

Statements from the Conference.

1) Demand for Janet & Sue's release.

2) Statement to Yugoslavia

We are 50 women from 18 different countries gathered together to work for peace. We appeal to the President & the Assembly to declare an amnesty for all young people currently in prison for their conscientious objection to military service; to stop further trials against C.O.'s; to abolish Paragraph 68/3 of the War Service Act which allows the forced induction of citizens into military units. We urge the President & the Assembly of S.F.R.Y. to begin a free public debate on the adoption of civil service as a legal alternative to military service, using the proposals of the Student's Cultural Center, completed at the Plenary meeting of social movements in Ljubljana on April 1987, as a basis!

3) Petition to Windscale uranium reprocessing plant - for closure. (see separate sheet)

4) Demands on mixed organizations to ensure feminist & anti-patriarchal work. (see separate sheet)

5) Feminism & Boys.

Feminists involved in bringing up boys make a valuable contribution to the feminist movement and have a specific set of difficulties. We often feel caught between criticism from mainstream society & from within the feminist movement. We feel very isolated with these problems, whilst men are not modelling anti-sexist behaviour.

We have the right to support from other feminists.

Rejection of us in our struggle is we feel counter to what we understand as feminism.

We would like well men to put energy into boys and to organize regular groups for men & boys based on warmth & caring.

b) Letters of solidarity.

a) Demand for Janet's & Sue's release.

b) Belau.

(i) letter to pp. of Belau.

We 7 gathered at

1) Message of support to Shibakusa Women

We are 7 from 18 countries who gathered here in Ireland to talk about feminism & non-viol. We have heard your story. You are inspiration to us all. We send you all our friendship, support and solidarity.

2) Letter to Editor of LA Times; District Court Judge Defence Committee.

We are 50 from 18 countries at an internat. conf on feminism & non-viol. We support the non-viol. disarmament action undertaken by Katja Komisaruk on 2 June 1967 at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Navster will strengthen the US' first strike capability & should not be allowed to exist. We agree that the Nuremberg principles compel each of us to strike for the elimination of the means of genocide, that is, nuclear weapons.

Katja Komisaruk's act of disarmament is not a punishable act of sabotage but rather a commendable act of conscience and law.

(ii) letter to US Congress - Insular & Int. Affairs
Comm.

We

(iii) Telex to Trusteeship Council.
ditto.

We ask the UN Trusteeship Council to listen to the people
of Belau. (Typed paper)

Feminism & Non-viol Conf:

Intro: 21 countries - 50 ♀ -

Majority - feminist no activists.

editors.

→ feminist to peace movt.

peace movt to feminist.

Focus: gathering & sharing of experience.

Struct: Plenary: 5 inputs.

SA - Focus on ♀ in ECC & struct.
Focus on Janet & Sue.

Yugoslavia - resist. to conscriptⁿ.

Thailand & Hong Kong -

Poland -

Pacific - NZ
Aust.
Islands

W/shops: ranged :- Raising 'feminist' boys.

- Crit. for mixed ags. to adopt fem. principles.

- Ireland (N & ♀'s position); liberatⁿ struggle.

- Pacific; Greenham Common;

- Peace Education → Civil defence;

lots of resolutions emerged → Janet's release; Bolawi; USA ♀ 20yrs.

Japan ♀; West Columbia.

Major learnings → a) process & how to translate to SA.

b) our level of sophisticated but bear in mind situatⁿ.

c) similar trends of repression - jail exper. etc.

d) courageous ♀.

ECC → 1) Network - especially input for next conf 1989.
UK.

2) Major peace publicatⁿs - USA; Europe; NZ.

3) Developing more intentional discussa on feminism &
how relate to ECC's work at organizatⁿ. level.

→ Demands; ♀'s grps; feminism & mil.

4) Meet & well & well - Gavin; Peter & Laurie.

Other PRO work: a) mostly old ags. who know us but NB pro work.

b) estab. some new connections very NB European Parl.

→ Namibia.

c) Anti-apartheid ags.

d) Ex SA's - exited.

e) Press work

→ Irish Times ← on conf.
Peace publicatⁿs. ← ECC
past conf.

Traaive; Oxfam.

Finances:

a) Present situation: Budget for 1987 - R130,000
70,000 (ECC raise)

To date: Had \pm R89,000 come in
R42,000 outstanding.

\Rightarrow just come in \pm R38,000

κ : 7/12 spent '87 budget.

but R30,000 owes debt nationally in July 21st.

b) \therefore need to cont. raising money.

\Rightarrow Salaries.

\Rightarrow debt covered.

July - Dec '87 Budget: asked for \pm 70,000 (some pos. indicatn).

c) Financial investigation withdrawn wed 12th:

but clearly measures by PW to investigate broadly.

d) 1988 Financial year.

Initial estimates - potential \pm 6 fulltime employees.

> impact on public work.

\pm R300 - 400 000 budget \therefore need to fundraise.

Tasks: **

* Meet \leq Black sash κ : internal funding.

* * Recommendation for active members to pay R10 a month.

* * Next 6/12 Budget submitted to national ξ how much generate ourselves.

* Raising own money \rightarrow Regions autonomous w/ funding.
membership.

STATEMENT ON FEMINISM AND NONVIOLENCE

1

Foreword

We take position as wimmin coming from the peace movement who have discovered the importance of wimmis liberation politics. We want the following criticism of nonviolent politics to be understood as criticism in solidarity; and that possibly new perspectives for feminist nonviolent politics can open up out of that criticism.

2

Combining Concepts!

Feminism and nonviolence have in common that they criticise power structures on a basic level. But this criticism starts at different points. In feminism societies power structures are being analysed as structures of patriarchal oppression. Nonviolent opinins - when they are not being reduced to methods - mostly put voolent structures of military and state in the foreground of their criticism. We hold both view points as important and argue that feminism and nonviolence complement each other as political concepts. But the two concepts can't just be pieced together. Because neither is feminism as such nonviolent nor is nonviolence in itself feminist. We believe that each concept, without the addition of the other, falls short of their goal. Nonviolence as well as feminism are important to put the other in the right light.

The following is a discussion on what that means for nonviolence.

3

A Criticism of Nonviolence

We understand nonviolence as a radical criticism of open and structural violence and as a strategy in the struggle against any form of oppression, hierarchy and exploitation. Nonviolent actions and nonviolent forms of organising should already include seeds of that goal of a society free from oppression.

The nonviolent resistance of the last years was mainly directed against the military and militarisation (peace movement), the destruction of nature and the basics of our life (anti-nuclear power and ecology movement), and against the exploitation of other countries (internationalism.. We criticise that

It is not on that , while nonviolent politics (rightly) demands changes which will affect all of society, structures in which male violence and wimmins oppression are ever present are not being considered. We demand: Nonviolent politics have to be directed also against male violence. We argue for a feminist nonviolence!

4

Feminist Criteria

What does feminist nonviolence look like? We don't want to deliver a finished concept. We find it makes more sense to name feminist criteria on which to measure political activities.

We demand: Nonviolent politics should be checked on whether they serve the following:

- to diminish or decrease the gender hierarchy in the division of labour; paid and unpaid labour have to be treated as belonging together; it is important to support every person in independently securing their financial existence.
- to reduce the exploitation of the so-called second and third world, specially of female workers, resources and products by making work and production more flexible. In that way selfsufficient economies can be preserved or reconstructed.
- to deconstruct violent structures between men and wimmin, parents and children, young and old, and between members of different races and cultures, etc
- to to break down patriarchal norms and value systems which govern men and wimmin, though in different ways.

5

Wimmins Spaces

What does that mean for nonviolent actions? Wimmin must choose forms of actions which are liberating to them as wimmin. That means we have to check which image of womyn we publicise when we take nonviolent action. We no more want to act out the part of the sufferer, the pacifier, the powerless, to which we have been brought up in patriarchy. Nonviolent actions should rather express our independence and self determination.

We have to create wimmins spaces in order to develop our own values and ways

to cross the boundaries the patriarchy has set for us. We can only find our own independent identity by crossing those boundaries. Only outside the framework society allows us can we create the preconditions we need to take back our own struggle.

6

Demands of Men

What does that mean for our work in mixed political organisations? We don't want to stop at just taking wimmin's spaces. That is only the first step. It mustn't be interpreted as an absolution for peoples consciousness concerning sexism to "let the wimmin do their thing" - somewhere in a back room .

The struggle against patriarchy is a challenge to everyone. Specially men mustn't leave it just to us wimmin. Only resignation from the pact of violence can make change possible, but not only resignation by us wimmin, but most of all from men themselves. Only a man who has resigned from that secret pact with violence can be a coalition partner for us. We encourage all men to become conscious of their role in society and to start taking responsibility for it!

This was written by ULLA EBERHARDT and translated by FIVER

STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GATHERING AT GLENCREE, IRELAND
29 July 1987. TO THE S. AFRICAN MINISTRY OF LAW AND ORDER.

" We are 50 women at an international conference representing 18 countries.

We demand the immediate release of Janet Cherry, Sue Lund and all women
detained without charges under Emergency regulations. We support their
struggle for human dignity.

Women from: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong,
Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Thailand,
United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia. "

Letters of support can be sent to Cherry and Lund at North End Prison, Private
Mail Bag, X2950 Port Elizabeth 6001, South Africa.

For more information contact End Conscription Campaign, 227/9 Khotso House,
42 De Villiers St., Johannesburg 2000, S. Africa. Tel. 337 6796. TELEX 4-
86519 S.A.

Letters of protest can be sent to Minister of Law and Order, Mr. A. Vlok,
Private Bag X9080 Cape Town 8000, S. Africa.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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