

Report to exec meeting in London, 15-17 May 1987.

WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP

WOMEN'S GATHERING ON FEMINISM AND NONVIOLENCE

Progress so far: Shortly after the last exec I went to Ireland and made arrangements with Gloria at the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation: they are happy to host 100 women for the modest sum of £40 or £55 each (see attached registration form for details). I also discussed the gathering with two Dublin and a Cork woman who had agreed to organise locally.

We're now waiting for the co-ordinators in each country to reply to a mailing and tell us how their registrations and fund-raising are progressing. Among the interesting registrants we know of are Anita Kromberg from S Africa and a N Irishwoman who served in army the Falklands and in N Ireland, and is now doing peacework in schools. Although this event is mainly for W Europeans and N Americans, in anticipation of a more truly international event later on, we're being opportunist, eg in trying to capitalise on the END Convention's invitations to a Yugoslav and a Polish woman.

Trini Leung from Hong Kong is keen if she can find money - we've asked APHD to fund her to both events. In April, Gail and I met (in London) the Catalan women who were originally due to host the gathering, and who are co-ordinating for Spain. (They reassured us about their more informal methods of organising).

Finances: There is no proper budget. We've just got a travel grant of £500 from a British group, the Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group has £276 left from the last gathering, and this with WRI's £300 makes a total of £1076. We've also added a registration fee of between £10 and £15 per participant.

Estimated expenses: accommodation for maybe three invited interpreters and a Polish woman, possibly another Pole or an E German, £10 each for visas, travel for the latter (we hope only between Britain and Ireland if the END Convention pays the rest), and possibly other expenses, so up to a £100 total per woman. A fare from Sri Lanka and Trini's from Hong Kong. Photocopying, telephone, incidental expenses in Ireland. My fare to a meeting in Ireland, and fares for Gail and myself to a meeting in Brussels in June.

WRI WOMEN

Ellen is editing the second issue of the women's newsletter, and will send the first draft around to English-speaking women for proof-reading and editorial comments next week. She has also offered to edit issue no. 3.

The newsletter now has a mailing list of 165 names, of which 25 people have paid a total of £115 - approximate figures. (Two US women said they couldn't afford £2 a year but would like to get it... Growl). As it's not paying for itself, the group has to decide how to reproduce the next one (print cheaply, eg the PPU would do 300 copies of 8 A4-size pages for £46.80, photocopy at WRI for 4p a page, or duplicate), and who to send it to. I've sent a mailing to women I hope will be concerned, ie, Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group and Linda Peirson, expressing my feeling of isolation, asking for guidance, and asking who's interested in proof-reading what Ellen sends.

MY WORK

Most of the work has fallen on me. The title of "staff liaison person with the women's working group" is a bit of a fraud: I've been liaising with the co-ordinators in Europe, but consultations about the overall organising have been with Gail and Dorie, and to a lesser extent Ellen. I've been feeling more and more that the "women's working group" doesn't really exist.

I've done a lot of work on ~~WRI Women~~ and the gathering: addressing and sending out newsletters, keeping track of addresses and subscriptions, looking for printable material, writing and sending out mailings about the newsletter and the gathering, writing to the other planners, sending out some invitations, phone calls (it's not easy to have a short conversation with Gail!), having meetings with Gail, Dorie, the Irish women, Glencree, women in Finland, the Catalans...

Noticing recently that this has been taking more of my time than I/we had planned, and in the same period feeling swamped for other reasons, I've felt the lack of a supporting group. Hence my plea for help to the Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group to take some responsibility for decisions and work. As for decisions about the gathering, in between exec meetings, it's really been down to Gail, Dorie and myself, with advice/guidance from others such as the F&NVSG and Howard. Gail and I do plan to meet Agnès from UPF, Trui from IOT and Ulla from FöGA soon, but Gail, Dorie and I are really responsible. In practice, making decisions with two other people is nice and easy - I'm only uncomfortable with it because it's not the structure we envisaged, and because it means the work isn't spread out very much.

Another reason for my worrying is that so many of the organisers won't be coming to the gathering themselves: Dorie, Lesley of the F&NVSG (who's co-ordinating British participation), the two Danes, even the main organisers in Ireland - and now Ellen says that, having to choose, she'll probably come to Myrtle's memorial ceremony rather than the gathering! All of which makes me feel rather abandoned. However, Linda Peirson has replied offering help, and Pippa, who has just resigned her job in the PPU in despair, and is now fairly free, has offered to help with the gathering. So maybe things are looking up.

Veronica Kelly.

WRL Women's Delegation to WRI Conference

The WRL Delegation to the WRI Women's Conference has been selected. They are: Nadine Smith from Tampa, Florida; Ann Wrixon from San Francisco, California; Kate Donnely from Connecticut; Carol Jahnkow from San Diego, California; Susan Pines from New York City; Macy Morse from New Hampshire; and Anne Pryor from Boulder, Colorado.

There are 70 women expected at the conference, which will take place July 26-August 1 in Ireland. Most of them will come from countries in Western Europe but there are also women coming from Poland, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and Hong Kong.

All the members of the U.S. delegation have made a commitment to give some time to speaking and writing about the conference when they return. In the weeks now preceding the conference, each of them will be collecting ideas of literature and posters and audi-visual materials to bring to Ireland, that portray the feminist and nonviolent movement here in the United States. If you have ideas to share with the group on good resources, write to Carol Jahnkow c/o Peace Resource Center of San Diego, 5715 Lindo Paseo Drive, San Diego, CA 92215 or call her there at 619-265-0730. You must reach her before July 2nd.

Polish Peace Conference

In early May, Freedom and Peace, (Wolnosc i Pokoj), the nonviolent peace group in Poland, held an international seminar. Before the conference took place, the Polish government tried to stop it from happening. Over 20 members of the organization were arrested to prevent their participation, and 21 Westerners were denied visas. Nevertheless, 200 people from Poland, Western Europe, North America and Eastern Europe did attend and participate. There were four themes: a new East/West detente; peace and human rights; personal responsibility for peace, discussing nonviolence and conscientious objection; and ecological questions after Chernobyl.

Judy Kowolak, from the War Resisters League national office, attended the seminar, and is writing a full report for the Nonviolent Activist; look for it in the fall issue. She came back with a strong sense that Polish peace activists are very interested in hearing about local organizing ideas and nonviolent training ideas from the West. If you would like to communicate with peace groups in Poland and send them information about your nonviolence campaigns, contact Judy for the group names and addresses.

WRI Triennial in Finland 1988

Plans are being made for the War Resisters International Triennial in 1987. It will be held on the island of Aland, between Finland and Sweden. The host group will be Finnish Union of COs. It will take place in the summer, probably in late June-early July, but the dates are not clear. Aland is an appropriate location for this event because it is an "autonomous demilitarized region." Because of Finland's neutrality, it is hoped that peace activists from Eastern Europe will be able to attend the conference. Work is just beginning on the structure and theme for the conference, but it is never too early for you to start making your travel plans and saving your money!

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.