN General Assembly for final approval. Colombia has offered to serve as host to the Conference if it is held, but no action was taken on this offer pending decision on the basic question whether there would be a UN Conference at all. We should have that answer in April.

### How should the Year be observed?

There was general agreement at the Commission on these points about observance of the Year:

- a) There should be a stock-taking during the Year to determine the progress made on the rights and responsibilities of women--and on steps which still need to be taken.
- b) The Year should not, however, be merely a time of stock-taking or commemoration. It should be--most important--a staging time for new programs and ideas which would be set in motion and would carry on well beyond 1975.
- c) The Year should involve not only women, but men as well. If real progress is to be made, Commission representatives emphasized, the help of men is needed. Men also have a very real stake in IWY, for, through aiding women, it will bring advantage to the family, the local community and the nation as a whole.

It should be recognized that women have an important role in such matters of rational interest as health, education, agriculture, nutrition, transportation, consumer issues, the energy crisis, housing, etc.

Early advance planning is clearly necessary, by organizations and groups as well as by governments, if the Year is to bring the benefits which it can and should for the women of the world.

### What is the US Center for IWY?

The US Center for IWY is a non-political, non-partisan center for distribution of information about IWY and correlation of efforts by government and non-governmental groups in the US in observance of IWY. The Center was created in September, 1973, by a grant from the Department of State to a private foundation, Meridian House International in Washington, D.C. The grant was in the nature of seed money and the Center must obtain additional funds from other sources to meet its goals. As it seeks to serve as a clearinghouse of information, the Center would appreciate receiving word of activities undertaken for IWY by organizations or groups or local communities. The Center will also send information, including UN documents as they become available, to organizations or groups which ask to be on our mailing list.

The above is from: United States Center for International Woman's Year 1975, Meridian House International, 1630 Crescent Place, N.Y.; Washington, D.C. 20009.

### PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

On January 30, 1974, President Nixon designated 1975 as IWY for the United States in the following proclamation:

There is a growing awareness today of the significant contributions that American women have made to our country's development, its culture, and its social and economic life. Women have enriched our society as homemakers and mothers and our community life through dedicated service as volunteers. Their entry into the labor force in increasing numbers has strengthened and expanded our economy. Despite these important contributions, women continue to face inequities as they seek a broader role in the life of our Nation.

In recent years, we have made significant progress toward remedying this situation, not only by striking down barriers to the employment and advancement of women in Government, but by ending discriminatory practices in other fields through legislation, Executive order, and judicial decree. Even when legal equality is achieved, however, traditional discriminatory attitudes, beliefs and practices may persist, preventing women from enjoying the full and equal rights that they deserve.

This Administration is committed to providing an opportunity for women to participate on an equal basis with men in our national life. We support the Equal Rights Amendment, we are moving vigorously to ensure full equal employment opportunity for women in the Federal service, and we are enforcing the law requiring

similar efforts in business and institutions which receive Federal contracts or assistance.

The United Nations General Assembly, by adoption of Resolution 3010 of December 18, 1972, designated 1975 as International Women's Year. This resolution offers an exceptional opportunity to intensify the national effort already underway in the United States to further advance the status of women.

In observing International Women's Year, we should emphasize the role of women in the economy, their accomplishments in the professions, in Government, in the arts and humanities, and in their roles as wives and mothers.

The Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution in 1972. It would be a fitting tribute to America's women to complete the ratification of this amendment by 1975.

Let us begin now to work together, men and women, to make 1975 an outstanding year for women in the United States, and lend our support to the advancement of women around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the year 1975 as International Women's Year in the United States. I call upon the Congress and the people of the United States, interested groups and organizations, officials of the Federal Government and of State and local governments, educational institutions, and all others who can be of help, to begin now to provide for the observance of International Women's Year with practical and constructive measures for the advancement of the status of women, and also to cooperate with the activities and observances to be arranged under the auspices of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of January in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eith.

RICHARD NIXON

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From the above, it is obvious that women in the library field, preferably feminists, should make plans to share in the observance of IWY. The TFW is the logical body to make plans on a national level and to encourage local activity. Please send your thoughts on this and your suggestions to Lynne Rhoads / 4004 Whitman Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103.

#### UNION WOMEN ORGANIZE NATIONAL COALITION

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) was "born" in Chicago, March 23 and 24 at a founding conference attended by over 3,000 union women who determined purposes and structure for CLUW. Purposes include 1) Organizing unorganized women, 2) affirmative action in the workplace, 3) political action and legislation, 4) participation of women within their workplace.

As a group CLUW did not call themselves feminists, but women of all ages and from all parts of the country were represented. Membership is limited to union members and women from 58 unions participated.

An annual conference is planned, to adjust structure which is not responsive to membership and coordinate State Chapter and National CLUW activity. National officers are: Linda Tarr-Whelan, Secretary; Olga Madar, UAW, Detroit, National Chairwoman; Addie Wyatt, Meat Cutters, Chicago, National Vice-Chairwoman; Joyce Miller, Clothing

Workers, New York, Vice-President East; Elinor Glann, Service Employees, Los Angeles, Vice-President West; and Clara Day, Teamsters, Chicago, Vice-President, Midwest.

#### SAN DIEGO LIBRARIANS LAUNCH "WOMEN'S PROFESSION" DISCRIMINATION CHARGE

Picking up a recently developed tactic which could conceivably be used to advantage by librarians everywhere, a group of staff members at the San Diego Public Library is bringing into Civil Service negotiations documentation showing that 1) despite qualifications called for, librarians positions are paid less well by the City than are traditionally "male" occupations--regardless of whether the individual librarian involved is male or female. Since a great many organizations have evidently drifted into similar practices, discriminating more or less unconsciously against "women's" professions, anti-discrimination suits based on easily available documentation of discriminatory pay scales could help a lot of librarians. The salary negotiation committee at SDPL is headed by Alyce J. Archuleta, Science and Industry Department, SDPL, San Diego 92101.

News item in LJSJ HOTLINE vol. III, no. 16, April 22, 1974.

#### SALARY SURVEY OF COLORADO LIBRARIANS

Susan Tucker, student in the University of Denver Graduate School of Librarianship, as part of her work toward the MA in Librarianship, prepared a research paper, A Salary Survey of Colorado Librarians. Abstract of the paper reads as follows:

A survey of Colorado academic, public, and school librarians, this study represents the analysis of questionnaires returned from a randomly chosen sample population of 31 academic librarians, 49 public librarians and 102 school librarians in the state. Findings show that while men as a group have more experience, education, and mobility than do women as a group, women which do have equal experience, education, and mobility do not earn salaries equal to those of men. Women academic and school librarians are more likely to have equal education and experience than are women public librarians. In all three types of librarians, the results indicate that a certain amount of discrimination exists.

The text of the paper is over 100 pages and appendixes give form letter and questionnaire sent to Colorado librarians and lists of titles and selected comments of respondents.

The paper is interesting, well done, and may serve as a model for similar surveys in other States. Copies are being sold by the Colorado Library Association for \$3.50. Write Ann Kimborough, Executive Secretary, Colorado Library Association, 2341 S. Josephine, Denver, Colo. 80210.

#### WISCONSIN CHURCH WOMEN ORGANIZE

ERA has come to church women in Wisconsin in the form of the Wisconsin Committee on Women and the Church, which includes Protestants, Catholics, and Orthodox, and which is organized to help the women in Wisconsin to achieve their rightful position and place of responsibility in the institutional Church.

A working statement of their goals:

- 1) Help women perceive and understand the theological foundations of personal liberation.
- 2) Raise the consciousness of women and men concerning the Church's failure to grant full status and role in its life and ministry.
- 3) Develop channels through which to share information concerning educational opportunities, resources, and programs for women in the Church.
- 4) Assess and publicize the denominational climate with regard to women and the

- 4) Church: who stands where, what are our actual Wisconsin statistics regarding women's leadership roles in the various denominations, etc.
- 5) Seek to eliminate church-based anti-feminism.
- 6) Seek to enlarge and implement the fundamental roles of women in the Church.
- 7) Develop cooperative programs, resources, strategies, etc. as a regular part of the process of personal liberation.

Communications may be address to Wisconsin Committee on Women and the Church, St. Benedict Center, Box 5070, Madison, WI 53705. Phone (608) 836-1631.

#### CIA WOMEN'S DAY

Canadian Library Association in Winnipeg has set June 24th as the date for Woman's Day. Plans are starting to gel for a fantastic 24 hours. The program hopes to feature a surprise guest speaker who is setting the library world on fire, almost single-handedly. The entertainment also promises to be spectacular. An inspirational Canadian feminist drama group just getting it together with some New York theatre women, expert puppeteers and creative minds, has been invited to perform. Now all we need is a little help from our friends.

The day will take of lot of coordinating and we need woman-power to make it happen so if anyone is interested in getting together AV displays, book displays, group sessions, refreshments or moral support, please contact Emergency Librarian: 110-11; Chatsworth, Toronto MYR 1R5. We can make a day to remember!

Announcement in Emergency Librarian v.1 no.3

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In order to avoid confusion TFW may want to use the TFW title which has been used by the last two Coordinators in their correspondence: ALA SRRT TASK FORCE ON WOMEN. Several variants of the original title "Task Force on the Status of Women in Librarianship" are being used by TFW members and the several titles may puzzle recipients of TFW correspondence.

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 The TFW newsletter has been sent to some persons who have not mailed in their \$1.00 minimum contribution to support the newsletter. These persons will no longer be mailed copies of the newsletter as the TFW assumes either lack of interest of these recipients or perhaps loss in the mail. Contributions may be sent to Lyme Rhoads, 4004 Whitman Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103.

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