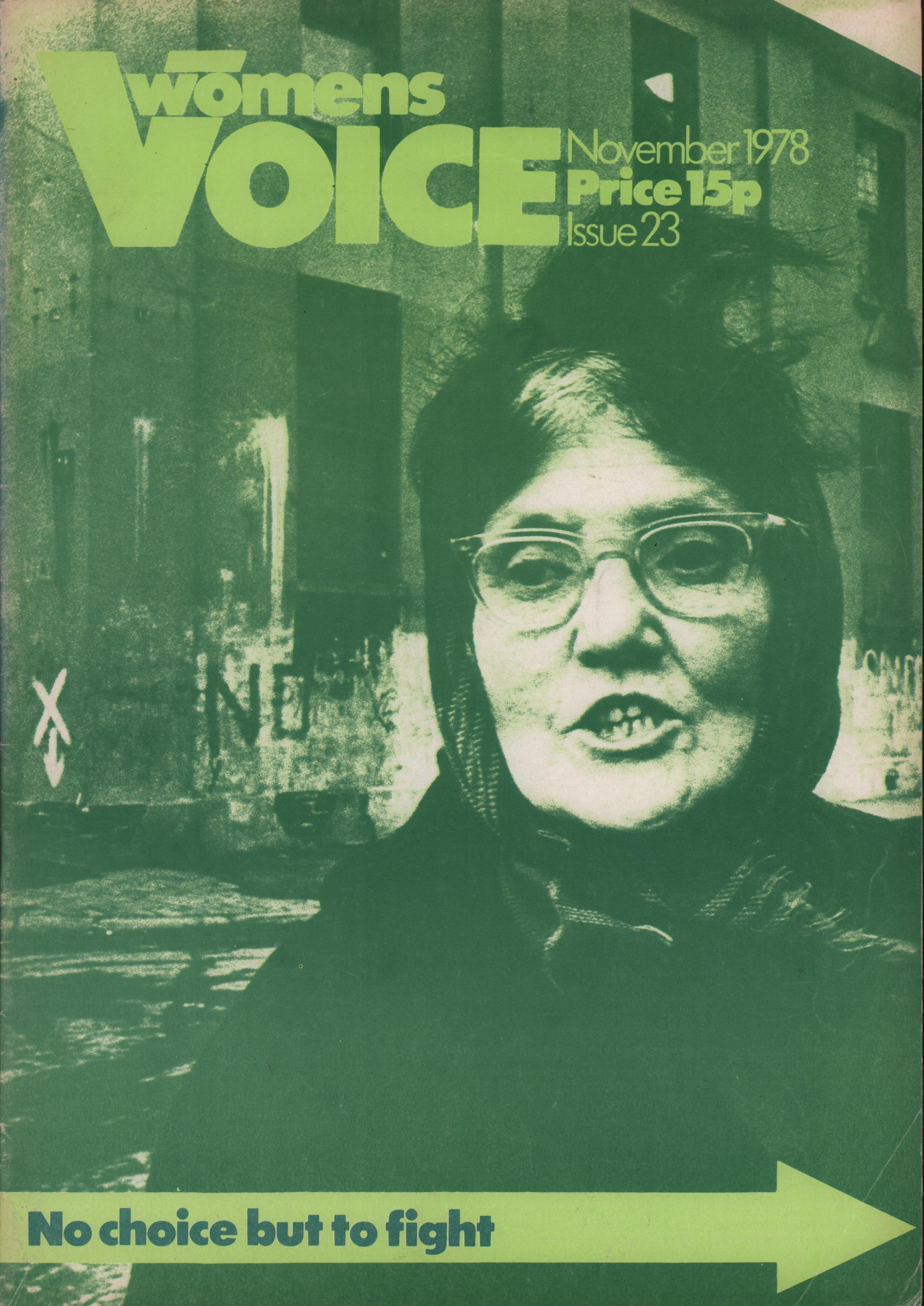


# womens **VOICE**

November 1978

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Issue 23



**No choice but to fight**



# TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON ABORTION

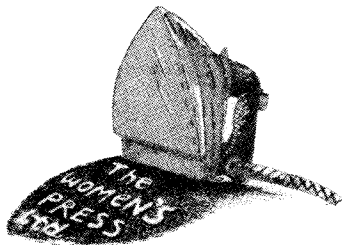
Will you be  
represented?

Saturday 25 November, Caxton Hall,  
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Registration 9.30am onwards

Organised by the National Abortion  
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## WORKING WOMEN ARTISTS CALANDAR 1979...

is now available from bookshops and also direct from the Women's Press Limited, 12 Ellesmere Road, London, E35QX.

This is the *first* full colour, high quality calendar available to show exclusively the work of contemporary women artists. They are from Britain, USA and Europe.

The intention of the calendar is to make art produced by women readily available, to give to the artists a much-needed and much-extended audience, to put women's art on walls *everywhere*.

There are 13 pages in colour, 20 inches by 16 inches, designed to be used as prints for framing. There is also a page of information about the painters, sculptors, collage artists and photographers who are included.

The calendar costs **£4.95** Womens Voice subscribers can order it direct for **£4.50** including postage. Special offer 10 copies or more **£4** per copy including postage.

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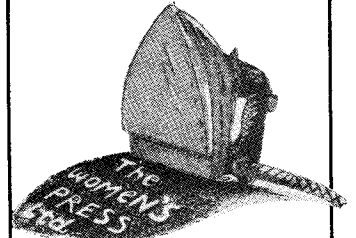
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## Womens Rights Workshop

Money and  
Marital  
Breakdown  
23 November  
(Thursday) 10am  
to 5pm

Enquiries: Mrs Brown Special  
Course Organiser, NELP,  
Livingstone House, Livingstone  
Road, London, E15 Telephone  
01 534 7825 or 01 519 4131



## WOMEN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Conference  
25/26  
November

Organised by NCCL,  
CPAG, Central London  
Poly, Campaign for  
Legal and Financial  
Independence

Information from the NCCL  
186 Kings Cross Road,  
London, WC1.  
Telephone NCCL 01 278  
4575 or CPAG 01 242 3225

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PHOTO: SYD SHELTON

Just we forget!

Thank yous and thanks to all the writers we forgot to credit last issue: Alison Kirton for writing 'What are little girls made of and what do they do in school' for letting us take photographs, Ellen Morgan for help in the series on Women at Work, Ali Ahmadi for the interview with Fran, Glynis Cousins wrote about Bread, and Mary Edmonson for the interview about Breast Cancer

We are on the phone: Our new number is 01-734 7410

Write for articles 15 November, letters 24 November, News 25 and 26 November

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# OUR POINT OF VIEW



photo: Derek Speirs

## As we come marching

4,000 women on a demonstration against rape. We could hardly believe it. An extra nought must have crept in somewhere.

But the figure was right: 4,000 women did march in Dublin, Ireland, on 13 October. Their slogan: Women Against Violence Against Women. They came from all over the South of Ireland. They were all ages. The majority were working class.

They came because rapes are on the increase, in a country where the law is still so archaic that the women themselves are morally blamed for their own rape. Women's names are still given in court in rape cases. All the irrelevant details of their own past sex lives can be revealed.

In spite of the brutality the Minister of Justice publicly says that women should be more careful. As if they were to blame themselves!

Rather, the blame lies with the Catholic Church in Ireland, with its repressive laws and outdated attitudes. Even more so than in this country everything to do with sex is swept under the carpet; as if it didn't happen.

Abortion is illegal. Contraception is banned—consignments of Durex are even today being impounded

by the Customs officials.

For the purpose of procreation sex is permissible, but that's the only justification.

In such an atmosphere people's sexual urges don't just disappear. They get sorted up; frustrated. And that frustration can explode in the most nasty and vicious way.

Even though the ideas of the church have infiltrated every corner of Irish society it's not inevitable that those ideas will hold for ever.

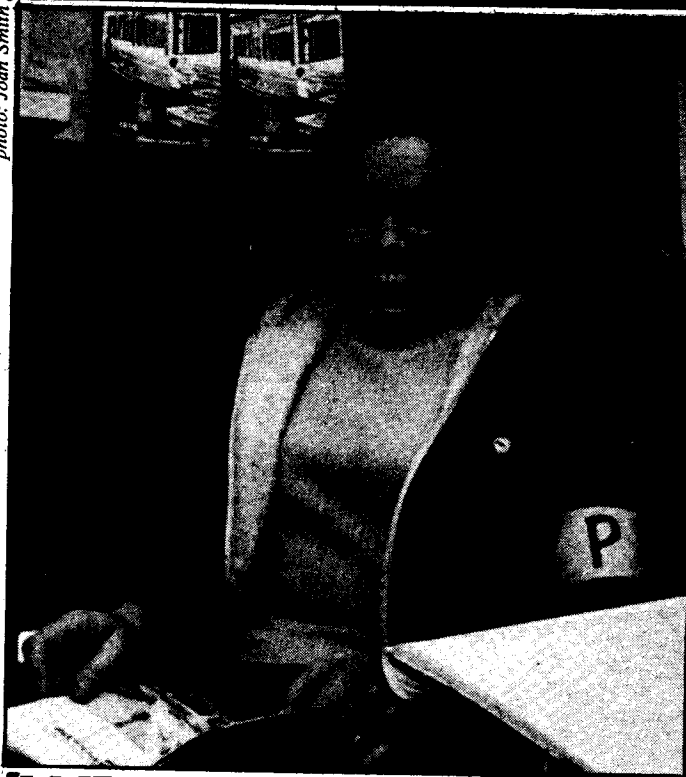
Every one of the women on that demonstration was herself proof that ideas can change, and change very quickly.

“Lustful, over-sexed, physically strong women” fighting to death Mr John Lee, Labour MP for Birmingham Handsworth. He sees them rampaging all over the country, raping innocent men (like himself?) and wants it stopped. Now.

“There is no doubt that a woman can rape a male, particularly a youngster,” he complains. He has written Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, urging him to consider changing the law so that women can be charged with rape!



Photo: Joan Smith



## 'WE'VE COME A HELL OF A LONG WAY'

IN THE Ford factory at Enfield just over half the workers are women. They work two shifts—the day shift or the 'married womens' evening shift. Many of the women who work that shift are married but many are single and struggling to raise children on their own.

All the women except for 4 or 5 are paid on the B grade. That means that they earn £68 on a day shift, and £48 on the evening shift. Their take home pay is £44 or £34 upwards.

Joan Goodman is a steward who represents 130 women. When the press built up the story that Fords strikers' wives wanted their husbands to go back to work her reaction was straightforward:

"I don't understand those women in Southampton. How can anyone manage on these wages? Their husbands must be working hours and hours of overtime.

"Our demand is for £20 a week. Even if we get that we would only be back to our 1974 wages in terms of what it would buy. We also want our holiday money to be related to the shifts that we work rather than just get paid our basic. And we need a 35 hour week—that is only one hour less a day. And we need sick pay.

"The few who are really moaning to get back in are the ones who do all the overtime or some of the very new workers. Some of them have houses, cars and big hire purchase payments and desperately need the money. Of course the rest of us also need the money but we are prepared to stay out'.

"At Autolite there was an attempt to get some of the women workers together to put pressure for a

settlement. But only 30 turned up. 1400 are in the Engineering Union, the AUEW, and 200 in the Transport and General Workers Union."

This is the first dispute since the Ford Enfield workers became 100% unionised two years ago. Joan Goodman remembers the previous wage dispute of 1971 and knows what a difference a 100% unionisation has made this time.

"In the 1971 dispute workers were walking through the picket line. Union members, even shop stewards, were inside working all the hours god sent—doing our jobs."

After the 1971 dispute those shop stewards were voted out but the shop steward organisation was too weak to prevent lay offs. The 'married womens' evening shift was laid off from February 1971 until the November. In the summer the women were even paid redundancy money. Joan Goodman had small children to raise and she remembers that time.

"We were classed as part-timers and we weren't recognised as a shift. So Fords just laid us off. It was only because our convenors fought for us—first Ted Tristain and then Mike Xinais—that we are now recognised as a full shift. Now we couldn't be laid off like that.

"It takes time for any worker to learn what being in a union means. They don't understand the responsibilities of union membership at first. It's not just paying the dues. But I remember 1971 and the solidarity in this strike is as different as can be from then. We've come a hell of a long way."

Joan Smith

## Spot the difference between a typist and an executive

'What do a typist and a chief executive have in common?'

'They're both on 'special' pay scales.'

'What's the difference?'

'About £12,000.'

MANY typists are paid less than a clerical worker without qualifications or experience; and it can take 14 years to get to the top of the scale where you earn about £60 a week.

Opportunities for training to be a secretary or personal assistant are limited, and the top men like secretaries from the glamorous world of commerce, not the council typing pool.

Transferring to administrative work is just as difficult—one Camden typist applied for fourteen jobs and didn't get one interview!

The popular image of a typist is still a 'girl' filling in time before getting married, or a wife working for pin-money. But women work because they have to, and will put up with a lot if the job is satisfying.

But low pay means staff shortages and more pressure. 'If you don't like it leave' they say. Typists at Camden Council decided to stay and fight. They wanted better pay and prospects and knew it would mean a better typing service for the council. After nine weeks on strike they were forced to return to work when the union withdrew strike pay.

Even so, Camden Typists achieved significant gains including higher allowances for using automatic typewriters, a training and development programme and upgrading for supervisors.

Local claims can set an example. But typists all over the country need a decent pay rise and better career prospects.

The typists charter has been drawn up to unify support for a national claim. We call for

- \* 1979 Pay Claim: Regrading of all typists to Q/C3
- \* An end to qualification bars
- \* AP5 for typing supervisors
- \* Better training opportunities
- \* No to word processing

For more information contact  
Womens Voice Box 82 London E2

### TYPISTS CHARTER MEETING

ALL typists and secretaries in Nalگو and Nupe welcome.  
Thursday 23rd November 6.30pm.  
Polytechnic Central London  
309 Regent Street  
Nearest Tube Oxford Circus.



# HOMWORKERS UNITE!

WOULD YOU work for 10p an hour? More than 50,000 people work at home for less than this. Yes, now, in Britain, in 1978.

The Low Pay Unit survey of homeworkers—who make toys, hooks and eyes, lampshades, etc—shows that a quarter of a million people (mainly women) are like slaves in their own homes.

They have to pay for their own heating, lighting, and machines.

And to add insult to injury, they are made to feel that a big favour is being done for them in allowing them to work at home.

If you are a homeworker, Womens Voice would like to hear from you. And you can get in touch with David Jordan of the Homeworkers' Association (Low Pay Unit) at 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. Telephone 01 437 1780.

# SOCIAL WORKERS STRIKE

THERE are 210 social workers on strike in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Half of them are women. They came out on 21st August, a week after social workers in Newcastle and Southwark. In mid-October Lewisham and Liverpool came out too. They are all NALGO members.

The strike is about two issues: grading, and negotiating rights. The regrading claim if granted would lift both unqualified and qualified social workers into higher grades with more money. The claim for local negotiating rights—official NALGO policy since 1977—is a crucial one. If they could negotiate locally, they could get more pay.

Glenys, one of the strikers picketing the Town Hall in Tower Hamlets, explained. 'If you look

around you'll find there are other groups like environmental health officers and librarians, who are supposed to be on national scales.

'Some local authorities just can't get the staff at the rates they are supposed to pay—so they've broken the agreement and paid more. Haringey did it four years ago for their social workers.'

The strikers are glad of one thing. They are getting strike pay at 55% of their salaries, which is much more than most unions pay. 'It's quite good if you're single', said Alex, 'but it's hard to keep going if you've got children to feed.'

As we went to press a national meeting of local authorities was being held.

Jan Kelly



photo: Jane Henriques

# OUR RIGHT TO MATERNITY LEAVE

'IT WAS like a poor kitchen sink drama. With a very cool, self-assured voice on the telephone saying, "But you owe us £600, all your salary since you've been on maternity leave, since you haven't returned to work". And the baby crying in the background'.

Lindsay Bray's nightmarish fight with the Newham Education Authority for extra unpaid leave from her teaching job was just one case in many. Women teachers in Newham decided to write a pamphlet so every woman there would know her rights for maternity leave.

Had I not friends to back me up,' Lindsay explained, 'with the strain of having a new baby I probably would have given in, you are under a lot of pressure. This makes a lot of

women go back to work before they are ready for it.'

'The union sorted out my case. And we felt that we had established the precedent of our right to take unpaid maternity leave.

Then quite by accident we learned from a woman that the education authority was saying there were two types of leave you could take—a short paid leave or a longer unpaid leave.

We were so angry, we put out a leaflet, and six women came to our meeting. Since my case the authority has decided not to allow unpaid leave.

Get your copy of Newham Rank and File Maternity Leave pamphlet from: Newham Rank and File, 60 Meath Road, London E15. Cost — 25p including postage.

photo: Andrew Franks



# SWIFT ACTION SAVES DAY

ISLINGTON Council thought it could save some money at the expense of needy children and their child minders. They didn't allow for the rapid and angry response they'd have to face—and with well over 50 child minders, small children and other supporters picketing their committee meeting, they soon backed down.

Islington Council is proud of its

record as caring for the under 5's but like everywhere else, you can't get a nursery place even if you satisfy the strict conditions of being a single parent, ill or living in terrible housing.

With under 700 nursery places for small children and over 20,000 under 5's in the Borough there aren't nearly enough places even for those who need them desperately.

One thing the social services have been doing to ease the pressure

is help pay child minders' fees for children who qualify for a nursery but can't get into one. It's a lot cheaper than providing new nurseries, but with registered child minders costing £11 a week its been a help.

The minute the minders heard that the subsidy scheme was threatened they got organising. There was a march through Islington giving out leaflets as they went. There were letters and articles in the local paper and letters to all the councillors. This built up to the very successful picket of the social services committee meeting.

Since the scheme started over 100 children have taken advantage of the scheme which fulfills the need for cheap child care. If the threat to end subsidies had been carried out, either the children would have had to go to cheaper, illegal, child minders where they would have got less care, or their mothers wouldn't have been able to go out to work at all.

At least for this year, the scheme has been saved from the cuts—thanks to the swift and determined action of the child minders and their supporters.

Elana Dallas



## Thorny problem

AT THORNS Consumer Electronics, Enfield, the unskilled and semi-skilled workers are all out on strike. 1300 workers in the Transport and General Workers Union (two thirds of them women) are striking over the sacking of a shop steward.

Until last year trade union organisation was weak. Since then a shop stewards committee has met on a regular monthly basis and two new convenors were elected. The management became aware that they would have to curb union activity.

They started by trying to implement the Government 'Code of Practice' for industrial relations. The management wanted every steward who went on union business to not only tell them where they were going, but what they were going for and how long they would be! This was thrown out.

A week later when thirty women were moved from one section to another they asked for a steward. Phil Hart, the manufacturing manager, made a 'joke' that amongst the stewards there were six stewards he would like to get rid of. A week after that a shop steward, Paul Green, was sacked on the grounds of bad time keeping.

The next day Paul's section sat in. The following day a mass meeting decided on strike action.

Colleen Mansfield, Press Officer of the Strike Committee said: "Paul and I are stewards in the same area. We work together as a team. Together we represent 120 Transport and General members. I represent 40 women and Paul represents 45 men and 35 women. If Paul goes then I know that I am next on the list followed by another four or five stewards. The shop stewards now fear for their jobs and



photo: Joan Smith

we are determined to fight it." Colleen is well aware of the difficulties women face in being involved in the union.

"We have a lot of women who would like to take a more active part in picketing but they are bogged down with making dinners, cleaning and looking after children. Some of the older women are really held back by the men they live with. But the young women are prepared to come on the picket line. They don't expect to ask their husbands. You can see the change in the young women's lives compared with ours."

This dispute has been provoked by the management one week before wage negotiations are due to start. The wage demand is for a 15% increase and a move towards a 35 hour week. At present the Grade 3 rate is £61 for men and women for 40 hour week. Take home pay is from £43 upwards. The part-time rate (all women) is scaled down according to the number of hours worked. As Colleen says "It means a lot to us to get that wage increase. But if we can't defend our union and our stewards—men and women—then we will never get anywhere."

Joan Smith

## UNEQUAL PAY

ABOUT eighty women are on strike at Blakeys, a small engineering factory in Armley, Leeds, over what is virtually an equal pay claim. The jobs the women have are semi-skilled, including cutting, sorting and quality control; but the women are classed as labourers. So they're paid £6 less than the other semi-skilled workers (mainly men) in the factory. Strangely enough male labourers in the warehouse are classed as semi-skilled!

To add insult to injury, Blakeys have now refused to give the women a wage rise this year, as they claim this would be going outside the 5%! Wages at the factory are among the lowest in the area, with the top line for a skilled engineer a mere £56.

A shop steward told Womens Voice: "Management were flabbergasted when we walked out!" It's the first strike at the factory since 1945. Despite attempts by the male AUEW convenor to get

them back to work the women are sticking it out. They've had two years of futile negotiations, and now they've taken action they feel "It should have been done a long time ago!"

Leeds Womens Voice

## NURSERY CAMPAIGN

BUILDING workers in Wandsworth, South London, are helping the fight for more nurseries.

The former council proposed to build nurseries on four new council estates. But, the new Tory council plan to axe the nurseries—to save money.

To support the nursery campaign, building workers in UCATT are refusing to work on the area where one of the nurseries was to be built.

Ginny Moreton and Sheila Mitchell



**BIRMINGHAM: 150 workers (mostly women) at Smith Wallis & Co are on strike for a £15 a week rise.**

**They walked out three weeks ago in disgust at the paltry 5% they were offered on their £45 a week wage.**

**The strikers are picketing the factory which produces aluminium fasteners and door handles every day. They have stopped everything going in—even the bread and milk.**

**Birmingham Womens Voice took a collection at its last meeting—and raised £8!**

**'We hold a mass-support picket. And of course we all get down to the picket line whenever we can. The strikers need all the help and support they can get to beat the 5%.'**

**'Morale could not be higher. Phyllis Burke, a single parent of a nine-year-old girl, is determined to stick out the strike. "£33 is not a survival wage, it's suicidal one."'**

**Donations and messages of support to: Ms Pat Glenholmes, 144 Sunny Avenue, Off Clifton Road, Moseley, Birmingham 12.**

## ELECTRIC SHOCK

EVERY time the postman delivers their quarterly electricity bills, half the residents of Glantaff Farm Estate know what it means to get an 'electric shock'.

Bureaucratic incompetence forces them to live in houses that can be heated only by electricity. Their homes have no chimneys so coal fires are out of the question. So is gas as the walls of the houses are not suitable.

Over the years, because the bills have been so high, the tenants haven't been able to keep up with them. They now have to pay, not just for the electricity they are using but the arrears that have built up at a rate of £5-17 a week.

Some families have had alternative heating installed themselves to try and reduce mounting bills. In one case this means the heating bill (including £7 a week for the arrears to the electricity board) takes up more than one quarter of the family income!

After putting up with the unending spiral of costs and worry for several years, the tenants—mainly the women—decided to form an action committee.

They staged demonstrations and sit-ins at the Electricity Board and attended council meetings, but with

little success.

A few weeks ago, refusing to be fobbed off any longer, they chained themselves to the railing of the Council Chamber and disrupted the meeting by sitting down until it had to be abandoned.

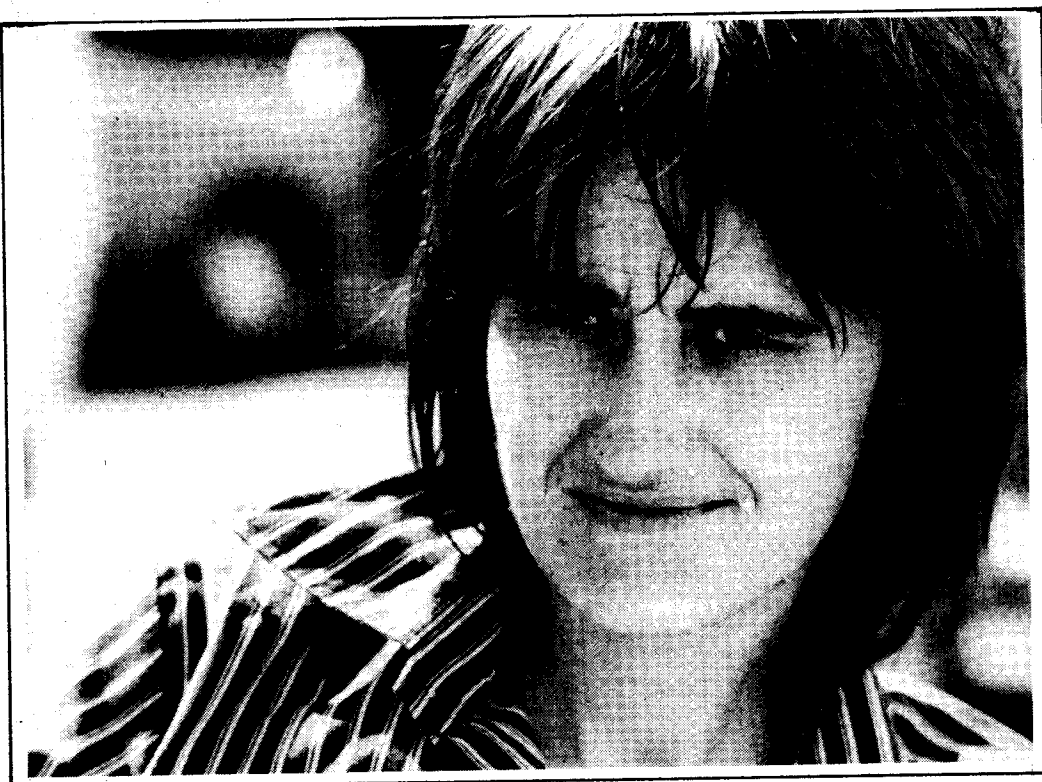
Some of the councillors, wanting to divert attention from the hardship and danger to health many of these families were suffering, protested about left-wing infiltration into their committee. The damp, the cold and the danger to the children caused by obsolete paraffin heaters (one child has already been badly burnt) didn't seem to bother them at all.

Two demands have now been agreed to: that the Council should install Calor Gas heaters as soon as possible and that the electricity board take out the quarterly meters and install pay-as-you-go 50p ones.

The grim determination of these families to fight the red-tape and bureaucracy that has oppressed them for years has got them this far; but the battle isn't over yet. They are carrying on the fight until they are on a par with the other half of the estate where the houses have had gas central heating installed.

Anne Powell, Pontypridd





## SAVE ASTRID PROLL

SEVEN years ago Astrid Proll belonged to the terrorist group the Red Army Faction. Astrid wrote to one of her friends from Brixton, explaining why she had not publicly denounced her past.

Her letter says that public condemnations means nothing; that she should be judged by her life in England which showed that she had turned her back on terrorism. She had managed to build a new kind of political life as a socialist and a feminist.

Astrid is now in the top security wing in Brixton prison awaiting extradition hearings. If sent back to Germany she expects to die. Astrid has already served more than two years in a German prison.

After her arrest in Hamburg in 1971, she was held for more than two years without trial. Four and a half months were spent in the prison's 'silent wing'. The conditions were meant to break her physical and mental health. Her cell was painted with white gloss paint. There was no daylight, and the light was often on for 24 hours. The whole wing was silent.

This system of 'social and sensory deprivation' has been internationally condemned as torture. It has the same effect as continued electric shocks. One doctor has said, "Prisoners become unable to cope with the mental strain or intellectual demands placed on them by their imprisonment and trial. This leads to the uncontrolled outbursts of aggression that can be seen so often in the trials."

Physical symptoms include exhaustion to the point of not being able to walk, breathing difficulties and the collapse of the circulation system. Quite

often 'sensory deprivation' kills the prisoners and their deaths are announced as suicide.

When Astrid's trial did begin she was so ill that they had to adjourn the trial in case she died. Astrid was released on bail until her health improved. Afraid that she wouldn't survive another period in prison she escaped to England.

Astrid arrived here mentally and physically broken. The after effects of sensory deprivation were so great that once when out shopping in a neon lit supermarket, (reminiscent of her prison cell) she collapsed and was shaky and distressed for hours.

Despite all this she built a new life for herself. Her friends said about her: "Astrid was acutely aware of what was going on around her; of the Begali families who had been sold bad houses by racket profiteers; of their children who didn't go to school because their parents didn't speak English."

Astrid trained as a car mechanic and worked on a government scheme for unemployed school leavers. She knowingly risked going to the police station to help some of the kids in trouble. A chance recognition led to arrest.

Astrid stands no chance of a fair trial. She is accused of taking part in three bank robberies and the attempted murder of two policemen. (Some shots were fired during an escape, but no one was hit or hurt.)

At her trial, the prosecution found it difficult to bring charges against her and there were rumours that the judges wanted to throw the case out.

But since then, the growth of terrorism in Germany means that Astrid will not get a fair trial. Hers will be a 'Show Trial' meant in the

words of the judges, "to demonstrate the effectiveness of the state security laws by public condemnation of apprehended criminals."

If Astrid is sent back she will be linked in the public mind with crimes she had nothing to do with. Her sentence will be vicious. We should all fight to let Astrid stay and live the peaceful life she has built here.

There is a picket of Bow Street Magistrates Court every Tuesday at 10am. **Astrid Proll Benefit, Acklam Hall, W.10. November 14th**

## RAPE PROTEST

**"YES" means YES  
"NO" means NO  
Whatever we wear  
Wherever we go!**

WOMEN in Glasgow had been organising for a "Week of Action Against Rape" for a few months.

The Socialist-Feminist Group, Womens Voice, Scottish Co-op, Womens Guild, Rape Crisis Centre and others, all worked together.

We had lots of publicity, in advance, from the newspapers and radio and television.

Good numbers turned up for the picket of one of the cinemas which shows 'dirty' pictures.

We put up posters, gave out leaflets about the Myths of Rape, held an exhibition in a shopping precinct on the Saturday, (and during Freshers Week at a University), collected a substantial amount of money, and held a well-attended public meeting. . . of these activities ended in a "Reclaim the

Night" march.

The march was extremely inspiring. With our torches flickering, placards glinting, and voices singing, about 100 of us marched from George Square through the town.

Because it was such a united march (chanting getting louder with every step), we would like to comment on a mistake we made, so that others won't do the same in future. It was bad planning on our part, but the march should have walked in the opposite direction, from the quiet area to the busy town.

Despite that small niggle, the Week of Action was a great success.

Glasgow Womens Voice

**RAPIER, the new "men's" magazine, advertises thus.**

**'Rapier will revel in its masculinity. It will be unashamedly and exclusively for males. In the field of sexual relationships, it will be totally reactionary. Without breaking the law, it will set out to put women in their place.'**

**The man responsible for this advertising is DAVID TIZZARD, 01 660 0102. (Whatever you do sisters don't phone him and harass him.)**

## shorts

MANCHESTER Poly is the largest polytechnic in Europe, with over 13,000 students. Despite this we do not have any nursery facilities for the children of students or staff. For the past ten years the students and staff have been pressing the directorate and the local authority for a permanent nursery for children aged six weeks to five years. The Joint Union Nursery Action Committee has for the past four years worked through all the bureaucratic channels but with no success.

On Monday 16th October, about forty members of the Students Union including several members of the newly formed Manchester Poly Students Union Womens Voice group occupied an area of the administrative block. This was originally intended to be a one-day occupation to further the demands, and gain publicity for the nursery campaign. But the support for the occupation was such that we stayed in for three days, gaining a great deal of local publicity; the front page of the *Manchester Evening News*, and interviews on Piccadilly Radio and Granada Television.

This is just the beginning of a series of disruptions which will continue until our demands are met. We demand a nursery with a minimum of thirty places open fifty two weeks a year and we want it NOW!

**Vivienne Harrison  
Manchester Polytechnic Students  
Union Womens Voice Group**



## ATTACKED WITH BROKEN BOTTLE



DOULA is a member of Kentish Town Womens Voice group. She is from Cyprus and teaches in Hackney. On her way home from Carnival 2 she was attacked by an NF member. She talked to Womens Voice about her experience.

'I found Carnival very exciting. It was incredible seeing such a variety of people. All the different ages and races together in unity against the National Front.

'Lots of the kids from the school where I work were there. They were so surprised to see us, their teachers, involved in something they thought we wouldn't or couldn't understand.

'I came home with my brother. He is very young. Carnival was the first anti-racist activity he has been involved in. On the tube there was lots of people wearing anti-racist badges. Carnival spirit was still in the air. When we arrived at Camden tube lots of us got out. On the escalator a man wearing the National Front uniform shouted at us all that we were taking a risk wearing our badges. We laughed at him. Even people who hadn't been to Carnival laughed. They thought he was stupid too.

'When we walked away from the station there was just the two of us.

'Suddenly we heard the sound of breaking glass. All of a sudden we were confronted by the racist who had shouted at us all in the tube. He was holding a broken bottle to my face. I was so shocked and very angry all at the same time.

'He demanded that we give him our badges. I was also wearing my Womens Voice T-shirt. He then started to wave the broken bottle in my brother's face. I stood between them. I tried to talk to him. I told him he could be arrested for what he was doing. We both looked around—there was nobody else—let alone a policeman. When you need protection they're never there.

Anyway, he said he would give us 5 seconds to give him our badges then he would slash me with the bottle. I still tried to reason with him. In the back of my mind I thought that if I used logic he might just calm down and go away. I touched his arm like I would touch a child. He became furious. My brother, realising I wouldn't give in, gave him his badges—by this time

the bottle was at my throat. He looked at me and my badges, threw his bottle away, and ran off.

There was *nothing* in him I could appeal too. The only thing he would have understood was a bloody good karate chop. When I told him he could be sent to prison for what he had done he just said that he had been inside before and going in again didn't worry him. I wanted to chase him but he quickly disappeared.

'I hate violence but this experience taught me that we *have* to fight back for our own survival. I am sure that he picked on us because I am a woman and my brother is young. We are both defenceless.

'I felt very confused. At the time I thought that the only way women could protect themselves against these attacks is to walk about in gangs.

'When I got home I phoned a woman from my Womens Voice group. My knees were still knocking. I could hardly speak because of my anger. I wanted to speak to another woman who would understand my anger and my inability to defend myself. The woman I phoned has been attacked by the NF—her boyfriend is black. A lot of women we know in the area have also been attacked for wearing badges, having black children—one woman was attacked because her boyfriend is white—she is black.

'The answer to these attacks is so obvious but it didn't strike me until I spoke to another woman: Women must organise; then the nazis won't dare attack us so openly. If we have women on our estates, at work, everywhere doing something against the Nazis others will support us.

We have done a paint-out and are putting out lots of leaflets. We have stapled to the National Women Against the Nazis leaflet our own local one telling women that we exist and where they can contact us. We are hoping to organise a Christmas party against racism to celebrate our multi-racial community. That will be something everybody can be involved in.

The one thing I've learnt from my experience is that it's impossible to reason with a nazi. Racism isn't logical. We are forced to organise to make it safe for us to walk the streets.

**Interviewed by Gail Cartmail**

• Why not organise your own Women Against the Nazis Christmas party? Maybe the vicar will let you have the local church hall for free. Different kinds of food, music, costumes.



FREDERICK Challis beat a tramp to death. Then he wrote National Front on the wall with his victim's blood.

Frederick Challis is now—and will for the rest of his life be—in a psychiatric prison.

But other thugs of the National Front are still on the streets. Their new headquarters in Hackney is crucial for their morale.

## PROUD OF OUR CULTURE

'THE main aim of the primary kids' Tankit is to encourage kids to enjoy and be proud of their own culture, customs and language—not a thing that happens automatically.'

A primary school teacher in Hackney who helped compile the kit with his kids' help, told Women's Voice, 'We've got lots of different races here. The kids have their own songs, rhymes and games which are a re-working partly of tradition and partly of what they get from characters on TV.

We also wanted to involve the parents in this process, so we went and asked them what songs they taught their kids.

The reason for doing this in the classroom is because kids *do* chant racist rhymes and songs, and they

So The Anti-Nazi League has launched a campaign to close the headquarters. We are petitioning the service unions to black the headquarters. We're petitioning Hackney Council and the Home Secretary to throw them out.

We're taking our petition to every housing estate in East London to show that thousands of people want the nazis cleared out. We're having fantastic success.

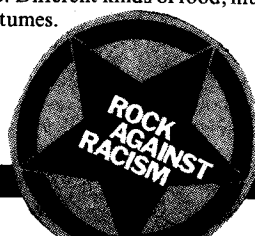
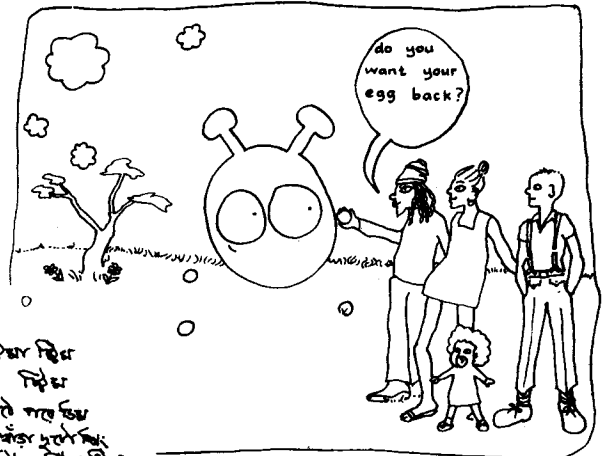
But most importantly we're taking the petition to *all* the areas that they think are their 'strongholds'; to those tiny pockets of 'support' in the constituencies where Tyndall and Webster plan to stand for parliament. In Hoxton we got 500 signatures before they eventually managed to gather eight thugs to attack us.

Nearly everyone we asked signed. Many stall-holders who had been harassed by the National Front on previous occasions, signed willingly, despite the risks involved.  
**Judith Hamilton**

*do* soak up a lot of prejudices. The Tankit wants to confront racism and prejudice by explaining and understanding the history and the issues.

'We want kids not to be ashamed of their own culture. There's a Gujarati girl who's recently started talking her own language. And there are Turkish children who've started writing in Turkish and are very pleased with themselves about it.'

Tankit 2—a set of multiracial stories and rhymes for lower primary schools, and playgroups too. Includes a 20 minute tape. Price £2. From Tankits, PO Box 151, London WC 2. Details of other kits available.



# CHILDRENS CANCER WARD TO CLOSE

'There is no doubt that people have died,' but not because of the cuts, as you may imagine. This is Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Health, speaking. He was threatening the Hospital Supervisors to call off their overtime ban.

'For God's sake, suspend this industrial action' he went on, 'don't take it out on the patients. It is no longer tolerable that patients' lives should be put at risk.'

Mr Ennals should listen to his own words. Every day in hospitals patients' lives are at risk because of the cuts in the health service.

The worst to suffer are children. They can hardly understand what is happening to them when they are ill. To be ill with a disease like cancer is a doubly hard burden for them.

Now, in Manchester, a special children's cancer unit is to close. Workers from the hospital wrote to Womens Voice about their campaign to keep it open.

**PENDLEBURY** Children's hospital is designed for the care of sick children. As you enter you see the cut-outs on the windows, the cheerful wallpaper with lions and tigers and bears, the large stuffed donkeys and rocking horses in the hallway. It seems a nice place—if hospitals can ever be nice places.

Some children will spend their last days here, in the special unit for children with cancer. Unless, that is, the Regional Health Authority gets its way and closes the unit.

Now the Action Committee, along with just about every single community organisation, local MP's, union branches, doctors, nurses, technicians, parents and the community which surrounds the hospital are fighting to keep it open.

The plan is to move the children to another, adult, cancer hospital, the Christies Hospital. But as, Alan, one of the laboratory staff at Pendlebury explains, this will not help the children.

'The main type of cancer research and treatment at Christie's is radiotherapy. One of the problems with radiotherapy is that it stunts growth and can cause long term chest complaints. This may not have much effect on a fully grown adult, but it will affect children who still have a lot of growing to do.

In a major Scandinavian centre they have stopped using radiotherapy for child leukaemia, and even here the

major treatment is now with drugs.'

Nurses at the Pendlebury are also specially trained to look after the children. On top of their SRN qualification they work for the Sick Children Nursing Certificate.

A nurse on the Action Committee, Sister Val Pack, has daily experience of the importance of special care for children suffering from cancer.

'I even spoke to a union branch meeting—the NALGO branch at Swinton Town Hall. It was a quite harrowing experience—a smoke-filled room with about 30 people. I started off apologising to everyone since it was the first time I'd ever spoken to a meeting.

'The more I've learned, the more determined I am to fight to stop the transfer of our cancer patients. This hospital has a really nice atmosphere for kids. Everyone knows the kids. They're not separated by disease into wards. So the kids with leukaemia who are really ill are in the same wards as kids who aren't that ill or who are getting better. The atmosphere is more hopeful.

'There are 140 leukaemia patients but only about 6 of them are usually on the wards. That's because the rest are at home—only coming in when they're ill or need treatment. So the argument about empty beds is a nonsense. The more empty beds the more successful the treatment.

'Christie's admit 7,000 patients a year. It's a nine to

## From coffee to incontinent pads~

No coffee, less milk, too few pillow cases, Cuts in the Health Service mean cuts in care in every hospital.

Womens Voice asked a nurse in an Edinburgh hospital to keep a list of the cuts she saw in the wards she worked during the month of September. This is her report.

"The milk ration per patient per day has been cut from a pint to 3/4 of a pint. For some old people it has been cut to 1/2 a pint.

"In one ward 16 patients were allowed 7 spoonfuls of sugar between them.

"In an acute surgical ward with 22 patients only 17 clean pillow-cases a day were allocated.

"Coffee is no longer provided.

"Cooked breakfasts are being phased out for continental ones.

"Staff in the geriatric ward have been asked to save on the use of incontinent pads.

"There is a shortage of ripple mattresses and foam rings both of which help prevent sores for patients confined to bed.

"Bandages and oxygen tubing is used, washed and used again for different patients. The tubing is plastic so it can't be so sterilised.

"Towels are washed out and dried on the radiators and used again.

"Boxes for storing used sharp instruments, like needles and scalpels, are no longer issued. They cost £10 per 100.

"The hospital has only two floor drying machines, and these are not in use.

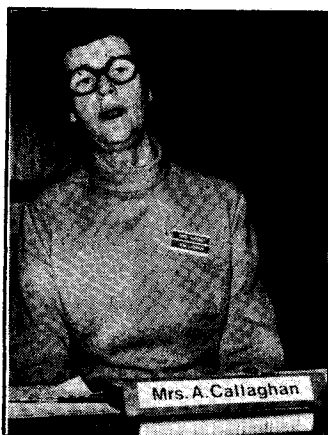
"Nurses have to wear the same uniform for anything up to four days."

Cuts like these are happening in hospitals all over the country. Officially, the cuts are measured in thousands; the total numbers of beds and total numbers of staff. But under the official figures there is an appalling story of the care and treatment of patients being sacrificed bit by bit.

Do you know what goes on in your local hospitals? Can you send Womens Voice a similar list to help us build up a dossier on the real state of our health service.

+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE





Mrs. A. Callaghan

five, five day a week hospital. What's going to happen to our 140 amongst that lot. They'll be like goldfish in a pond.'

Having gone the round of MPs, unions, and community organisations, the Action Committee were wondering who to turn to next.

'We decided on Mrs Callaghan. She's on the governing body of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I had the job of trying to contact her,' tells Mary.

'I phoned directory enquiries. Town? London. Name? Callaghan, Address? 10 Downing Street. Silence.

'She came back and said it wasn't listed.

'After a round of phone calls I got through to Mrs Callaghan's secretary. But she was doubtful about an interview. Then, three days later, she phoned back saying Mrs Callaghan would see us at the Labour Party Conference at Blackpool.

'She was very well informed, asked a lot of questions, took a lot of notes, but didn't promise anything.

'Roland Moyle, the Minister for Health, has agreed to set aside an hour to meet us when we hand, in our 80,000 signatures at the House of Commons.'

All the Action Committee agree 'We want the children to stay put in our hospital. We want extra money to improve the facilities for the children, but we would do without if needs be. Children's care in Children's hospitals is our slogan.'

'Most people who enter the hospital sense a happy atmosphere. We have rules and regulations but children need

discipline to feel secure and it's this security we are trying to give in an insecure world of disease. The Christie Hospital is an excellent hospital, the only fault from our point of view is that it's not a children's hospital.

'In 150 years this hospital has become a place where children could remain children whilst being treated for diseases which are not always curable.

'Our motto could be 'Children first and cancer second.' What is the point of curing a disease if the child is going to be mentally scarred for life by the weeks she or he spent in hospital.

It seems incredible to me that their future lies in the hands of people who cannot possibly know about children.'

Penny, who also works in the laboratory takes up the story: 'We heard about the closure in the same way most people come to find things out in the NHS—by rumour. We printed it in a local Hospital Worker bulletin, and called a picket of the hospital for the 30th Anniversary celebrations last July.

'We launched a petition, calling for an enquiry. The local newspapers took up the story. Then we called a meeting in the hospital. Seventy staff came—from consultants to cooks.

'Once we got going it was surprising how much dirt, and information, we dug up. Someone got us onto a local telly programme where we, the aggrieved party, were filmed 'on site' debating with them 'in the know' in the studio. As it was pouring with rain and we all got wet huddle on the steps of the hospital. The official spokesman stayed in the dry!

'Three hundred people came to our public meeting. We left a seat vacant on the platform for the Regional Health Authority. But none of them would oblige and turn up. From that meeting we were launched as the Pendlebury Action Committee.

The campaign has been an eye-opener for the workers involved. Margaret is a part-time worker who began to help with the campaign by buying their stamps.

'Then I became the treasurer—I'm off all day Monday and could get to the bank! Money hasn't been a problem. We've collected money on shopping precincts in the area, from the sale of badges and donations from union branches like Chlorides and Ciba Geigy.

'This is the first time I've ever been involved in anything like this and I must admit I'm quite enjoying it.

the Ear Nose and Throat Unit has already been moved to Canterbury.

The reason given is overspending. Last year Thanet and Canterbury district overspent by £234 thousand, but the Kent Area Health Authority as a whole couldn't find enough to spend their money on and underspent by £675 thousand. This money will now be cut from next year's budget!

They claim that they will save £235 thousand in wages by closing Princess Mary's Hospital. Over two hundred people will lose their jobs. Yet for every three doctors Kent's Health Authority employs, it employs five administrative staff.

Soon a new accident unit will be opened in Thanet, but this super unit will close at midnight and if you have an accident after twelve o'clock you will have to travel 17 miles to Canterbury.

Waiting lists in Thanet are already as long as four years for some operations, unless you have a few hundred pounds and can afford to go to our new private hospital. In spite of this the Health Authority has plans to reduce the number of beds in Thanet by three hundred and fifty by 1988.

We want a health service for everybody, not just the rich. We want a casualty unit that is open for twenty-four hours a day. And we are fighting to keep Princess Mary's Hospital open. We want more hospital beds in Thanet and no waiting lists.

J. Nicholson of the Action Committee would welcome donations. Please send them to 25, Grotto Road, Margate.

Jenny Hand.  
Canterbury Women's Voice.

A cry for help from the other side of the ward, a patient has fallen. We go to help our workmate pick the poor old soul up. That's the straw to break the camel's back. We go for our lunchbreak and decide some action should be taken.

We decided to form an Action Group. Petitions are run off and we fix our off-duty days to be together.

We have to make the public aware of the desperate situation in our hospitals. That's why we organised a petition. One little old lady tells us 'I'm sorry I'm too old to be a nurse.' We explain that we just need her signature.

The next thing we organised was a demo through the streets of Leeds. Although we were slightly disappointed in the number of marchers, it was great to see the supporters who did turn up, especially those not in nursing. We hope the public will give their signatures when we see them again. We will be stationed at different places in the next month or so and when we have collected enough signatures we will be taking them to 10 Downing Street.

Leeds Nurses Action Group



## Action around the country

PRINCESS Mary's Hospital in Thanet is a rehabilitation unit, one of only six of its kind in the country. Plans to close it began (unknown to the staff) last Christmas when one ward was closed for the Christmas period and not re-opened.

The closure wasn't officially

announced until June and since then the staff have set up an action committee and have organised public meetings and a march through the town.

This isn't the only cut-back being made in our area. Two geriatric hospitals are also to be closed and

# **“What! Women play football...**

# **it's as bad as eating peas off the end of your knife.”**

EVER been told you couldn't play football because your tits were too big? Football belongs to men. But did you know that things are changing? Talking to some women footballers in West London convinced me to convince you.

'It's the ladies football team, mate' they said grinning. All too familiar. The male contents of the sports club bar flooded to the windows as the women came running onto the pitch. Eyes glued to athletic bare legs—the girls ignored them.

'Most men learn to respect you, when they realise you are taking the game seriously.'

But discrimination runs deep. No girls are allowed to play at school. Its unheard of, as bad as eating peas off the end of your knife.

'We want you to leave the school a young lady, not a hooligan.' That's what Jill was told at age 11. But ignoring the comments of men and women doesn't mean being unaware of the realities of women's football.

'Of course it is traditionally a male game . . . we have to break through that barrier.'

This is beginning to happen. John, their coach, estimates that there are 800 women football teams but adds 'if women's football is to be big, then it *must* start in the schools.'

This is what some of the prominent players in the Womens Football Association are pushing for; so go back to your old school and encourage them to take it up. In other countries attitudes to football are not so antiquated. In the USA girls are starting to play at school.

Kathy went with her team, **Watford Ladies** to France, where they

really take women's football seriously. They played to a packed stadium.

But here in England the game is rarely publicised and hardly ever reviewed. The 'People Who Matter' don't want to know. To them women in football are sex symbols. Perhaps they are scared of being taken over?

The women I talked to are all determined to make a go of it. Not necessarily to become professionals, but to play, whether to keep fit, let off steam, or get away from the family on Sunday afternoons.

They insist that the present division of sexes in football won't change, 'more women will come to football but there will never be integration.' Perhaps there will be some changes. 'At the moment you get cautioned for 'ungentlemanly conduct!''

The way to change all this is by starting to take women's football seriously ourselves.

Why not start a football team in your area? Don't be put off—women are as skilful as men, maybe not as powerful but more tactical. Women have a more mental approach to the game.

So, if you've ever wanted to play THEN PLAY.

**Anna Keene**

**Womens Football Association  
7 Mayfield Road,  
London N8**

**Living in West London?** The London Transport Team need a goal keeper. If you are interested write to Womens Voice.

**Living in or around London—**we want to start a Womens Voice team. We have offers of a good coach, and lots of energy. Write or ring if you like the idea.

Any stories or experiences you've had with women's football etc., write and let us know.

photo: Beeban Kidron





WE ALWAYS BEEN in a union. If you have an accident they'll fight your case. We want union recognition and we're determined to fight for it."

"There are too few machines here—they won't pay you if you're waiting. We want a strike fund to protect our rights and get us a living wage. With this social contract our wages aren't keeping up with prices."

These words were spoken by women during the strike for union recognition at Dessouters Engineering in London.

They echo the feelings of many women who take industrial action to try and get union negotiating rights.

Ever since 1976 when that part of the Employment Protection Act came into force which said that everyone was entitled to be in a union, there has been a mass of recognition disputes. In factories, hotels and offices, women have been fighting for union rights.

But women are cheap labour, and many employers prefer to break the law rather than recognise a union. The women and men at the famous Grunwicks dispute lost their fight for union recognition because of the union leadership, which would not pull out all stops to win victory, and because of the law itself.

In the summer of 1978 the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Board (ACAS) made a statement washing their hands of Grunwicks. Grunwicks shows us that ACAS is a sham, and that wherever possible we should use traditional trade union action, not the law, to win recognition.



**What is recognition:** when a union is recognised, the employer recognises the right of the union, through its representatives, to negotiate on behalf of its members.

**Advantages of recognition:** Once you are recognised, you have the right to negotiate plus certain rights under law★ time off for union business ★ training for shop stewards and safety reps★ right to disclosure of information ★ consultation over redundancies and pension schemes

**Kinds of recognition:** You should demand *full negotiating rights* which means you can negotiate across the board on things like health and safety, redundancy and of course pay. *Individual negotiating rights* means you can only take up individual grievances. **Define your bargaining unit:** recognition must cover definite group of workers—a *bargaining unit*. When you are trying to get recognition is very important to define your bargaining unit properly.

It could be defined by ★ where you work ★ the jobs you do ★ the grades you are on—'all clerical grades A and B working for Grabalot Ltd. or 'all production workers below



supervisory grades on the evening shift at the Exploitation road site.'

You will have to argue that your bargaining unit is a logical one because managements often try and argue that recognising one group will 'disrupt a company-wide wages structure'. Make sure that when the unit is defined it is a group in which over half the people are either union members or people prepared to join if you got recognition.

Next you need a claim and the right number of union members.

**Membership numbers:** this is the most important thing of all. The more members you have, the better your chance of winning recognition and getting a good agreement. Most managements will recognise the union if you can show that you have support from more than 50% of the proposed bargaining unit. They know this is what ACAS would recommend if you went to them.

These do not have to be paid up members. ACAS normally tests the level of support among workers, by carrying out a *ballot*. Questions asked include 'if the union was recognised would you join?' The answers are then taken into account.

But the more actual members you have the greater your strength, and the less need to worry about ACAS. If you can avoid using them—good. Ballots can be carried out without ACAS. If you agree to this you should demand ★ a say in how questions are

worded ★ the right to put your point of view to those workers getting the ballot ★ proper facilities—use of a noticeboard—use of a telephone—reasonable time off to contact workforce and union. Claims and agreements: your *claim* is what you (the members) decide to ask for. When it has been argued over with management or *negotiated* it becomes your *agreement*.

Union recognition will be part of your first agreement. But it is a good idea to draw up a first claim that includes matters like hours, money etc.

The first thing that will be agreed is how you and management are going to talk to each other and this is called a *procedural agreement*. But we will go into how to draw up a claim and the different parts of it soon. If you have any immediate problems write to Womens Voice now.

Ellen Morgan

Next month: how management try and stop you getting recognised.

Ellen Morgan is helping collect material for the Working Womens Handbook to be published next year. She would like to hear your experiences. Have you had experience of going to ACAS, how did you get recognised? Write to TUCRIC, 29 Blenheim Terr, Leeds 2. Ring Leeds 39633 ask for Ellen, Joe or Ursula.

I WORK in a brewery bottling plant and the noise is deafening. We've got earmuffs but they're useless. What can I do?

**EAR MUFFS** are a classic management copout. They leave the machinery as it is, and make it your responsibility to shut out the noise—you can get blamed for carelessness if you go deaf.

Call in the factory inspector and get the noise measured. Make sure it's measured during full production and at the point where people work (not in a cupboard and when things are quiet!) Demand to see the results—in simple language.

Noise above 90 decibels is officially unsafe, but exposure to noise over 84 decibels day in day out for years is very damaging.

Get your safety rep. to negotiate safer conditions. Enter all complaints in an accident book.

For more info send for Noise pamphlet, BSSRS Work Hazards Group 9 Poland St London W1.

Any questions about Health and Safety write to Women at Work Hazards Group same address.



NUMBERS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL

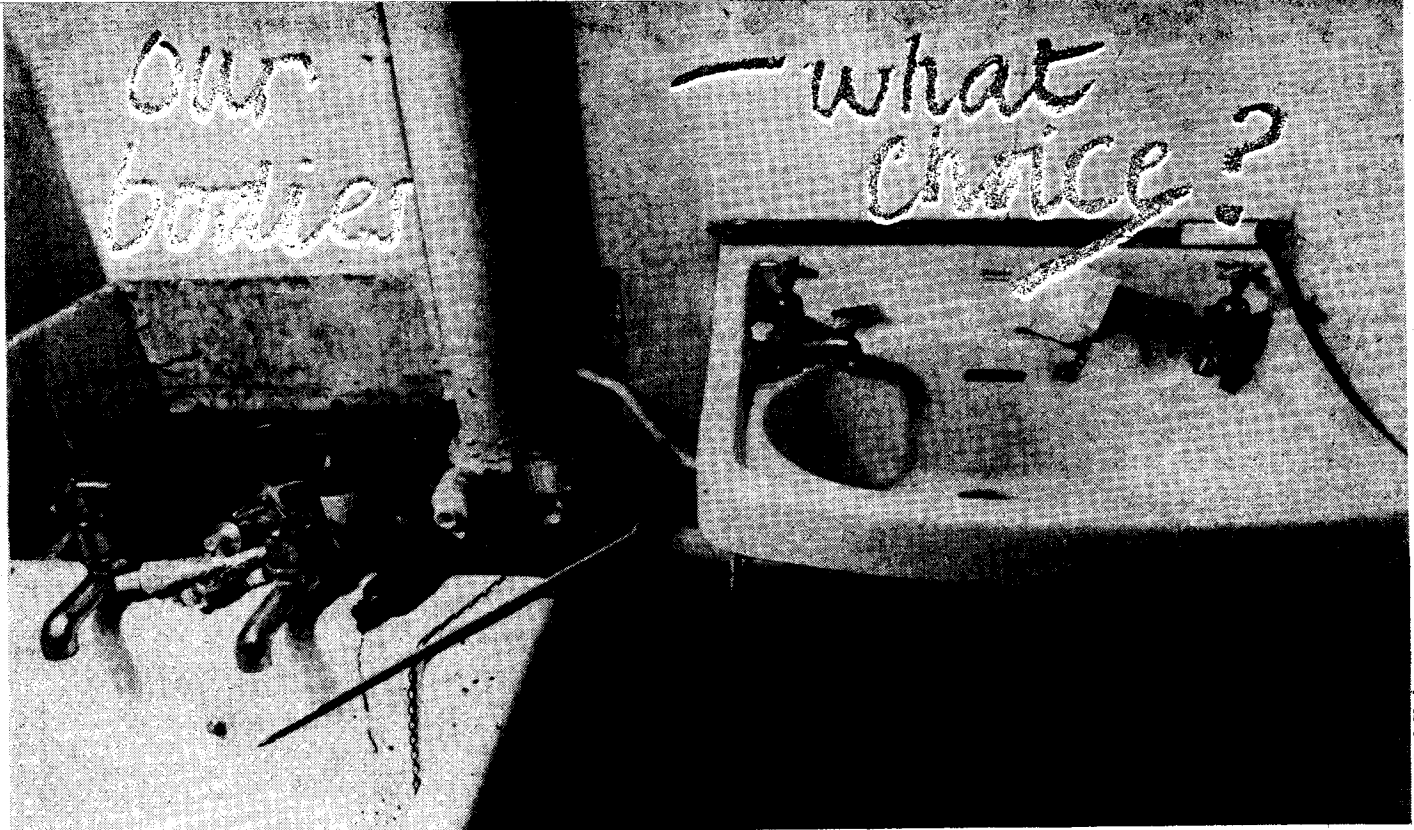


photo: Syd Shelton

ALL women grow up with the romantic dream of meeting 'Mr Right'. Some of us reject it—most don't. Sex is a big part of the romance. The first kiss. The excitement of going a bit further. The nervousness about going *too* far in case you lose his respect.

Most of us soon stop looking for somebody to match the looks and excitement of David Soul. Yet the image of the masterful male still lurks in the back of our minds—somebody who can take over, take responsibility, care for us.

Even if we haven't got marriage in view and we are able to accept relationships with men as less serious and more down to earth, the idea of a good chat about contraception when sex is not yet on the horizon seems almost sordid.

*Handwritten note:*  
 I think this is a very good article. I have been thinking about this for a long time. I have been thinking about this for a long time.

That sordidness is the trap. At one time or another it's a trap that most of us have fallen into hook, line and sinker.

The real trouble starts when we find that sex has suddenly become a reality. Women are made to feel ashamed of their bodies and everything associated with their natural bodily functions, so we don't ask about contraception.

After all, how many times have James Bond's girlfriends been seen reaching for their pills or giving him a Durex?

It isn't just young women who feel these inhibitions. Older women suffer from them too. Talking about sex is almost an impossible task for most of us.

Why don't women do something? Why don't we seek advice from our local Family Planning Clinic or GP? They are our bodies after all.

Three out of every four married women never ask for professional advice about planning their families. Even more unmarried women keep their problems secret.

Family Planning Centres can sometimes be run by unfriendly people. Or they can be too far away to get to easily. Or your husband can be against you using contraception.

All these problems and many more explain why women don't always use adequate contraception.

Once we *do* pluck up courage and decide to do something about contraception, the sudden realisation that there is no foolproof method comes as a bit of a shock.

After all, if the experts can't guarantee us against an unwanted pregnancy who can? The answer is brutal—nobody can.

Using a Durex is messy and requires the total co-operation of the man. The cap can slip or you may forget to put it in. The coil can cause heavy periods. The use of certain drugs can also affect the effectiveness of the coil. The Pill, the 'liberator' can also cause problems. Headaches,

increased weight, high blood pressure . . . these are just some of the reasons why many women feel unhappy about The Pill.

*Handwritten note:*  
 Now another disgusting family planning unit, the health centre. I think this is a very good article. I have been thinking about this for a long time. I have been thinking about this for a long time.

The only way out for women who become pregnant through lack of knowledge about contraception or failed contraception is abortion.

Feelings against abortion run high in certain quarters. Oddly enough those that feel most strongly against abortion also feel that contraception is wrong. If you pushed these people they'd probably say that sex inside marriage is OK, but outside of marriage it just doesn't bear thinking about. They really think sex is dirty.

The Responsible Society (yes they really are called that!) campaign to prevent the Family Planning Association visiting schools, advertising in magazines and on television. Far from being responsible, their attitude is positively irresponsible.

Many doctors are hostile to abortion. Yet when we get pregnant our entire future rests in their hands. It is because of the indifference and opposition of many doctors that most of us have a picture in our minds of abortion being a very upsetting and painful experience. Yet this trauma and pain is totally

unnecessary. Daycare abortion can provide women with the answer. We are far less likely to experience the guilty feelings that happen to women later on.

There are not many of these centres. They have to be fought for. Like fighting for a better law which gives us the right to choose whether or not to have a child.

We live in a difficult world where, for many reasons, women are terrified at the prospect of having a baby and are equally terrified at the idea of doing anything about it. But thousands of women do decide to have abortions. A woman who wants an abortion faces the whole sham of a heartless and hypocritical society.

Let's fight to make abortions as quick and easy as possible. Pam Denard and Gail Cartmail

*Handwritten note:*  
 Why we need day care

WHILE present conditions and attitudes exist in our society we will continue to need abortions.

Unless the National Health Service makes it easier for women to have abortions, women seeking abortions will continue to face emotional, physical and financial agonies and in some cases, death.

Day Care Centres are one way of making abortions as quick and easy as possible.



Day Care Centres should be attached to existing hospitals so there are back-up services in case of emergency. But these Centres are separate from other wards—unlike the present system where women having abortions are put in the same ward as patients having hysterectomies or suffering from miscarriages. They can make women feel very guilty and unhappy.

A well run Day Care Centre is quick, sympathetic and helpful. The staff don't make any moral judgements but do give support throughout this emotional experience.

Women who know they can get an abortion easily find it easier to make a more considered decision about whether or not to have a child. This can prevent unnecessary abortions. Abortions through daycare are easy and quick, since Family Planning Centres and GPs refer women to the units before the 12th week of pregnancy.

Operating methods are simple. Women are only under the anaesthetic for a short time so recovery is quick. Abortions are made to seem what they are, a very simple minor operation.

Day care units are more likely to have the time and staff to provide effective counselling and post-operative check-ups. Sympathetic counselling is important as many women can feel guilty for years afterwards. Good contraceptive advice is essential.

It is cheaper to provide daycare abortion. It can cost £20-£30—half the cost of full patient care—and release beds for other uses. The cost of setting up a unit is minimal—existing facilities can be converted.

With these advantages, Day Care Centres mean that women would be able to think more seriously and seek advice more easily without fear or moral blackmail.

The National Abortion Campaign has a leaflet explaining how to fight for Day Care Centres. Write to NAC, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 Tel 01 278 0153 Get in touch with your local Community Health Council, they may be sympathetic. In Wandsworth for instance they played a crucial part in getting the Day Care Centre approved.

Marion Upchurch

*Sorry - no kids*

**WOMEN** who have unwanted children have to make great personal sacrifice. To a married woman one more child can mean that cash is short, housing is inadequate, life is stretched to breaking point causing untold misery and depression.

Trying to manage on social security and exist in a world that doesn't cater for unmarried mothers is a nightmare. Many women can't cope and become statistics on the files of social security. How can women cope? Just look at how little money the state provides for family allowances, and supplementary benefit. Council housing is not good enough. There are too few nurseries. And it's impossible to get a decent job with flexible hours.

*Prevention is better than cure*

**TEACH** kids from the cradle about how their bodies function. Tell kids and adults about the realities of life not the fantasies, our bodies should be liked and respected, we should like and respect each other.

**BAN THOSE FILMS THAT PROMOTE WOMEN AS SEX OBJECTS.** Ban all advertising that used women's bodies to promote everything from tyres to cigars.

**IMPROVE** family planning services and methods by having clinics everywhere, open day and night ★ well trained and sympathetic staff ★ staff visiting women at home ★ more research into contraception.

**PAY AND TRAIN** parents ★ fight for the extension of maternity and paternity leave ★ offer group support and information to parents.

*If you are unemployed*

1. Go to your local GP who will refer you to a NHS hospital. Go as soon as possible ie when your period is nearly two weeks late.
2. If your GP won't help, contact any women's centre in the area. They may have a list of sympathetic doctors.
3. If your GP won't help and there's no Woman's Centre, contact The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, or the Pregnancy Advisory Service. They will give you their regional address if you live outside the London area. BPAS 01 222 0985 PAS 01 409 0281 *Move fast.*

*The Unions must act now*

**THE PURPOSE** of trade unions is to get the best pay and conditions for their members—but who are their members?

Since about 1960 trade union membership among men has risen 10%. But in that time the number of women in trade unions has almost doubled.

Although the Equal Pay Act did not do much towards getting equal pay for women, most unions are committed in theory if not in practice to the idea that both men and women have the right to a job.

But look round any industry—women are the ones on the lowest grades—whether it's your sweatshops, factories, hospitals or offices.

What makes the situation even worse is that a woman often has to leave her job when she becomes pregnant and when she eventually returns to work she may have to start on the lowest grade all over again.

If a woman decides to have a baby then her trade union should be concerned to fight for her right to maternity leave and daycare nurseries. And to safeguard her job however long she's away.

If she doesn't want a child then it's essential that good contraception and abortion facilities are easily available. **WE ARE THE UNIONS.** Get your branch to send you and the women you work with to the NAC conference on abortion.

Anne Dobe, NALGO



photo: Syd Shelton

# ORGANISING A CRECHE

THE most important thing about running a creche is if you can't do it well, don't do it. Organise babysitters instead. A creche needs to be safe and interesting for the children who come to it, then parents can rest content in the knowledge that their children are being well cared for.

The best people to run a creche are those who like children and will play games with them and tell stories. So think before insisting that certain people help—a disinterested adult is no use at all.

## The right place

Try and find out well in advance how many children you will have and their ages. Then you can make sure you have the right equipment and enough space. If it's possible, keep sleeping babies away from the more boisterous children - either at different end of a large room, or in separate rooms. Make sure the place is clean and warm. It's much better to use someone's house than a big, draughty church hall.

Babies must be in the same building as parents, so they can feed and change them. The room needs an electric point for boiling kettles, or access to a kitchen. Toddlers can be a short distance away, but not too far in case you need to fetch a parent. Arrange outings to the park, for football and games, to the nearest playground and the zoo.

## Equipment for babies

Sticky plaster to label bottles and food so



they can be kept separate and sterilised. You will also need: • toilet rolls, • clean cloths, • clean towels, • soap, for dirty bums and nappies, • plastic cloth, for changing nappies on • cots - more and more babies arrive in Easyridas, • soft toys, • electric kettle, and washing bowls, if there is no sink or wash basin.

## Equipment for walking infants

Toys: bikes, cars, prams, bricks, dolls books. Materials: paper, crayons, felt pens, sticky paper, glue, boxes for modelling, plasticine, paint. If you are going to organise painting it helps to have aprons or overalls, or ask parents first if they mind paint splashed on their childrens clothes. Powder paints are best, mixed very thick, and kept in jam jars on something that will stop them falling over. Record player or tape recorder

with music, TV, especially on a Saturday. Food: orange juice, biscuits, apples, bread and jam; remember the plastic cups, (yogurt pots will do).

One adult to six children is about right, and rotate the jobs—sleeping babies need to be watched, but it can get very boring.

The more songs you know and stories you can tell, the better. Have a practice: can you remember all the words of the Farmers in the Den, or The Big Ship Sails? Musical chairs and team games will amuse older ones for a long time, and tire them out. Have a quiet break mid morning and mid afternoon, for all the children, with orange juice and biscuits.

Organise your play areas before the children arrive. If you can borrow low tables and chairs it makes painting and drawing easier. Otherwise use the floor. Have crafts in one area, well away from bicycles and running games. Another corner with plenty of cushions or mats for story telling.

Assign each adult to a specific area of the creche at the beginning. Then, as children arrive, there is someone to show them what they can do. Don't leave the children to



wander around themselves, hoping they will just find something to do—it's a strange and possibly overwhelming place for them and they need to be befriended.

As the children arrive make sure they are all marked with their full name (a piece of sticky plaster is best) They get fed up of being addressed as 'you'. Ask parents to leave their names and whereabouts, so you can fetch them if necessary.

## Safety

Once in the creche the children are your responsibility, so no open doors, leaving children to wander away, or open windows that they can fall out of. If the toilet is not easy and safe to get to make sure the children are accompanied. Every now and again check that you have got everyone—if a group go off to the park keep a list of those who have gone. If there is an accident call the parents; they would prefer to know.

Running a creche probably involves as much work if not more, than the meeting or whatever that goes with it. Organise it well and everyone, the children and their parents will appreciate it.

Nikki Mellor



Choose someone who  
likes children .....

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**DID** you know that 18 babies per thousand died last year in Britain? That is one of the worst rates of mortality in the western world. 'The child that dies is a tragedy, but he's dead, he's gone; but the child that survives that should have died, he's a disaster.' A doctor speaking. 36,000 children survived as severely handicapped (spastics) in Britain in 1977 — twice as many as in Sweden. Why? What has happened to Britain since 1950, when we led the world in medical care?

Cerebral palsy affects more than two in every thousand babies. The exact cause is unknown but there are many situations in which the baby is at great risk of being handicapped. These include babies which are very small at birth (either because they were born early or haven't been able to grow properly in the womb) babies who are deprived of oxygen during the first minutes of life, babies who have been affected by infection in the mother or in the babies themselves.

The damage varies from only slight to being so bad that normal life is impossible for the child and the family. The child with cerebral palsy is unable to move normally because parts of the brain have been damaged. The child can't walk or run, will never play games, may never be able to use a toilet without help and may also be deaf, blind or mentally retarded. Thousands of these children have no other home but a long-stay institution where it is impossible to stimulate them and they stagnate for years. This child carries a permanent burden of anguish and misery for himself and his family. Many parents feel guilty and wonder what they have done wrong. But the terrible truth is that if our present knowledge were applied equally and completely to the care of all pregnant women and babies in the first week of life, 2 or 3 of the 6 spastic children born in this country every day, could be healthy.

And it is working class women and their babies who suffer most. The working class woman is more likely to have a handicapped baby than her middle class sister, and the single woman, often living below the official poverty line, suffers the worst rates of all. But it has been known for years that proper ante-natal care can reduce the number of small babies and that adequate resuscitation facilities in every maternity hospital could reduce the number of babies who suffer from oxygen deprivation in those first vital minutes.

## WOMENS HEALTH

### Fit for the future?

So why hasn't it happened?

To find the answer we have to look at Government policies and Mr David Ennals, Minister for Health and the man currently responsible for our National Health Service, for which we pay those weekly contributions. What is *his* priority of priorities? Is it the peri-natal (that's during pregnancy and the first week of life) care of mother and baby? Is it educating expectant mums to know what's best for them, buying up-to-date equipment for maternity units and providing follow-up home visiting? Not according to the latest White Paper on the Health Service. The less highly paid civil servants who wrote this document think that the single most important aspect of running the Health Service is 'cost-effectiveness', and in terms of 'cost-effectiveness' the maternity service is already on 'too generous a budget'. To anyone who has known a handicapped child or the misery of a dead baby, or even has only taken note of the current campaign being run by the Spastics Society, these words are horrifying.

Just what does the Government mean by 'cost-effectiveness', anyway? 'Cost-effectiveness' means that the number of home-visiting midwives in this country has been cut by half, and face further cuts; that 'rationalisation' is closing 13 hospitals in central London alone; that extra money is not available for maternity units to buy life-saving machines. The government says these services are 'not economical'. Yet to support one spastic child through his short life will cost the state £200,000. 36,000 times £200,000 equals 'cost-effectiveness'!

It is 'cost-effectiveness' which accounts for the fact that in the city of Liverpool there is precisely one ante-natal clinic. Yet it is an established fact that mothers who do not

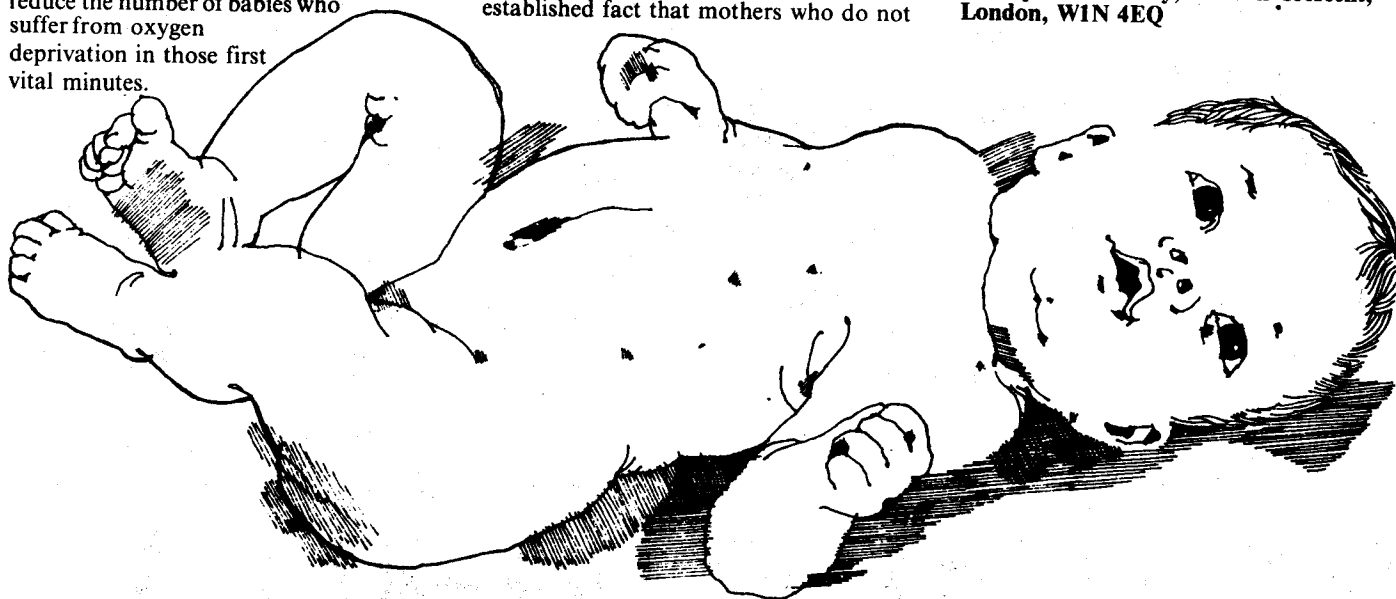
attend an ante-natal clinic in the first 16 weeks of pregnancy are five times more likely to have a handicapped child. It is 'cost-effectiveness' which keeps that clinic open only during working hours, so that working mums are hardly able to attend. Yet handicapped kids are twice as common among working-class families. It is 'cost-effectiveness' which has slashed the midwife service, often the only source of medical advice in deprived urban areas. Yet it is in these areas that six children in every 100 are born handicapped.

And it is good old 'cost-effectiveness' which keeps the Department of Health waiting for the next report—and the next—and the next before allocating money for maternal intensive care units, though scientific research for 20 years past has shown that care in the first five or ten minutes of life can be more vital than in the next 30. It is care before, during and directly after birth which accounts for 70 per cent of spastic babies. 25,200 babies born last year need never have been handicapped at all.

'Cost-effectiveness'! What of the human cost? Forget the fact that the money the Health Service needs is peanuts compared to Concorde. Never mind that other countries like France, by investing more money in their maternity service, have in the last ten years, lowered the infant mortality rate from 25 per cent above to 25 per cent below ours. Forget all the wonky arithmetic—what about the mothers and babies? Mothers who literally don't sleep for years on end, little brothers and sisters who run away from home because they can't stand it any longer, marriages which crack under the strain of supporting a baby which sleeps 24 hours a day and is fed through a tube—what about them? Children whom a simple oxygen-monitoring machine could have saved in the first week of life, who now can never run or play or sing, who can never ever be naughty, who express themselves in their frustration by 'screaming attacks of rage', or 'only by grunts, or maybe only by rocking, if at all'. Who stole their childhood, Mr Ennals?

Victoria Nedmark

We would like to thank The Spastics Society for much of the information in the article. For petitions and information about their campaign contact 'Save a Baby' Campaign. The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, WIN 4EQ





# IGNORED BUT STILL FIGHTING

I WAS one of a family of five girls and one boy. My father was a joiner, he died when I was nine.

But I was protected from the harsher realities of working class family survival by the education system—despite our poverty it allowed me to go to grammar school and university.

Instead of being conscious of being a part of the Northern Irish working class, I was more aware of being part of the Catholic minority.

When the Civil Rights movement began in 1968 I was not really political, or even sure why I got involved in the first march.

Through activity on the streets I began to learn political lessons. I saw the behaviour of the police.

Till then, I had looked on a policeman as someone to help you, but I learned very quickly what the police were really about. The law, the courts, the newspapers..... they're not impartial at all, their interests are *against* those of working people.

It was through the struggles of ten years ago that I first became a socialist.

In 1969 I was elected to parliament. I got in on a coalition ticket.

The coalition put me forward because they thought I'd be a 'good sell'. I was young—21—female, educated, 'controllable'.

But I *wouldn't* behave as a

young lady should.

They kept urging me to join bridge and golf clubs. Instead I mixed with international socialists and punched Enoch Powell.

I was no longer attractive to the middle class Irish. I was a disgrace. They decided to get rid of me.

At the next election I stood on a ticket of revolutionary socialism. They put a 'Catholic

Democrat' up against me, split the Catholic vote and let the Unionist in.

The fact that I was a revolutionary, that the middle class Irish had disowned never made the papers. The Press wouldn't print that....it might make people think: 'Why has she become a revolutionary?'

So they used my marriage and my motherhood instead.

*'There goes Bernadette*

*Devlin. Came into Parliament a radical female, but got old and wise and married, and grew out of it all.'*

A woman journalist came to my house. That was the final straw. For a whole hour she took notes as I told her my political beliefs and why things were the way they were.

I opened the papers on Sunday and read about what my furniture cost, what colour my curtains were and even the cost of the kids' toys under the chair.

That was when I stopped talking to the Press.

But the *real* Bernadette never dropped out. I never stopped working as a socialist in Ireland.

In my own mind I had progressed. From being an individual radical, I had progressed to being a member of a revolutionary organisation, became more level headed. I am now a member of the Independent Socialist Party. Yet I never *really* understood women's oppression until I started bringing up kids.


Up till then most feminists I'd met were middle class professional women. What they said made sense, but there seemed a hundred more urgent problems—like kids getting tortured and shot.

But in 1973 I had sorted out my own politics and had become part of the community through raising a family. *Then I*



Photo: Chris Davies (Report)

# RAPE PROFIT AND PLUNDER



700 YEARS OF BRITISH RULE

BRITAIN first invaded Ireland in 1170. The Earl of Pembroke, Strongbow, lays claim to Ireland by taking as his wife an Irish woman, Eva.

In the early seventeenth century James I plants the north east of Ireland with 150,000 Presbyterian Scots.

1649 Oliver Cromwell breaks up the clan system. With each new massacre he seeks God's blessings and gives thanks for each new act of genocide.

began to understand how women are kept down.

And there's a lot of women activists in Northern Ireland who only started seeing themselves as women, organising themselves as women when internment started and their men went to prison.

When the British Government took away the right of prisoners to political status, labelling them criminals, the women of West Belfast organised to fight for the restoration of that political status.

They called themselves the Relatives Action Committee.

These women have become fighters...any one of their stories will do to show the change.

Mary Nellis from Derry started out a supporter of the SDLP backing John Hume for parliament and content to let him and 'The Bhoys' see to it all.

Then one of her sons was imprisoned. Many of the young kids get involved with the Provos...you take sides when the troops kick you around.



photo: Syd Shelton

That was when Mary found out that John Hume and the nice respectable SDLP just didn't care. Yes, they'd have her vote, but as far as her son was concerned:

*'If he's in prison, he must be either a criminal or a terrorist.'*

Like many mothers, wives, sisters and daughters, Mary went out to fight for her own. She got other mothers and

wives around her and went and banged on the councillors' doors and disrupted their meetings until at last the city fathers listened. These wives and mothers couldn't have spoken to five people three years ago. Now they speak to five thousand.

They organise demos, marches, meetings, tours. They are a political force in the land

July 1 1690 William of Orange routs the Catholic James II at the Battle of the Boyne.

He introduces Penal Laws aimed at the destruction of the Catholic influence in Irish society.

1798 The United Irish uprising. The French fleet fails to arrive in time to aid the revolt. The nationalist leader Wolf Tone, a Protestant, is captured and commits suicide.

1916 Nationalists like Padraic Pearse and socialists like James Connolly combine in the Irish Citizen Army's uprising. It is smashed by a massive artillery bombardment by the British. The leaders of the rebellion are executed.

1918 The nationalist party, Sinn Fein, wins an overwhelming victory in the General Election.

1921 Britain allows Irish independence in 26 of the 32 counties to hang on to the industrial wealth of Belfast.

1922-3 Many Sinn Fein leaders accept the 26-county compromise. In a bitter Civil War they get British help in defeating the Republicans who continue to demand a United 32-county Ireland.

In the next few years the Northern Irish state is only established through massive violence against the minority nationalist population.

1968 The Civil Rights movement demands an end to discrimination in housing and jobs and 'one man, one vote.'

October 5, 1968 A Civil Rights march in Derry is batoned down by the police.

August 1969 The Siege of Derry. Eight Catholics are killed and several hundred houses are burnt out. The British Army is brought in. In his biography Jim Callaghan, the then Home Secretary, says it is to protect business.

August 1971 Internment. Hundreds of Republicans are seized in dawn raids and held without trial.

January 30, 1972 British paratroops open fire on a Civil Rights march in Derry, killing thirteen people.

March 1972 The Unionist regime at Stormont is replaced by Direct Rule from Westminster.

1974 Britain attempts to co-opt middle class Catholic politicians into a 'power sharing government. It is smashed by a Loyalist strike, led by the Ulster Workers Council.

1978 Ten years after the rebirth of the struggle for a United Ireland the fight is still going strong. Sections of British ruling class opinion begin to question whether it is not time to get out. The Daily Mirror and Liberal deputy leader John Pardoe call for Troops Out.

and they have given people hope.

Different groups now work together for political status for prisoners. That's an important unity, for it gives people confidence that something can be built and won.

The Relatives Action Committee is independent. Of course it's close to the Provisionals, but *they* are nearly all male and elitist.

The women can—and do—tell the Provos to wise up and the Sinn Fein can't threaten to kneecap a hard-headed woman...she'd belt him around the ears!

The women of the Relatives Action Committee face another problem—when their men come out of prison they often expect the women to shrink back into the kitchen.

But that won't happen anymore. These women, who wouldn't call themselves feminists and who are fighting the British Government are not going back to the sink. They will never be walked over again.

Interview: Christina Potrykus





## ESL womens teaching collective

WE are a group of women, most of whom have experience and/or qualifications in the teaching of English as a second or foreign language. (ESL caters for people who live here and intend to make their homes here; EFL is for people who want to use English for other than 'survival' purposes, such as for business, in their countries of origin.) We are interested in the ESL teaching side.

Our aim is to set up a centre in London where women who do not speak English as their first language can learn it in a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere. We will provide English lessons, and a place where women can meet, bring their children, talk together and support each other. The centre will always have women available to talk, give advice, and provide creche facilities, as well as 'formal' lessons.

This arrangement will have two main advantages: it will bring together women of different races and cultures and help to break down the barriers that exist between the different communities. Secondly, having to use English as the common language people will learn more quickly. We are not trying to set up a language school or to duplicate existing facilities.

We want to be involved in teaching and learning from each other, as well as providing mutual support against sexist, racist and class oppression. The teaching materials we intend to develop will reflect the above aims and will not as now slap us in the face because of their insulting content.

We have been meeting since 7th September and things are at the planning stage. We have a lot more people to see and information and money to obtain. We would like to hear your comments on this statement of intent, and help, advice or support would be welcome. Please contact: **Polly or Mary 01 485 3828 (eve) Melanie 01 278 8702 (eve) Julienne 01 499 2051 (day) Fiona 01 221 1310 (any time)**

# Women in art 'crouching, old, nude and virgins'



*Above: Self Portrait by Suzanne Valadon. A strong-willed woman who kept a goat in her studio 'to eat my bad drawings' and who wore a corsage of carrots around Paris.*

*Top left: The Bath by Mary Cassat. So real you can feel the wetness of the water and the mother's arm round the waist.*

WOMEN artists. 'There aren't any. You see they use up their creative urge having babies. That's why only men are artists.' That's how the male lecturer of my art history class explained the lack of women artists in his course 15 years ago.

Two women, Karen Petersen and J. J. Wilson, have now written a book which smashes that idea right on its head.

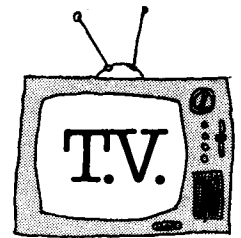
Before I saw the book I was worried that it might be the scraping of the barrel, second-rate sketches and pain-

tings dragged out of the closet to prove what these women wanted to believe. If there *were* such good women artists surely we would have heard of them?

I needn't have worried.

The authors explain why women artists are so unknown. Some painted so well that their names were scratched off.

Their paintings were credited to famous men and sold for more money by greedy art dealers. Judith Leyster (her name means 'pole star') signed her work with a special mark like a star.



HERE we sat in Gloucestershire, glued to the TV screen, not because we were watching an interesting programme, but because we could hardly believe our eyes and ears.

A local 'gentleman' (in fact a county planning officer) was trying to tell us what women were like in Gloucestershire. Most of the presentation was so crude as to be positively Victorian and even laughable. That's so long as you aren't a woman, of course!

The programme was in the BBC's 'Open Door' series, where the 'public' is given a chance to do its own productions. One could argue that it was on late at night. Even so, many thousands must have been exposed to its obnoxious view of women.

It all began with the ardent plea that we should all recognise the biological differences in the sexes. Quotes came from a medical doctor (a man) to give the programme scientific respectability. His main point was that men are more suited for certain physical tasks than women. Funny that this wisdom is always shelved in wartime, when women do all sorts of tasks. Clearly, this doctor was mouthing just one more justification to keep women in their place. We were soon left in no doubt as to where this was.

Then came accusations that the mass media are now totally controlled by the voice of Women's Liberation. Apparently the media promotes it at every turn. What rubbish. The media incessantly sneer at us. How many women *control* production teams in the BBC or ITV? Which women edit the daily newspapers?

Again, we were treated to the idea that women are naturally better than men in cooking, typing and languages. Evidence? Facts? not on your life. Time and again, opinions were given by Mr. David Stait and his lap-dogs and simply called facts! If more women type than men we know that they have been forced into the menial chores that require them to type. 'Natural' abilities don't

come into it.

Feminine, said the women in the show, is what they feel, what they want, and what we want. Why should they be prevented from having such lovely feelings, they cried, by these hordes of women's libbers? If their idea of being feminine is being soft, simpering, and a slave to fashion, then they obviously speak from a privileged position.

On similar lines a 'professional' woman, feeling and looking very 'feminine', attacked the women in NALGO who complained and succeeded in getting the 'Prettiest Girl Competition' removed from the union journal.

We were informed that sportswomen in the 'physical' events are not feminine. The programme sneered at Russian female athletes being built like men so that 'you couldn't tell the difference'.

Why shouldn't women, if they want, participate in sports requiring strength?

If anything, one felt amidst the anger a certain sympathy for the women in the programme. They really looked foolish. Isn't it pathetic that such women, to show how feminine and submissive they can be, allowed Mr. Stait to present their case for them.

Women who feel differently certainly do not need males to represent their arguments.

Oh, by the way, Mr. Stait had seemingly advertised in the local paper for women to appear on 'his show'. Interesting that one of the programme's three women happened to be called Stait! Looks like the response was scarcely overwhelming.

**Margaret Cowen**

the fraud was discovered, and in the end we can credit her with her portraits bubbling over with life.

In medieval times the craft guilds would not allow women artists to continue work. Even in the textile industry, women were forced out. They remained only in the lace-making industry — men couldn't do the delicate work.

During this time women were slaves in parts of Europe. Only a handful of wealthy girls were educated.

Art history books make almost no mention of women. 'The Nude' by Kenneth Clark lists no women artists at all. The index reads: 'Women: condemnation of, crouching, old, nudes of, statues of, as Virgin.'

The authors of this book discovered by chance that if they looked at books about famous men artists, there was usually a woman artist in the family—a sister, mother, wife. And that's how they painstakingly collected their information.

This book is not an arty-farty one filled with technical terms. It is their attempt to recapture our history which has been ignored over the years.

The book has everything. From the fresh wit of the 13th century nun Claricia painting herself swinging from the letter Q in the holy book she illustrated. To the terribly haunted and frightening charcoal sketch of 'Death Snatching a Child' by Kathe Kollwitz.

The book doesn't lavish praise. It matter-of-factly sets down some women artists, the difficulties they faced getting work and recognition, and some of their products. It makes you proud to see it.

**Jenny Jackson**

**Women Artists, Karen Petersen and J J Wilson, The Women's Press Ltd, £3.95.**



*Above: The Old Woman by Francois Duparc. One of only four paintings which still exist by this artist. How I wish to see more. Such understanding and quiet respect for the peasant woman.*



*Above: Death Snatching a Child by Kathe Kollwitz. Her son was killed in the first weeks of World War I.*

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# YOUR VOICE

## Iresigned

*Dear Womens Voice*  
THIS summer I left my job as an assistant matron in an old people's home. I left even though I enjoyed this kind of work, because of the dreadful working conditions. I read the article written by the nurse who gave up her job in the September Womens Voice and I know how hard nurses work because I have two friends who are nurses. Workers in old people's homes are also exploited and underpaid by their employers, the local authorities.

My working week was meant to be 40 hours with two free days off a week and one weekend in three off. In practice I rarely worked less than 50 hours, sometimes I worked 60 hours without any extra pay or time off later. Sometimes I only had one day off a week and between Christmas and May I had one weekend off. I had to work every Bank Holiday without extra pay. My pay was £34.50 a week after deductions. Most of the time I was left responsible for 40 very old and very sick people, many needing constant supervision, drugs and other medical care. I had had no nursing experience or qualifications. One day an old man had a stroke and it was two days before I realised what had happened and called the doctor. He died a few days later. Old people were left alone for hours sometimes, imprisoned in toilets, lying in wet beds, sitting alone in their rooms because we were so short-staffed we just couldn't cope. One day we were so short-staffed that I had to cook all the meals, do half the cleaning, take the old people to the toilet and put them all to bed as well as doing my own job.

None of the workers at the home (all of us were women) belonged to a union, some of them had done once but felt that the union had done nothing for them (which was probably true

with a male-dominated middle-class union like NALGO). All the women seemed to accept their position and actually felt guilty about having time off sick or to go on holiday as this increased the burden on their sisters.

Now I feel guilty about leaving because I left without really trying to change things whilst others who cannot leave so easily because of their families and homes are left to carry on in the same way.

*Chris Harris  
Acton*

## Iresigned myself to staying on

*Dear Womens Voice*  
I WAS a little disturbed by your article written by a Bristol reader in your September issue.

As a health worker myself I can appreciate her concern over her workload which necessarily reflects on the quality of nursing care which she could provide.

However, I do not accept her action in leaving the nursing profession. Surely a nurse with her sensitivity should stay within the health service and fight for the standards which she desires. She could involve herself in union activity to this end and without seeming to appear too reformist surely she could aim to climb the nursing administrative hierarchy to put her ideas and values into practice.

I personally would not opt out of the NHS. I would fight for what I believed until I was utterly beaten. (The person who took my place might be a reactionary).

*Jane Forbes  
London SE1*

*Send your letters to Womens Voice, Box 82, London E2*

## Self help for period pain

*Dear Womens Voice,*  
I'M writing this letter from France where I'm grape-picking. I bought the September Womens Voice at the Anti Nazi carnival before I came here, and I've just read the article on periods. I think it leaves out quite a bit.

Money and research may not necessarily find the solution to painful periods. I don't have bad periods myself, but I think there are self-help methods which can be helpful in alleviating pain. Herbal teas, especially raspberry and pennyroyal are reputed to help. And back massage by a friend definitely relieves pain and tension.

I think that an article in Womens Voice describing how to do massage for period pains, including suggestions and feedback from readers, would be very useful.

*In sisterhood  
Maggie Young  
Beziers  
France*

## Mixed groups-the way forward?

*Dear Womens Voice,*  
I AM not active in any particular women's group but I do consider myself a liberated woman and I often wish that I could join a group that was active on women's rights, human rights, and self-realisation by people of what it means to be a thinking

respected human being. I am not a radical feminist, I guess because I took opposition to one (only one, mind you) belief put forth in Issue 8 of 'Scarlet Woman'. This is the article which implies that men are not oppressed, only the oppressors.

I am not a lesbian, so I do not want a group which spends a great deal of time concerned with gay rights and gay emotions as opposed to all women's rights and heterosexual emotions. Most importantly I do not want a group solely composed of women.

I feel the women's movement has been together long enough to start branching out and operating heterosexual groups for women who no longer need women only consciousness raising groups. I am interested in working with men in an effort to allow both sexes to discuss male/female roles, conditioning, respect for each other, and solutions to problems created between the sexes.

I am sure there are many liberated women, both homosexual and heterosexual and quite a few homo and heterosexual men who agree with me. Are there any active groups, or is anyone interested in forming one? I do think it's the next stage along in women's and men's liberation.

*Martha J. King  
Lambeth*

*\* If you would like to get in touch with Martha write to Womens Voice and we'll pass your letters on.*

## Flowing locks

*Dear Womens Voice,*  
I REALLY liked the October cover, at first glance: 'I want to be an engineer'. But have you ever seen photos of people who've been pulled through moving machinery by their



# Help

long, flowing locks? Long hair should always be tied back when using potentially dangerous machinery.

Judith Hamilton,  
East London

## From the editor of the Baby Book

Dear Womens Voice

I AM one of the women personally attacked by Judith Condon (Womens World, Womens Voice, October 1978) so I'd like the right of reply.

The Good Housekeeping Baby Book Judith Condon borrowed was the 1969 version, subsequently updated, which has been replaced by the completely rewritten 1977 edition with myself as sole author. Responsible journalism involves checking one's facts. A telephone call would have established that the book was not the current one that your readers were misled into believing it was. Judith Condon must have been very anxious to make her point to have neglected this elementary duty.

The earlier edition consisted of a series of articles by Dr Jane Vosper put together, with linking material, by myself. Later revisions mainly involved the substitution of new information about infant feeding, DHSS entitlements, changes of address, etc. (Incidentally, the mother-and-child illustrations Womens Voice lifted from the old edition could have been matched, even in that edition, by similar ones showing father-and-child.)

It was because of the outdated content and style of the 1969 book that the new one was written in 1977, and I should have welcomed a constructive review of this, rather than a retrospective swipe at the old book, now out of print. Had Judith Condon's library provided her with my 1977 book, she would have read nothing resembling the passages she criticises. There are sections on sex-stereotyping, single parents, parental role-reversal, paternity leave, both parents working outside the home, etc.. The new book is clearly addressed to 'parents' rather than 'mothers' (except of course where exclusively female physiological functions are referred to). And I tackle the

difficult question of pronouns by apologising in advance for using 'he'. I could have tried positive discrimination here: I did consider it.

As a lifelong feminist, of course I have developed my consciousness in the last few years by being active in the women's movement. I hope this has been evident in my work as an editor, writer and journalist—within the limits set by the fact that I don't believe I have the right to impose my own views on my readership.

How many of us now in the women's movement wouldn't criticise today the sort of things we were writing or saying ten years ago? But should we, as Judith Condon suggests, be 'ashamed of ourselves' for our erstwhile 'thoroughgoing and unconscious prejudice'? Can we be ashamed of something that's unconscious, anyway?

Attacks on women for being less 'conscious' than ourselves show little understanding of the enormous pressures of the conditioning we are trying to overcome. So I'm not ashamed of my 10-years-ago self for not having been sufficiently aware then to eliminate mistakes and unconscious prejudices. I'm not even ashamed of the mistakes I'm probably making today. I'll just go on learning, trying not to make them, and thanks to the women's movement it's a lot easier than it was.

Not only am I not ashamed, but I believe that the hurling of moral judgments at women with whom we disagree can only alienate people and harm the women's movement.

A self-righteous 'more conscious than thou' attitude can never do us any good.  
Yours sincerely,  
Jean Shapiro

Judith Condon replies:

Why so prickly? I'm ashamed of things I've done in the past, and it seems to me, though she doesn't like the particular word, that Jean Shapiro is too.

My article wasn't a review, and I certainly didn't set out to mislead anyone. The edition I borrowed bore the words 'fourteenth (Revised) edition 1974', and it was this date I gave. Jean's own forward to the 1974 edition states 'Then, for the early 1970s, a completely new book was written. This too has since been revised; and now comes the latest edition, containing major revisions, and with additional material produced by Good Housekeeping's Family Centre doctor and the editor, in line

## Holiday offer

Dear Womens Voice

I READ the letters on single parents and holidays and know from past experience the problems involved.

I'd be happy to have a single parent and one or two children to stay. We live in a beautiful and isolated part of Scotland near the sea, and with plenty of space for children to run and play. We have an assortment of animals, baby and otherwise, including riding ponies.

Anyone interested in the country and animals would be welcome. The only snags are that we're very far north (could possibly hitch) vegetarian, and we do run a big sheep farm. So we have little time for leisure, and would expect help with household chores and possibly on farm (not to the exclusion of excursions etc.) In return we would need only minimal payment.

Pam Shaw.

\* If you would like to get in touch with Pam write to Womens Voice and we'll pass your letters on.

with current research and methods in the ever-changing field of baby and child care. We feel that mothers—and especially new mothers—still need a Baby Book ... So we make no apology for presenting this updated version of an old standby.' That's the book that was still making money for its producers in 1974, and those are Jean's own words in her signed forward. So trying to make out it all happened in the dim and distant days of 1969 just won't wash.

In any case, it will not surprise anyone to know that local libraries do not rush out to renew their books every year, much as professional writers and publishers may wish they did.

I didn't once use any labels like 'sexist' or 'male-chauvinist' in my article, or make any blanket condemnations such as often appear in feminist comment on baby books. Instead I attempted to point out, hopefully, in a sharp and humorous way, the particular instances where the baby in the book changed into a girl—in almost every instance where some item of physical blemish was concerned, with the exception of the occasion she was called upon to hand cakes to the guests.

I hoped, by letting quotations from the book speak for themselves, to show how utterly ludicrous and absurd such bias is, when held up to the light of day. Jean may not have found it very funny (though that doesn't amount to a personal attack).

But there must be hundreds of other people who bought that

book, and who will go on borrowing it from public libraries and following its advice, without ever being aware of its bias.

That's a responsibility writers, especially professional advice-givers like Jean, have to bear—for all they may claim not to be 'imposing' their view on their readers.

I'm really glad the book has been rewritten. We all learn from one another. As Jean says, it took a movement to teach us the true value of that fact.

## Placards help sell

Dear Womens Voice

I THOUGHT the article about selling Womens Voice was very useful. I'd like to add something that we tried here in Reading.

We sell Womens Voice once a month in the town centre on a Saturday. There were a couple of months during the summer when we didn't sell any. Needless to say this was rather demoralising.

We thought this might be because it's not immediately obvious what kind of women's magazine Womens Voice is, so we got a large placard with Womens Voice at the top and about four headlines from the magazine. Nearly everyone who went past looked at the placard and we sold seven the first time and ten this month. Lots of love  
Colleen Ridgeway  
Reading

more over page

## Keep it off the floor

Harman speaker stands keep your speakers safe but that's not why we make them

Bass colouration from resonances in your building structure can rob you of the sound quality you've paid for.

Harman speaker stands isolate the enclosure, keep your speakers safer and make cleaning easier.

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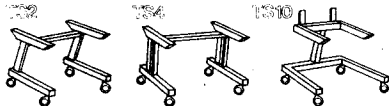
Overall height (including castors) 9 25/32"

TS10 Base 14 5/8" wide x 12" deep

Speaker platform 14 5/8" wide x 12" deep

Overall height (including castors) 10"

harman u.k. St. Johns Road, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP10 8HR Telephone: Penn (049 481) 5221



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# POINTS

## Reply on rape

**Dear Sisters**  
SOCIALISTS should stop condoning rape. Rapists should be kept under restraint, not as a punishment, not as a cure, but to protect girls and women. Why more sympathy for rapists than for Nazis? These are also the product of the social system.

If any revolutionaries think they are going to achieve a revolution without imprisoning offenders, then they have another think coming. I have been a socialist for sixty years, and know that revolution is not a quiet chat.

Some Tories are also

demanding longer sentences for rape. Some are also in the Anti Nazi League. I am not getting off any bus because some Tories happen to be on it.

My answers to the questions in Jenny Austin's letter are: 1) and 2) Longer sentences would be a deterrent. Most cases of rape are premeditated and planned.

3) and 4) The *real* cause of more lenient treatment is that, in a patriarchal society, women are regarded as existing for men's use. Jenny gives the answer herself later in her letter.

5) Rapists should held prisoner for as long as they are a danger. While people continue to talk nicely to rapists and Nazis a lot more people are going to be raped and assaulted.

*Yours in the fight*  
Kathleen Jones  
Shrewsbury

## Hi-Fi chauvinism

**Dear Sisters**

I COULDN'T resist sending in this ad which I found in a hi-fi magazine. Obviously women aren't supposed to appreciate Hi-fi, just clean it. Sad but typical.

Jenny

P.S. Come to think of it, I've *never* seen a woman hi-fi expert in a shop. Do women never apply for the jobs or would it be a case of 'Sorry love, but we're looking for someone who understands hi-fi, you may know how to clean it but that's not the point..'

note signed by a respected member of the community should be sufficient. Or if you prefer you can change your name by statutory declaration or by deed poll but both will involve a solicitor and cost. If you have children and you wish to change their names as well then you will have a lot more difficulty unless your husband agrees. If he doesn't then you will have to take the matter to court.

Don't give up if you have difficulties with officials over changing your name its your legal right! The NCCL have produced a pamphlet called 'What's In a Name,' It costs 35p and is available from NCCL 186, Kings Cross Road London W.C.1.

## Changing your name Teachers and maternity leave

**Dear Womens Voice**

I've just got divorced and I want to stop using my husband's name. What do I do to stop using it? Is it likely to cause me any trouble.

Joan Partridge

**Dear Joan**

If you want to change your name and start to use your maiden name then in law you can do so. Your birth certificate can be used as proof that you are who you say you are and English law takes common usage as its yardstick to determine what a person's legal name is. If you do get asked for proof then a

**Dear Womens Voice**

Can you tell me whether unmarried women teachers are legally entitled to maternity leave?

I was surprised when the woman headteacher was forced to resign last summer.

Do you have to be married to keep your job and get maternity benefit. My contract

says it is 'at the discretion of the education authority'.

Susan Peters

**Dear Susan**

As maternity leave agreements are negotiated locally the conditions do vary from area to area. Most teachers either choose their local agreement or the national one but the best thing is to fight for the best of both.

Under the Employment Protection Act all women who have been working full time for the same employer for two years have a right to both maternity leave and pay *whether they are married or not*.

The headteacher could have chosen to fight her case as unfair dismissal but very often a lot of moral pressure and unpleasant publicity puts people off fighting.

The teachers who are most at risk are those who are part-time or who have not worked for the same employer for two years because they are not covered by the Employment Protection Act. They can therefore lose their job because of being pregnant but not because of being unmarried.

Newham Rank and File Teachers have published a very good pamphlet on maternity leave which might help further. It is available from 60 Meath Road, London E15. 15p + postage.

Alison Kirton

# ANSWERED

## The story of Eric, the boy who invented Miss World.

ONCE upon a time there was a land plagued by wicked feminists. One, day, they were to be seen dancing naked, in the dark woods, rejoicing and making merry as they practised their Bachanalian rites.

"What has made the nasty feminists so happy?" asked the good fairy, returning from her mission.

"Why poor Eric, the Boy who Invented Miss World, has been sacked," replied the fairy godmother, solemnly.

"This cannot be!" cried the good fairy, tears welling up in her soft, sad, eyes. "Poor, kind Eric, what will become of him?"

"Fear not, my child," said the wise old godmother. "Eric has not been turned from the door empty-handed. To help him on his journey he has been granted the magic golden handshake, worth £200,000. And every year, for as long as he shall live, he shall receive a pension of £23,000 in golden sovereigns."

"But who will take Eric's place in the golden ceremony?" sobbed the fairy. "Who will read the sacred list of Miss World winners every Autumn when the leaves have fallen? Who will know the magic reverse order?"

"Ah, my child, the wonderful Mecca have made provision for everything," explained the fairy godmother, smiling. "Even as the leaves are falling, Eric shall return for the golden ceremony. For this he shall receive a further 25,000 golden pounds. The sweet and lovely Julia shall remain by his side. No one shall ever take their place."

So it came about, the next day when the sun was shining and little birds were chirping from every tree, Eric, the Boy who Invented Miss World, set out on the busy road to Brighton Town.

For there was to be a large gathering of the Torypeople in Brighton that very same week, and Eric wanted to pay homage to the fairy queen. For she was a creature bold and rare, with hair of spun silver and gold, and the words that fell from her lips were like nectar to Torypeople across the land.

Nervously Eric waited for the moment when he would be called to speak. For the Torypeople were a refined, discriminating audience, far removed from the common folk who came to cast their bets in Eric's humble bingo halls. Nor did they patronise his lowly high-street betting shops. For the moment, Eric almost forgot that he was the boy who invented Miss World, the receiver of the magic golden handshake and the pension of 23,000 golden sovereigns.

All at once, his name was called; and bravely he took his place before the dazzling fairy lights.

"I come," he began in his clear, unpolished voice, "from the university of hard knocks. I have just received my Ph.D." And a murmur filled the hall as the Tory people responded to his magic wit.

"Once I was a poor boy", he went on, "from the East End of



London.' And a shiver went down the spine of every fairy delegate.

"Then I joined the army," he continued, warming to his subject. "The soldiers were very unhappy, for there was nowhere they could get an early morning cuppa. I pondered and I wondered but I could not find the solution. That night the fairy queen came to me in a dream. 'Go, young Eric!' she whispered in her irresistible husky voice. 'Climb the hill on the edge of Capital City, where I have left hidden for you a tea urn, and from this day forward you shall never want for a sharp idea.'

"And so it was that I, Eric, the poor boy soldier, began selling my mates the tea they so sorely longed for. And before long, I had six urns, and six men working for me."

At these words, the Torypeople rose in rapturous wonderment. For this was a story they loved to hear.

"Well done, Well Done Eric, the Boy who Invented Miss World!" they cheered. And even the fairy queen herself was seen to smile.

The years passed, and the Tory people grew in strength, but the fairy queen never forgot our hero Eric, and his urn.

One morning, among the envelopes bringing him his magic interest from the golden handshake, there came another letter, all swathed in fairy glitter.

Eric, the Boy who Invented Miss World, was summoned to attend on the fairy queen in her lovely palace.

"You have served me well, Eric," she began, as he kneeled before her, wondering what was to happen next. "Truly, you learned the fairy lesson, even though you came as a poor boy from the East End of London." And a shiver went down the spine of every fairy minister.



"You learned to notice when the commonfolk are deprived. Coming from among them, as you did, you knew how to exploit them. You not only sold them what they wanted, you sold them what they didn't want. You took from them their places of entertainment and sold them back again at high cost. Above all, in your betting shops and bingo halls you made them, men and women alike, believe in the fairy laws. Each one of us can climb to the top of the fairy tree if only we are in the right place at the right time, always providing some other fairy with bigger boots isn't up in front of us. Most of all, you will be remembered long after the wicked feminists have been driven from the land, as Eric the Boy who Invented Miss World. Arise. Sir Eric!"

And they all lived very happily after.



# Socials

## ● Fleet Street Womens Voice presents 'Take It Like a Man, Ma'am!'

Film and Christmas Social  
Wednesday 13 December.  
Film starts 6.45pm. Food,  
late licence to midnight.  
Metropolitan pub,  
Farringdon Street.  
Tickets £1.50 available  
from Maggie 822 3780

● **Newham Womens Voice. Bop with Mike Carver and Disco.**  
November 10th, Friday at  
8.00pm-12.00pm.  
Central Hotel, 150,  
Barking Road, E6. Bar  
extension till 12.00pm.  
Tickets £1.50p students  
or unemployed.

● **Glasgow Womens Voice and Sidewalk Theatre Company present 'How The Vote Was Won'**  
3 funny one-act, original  
Edwardian plays about  
suffragettes. Thursday  
16th November 7.30pm.  
McLellan Galleries,  
Sauchiehall St.  
Everyone Welcome  
Tickets 50p

● **Wolverhampton Women's Voice presents Beryl and the Perils in 'Is Dennis really the Menace?'** 7.30, Thursday  
9 November, The Vine,  
Stafford Street,  
Wolverhampton. Creche.  
Tickets available at the  
door at £1, 50p  
unemployed and  
students.  
Followed by Reclaim the  
Night demonstration and a  
feminist band, playing in  
the Poly, Everyone  
welcome.

● **Hackney Womens Voice. Meeting Monday 6th November, Dalston Library Dalston Lane E8**  
**Poorly Paid and Badly Organised? Our strength is in the unions.**  
For more information and  
babysitting, phone Liz 254  
3470 or Pauline 800 3586.

● **SE London National Abortion Campaign. Next meeting, Wednesday 8 November, 7.30pm, 68 Manor Avenue, SE4** We need new members. All welcome. Ring Linda 852 1903

□ **Ealing Womens Voice Public Meeting against**

**Racism and Fascism,**  
students common room,  
Ealing College of Higher  
Education, St Mary's Road,  
Ealing. Thursday 9 November,  
6.30pm. All welcome, creche  
provided.

● **Aberdeen Womens Voice,**  
for more information  
telephone Liz 51059.

● **Acton & Harlesden Ring**  
Carrie 993 0356 or Pete 969  
9812

● **Birmingham at Greyhound Cider Bar, Holloway Head.** For dates and babysitters phone Jenny (440 5794) or Janet (472 7216). All women welcome.

● **Black Country Sundays**  
fortnightly, 2.30, 27 Glen  
Court, Compton Road,  
Wolverhampton 23233 for  
information. Children  
welcome.

● **Bristol Womens Voice**  
meets alternate Wednesdays  
at 8.00pm at the Crown  
Tavern, Lawfords Gate (off Old  
Market St.) Phone Bristol  
(0272) 553740. Next  
meeting:- Wednesday  
November 1st. 8.00pm.

● **Cambridge Womens Voice**  
Public Meeting on Monday 6th  
November at 8.00pm, at the  
Duke of Argyle, Argyle Street.  
All welcome.

● **Canterbury every other**  
Tuesday at Jolly Sailor  
Northgate. Phone Barbara  
(Lyminge 862742).

● **Cardiff every other Tuesday,**  
7.30 at Union Books, 58  
Bridge Street. For babysitters  
phone Bronwen (Cardiff  
43470)

● **Chelmsford Womens**  
Voice. For details of local  
activities, see Womens Voice  
Sellers.

● **Coventry meets every other**  
Wednesday, 8.00pm at The  
Hertford Tavern, off Queens  
Road (near the Butts). Phone  
450-570

● **Croydon Womens Voice**  
meets alternate Tuesdays.  
Phone Maureen 660 0989 or  
Yvonne 664 3768.

● **Ealing Womens Voice**  
meets regularly. Phone  
Maureen 567 7083 or Jane  
930 0986 for details.

● **Edinburgh Womens Voice**  
meets fortnightly on Sunday  
evenings. Phone Penny 557  
0731 for details.

● **Exeter Wednesday 12th**  
July at 7.30pm there is a  
meeting to form a new  
Women's Voice Group, at 15  
Barnardo Rd., Phone Exeter  
38023

● **Finchley and Barnet**  
Womens Voice, fortnightly  
meetings, for information  
contact Anita 883-4968 or  
Glenis 346-7627.

● **Fleet Street** meets every  
other Wednesday at the Hoop  
and Grapes Farringdon St  
lunchtimes from 1-2. Ring  
Maggie 822 3780 (work).

● **Glasgow Womens Voice**  
for information phone Clare  
(959 8924) or Sheila (424  
1048).

● **Glossop, Derbyshire.** First  
and third Tuesdays of every  
month at 110 Victoria St.,  
Glossop. Phone Glossop  
61873 or Claire Glossop  
64735 All welcome.

● **Kentish Town Women**  
Voice meets weekly. Phone  
Gail (485 0954) or Vera/Di  
(267 5059) evenings.  
Babysitters provided.

● **Hackney** phone Pauline  
(800 3586) for information  
and babysitter.

● **Halifax** details from WV and  
SW sellers every Sat 12.30-  
2.30 Co-op Arcade on the  
Precinct.

● **Highbury Group.** For  
details/babysitting, ring  
Elana 439-3764 (days). All  
women welcome.

● **Hornsey** for information see  
local WV sellers or phone  
Alison (263 3477) or Janet  
(444 8922).

● **Islington Womens Voice**  
meets regularly phone Sandy  
at 802 6145 for details.

● **Lampeter** Tuesday evenings  
in college. Details from WV  
sellers or write c/o SDUC  
Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales.

● **Lea Valley** meets regularly.  
Phone Mary, (802 9563) for  
information and babysitters.

● **SE Manchester** meets at  
the 'Albert', Rusholme, 8pm,  
every other Wednesday.

● **Medway** meets alternate  
Mondays. Ring Helen,  
(Medway) 270 689 for  
information and babysitter.

● **Newcastle** meetings are  
the second Tuesdays of every  
month, Bridge Hotel,  
Newcastle, at 8.00p.m. (Nr.  
High Levelbridge), Telephone  
Number: 813877 Newcastle.

● **Newham** meets Tuesdays  
and Thursdays fortnightly.  
Phone Wendy 790 2373.  
Babysitters available.

● **Norwich** every other  
Tuesday at 8.30 at Black Boys  
Pub, Colegate.

■ **Preston** We meet every  
other Tuesday at the Windsor  
Castle, Egan Street, (near  
Meadow Street) at 8 p.m.  
September 12th, 26th and so  
on. Come along and join in our  
discussions and activities.  
Telephone Mary—Preston  
55739 for more information or  
if you need a babysitter.

● **Reading** first Wednesday of  
every month. Phone 62150 for  
details.

● **Sheffield Womens Voice**  
meetings, fortnightly, The  
Prince of Wales pub, Division  
Street, Sheffield, 7.30pm.  
Next meeting, 18 September.  
For information contact  
Sheffield 26233.

● **Shrewsbury** the first  
Wednesday of every month.  
Other meetings too so phone  
58830 for details.

● **Slough Womens Voice**  
group. Meets on the first  
Tuesday of every month at  
Slough Library, Ring Mary—  
Slough 24093.

South London meets  
fortnightly on Tuesdays. Tate  
Library, Brixton Oval. All  
welcome.

● **S. West London Womens**  
Voice Group meet alternate.  
Tuesdays 91 Bedford Hill,  
Balham 7.45pm. Next  
meetings Nov 7th for estate  
sale. Nov 21st Sex and  
Sexuality, Speaker Mary  
Phillips. All welcome. More  
info, babysitters contact  
Marion 673 1329

● **Tower Hamlets** meets on  
alternate Mondays.  
Babysitters available phone  
Heather 739 6668 (home) or  
534 7825 ext. 13.

● **Walthamstow** meets every  
Sunday 3pm. For details ring  
Jeannie 531 8340, or Pauline  
521 4768.

● **York** Meets every 3rd  
Saturday in the month  
at the Royal Oak  
Goodramgate. Full creche  
facilities. Food on sale—do  
drop in! WV Jumble sale, Oct  
14th. Phone York 25155 for  
details.

## Available from Womens Voice

● **Still available Womens Voice fun doodle poster** 50p each 35p for more than one. Ideal Christmas presents for tense feminists looking for relaxation! Contact Carrie, 65 Fairlight Rd, London SW17.

● **WOMENS VOICE T SHIRTS**  
Womens Voice Fights for  
Womens Rights  
Small, medium, large all  
one price £1.50 plus large  
SAE. Colours: white, red,  
dark blue, light blue,  
yellow. Similar Sweat  
Shirts, £3.50. Cheques  
and postal orders made  
payable to Kentish Town  
Womens Voice to Vera  
175a Kentish Town Road  
London, NW5  
10% discount order over  
10.

**Lesbian Line**  
Lesbian Line is a new phone service for women operated entirely by women and offers help, advice and information. Phone between 2-10pm on 01-794 2942

**Rape Crisis Centre**  
If you have been raped or sexually assaulted and want someone to talk to or need legal or medical advice the Rape Crisis Centre runs a 24 hour telephone line. Contact us anytime day or night on 01 340 6145 or PO Box 42, London, EN6 5BU

**National Abortion Campaign Leicester**  
Saturday 4 November, 2pm, Victoria Park. Out-patient abortion now! Demonstrate for a new out patient abortion clinic now. Ring Leicester 546878 for further details.

**The Other Cinema**  
Films by women and about women to show at your meetings. Complete list available of the films we have for distribution. Send SAE to The Other Cinema, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7JJ. Telephone 01-734 8508.

If you want to advertise on these pages write to **Womens Voice Box 82, London E2** for a rate card. Small ads and classified 5p a word, prepaid.

## Bookmarx Chain

**BIRMINGHAM:** Socialist and TU Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12 (open 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday)

**CARDIFF:** SWP Books, 58 Bridge Street (open afternoons on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and all day Saturday)

**EDINBURGH:** Bookmarx, 130 Morrison Street (two minutes walk from Haymarket Station).

**GLASGOW:** SW Books, top floor, 64 Queen Street, C1.

**HULL:** Socialist Books, 238 Springbank (open 10am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday)

**SOUTHAMPTON:** October Books, 4 Onslow Road.

**LONDON:** Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (01 802 6145) 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

## Bookmarx club

1978 Fourth Quarter

The **Bookmarx Club** is now an established method for socialists to get the best of new socialist books at a big discount — and delivered to your door. In past quarters members have received books by such well known writers as Alexandra Kollontai, John MacLean, and Leon Trotsky. Indispensable books of reference such as *Your Rights at Work* and *The Political Police in Britain*, and have been introduced to little known classics such as *Second Class Citizen* by Buchi Emecheta *God's Bits of Wood* by Sembene Ousmane and *The Dispossessed* by Ursula Leguin.

**HOW IT WORKS.** You send us £4.50 for which you will receive the books in list A below plus those in one other list of your choice. Extra lists can be obtained for £2.50 each. Don't delay, send in the form now with your subscription—you will save over £2.50 on the retail value of the books (shown in brackets on the list)

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### LIST C

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**Crash of '79** by Paul Erdman (95p)

'witziest political/financial thriller to appear in a long time'

### LIST E

**Finding a Voice: Asian Women in Britain** by Amrit Wilson (2.50)

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An absorbing account of the Russian women revolutionaries who were active in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Limited edition in paper of this book previously only available in a £6 hardback

### LIST B

**The Mandate of Heaven, Marx & Mao in Modern China** by Nigel Harris (2.50)

China's revolution and transformation to a superpower is a modern legend, but how did the transformation come about? How do peasants and workers there really live? And if Mao was right why was Marx wrong? Nigel Harris' long awaited book

**Ireland Unfree** Steve Berry (75p)

Might be subtitled Ireland—a marxist analysis—a really excellent introduction to the cause of, and (socialist) solution to the problems of the Irish people

### LIST D

**Cwmardy** by Lewis Jones (1.95)

A classic documentary novel, newly reprinted of the militant pre-first-war days in a mining community in the Rhonda

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## Join Womens Voice...

**WOMENS VOICE** fights for womens rights. We want equal pay with the highest paid; maternity leave without restriction; the right to a job; nursery places for all children so that mothers can chose to work; and an end to discrimination in education, training, jobs and benefits; the right to abortion on demand.

To fight for these changes is only a beginning. Womens Liberation means we have to free ourselves from the grip of the rich and powerful whose oppressive rules and ideas are fostered on us from our earliest years. This means we have to fight for socialism too, to free us from a society divided between those who have and those who have not.

To fight we have to be organised: Womens Voice is a sister organisation of the Socialist Workers Party.

**Fight with Womens Voice for Womens Liberation and Socialism.**

# join the fight!

**Womens Voice Groups**

**Scotland**

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Edinburgh

Central Glasgow

West Glasgow

Glasgow Drumchapel

Aberdeen

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Cardiff

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Bristol

Bristol University

Cambridge

Canterbury

Coventry

Derby

Grimsby

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Reading

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Slough

Sheffield

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Stockport

Sunderland

Wolverhampton

York

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