

*Quarterly Magazine of the  
National Women's Committee of  
Sinn Féin The Workers' Party*

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# *Womens View*

*International  
Women's Day*

*Bray's new  
councillor*

*Working mothers*

*Nerves*



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**O**ur first issue comes to you on March 8 — International Women's Day. Traditionally it is a day when meetings and events are organised to campaign on specific issues, to examine the progress of the women's movement and to celebrate the increasing contribution of women to the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities.



*Vilma Ramoiz  
giving testimony  
at an inquiry in  
Mexico City.*

But March 8 is also a day when we should pay tribute to the many courageous women all over the world who are playing their part in the struggle for peace and democracy. And it is a day when we should remember in particular all the thousands of girls and women who have suffered torture, imprisonment and death at the hands of repressive regimes.

Remember for example, 12 year old Vilma Ramoiz of El Salvador who in July 1978 was arrested, tortured and raped in front of her mother by soldiers. Or Graciela Artes, an Argentinian living in Bolivia who, because she supported a tin miners' strike, was with her baby daughter Carla handed over by the police to the Argentinian authorities in August 1976. There had been no extradition order, and neither Graciela nor Carla have been heard of since, in spite of efforts by their friends and relations to find them.

We should remember too, Suad Khairy, a 50 year old Iraqi democrat, writer and mother of two, who was so severely tortured for six weeks that she had a heart attack. Or Sugiyah an Indonesian girl who was arrested in 1965 at the age of 13 and who is still in prison. Sugiyah's only crime was that she belonged to a youth group which was opposed to the government.

Sadly, the list is endless. But we must remember too the women lucky enough to live in progressive countries who are working daily to build socialism, and from whom there is much for us to learn.

## Womens View

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Sinn Féin The Workers' Party*

Change is all around us. For Ireland one of the most significant developments of the last decade has been the increasing determination of women to assume their rightful status as full and equal members of society.

Women themselves have been in the forefront of what is still an arduous battle, demonstrating James Connolly's dictum, "None so fit to break the chains as those who wear them". But in waging their own struggle women have also discovered their common cause with all those opposed to the exploitative economic and social order which governs our lives.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party believes that the struggle for women's rights is an essential component of our work to establish socialism in Ireland. For some time now the National Women's Committee of SFWP has realised the necessity for a vehicle to promote this struggle and to record the experiences of our sisters throughout the world.

Our magazine hopes not only to reflect the changes in women's lives but to be a part of that process for change by highlighting issues of vital concern to women and to all committed to progressive social change.

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## CHARLIE'S HYPOCRISY

The chairperson of the Council for the Status of Women, Anne Kavanagh, has called the £8,000 allocation from the Government 'derisory' and totally inadequate. It certainly makes a nonsense of Charlie Haughey's words at the Fianna Fáil Ard-Fheis. Let's just look at these again.

"The status of women in our society must continue to receive unremitting attention with sympathetic examination of our structures being followed up by enlightened action.

"Since the Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1970 much has been achieved. There are, however, still areas of discrimination and difficulty for women. Full equality is the aim of Fianna Fáil. We think we have given a clear indication of our attitude and our approach by appointing the first ever woman Minister since Madame Markievicz in 1919. We consistently appoint women to boards, institutions, and agencies as the opportunity to do so arises. At the next election we shall try to have as many women candidates as possible. Progress may not be as rapid as many women would wish but I would like to give this Ard-Fheis an assurance that we intend to proceed as rapidly as circumstances and resources permit and that we will not be satisfied until women enjoy a status in our society equal in every way to that of men."

With an under-funded Employment Equality Agency, this derisory grant to the Council for the Status of Women and a hundred thousand pounds budget subsidy for hurlays, are we expected to take his assurances seriously?



## MISTREATED

A woman admitted to the Belfast City Hospital for an after-birth operation has claimed that her consultant gynaecologist insulted and embarrassed her because she was a divorcee.

The claim comes from Upper Springfield Women's Rights Group to which the woman, who lives in the area, reported the incident. The woman has been divorced for many years and co-habiting. The couple decided they wanted a child. The woman, who had been using a coil for some time on medical advice, had it removed. Three months after pregnancy was confirmed however the woman was rushed to the City Hospital with a miscarriage. On discharge she was asked to return in four weeks time for an appointment at the out-patients.

When the woman visited the out-patients she was immediately admitted for the operation. She asked the house doctor if she could have a coil fitted after the operation as the experience of the miscarriage had decided her against having a child. This was agreed by the house doctor.

On the way to the operating theatre, and after the patient had received a pre-med, the consultant gynaecologist appeared. After exchanging words with nurses and doctors he asked the patient how she felt and why she was having the coil fitted. The patient told him why. But he persisted asking her "Is that the only reason?" The incredulous woman said "Can you think of any other?" at which the consultant told the nurses not to bring her into the theatre and said he would be back.

He returned with the patient's file in his hand and pointed to the word DIVORCED on it and said "Are you sure that isn't the reason why you're having the coil fitted?". The woman states "I was confused, embarrassed and deeply annoyed. I panicked when it hit me that he was probably going to prevent the theatre

team fit the coil so I said that I was now back with my ex-husband. His attitude immediately changed and he said "Oh, that's all right," and asked the nurses and doctors to go ahead and do whatever I wanted done.

"When I came out of hospital and thought over the incident the full impact of what he had said really hit me. What did it matter to him as a consultant whether I was married, single, divorced or whatever? He had never visited me in the ward either when I was in for the miscarriage or the after-birth operation. Perhaps if he had visited me there instead of waiting until I was literally ready to be wheeled into the theatre he would have seen to it that I did not get a pre-med, because of my blood complaint. I never knew doctors were getting aid to moralise to patients."

## PROPERTY FIRST

Galway's battered wives and children have been badly let down by residents of that salubrious suburb, Salthill.

The Western Health Board had planned to set up a refuge and had gone so far as to purchase a three-storey house at Ardmara Road, Salthill for this purpose. Still opposition came from local residents however and Galway Corporation last year refused planning permission on the grounds of diminished "residential amenity" (for this read "the price of property might be affected").

Their refusal was upheld by the Planning Appeal Board and in January the Health Board was forced to formally abandon the Ardmara scheme.

All may not yet be lost, however. The Board has adopted a recommendation that the Ardmara house be sold and that an alternative site be sought (in cooperation with Galway Social Services Council). Let's hope that this time the very many Galway people who have expressed their concern at the setback to the project will make themselves heard above the defenders of the sanctity of high-price housing.

## FEMINIST DIARY

### Irish Women's Diary and Guide Book 1980



If you are using the 1980 Women's Diary Guide Book its publishers, Irish Feminist Information want to know what you think of it. They have compiled a questionnaire to find out in what way the diary has been useful and what improvements can be made.

They'd also like to know if they have left anything out and how it can be distributed better. You can contact the Irish Feminist Federation at 45, Elmwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

## 'WOMEN' SCRAPPED

The women's page in the *Irish Independent* has gone and they are now 'Being Independent'. The 'woman' label was scrapped 'because we don't think it is valid any longer in terms of equality, in terms of our readership and in terms of our content'.

Whilst all the arguments for this change are worthy and understandable in the light of some advances by women they had a familiar echo.

Some years ago the women journalists on the *Irish Times* announced triumphantly that due to the advance of women, and because women's issues are usually social questions it wasn't necessary to have a women's page any longer. After some years they re-introduced it as *Our Times*. Dropping the women's page had meant women were gradually squeezed out altogether.

Women will watch *Being Independent* with a special interest.

# A WOMAN'S WORK ...

## Liz McManus

At first it seemed a ridiculous idea — with Irish politics already riddled with family connections it would be carrying that trend to an extreme for a husband and a wife to stand for election in the same town. And yet the local Sinn Féin The Workers' Party branch members were keen to go ahead with a line up of two women and two men, including John and myself as our Local Election team of candidates in the various wards in Bray.

Once I got used to the idea I agreed to stand. After all it was equally ridiculous to make our married state a barrier particularly when I was constantly preaching that women had to seize opportunities to redress the imbalance against women in public life.

The election campaign itself required a certain amount of organization of our domestic life. But my children love an election. For them it's a time of indulgent babysitters who feed them forbidden gobstoppers and lollipops; of loving grandparents who take them off for a treat on Polling Day; and parents who are too preoccupied to notice bad behaviour.

When the votes were counted it was a heartening result with SFWP being established as the third biggest political party in the area with two seats on Bray Urban District

Council. Obviously the electorate were willing to accept me as a candidate in my own right and gave us the mandate accordingly.

Foolishly, I thought that the biggest hurdle had been overcome but it is only now, eight months after the election that we are finally adjusting to the changes that have come as a result.

Neither of us had foreseen the enormous workload attached to Council business. For many people a Councillor is a surrogate social worker who can unravel the secret mysteries of the Department of Social Welfare, or crack the code in which all standard application forms are written. Like all public representatives we have been brought in to participate in the continuous warfare that goes on between Government Departments and working class people.

To battle with bureaucracy requires stamina and often insurmountable problems are put in the way of people whose lives are full of hardship already. And here I am thinking particularly of women. It has happened so often now that I am no longer surprised when I open my front door to some woman who looks like any other, neatly dressed, self possessed, who sits in my living room and unfolds a life story of such pain and misery that sometimes I have difficulty comprehending what she is saying.

Another difference in our lives has been the vast quantity of paper which we now receive by post — reports, minutes of meetings, documentation of every kind which must be studied, analysed and used when we debate in the Council chamber. After all, our principal function is to put forward Socialist policies publicly and to influence Council decisions to favour working people. In order to combat the conservative majority on the Council we must have well-researched arguments so that by fighting hard on issues we can win victories despite being a minority party.

When elected I had a part-time job as an architect and a family of three children to care for. The domestic routine quickly became frantic. 7.30 am I rose like a whirling dervish out of my bed, got three boys bed and dressed and got to school in time for me to be at my drawing board at the office at 9 o'clock.

At lunchtime I had 20 minutes to shop, clean up the breakfast things, before the children came home from school and I got down to Council matters. At night there are a whole range of meetings to attend.

Very quickly I became a public representative who hardly knew what day it was, let alone the major headlines of the day; an architect who never opened a technical



● *Liz and John McManus — Ireland's first husband and wife team in politics.*

handbook; a mother who galloped around the house brushing aside little boys in order to grapple with the ever-increasing demands of housework. Of course the little boys developed their own methods of retaliation. Their behaviour became wilder as my resistance became weaker.

At Christmas I finally cracked. There seemed to be no point in trying to be Superwoman, so I gave up my job. Now I do my Council work in the peaceful mornings when the boys are at school. I even read the Irish Times now. I can enjoy my children, something which has had a moderating effect on their antics. Unfortunately I can see the

exhaustion and tension which I used to feel still mirrored in John's face as he struggles with his job as a doctor and his work as a Councillor.

It is hard to imagine what our life would have been like if I had not stood in the election. Other women married to politicians can be totally dominated by their husband's activities without having any direct involvement or interest in politics themselves. They are expected to be the ones to answer the phone calls, post the letters, and act like a loyal little buffer between the great man and his constituents.

There are certain advantages to both of us being Councillors — although our work-load is doubled

sometimes it can be halved by sharing it out between us. But a delicate balance always has to be maintained to prevent our political life destroying our family life. In our house we ban political work on a Sunday, a rule which we respect as zealously as the orthodox Jew respects his Sabbath. It's our day to escape and when the weather is fine we do escape to the Wicklow hills with the three boys.

● *Liz McManus, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party member for the past ten years, was elected to Bray U.D.C. (Co. Wicklow) in June 1979.*

**C**hildren begin to learn that it's a man's world from an early age. Even if they come from families where stereotyping is avoided, they cannot escape a concentrated dose of prejudice when they start school. School is especially important because this is the place where the child learns about the world outside his or her own home. Here the child learns about the real world — but is it real?

From their schoolbooks young children will quickly learn that men and boys are more important and more highly valued than women and girls. Male characters outnumber females by ratios ranging from 2:1 to 5:1.

In the English and Irish readers they will discover that women are usually dependent upon men. In fact some women are so insignificant that they are only described in terms of their relationship to a man e.g., the farmer's wife, the tinker's daughter. On the other hand, men are never referred to as the doctor's husband or the nurse's son.

The authors of these textbooks seem to feel that they *have* to tell us whether a woman is married or not but for men it doesn't really matter.

The typical woman is the home-making mother. She shops, prepares and serves food, washes dishes and clothes, irons, nurses baby and cleans the house. Outside the home her energy evaporates — except for shopping of course. Even on family outings, while Daddy and the children go off swimming or fishing, mother is only fit to sit in the sun. Occasionally she summons up enough energy to read a book.

Working women, when they appear occupy a very restricted range of occupational roles: the most typical being schoolteacher, shop assistant, nurse and queen (which usually means wife of the king). In contrast men appear in a wide variety of occupations —

# Sexism in Schoolbooks



Work is fun.  
Rusty likes to help.  
"Stop, stop," says Daddy.  
"Mammy will not like that."



Maura is in the house.  
She has to help Mammy.  
She can do house work.  
"Sean will like this cake," she says

● *A typical example. Basic Reader 2 by Fallons (Hopscotch Reading Scheme for Primary Schools.)*

everything from a shopkeeper to an astronaut.

In fact, the only area where men keep a low profile is in the home. Here, he is extremely inactive. Although he gardens occasionally and plays with the children from time to time outside, he becomes paralysed as soon as he steps inside the house! Although he manages to eat and drink with ease, he rarely raises himself out of his armchair.

**B**ut perhaps the most curious of all the exaggerated stereotypes in the readers is the notion that cars are the preserve of the male. Nowhere in any of the readers is a

woman permitted to drive a car.

Not surprisingly, the children portrayed in the readers reflect these same adult roles. When the girls aren't helping Mammy in the house and caring for their baby brothers and sisters, they are usually playing at keeping house and nursing their dolls. Boys on the other hand, engage in a wide variety of activities — particularly those demanding courage and initiative.

In defence of these reading schemes, the publishers often claim that this stereotyping happens accidentally. However that claim doesn't really bear close analysis. The stereotypes occur with alarming regularity.

The boy has his boat and his aeroplane. The girl has her dolls. "Would you like to play with my aeroplane Nora?" "No thank you Tom. Not now. I have my two dolls to play with." "All boys say that", says Nora. All boys like to play ball. Do girls like to play ball? Some girls, but not all.

*(New Horizons in English: Extension Reader 1)*

"Please Mammy we want to help" said Billy. "I want some cakes for tea", said Mammy. "You may go to the cake shop for me. Buy the cakes you like". "Shopping is not work", said Tom. "Buying cakes is no work for boys".

*(Hopscotch Extension Reader 2)*

In view of the clear distinction between the adult roles, it is hardly surprising that the only children

who discuss the future are boys. In a discussion on careers, a girl does intervene on one occasion:

"Pilots have a wonderful life," says Tom. "I will be a pilot when I grow up." "Before this you wanted to be a postman," says Nora. "You never know what you want you just don't know." *New Horizons Basic Reader D)*

Nora of course has no doubts about her future because she has no choice.

The same prejudiced views are to be found in all the other textbooks in the primary school. In history, our children learn about the grave injustices suffered by the Catholics of this country during the Penal times. They were only allowed to own a small amount of property; they weren't allowed to vote, and so on. These history books do not

point out that even when Catholic Emancipation was achieved women of all religions were not allowed to vote, to own large amount of property etc. etc.

Instead of opening up new opportunities for our children the educational system in this country seems to be intent on forcing them to adopt rigid stereotyped patterns of behaviour and to expect little other than the traditional work roles for the future.

The officials in the Department of Education are fully aware of this situation, but they say that nothing will be done about it until parents and teachers complain in sufficient numbers. It is time that those complaints began pouring in.

SEAMAS SHELLS is currently editing a book on sexism in children's literature for publication this year by Arden House - The Women's Press.

## THATCHER ANTI-WOMEN

The Women's Advisory Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions condemns the British Government's attitude to the rights of working women and the blatantly sexist trend running through much of its present social and economic policy.

Six months of Tory rule have proven them not just anti-women but anti-working women.

In justifying the new immigration regulations they are unashamedly breaking the principles of equality of opportunity embodied in the Sex Discrimination legislation. What confidence can be placed in a Government which openly breaks the law of the land in order to gain its own ends?

On the economic front, there is a definite move on the part of the Government to drive women out of the workforce and incarcerate them in the home. In proposing to exempt small firms and new firms from their obligations under the Maternity Regulations, the

Government has been prepared to sacrifice the rights of the predominantly female, predominantly low-paid workforce which sustains these organisations.

The Government has made it abundantly clear that their philosophy is a 'woman's place is in the home' and that is where they aim to keep her. Closures of nursery schools, old peoples homes and geriatric wards, the running-down of home-help services and Meals on Wheels, and a reduction in social service support for the handicapped, are all guaranteed to keep women at home to tackle these jobs, unpaid and unaided.

In embarking on this course of emotional blackmail, the Government has singularly failed to recognise that many working women will not be going back to the home. Working class women have always had to work in order to help feed and clothe their families. Who will help them do so

when they are forced out of their jobs? It seems unlikely that the Government is prepared to do so.

Tory cuts in public spending are hitting everyone, but they have been a particularly brutal blow to working mothers. The insensitive closure of nursery schools during the International Year of the Child is one effective method of forcing women out of the workforce and ample evidence that the struggle for improved day care facilities will be a bitter one.

The cuts in general are seriously hitting ancillary workers in the health and education sectors of the public services. It is no coincidence that the majority of these workers are low paid, part-time women workers. Anyone misguided enough to have welcomed Britain's first woman Prime Minister as a victory for equality of opportunity must by now realise that her Government is intent on setting the status of women back by at least twenty years by negating our hard won rights.

# Who'll look after the children?

by Mary Geraghty

**I**s it unfair to say that the socialist solution to the working mother problem can be summed up in one five letter word — creche? Probably. It would be fairer to say that nothing approaching a solution has yet been proposed, possibly because the problem isn't yet seen as a priority; also possibly because the people who do the devising of solutions are still largely men. The women are at home, minding the children, waiting for the solution.

Yet we have now reached a point in Ireland where it is fairly widely accepted that (a) the demand for full employment includes females as well as male adults; (b) that a woman's right to work is in no way waived or jeopardised by her role as child-bearer; (c) that the fight for conditions which ensure equality — parity of pay, opportunity etc. — are the responsibility of both sexes.

This represents a considerable advance on the thinking of only ten years ago, and it is a bit astonishing that we haven't gone any further in dealing with the remaining practical problems: who's going to mind the children, then? The attitude among men — and some women — seems to be that state-supported creches should be the ultimate demand, and in the meantime it's up to individual women to make individual arrangements.

The premise underlying the attitude is a faulty one for two reasons. It assumes that the point of providing care for children is simply to release women into the workforce on the same footing as their male colleagues, and it also assumes that creches will serve the same function as well or better than women traditionally did in the home, keeping children fed, clothed, toilet trained, away from the fire and road traffic and instructed in the basics of social behaviour.

Suppose, now, we were to start from another basis, one more appropriate to socialists? Let us assume that the primary purpose of any industrial policy is to encourage the wellbeing of workers in society, including the workers of the future who are now children. In that context we could examine a variety of aspects related to mental and physical health, one of which would be the needs of children and another the needs of parents, both mothers and fathers.

And while it might appear to have little to do with the realities of productivity, the needs of children should be outlined first. It is only in the past thirty years or so that any significant research into the development of infants and small children has been undertaken, and much of the evidence to date is ambiguous. The major name in

child psychology in this part of the world is John Bowlby, who presented his research on the importance of mothering to the World Health Organisation in 1951.

**B**owlby was adamant on the essential importance of the mother-child bond to the child's emotional development, and his work did much to reinforce the case against "working mothers" at the time and for some time afterwards.

Quite clearly the message also suited the economic circumstances of the time. Women had returned to the home after World War Two, when their presence in the labour force had been economically essential — and therefore unquestioned in relation to other values — and the economies of the West placed increasing reliance on intense consumerism.

For most of the next decade and well into the '60s, the thrust of most work in the area was toward a policy of keeping mothers at home, offering their children security and undivided devotion as well as nutritious dinners. It has only been in the past fifteen years or so that child psychology has seriously challenged this viewpoint. Research is still inadequate; indeed it's doubtful whether research of this kind can ever prove conclusive.



But certainly many of Bowlby's absolute tenets have been greatly modified, and some of the original findings pretty thoroughly repudiated. One of the problems attributed to working mothers in the '50s, for instance, was juvenile delinquency based on some studies which indicated a higher incidence of youth crime among children of women who went out to work.

The "latchkey children" scare story frightened a generation of women before someone went back to re-assess the research and discovered that many of the juvenile delinquents in question were the products of severe emotional stress from broken homes — which is why their mothers were working in the first place.

Thirty years later, child psychologists tend to be far more flexible in their attitudes toward the effect of working mothers on children. What we do know now about what children need can be broken down into a few basic factors.

The prime requisite for an infant is a loving, personal relationship with one or two adults from birth onward. Without that, the child will grow up seriously impaired; with it, a child can surmount a great many other deprivations. Obviously, the quality of the relationship will have enormous repercussions on the quality of the child's development, but even slipshod and ignorant tending from a loving adult is better than efficient and hygienic care from an indifferent one.

The essential requisite is affection, and not a generalised fondness for cuddly small babies, but an individual and personal bond offered by someone who was going to offer continuity as well. On this point, on which Bowlby himself was most adamant, child psychologists are still in agreement. Bowlby's definition of continuity was permanent, around-the-clock, 365 days a year tending by the same adult for the first year of life and

gradual expansion to other adults. Few psychologists today would have such rigid standards.

Nevertheless, continuity is seen as crucially important: the same adult on a regular basis, offering not merely physical care but personal attention. Many psychologists believe that the quantity of time spent with a child is less important than the quality of time: studies of the Israeli kibbutz, where children are looked after in groups for most of the time, have shown that the bonds remain very strong with parents they see for only short periods daily because the period of family reunion is free of any of the stress of getting meals, doing housework, shopping and dealing with chores.

The same may well apply to child-minding situations in eastern European countries, where communal care has been long established, where child-minders are not only trained and suitably paid but also remain in constant contact with the same children over years of early childhood.

The point is not that there is only one form of good child-care, for

there may well be many. The point is that we do know much more than we did about children's needs, and any system or combination of systems must take serious account of those needs.

What then do we know about the needs of parents, both mothers and fathers? In some ways this is far more mysterious territory, for the individual reasons for bearing children are as varied and numerous as the individuals who choose to do so.

Two points can safely be made. First, if we are committed to the welfare of the worker, there is every reason to believe that his/her personal fulfilment and domestic satisfaction are equally important as health, safety, housing, recreational outlets and so forth, the factors socialist thinking have long counted as priorities.

Second, parenthood is now, for the first time in history, a choice, and will become less and less a matter of accident in the coming years. We must assume that many workers who opt for parenthood do so because the particular fulfilment of having children is important to

● *Encouraging the well-being of workers in society includes the workers of the future who are now children.*



them and meets some personal need, and that need deserved protection.

That much being said, it must also be conceded that the ways in which individual needs can be met varies enormously, and that it is possible, even likely, that few parents know what they want in terms of childcare until they have already had children.

**T**here is a great deal of interest currently, for instance, in the psychological process of "bonding" between mother and child. Some psychologists are arguing that the more immediate the contact after birth, and the more continuous, the better the relationship between mother and child and the fewer the problems to be coped with at a later date. Some argue that given enough time to complete the bonding process adequately, most women will not want to leave their babies to take up work outside the home for months or years.

Experiments with new methods of delivery, new systems of home and hospital confinement will undoubtedly continue on a much wider scale, and there is also a new attitude toward encouraging the participation of fathers in care of their children from birth onward.

At the same time, it is by no means unknown for women who

have had babies with the intention of looking after them themselves, find themselves unable to do so, unwilling to do so, desperately unhappy confined to their homes and anxious to take nearly any arrangement to return to work.

How do we achieve a policy on childcare that can meet all the variables possible? We must, I think, begin by accepting that the influx of women into the workforce does not mean that women will adopt the mode of working that men have traditionally had, but that the conditions must change. Women are not going out to do "men's work", to live in a male style; workers must change the rules to suit the new conditions.

What we need is a policy of integrating paid employment with parenthood — and the emphasis must be on parenthood. The "working mothers" problem is not the preserve of women, and the responsibility for childcare must be assumed by both sexes.

This is true even though we will almost certainly have far more single parent families in the future than we have had in the past, simply because the responsibility for the future of the society is a collective one.

**B**eginning with that policy, we should set out the most flexible possible formula. We must have, for example, not only paid maternity leave, but the right to unpaid leave of several years with a guaranteed right to return to work. This leave should be termed "parental leave", and be open to fathers.

We should work for a system which allows options: creches, in both the workplace and community, trained child-minders who are not only well paid for their work but free to choose it from inclination and not financial need as is now the case; child-minders' allowance for those parents who prefer to make individual arrangements in their own homes; shorter working hours for parents of small children, part-time work, job-sharing, flexi-time, a network of support facilities from launderette to canteen facilities, after-school care.

If there was a genuine commitment within, for example, the trade union movement along these lines, and a comprehensive policy at political level, the women now at home minding the children might be far more inclined to believe their problems were being taken seriously; and might then take up a far more active part in the struggle to achieve the system we're looking for.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Contraception Bill not on

Contraception Action Programme (CAP) has condemned Haughey's contraception law. Far from extending right of access, establishing family planning clinics throughout the country and de-criminalising the sale and distribution of contraceptives, the Act further restricts the right to choose.

Briefly the new Act will: distribute condoms on doctors prescription through chemists' shops only; give authority to doctors to decide

on "bone-fide" cases and the right to opt out of providing a service; restrict distribution of information to those who have been licensed by the government; insist all outlets for "artificial contraceptives" be licensed ("natural method" clinics are exempted).

The effect of the Act will be to hand over to private enterprise (doctors) what should essentially be a state funded and organised service; discriminate against the working class who will not be able to afford a doctor's and chemist's dispensing fee; give moral authority to the medical profession to veto the personal behaviour of

individuals (and implicitly restrict the sexual and personal behaviour of youth and unmarried); effectively force many women to opt for the most, accessible and not necessarily most suitable form of birth control with possible disastrous consequences.

As the Fianna Fáil Government have a twenty seat majority, they have little difficulty ramming through any laws they wish but the question then posed is how far they can implement it. Cap believes the successful enforcement of the Act will mean a blow for democratic

rights, a defeat for the struggle of women on the right to choose and a major setback to those forces organising to liberalise Irish society. In this context, it is essential that Cap continues its campaign. They intend to do so, but in the face of severe penalties, for instance a £500 to £5,000 fine and/or twelve months imprisonment.



# Good health

Our Health page will feature regular contributions from a Doctor which will be of particular concern to women.

**I**t's her nerves at her again, or she has a nervous breakdown, or her nerves were paralysed; and what about "she had nervous shingles, or a nervous ulcer?"

Apart from the common denominator of the word 'nerves' and the female pronoun or adjective, these nerves and their symptoms seem to cover a variety of complaints. And just for interest, the medical advertisements for tranquillisers and sedatives always portray a worried female face with the captions: "for her — at that difficult time..." (picture of a woman in black, presumably a widow); or "a better way back to normal for your patients with depression"; or "X — the emotional stabiliser". These last two captions could theoretically apply to anyone — but the picture is that of a woman, not a man. Delicate flowers we might like to think ourselves, but there isn't any evidence that we are any more emotionally unstable, or suffer from our 'nerves' in this context more than men — rather the reverse in some instances.

So what are these things 'nerves', and who does suffer from them? When we use this word we can mean all sorts of things. Broadly, there are three different categories of usage. We could mean any of the psychiatric conditions that affect people (men and women), either due to an internal situation, or some external factor(s) — often a combination of both. In this country we have one of the highest rates of admission to psychiatric institutions and a recent survey brought out the disturbing fact that the incidence of schizophrenia is

four in 100 — whereas it is one in 100 for most other countries. There seems to be a definite correlation with loneliness and celibacy — referring particularly to single males in rural areas, especially the West of Ireland.

We could mean organic diseases of the actual nerves of the body, or the brain, which may affect muscles. Polio would fit into this category. Or we could mean the sort of no-man's land between our minds and our bodies — the psychosomatic diseases. These are the physical conditions that have their roots in some kind of psychological stress: asthma, peptic ulcers, some allergies and skin rashes — the list is very long. We all know that our emotions and feelings can be manifest in physical phenomena; the sweating and dry mouth that can accompany fear and anxiety are due to the release of a substance called adrenalin into the blood stream.

**S**o it is not really surprising that emotions and hidden trauma in our minds can produce physical diseases. The famous remark "*Sorrow that hath no vent in tears may make other organs weak*" actually refers to a disease of the colon, or large bowel, called ulcerative colitis. But it holds good for many physical manifestations of underlying emotional stress.

When we try to evaluate the stress diseases and the factors that may contribute to them, where do we stop? Sometimes the cause may be obvious. I can think of quite a few cases of asthma which cured themselves after marriage — getting away from parental dominance seemed to do the trick. Sometimes parents can be quite perverse when asked to co-operate. There was one case of a little girl with bedwetting and a strict authoritarian mother. The mother was asked to make a

## After your reassurance

Your reassurance and support may well be the most important factor in the management of depressed patients. But many will gain further benefit from a course of Norval.

Norval 30mg effectively relieves the (symptoms of) depression by elevating depressed mood, improving disturbed sleep and relieving associated anxiety in a simple convenient bedtime dosage.

What Norval doesn't do is often more important to the patient and relevant to the prescribing physician. Unlike the barbiturates, Norval does not

cause excitation with hallucinogenic side-effects. Thus, rapid symptomatic improvement is unlikely to be hampered by dry mouth, palpitations or dizziness, and patients will be encouraged to complete the course of treatment.

Because Norval lacks cardiovascular effects it can be considered for depressed patients with pre-existing heart disease. This, in addition to the lack of interaction with the antihypertensives, barbiturates, guanethidine, and propranolol

makes Norval particularly suitable for a wide range of "problem" patients for whom barbiturates could not normally be prescribed.



chart for each week, never to comment on wet days, (just to change the sheets and grin and bear it) but to put a big gold star on the dry days and to offer congratulations and encouragement.

At the end of the first week, when visiting the doctor, she started off by saying "I'm afraid she's been very wicked this week", and she pointed to a chart full of gold stars. The physician thought there had been an error in understanding on the mother's part. But it wasn't. Things got no better, and eventually a social worker ascertained that the child had been conceived before marriage, and the mother was in a perverse way 'paying her husband back' for what she considered was his fault.

There are all sorts of parameters, and it's hard to know where to draw the line. 'Accident proneness' can be an indication of stress. I'm not just referring to the broken limbs of a battered baby, but the ordinary accidents that occur in the home, and happen in some homes too often for comfort, which if investigated could perhaps have been prevented by paying more attention to the

economic and social factors that may have placed the household under duress; may have prevented the child being left alone in a room with an unguarded fire; may have prevented the live electric wires hanging from the ceiling; or the open window on the eleventh floor of a tower block.

**W**hat of the child who is given a low grade in school, perhaps labelled illiterate or mentally retarded, who is constantly mitching? What about taking the school attendance or non-attendance rates as an indication of stress in a child? It would certainly be saner than bringing them to the juvenile court and removing them from home. What about taking the non-payment of rent as another factor? Perhaps a family could be rescued at an early stage by using parameters such as these, rather than simply re-housing them in the unsanitary conditions of sub-standard housing, where the obvious diseases associated with dirt and overcrowding will certainly mask any underlying stress condition.

Even what may seem the simple problem of dieting and overweight

(and its opposite, anorexia nervosa, or starving oneself), may be a cry of help 'What about me — I need help'. In fact, to try and cope with all these problems, to prevent them by evaluating stress and its physical manifestations in a community means involving far more than the medical profession and using the statistics of known diseases.

This very large group of psychosomatic illnesses are often the most difficult to treat for one is usually treating the symptom, not the cause. They are also the illnesses which have myriad cures, from simple aspirin to major surgery, from acupuncture to faith healing. This does not make them any the less real to the sufferer. And many of these diseases are on the increase — an indictment perhaps of the de-personalisation of medicine and the break-up of the living community. More than any other field of medicine this is the one where the 'guru' attitude could be replaced by group involvement, by recognition of each others' problems, and by developing an ability to externalise our hidden feelings and share them with others, and by the development of the sort of community where people share and contribute to the social values.



# Screen

So many reams of words have been written about "Apocalypse Now" that to write still another review seems to be overkill. Yet in all the reviews very little has been written about the view of women in any aspect. Women played a curious part in the Vietnam War just as they did in the movie.

The stereotypes, so popular in movies about "happier, more popular" wars could no longer apply. The friendly native girl helping the kind, big, dumb Yanks through hostile territory and inevitably, falling hopelessly in love with one of them would no longer satisfy even the most mindless John Wayne aficionado. There is too much evidence that the Vietnamese did not love their American benefactors, individually or otherwise.

Then too there has always been the image of the girl next door, waiting on the home front, doing meaningful volunteer work, dealt with in modern soap opera fashion in "Coming Home", and other films. (There have never been films that portrayed women working in munition factories,

on the theory that "meaningful" work is often acceptably middle class.)

Finally, just as often, there is the 'bad girl' with a heart of gold who usually sees the light at the end of the picture.

The old myths have died hard. The new kind of war has few winners or losers, much less heroes or villains, and the old cardboard characters of both sexes have had to go.

Francis Coppola, as Director and scriptwriter, portrays the road one soldier must take, having been given orders to assassinate a berserk Green Beret captain, who has taken over a tribe of Montagnard soldiers and set himself up as God. While it is based loosely on Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness", the overwhelming overtones are not so much of good or evil as Conrad had meant, but of perpetual craziness.

The soldiers on each side are half crazed with killing and while the obviously criminally insane are few and far between, there are few fine divisions between what is criminal and what is insane. There are acts of unspeakable violence.

It is all very beautiful, filmed in breathtaking cinematography, but done so with such distance.

Vietnamese women appear throughout the film and from the vision of the Americans they do indeed look alike. They are not considered human by most of the soldiers, for to consider them human would cause a whole questioning of what and why they were there.



Much has been written about Coppola's own collapse, during the filming, as an analogy to the collapse of the American War effort, but the rage, the anger is curiously absent.

What does come across is the inability to copy for everyone. Just as Coppola toyed around with two or three endings, he ends with one that seems anticlimactic, but is the most believable. More to the point the inability to end the war certainly seemed no less difficult than ending the movie.

Coppola must be congratulated for attempting to deal honestly with a subject that the American people, by and large, have refused to deal with. To those who prize victory and national honour, it became the one unwinnable war, the first war the US has ever lost.

Since the American involvement officially ended in 1975, Vietnam is seldom spoken of, never forgotten, never to be forgiven. Francis Coppola at least attempts to remember and remind. If he fails, so did the American people and so have they in their effort to learn a lesson.

SUSAN CLARKE

# Stage

The play "Once a Catholic" having ended at the Oscar Theatre provided more actresses with good, meaty roles than anything in a long time. The men took a decided backseat with a few choice turns by Paul Bennet as a priest and Jim Bartley as a stripped-down Elvis.

Mainly the play consisted of a series of vignettes, at a convent, Our Lady of Fatima, in London in the 1950s. The much lauded version shown in Dublin takes three nuns and several girls through a year that would send any ex-convent schoolgirl into a fit of cold nostalgia.

Three girls emerge as the main protagonists. Mary McGinty is the 50s version of the teeny bopper, complete with a Teddy Boy for a boy

friend. Mary Gallagher has a budding priest for her boy friend and Mary Mooney has no one. But for a very fresh performance by Brid Brennan it could have all fallen flat, as the stereotype role was too obvious to miss.

We all know that school girls are interested in SEX, just as everybody, presumably, is but there is only a glimpse of the real damage such archaic and perverted teaching will ultimately do to the people involved.

The mother superior characters were all played with great wit and verve by Anna Manahan, Aileen Hart and Brenda Doyle, but ultimately they too were all too recognisable.

It is left then to Mary Mooney to become a nun. This is no triumph for the sisterhood as she is not the academically gifted 'bright spark' they might have wished for. It is not a commitment of love or joy or even really of faith. It is an unhappy girl's acceptance of a vocation that has given her faith and sustenance where there was none anywhere else.

If however there had been any doubts or agony, along the road to the ultimate ideal of Catholic womanhood, it might have been all less funny but more understandable, and ultimately forgivable. For that is the great flaw of the play. Underneath the excellent performances and loud laughs nothing of substance emerges.

One wonders in years to come will Mary have compassion for her painfully shy pupils. Will she understand their abysmal ignorance on most matters? More likely, she will give them four decades of the rosary, extol the lives of saints and ensure that another generation of girls will grow up incapable of original thought, reacting instead of acting, willing to accept middle class values and hypocrisy.

They will have no particular social conscience or concern and little pride in themselves as women. It is this legacy, handed down from generation to generation that underneath the laughter reminds one that the Murder Machine that Padraic Pearse so eloquently wrote about has never died.

SUSAN CLARKE

# Books

*Women in Irish Society (the historical dimension). Edited by Margaret McCurtain and Dorothea O'Connell. Published by Arden House The Women's Press. Price £2.97.*

One of the tasks we set ourselves as socialists in our effort to change society is to always rework our knowledge of the social world. The women's movement has sharpened our awareness of that world. Feminism has transformed the idea that it is biological difference between the sexes that determines social life.

It has alerted us to a contradiction in the social relations between men and women, and that this contradiction is not fixed or given in the way that biological differences would be. It is always evolving and being effected by change and so becomes one of those forces that itself effects social change and the movement of human history.

It is no surprise that so many people looking for a

standpoint within socialism that is sensitive to the situation of women as a distinct social group should try to trace a path to it through the past.

Irish nationalism first took shape in historical form. Working class consciousness was first expressed in the language of history. Socialism and then Marxism traced a picture of the future through the experience of the past.

In this book a number of writers put together a profile of Irish women in a historical framework. Women are presented in different ages and through different themes, in early and modern Ireland, at work and in the family, in trades unions and in politics.

Not all the essays present Irish women in their whole. Because of the limited

information available too many of them dwell on the traditional picture of women, 'performing their roles in a largely domestic context'.

But they serve as an important reminder that in the past as well as today legal theory is not the same as social practice. Liberal marriage property laws and divorce laws do not measure women's independent economic status but indicate that a clan or family was entitled to claim back their investment in the marriage.

Readers with a political interest will enjoy most the account of the women's suffrage movement and the women in the revolutionary movement by Margaret MacCurtain, and Mary Daly's review of women in the trades union movement, particularly the contribution of the Irish Women Workers' Union.

Maurice Manning's survey of women in national and local politics gives fascinating information to the advocates and opponents alike of the 'Why not a Woman' campaign.

Some of the tone of the contributions seems rather dated. The chapters of this book first appeared as radio lectures in the Thomas Davis series for International Women's Year in 1975. It is a shame that the book could not come out earlier.

However, it gives plenty of hints and clues to anyone keen to pursue the huge task of constructing a history that has been seldom remembered, explored or written down.

TERESE MORIARTY

## NEWSBRIEFS

### ABORTION FIGURES RISE

The number of Irish women who go to Britain for abortions has risen again.

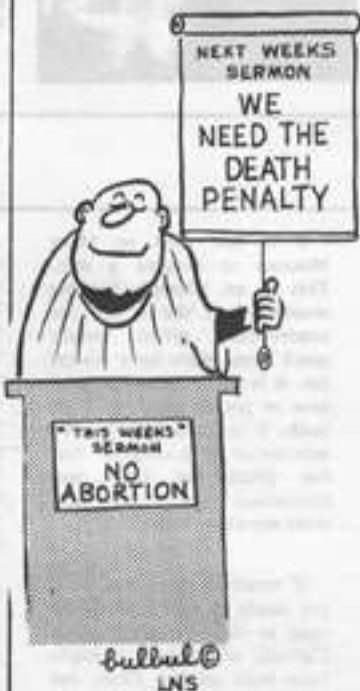
In the first nine months of last year 2,097 Irish women travelled to Britain for abortion.

All of these women come from the twenty-six counties only. The number of Northern Ireland women who go to Britain for abortions is not included in these figures.

The nationalities of the women who have the operation in Britain are given in an annual report from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Experts all agree that unofficial figures are higher than any official statistics. A number of Irish women go to unregistered clinics in Britain to have the operation and others attend backstreet abortionists.

Unofficial estimates for 1979 put Irish abortion figures at well over 3,000.



### WOMENS CENTRE

Women from different backgrounds have come together to campaign for a Women's Centre in Dublin.

There is no focal point for women's activity in Ireland. A place is needed where individual women can come together in groups to meet each other, socialise, exchange information and advice, share skills and experiences, have political discussions, get information on existing services and activities, etc. in an informal relaxed atmosphere.

The aims of the women's centre are:

- To establish and maintain a Centre for women which will provide a meeting place, information bureau, educational facilities and other resources and facilities as the Steering Collective and members think fit.
- To promote and encourage the advancement of women in all parts of life in Ireland.
- To promote and assist the establishment of Centres for

women throughout Ireland.

• To encourage the exchange of ideas and information among women at home and abroad.

• To aid in bringing about closer co-ordination among women's groups.

• To run commercial undertakings including the running of a creche, coffee shop and book shop, and to print articles, pamphlets, newspapers and to publish documents, newspapers, books and articles.

• To promote the education of women in Ireland and to carry out research on women in Ireland.

If you would like to contribute to the Campaign and get the Women's Centre moving, send your donations to the Secretary, Campaign for a Women's Centre, P.O. Box 1076, 8 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Phone 746268 ext. 4.

Donations by cheque, postal order, or by making a Giro Bank Order to the Women's Centre Account No. 74168016, A.I.B. 1 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

## GERMANY

### MOTHERS' NEW DEAL

Recent legislation introduced in Germany provides a pregnant woman with an entitlement of six weeks leave before child birth followed by up to six months leave after she has had the baby.

She will also now have up to 750 DM a month (£200 approx.) as a tax free allowance from the Federal Government and the absolute legal right to get her job back. During this period and for two months afterwards, she cannot be given notice by her employer. (Credit: Liberty)

## QUESTION?

What has Ireland in common with Saudi Arabia, Libya, Malawi, Chad, Malta, Kampuchea, Laos and Gabon?

The official attitude to contraception and family planning. This came to light when the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) compiled a list of 144 countries categorised by their policies on contraception. Analysed according to government attitudes, Ireland falls into the third lowest category, that of "restrictions". And for company in that category we have - yes, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Malawi, Chad, Malta, Kampuchea, Laos and Gabon. And that's all.

Every other EEC country has active support from its government on contraceptive services, with the exception of Belgium where support is limited to giving a subsidy. In Italy, family planning services are integrated into the Health Services. Spanish state health centres are also introducing services and in Portugal family planning is encouraged under the government health programme.

Charlie Haughey's sectarian legislation leaves us with a lot of catching up to do.

## PERU

The Peruvian government has recently closed down all state contraceptive services in response to pressure from the Catholic Church. This move ensures that only wealthy women, who can afford private medical consultations, will have access to contraception.

ALIMUPER - Action for the Liberation of the Peruvian Woman - calls this move "an infringement of the rights of Peruvian women who are victims, once again, of masculine power". They say the suspended services were "strictly voluntary and low cost" - they were funded by the United Nations. The church authorities on the contrary claim that Peruvian women were being "pressurised into using birth control through propaganda."

According to the National Institute of Statistics, 37% of deaths in Peru each year are of children under the age of one. There are over 85,000 abortions a year and many of the women who have them end up in hospital with complications. This situation can only get worse if services are not restored.

## UNITED STATES

In the United States, in 1970, only 294,000 girls competed in sports but by 1978 this had gone up to one and a half millions. There has also been a change for adults. In 1978, for instance, 4,000 women competed in the all-women 10,000 metres, in New York's Central Park Show, compared with less than 100 in 1972, and this is part of a general increase in participation.

The trend is largely a by product of the legislation on equal rights in education. Girls in state schools and colleges no longer have to fight so hard for equipment and training. In fact the government has ordered colleges and universities to spend the same amount on women in facilities for sport (i.e. basketball, golf, tennis, swimming) as they do for men.



AN BILL EN AITHOIRIU AN DEI EADREANN  
COLLAJ A DHOIBREU, 1988

LAW REFORM (ABOLITION OF CRIMINAL  
CONVERSATION) BILL, 1988

# BILL

*enacted*

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE RIGHT  
OF ACTION KNOWN AS CRIMINAL CONVERSATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREASCHAS AS FOLLOWS:

Interpretation.	1.—In this Act "action for criminal conversation" means an action by a husband against a person who has committed adultery with his wife.	
Abolition of action for criminal conversation.	2.—Subject to section 3 of this Act, no person shall, after the passing of this Act, be entitled to institute or maintain an action for criminal conversation.	11
Save for existing actions.	3.—Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of a person to recover damages in an action for criminal conversation which commenced before the passing of this Act.	
Short title.	4.—This Act may be cited as the Law Reform (Abolition of Criminal Conversation) Act, 1988.	27

● An attempt to abolish the outdated law of criminal conversation was defeated by Fianna Fáil deputies in a vote of 62 to 40. The obnoxious 300 year old law of criminal conversation allows a husband to sue another man for having sex with his wife.

## LESSON FOR IRELAND!

The Women's Section of the German tax officials' union and the women's congress of the German civil servants' union are working for an end to the "income-splitting" arrangement whereby the joint earnings of husband and wife are divided into two equal tax portions.

Since tax law no longer recognises problems specific to women and therefore no longer takes into account and special advantages or disadvantages on grounds of sex. Differences in the treatment of men and women are based only on marital status and, in the case of certain measures, the number of their children. The "income-splitting" system has meant that tax liability ranges widely, depending on family status and the amount of income. Married people benefit from this distribution of the tax burden to the full extent only if one of the two has no income at all. It is a principle, then, that runs contrary to marriage partners sharing equally in household work and is an encouragement for personal taxation.

## LONDON

London lacks nurseries: setting up a nursery is an expensive business. A group of workers at the Trades Union Congress Headquarters, however, has had the bright idea of finding a group of London employers to share the cost of subsidizing a nursery venture, with parents willing to make their own contributions.

The Kingsway Children's Centre, which has now been running for over a year, is the first London crèche to be jointly financed by employers and employees, providing places for 21 children at a weekly cost per child of £33. The parents pay one third of the cost, the employers two thirds.

The crèche is run by a committee of parents, nursery staff and representatives from the union bodies concerned, but the employers have no say in its running.

## Guide to Women's Groups

**Council for the Status of Women**, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Ph. 680392. This organisation represents 31 national bodies with a membership of 250,000. One of its prime functions besides pressing for legislative reform is to provide liaison between Government departments and women's organisations.

**Association for Deserted and Alone Parents (ADAPT)**, Box 673, Dublin 4. Objectives: To provide information and advice on social welfare and legal rights.

**Action Information Motivation (AIM)**, Airn Group's Women's Centre, 14 Upper Leeson St., Dublin 4. Ph. 763587. Objectives: A pressure group for reform of Family Law.

**Cork Federation of Women's Organisations**, 3 Friar's Walk, Cork. Tel. (021) 25495. President: Mrs. B. de Foubert. Sec. Mairead Murphy.

**Cherish**, 2 Lt. Pembroke St. Dublin 2. Ph. 682744. Objective: Helping by advice, counsel and practical assistance all single parents. Co-ordinator: Anna Lee.

**Limerick Federation of Women's Organisations**. Chairwoman: Dr. M. McDermott, 15 Abbey Ave., Limerick. (061) 46848.

**Women's Liberation Movement**, P.O. Box 662, Dublin 9. Sec: Ms Sandra Oakes.

**Women's Aid Hostel for Battered women**, 7 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2. Ph. 681583. Objective: To provide a refuge for battered women and their children.

**Campaign for a Women's Centre**, First floor, 8 Marlborough Street, Dublin. Ph. 746268 Ext. 4.

**Women's Studies Group**. Sec. Mary Cullen. Ph. 286261 (office hours) or Anne Crowley. Adult & Community Education Unit, Maynooth College. A woman's self education group who organise workshops covering various aspects of interest to women in contemporary life.

**Rape Crisis Centre Group**. No address at present just phone number. Call Well Woman Centre. Ph. 789504 / 789366. Objective: Counselling service for women who have been raped also legal and medical advice during police investigation or legal proceedings (if desired).

**Contraception Action Programme (CAP)**, 8 Marlborough St., Dublin. Ph. 746268. P.R.O. Anne Speed. Objectives: To press for wider reform in the area of Family Planning Legislation. They also have a mobile contraception and advice unit which visits various parts of the country. This is available on request.

**Irish Feminist Federation**. Same address as above. Objectives: To bring women's groups together on a 32 county wide scale on a regular basis to provide support, information and solidarity.

**Irish Feminist Information** 45 Elmwood Ave., Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Roisin Conroy or Mary Doran. Ph. 689420. (pm).

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### NEXT ISSUE JUNE 1

will take a look at Irish trade unions and the question of positive discrimination for women and more health, news, books, reviews, features and information, plus extra pages.

Contributions to this magazine from our readers are very welcome. Particularly items of local news and events and information relating to women's organisations.

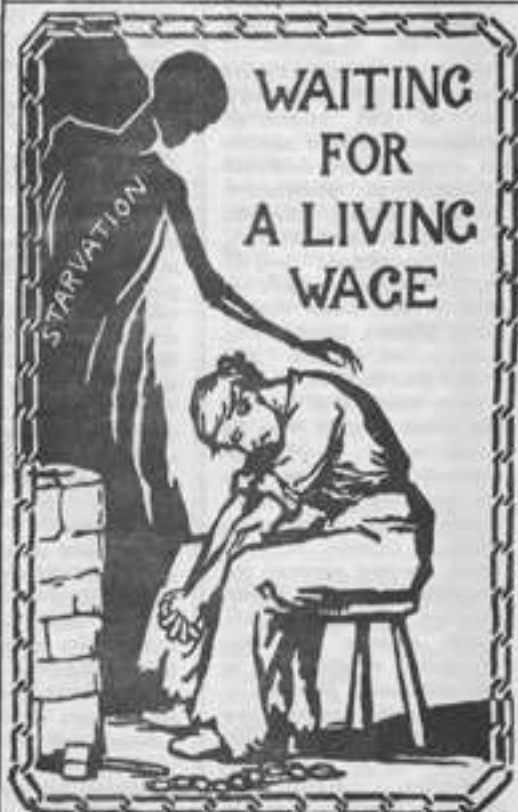
Belfast Central Womens Rights Group

Now open

## WOMENS CENTRE

Tuesday	10.00 am - 12.30 pm; 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm; 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm.
Wednesday	10.00 am - 12.00 pm; 2.00 - 5.00 pm; 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm.
Thursday	10.00 am - 12.30 pm; 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm;
Saturday	11.00 am - 4.00 pm.

Office  
16 Donegall St.  
Belfast 1.  
Tel: 43363



Facsimile of a Suffragette postcard, one of a selection available from the London Museum, London E.C.1.