

# 1/ Womens International Democratic Federation -

origin and aims.

~~1945~~

~~PO, 1945~~ of 40 countries

Origin. December 1945 - 80 million < 40 countries ~~50, 1945~~ &

> Women, children, peace.

March 1946 Campaign for Child War Victims.

1947 Commission of WIDF > Germany to study conditions of women & their rights, contribution of women of - to peaceful united Germany.

1948. Int. Commission re Women Political Prisoners in France's prisons.

1948. Fact Finding Commission to Countries of SE Asia - conditions of women and children.

UNO - was non Government organisation from 1947-54 -

1948 Pass. International Women's Exhibition.

December 1948 2nd International Congress of W. I. D. F. <sup>Budapest, Hungary</sup>  
391 delegates from 51 countries.

Issued Manifesto - demand for peace. (p. 7).

1949. W I D F Conf of Women of Asian Countries in Peking.

199 delegates from 1st Asian Countries & African Ex. Com.

Programme 1) defence of W/children  
2) national independence  
3) democracy and peace.

~~1948~~

## Women in the Fight for Peace.

W I D F organises W I D F Int. Commission to investigate atrocities in Korea. - 2 women members & non-members of W I D F.

Report - WE ACCUSE. (NB. UNO!)

NB Over half of 500 million signatures to Stockholm Peace Appeal were collected by women.



BANTU EDUCATION PROTEST CONFERENCE : PORT FLETCHER  
APRIL 1954

1953. to The Congress of Women - Copenhagen  
(Sept. 15). 2000 delegates from 70 countries (film)  
formulated declaration of Women's Rights, and resolved  
to work for peace.

1954 - 140 millions in 66 countries.  
Important Women's Congresses held in many countries -  
Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, India, Israel, Sweden,  
Norway, Denmark, Austria, France - and  
South Africa.

Father Conference

3  
March 1st 1954 - Atomic Bomb! World reaction -  
also reaction of W I J F -  
also rearmament of Germany  
danger spots in the east -  
Actual growing consciousness of the people of the  
World.

Nov 3rd 1954 Bureau of W I J F. propose world Congress of  
Mothers! for defence of children v. war,  
for disarmament and friendship amongst  
people. Many countries interested.

March February 1955 Council meets in Geneva.  
besides.  
# Name Cotton's address (extracts)

Work of other countries - reports are pouring in  
South Africa's task -  
Signatures for world peace appeal.  
Embassy demands for peace in COP.  
Mothers Congress in July.



World Congress W. Copenhagen - new stage in development of Int. W's Mov.  
2000 women from different countries - 140 million women.

> defence of women's rights  
children's rights } = WIDF. last.  
peace

Acceleration of  
Women's rights

1) to express needs & problems of women  
2) to unite & guide in strong action of decent/happy life.

Unity between women of the whole world.

After Congress discussion followed in all parts of the world. - women of all social backgrounds were reached - towns, villages, and also to oppressed and backward countries.

Appeals to W to become conscious of rights / strength + power to improve conditions thro' their own efforts.

March 8<sup>th</sup> International W's Day celebrated in 70 countries - hundreds of thousands of women

also 58 conferences in 32 countries > unity amongst women on broad scale, as women of all ranks & ways of life

(mothers etc)

eg. Austrian Women - public meeting of unorganised women.

All-German Women (B & W).

Norway, France, Austria, Japan, Indonesia, Israel, India <sup>125000</sup>  
Nigeria, Cameroun, S. Africa, Canada, Chile -

Asian African women emerging united out of the struggle for progress and independence. - reaching f. association of organised and unorganised women. > W.O.D.F.

Resolutions express aspirations of women and determination to play a part in the women's movement + national struggle.

Women in feudal countries pressing forward for their and their children's rights, becoming conscious that forces which condemn them to an inferior status - forces which exploit their countries:



W's Ideation stimulates the study of women - strongest force in the world - the women's world

Women are seeking to break down national and racial barriers

Development of society demands direct participation of an ever growing no. of women in the economic, social & cultural life of the countries. Contribution & progress becomes more & more important.

W. Conf. Women Declaration of rights inspired millions of women and in many countries struggle for economic rights (equal pay etc) is progressing rapidly on a broad basis - organized women in trade unions etc are already v. active, but federations W's conf. can unite the unorganized women. (eg. Campaigns in Italy, Sweden, Finland, Brazil, Latin America.)

Campaigns effective because women's org<sup>s</sup> > all women. (differential pay is being realized for the danger that it is - not merely show to dignity of women but also danger to standards of living.)

Campaigns also among peasant women - unorganized people  
Special Campaigns on peasant women - Italy, Finland, France, India, Indonesia,

(Campaigns for social services)  
Cameroon, Kenya, Sudan, etc. Latin America Guatemala -

Peasant women are becoming more conscious of their miserable conditions and their own potentiality.

Rights of mothers - protection @ work, protection of children etc.  
- woman is not something separate from the family.

Japan, Italy, W. Germany, S.B., Brazil, Cuba, Italy - National Conferences in defence of the home. <sup>in these</sup> The countries v. Cost of living etc, v. Divorce, for decent houses -

Workers' votes - now organizing together with their husbands, coming out of households - housewives leagues - of SA.

What kind is for women to emerge and participate in the struggle of Australia Nat. Conf. of Coalfields Women.



women's org. development > close cooperation with T.U.'s -  
eg. National Conf of Working Women - General Conf. of Labour  
+ Union Nat. Women  
+ similar developments in France, India, Latin America  
Indonesia.

women's movement calls women's position in the family; rights as wife  
and mother.

In countries where women have no political rights, women's movement  
struggling for fundamental rights which enable women to participate  
in the life of their countries - eg. Switzerland - Bolivia, Nigeria  
(also men)

NB. Importance of making use of the vote. - (cf world pop. figures + USA)

also women's movement & participating in education of women,  
cultural political activities etc - at all levels from friendship  
to conferences & Congresses - also development of women's  
press. eg. first conference in Berlin - women's magazines.  
- WIP has 40 publications in 32 countries. (cf *Jeune Française*  
135,000 circ.

*Heure Claire*  
110,000 -  
*Italian women's journal*  
260,000.)

- must combat those that /outspan which foster women  
the idea of their inferiority.

also women's movement in countries where women already enjoy full  
rights - democracies - continuous raising of women's  
political consciousness - fullest participation in national  
production acceptance of full responsibility etc.

NB. Peace - all women's organisations working > peace.



Brazil

BRAZIL

"Since woman is forced to suffer, she must recognize herself in the situation!" Brazilian Judge.

Slave women in Brazil. 3 miles baby - travelled 3 days - on return called 35 women and formed Slave Women's Union.

Canada 4 MPs in 4th Gen'l Parl. led 40 candidates -

- NFO. economic struggle > org. conservative representation (i.e. professional classes)

struggle for equal pay. (already in 3 provinces).

INADIA

UDAN

Sudan Union of Sudanese Women 940 members.

India Nat. Fed. of Ind. Women - takes up cause of all women 125,000 members.

INDIA

> all India Women's Conference.

Constant campaigning for recognition of married women & adequate social/welfare services. 90000 signatures on Marriage Bills.

great move in var. countries to organize women, despite backwardness - (NFO. mainly amongst Hindu women).

W. Germany

W. GERMANY

W. of G. W. find ways of getting together. - 250 delegations of 1500+ W. German women > G.D. Rep.

~~All German Women's Congress~~ - shows solidarity of German women despite division of Germany.

JAPAN

Japan

200 meetings after Operation - 100000 people attended. One hell factory. to day strike for better working conditions & rights of human beings generally. - fighting against atomic weapons - appealing to world justice and humanity.

**Collection Number: AD1137**

**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

**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.