

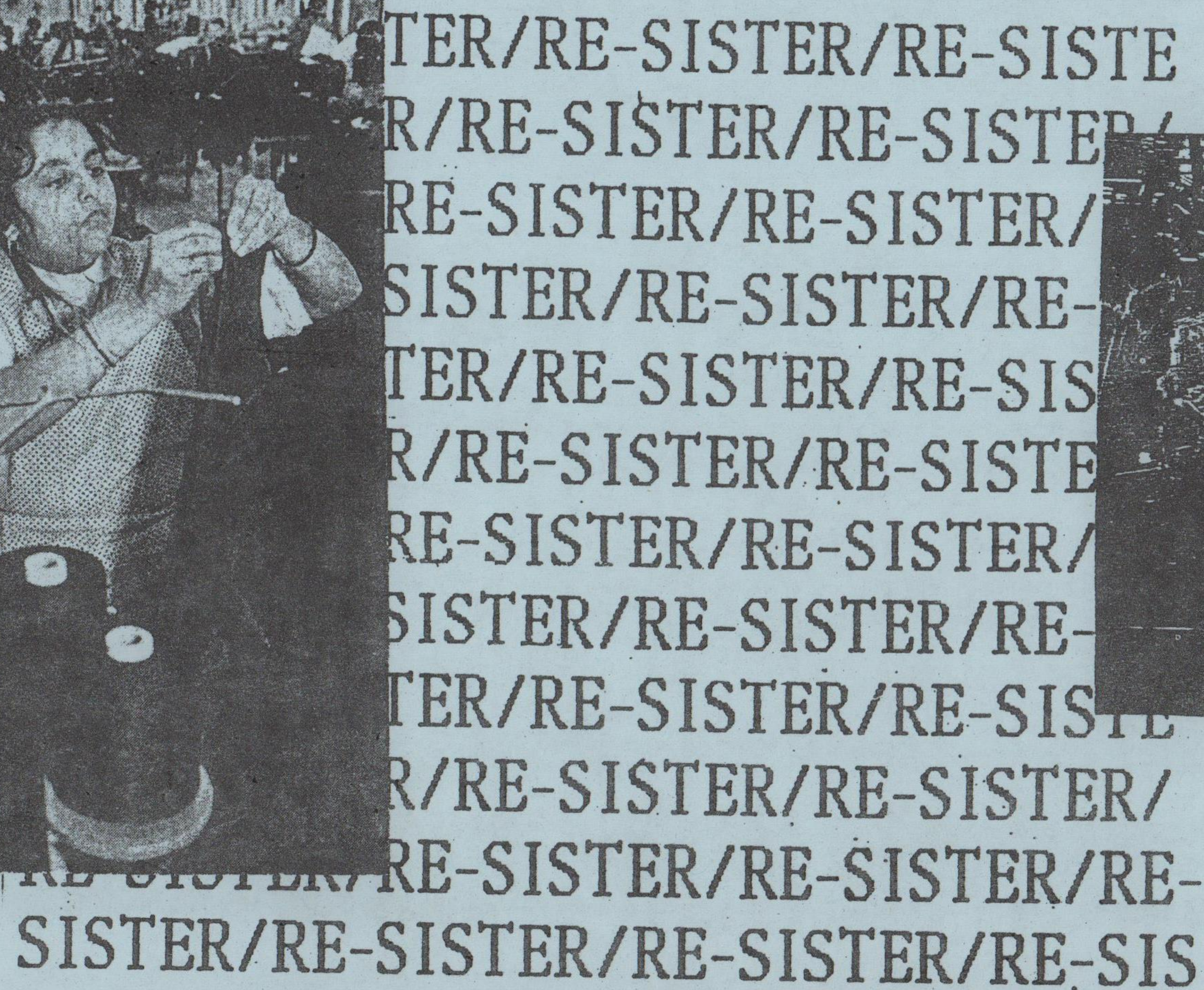


RESISTER²⁴ april '89

LEEDS ANARCHIST-FEMINIST PAPER

RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SIS

WOMEN ONLY



TER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTE
 R/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/
 RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/
 SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-
 TER/RE-SISTER/RE-SIS
 R/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTE
 RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/
 SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-
 TER/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTE
 R/RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/
 RE-SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-
 SISTER/RE-SISTER/RE-SIS

25p

FRONT COVER PHOTOS: Emma Paterson, Weavers of early 20th century, woman working in Bradford textile mill today.

EMMA PATERSON & THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

After a spell as an apprentice bookbinder and as a school teacher, in 1866, Emma Ann Smith became clerk to a woman who was herself clerk to the secretary of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union. The following year Emma was appointed assistant secretary of this organisation. She also met Emily Faithfull and worked with her trying to form societies of women printers. Thus before she was 20 she had close connections with the trade union movement.

She gave up this job in 1872 and was given the job of secretary to the Women's Suffrage Association, but was sacked because she lacked the personal magnetism to appeal to large women's-suffrage meetings.

In 1873 she married Thomas Paterson, and they travelled together to the United States. It was there that she found the aim to which she wanted to devote herself, the encouragement of trade unionism among women. She was inspired by successful women's benefit and trade union societies, particularly the Female Umbrella-makers Union of New York and the Women's Typographical Society. Along with her own experience of bookbinding in London and her realism, her observations there determined that she should follow the existing trend of all-female unions. She wasn't particularly interested in women's Friendly & Benefit Societies and other forms of self-help in Britain, as these weren't the kind of organisations that could negotiate with employers.

She sought help from all the men trade unionists she knew who had assisted women's organisation. Through the Working Men's Club & Institute Unions she had friends and contacts ready to support her efforts. She felt that if women could establish lasting societies in New York, they could succeed in Britain and so enable women to escape sweated working conditions.

She opened her campaign with an article in the Labour Review in April 1874, stating her belief that both the solution of long hours and low pay, and of men's fears of competition for jobs from low-paid female labour, was the establishment of trade unions for women.

At the time, a Bill was in Parliament calling for the limiting of women's and Children's work hours in factories and workshops. This had been prompted by men's unions. Emma said that if women didn't have unions and this legislation was passed without them being able to state an opinion about it, it could easily lead to a further reduction in women's wages, and their exclusion from work, because they weren't allowed to work such long hours as men. A combination of legislation and trade unions was needed.

The response to the article was a conference of sympathetic women and men which set up the Women's Protective & Provident League. A meeting of working women was called, chiefly bookbinders. The London Consolidated Bookbinders & Trade Society gave help. A further meeting of all the 5,000 women estimated to be then working in this trade in London was then proposed.

However the first Society sponsored by the League was set up in Bristol, the National Union of Women Workers.

From autumn 1874 - July 1875 London Societies were set up for bookbinders, upholstresses, shirt- and collar-makers, dressmakers and hat-makers, and trade union support increased. These societies were open to all women over the age of 16 provided 2 women of experience on the relevant trade vouched for their competence at work. By Emma Paterson's death in 1886, the League claimed to have set up 30 or 40 women's societies in England and Scotland. The Bristol union and Upholstresses union lasted 20 years, the bookbinders nearly 40.

However, not many societies had more than 100 members and about $\frac{1}{2}$ disappeared within a year of being set up.

In 1875 Emma attended the Trade Union Congress, representing the Societies of Women Bookbinders and Upholstresses, with Edith Simcox, representing the society of Women Shirt- and Collar makers. The Bristol Women's Union was represented by a man, Mr. Hunt!

These 2 women were the first delegates at the TUC, and thereafter the number of women delegates rose to reach 10 in 1881, the record until 1915.

She found little support to her opposition to paternalistic legislation to restrict women's hours of work, which working women had no say in. Even Edith Simcox disagreed with her. She saw the answer to improving women's conditions as coming from the organisation of those women rather than male trade unionists and M.P.'s and was suspicious that the trade unions wanted to exclude women even more from the workplace.

The arguments about the Factories Bill continued at the Congress for years. In 1877, Emma was supported by one of the outstanding working women trade unionists of the day, Mrs. Mason of the Leicestershire Seamers' and Stitchers' Society, which the League had helped to start. However, the Factories Bill became law in 1878. The League's fears appeared justified in 1882, in the case of the Black Country Metal Unions, and then in 1885, through the Coal Mines Regulation Act in the case of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, when attempts were made to use legislation to exclude women from working.

Since opposition was useless once the bill became law, the League demanded women factory inspectors to see the law was properly carried out. The bulk of TUC delegates were of course satisfied with only men inspectors. But in 1885 they bowed to the League's stubborn campaign and passed a resolution which included a demand for women as well as men sub-inspectors in factories. But it was not until 1893 that May Abraham, the first woman factory inspector, was appointed.

In 1885 Emma proposed the formation of separate Women's Trade Councils, linking together local organisations of women workers, and several were set up, the first in Glasgow in 1892. The longest lasting was the Manchester & Salford Women's Trade Council, established in 1895. It became part of the main Trade Council in 1919 and was kept going as a sub-committee during the first $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 20th century. The councils promoted local women's unions.

In 1886, the year Emma died, the League officially decided to change its title, and in 1889 it became the Women's Provident League, and 2 years later the Women's Trade Union League. Gradually it shed its "provident" off-shoots, eg. savings bank, swimming club, etc. It therefore became increasingly alienated from employers who preferred the provident societies.

The League continued to actively organise women's trade unions, employing paid organisers of its own. They were involved with women in Liverpool and Birkenhead docks, with net braiders in Grimsby who made the fishing nets for steam trawlers, with boot and shoe makers in Kettering, and enquiring into low wages for women at the Clarendon Press in Oxford.

The League was a great memorial to Emma Paterson. It assured to women a place in the TUC, in spite of opposition from some union leaders. It claimed to have been instrumental in securing the 1895 Factory Act, the 1896 Truck Act, and the 1898 Workmen's Compensation Act, which enabled it to fight the claims of injured workwomen who didn't know their rights. It became part of the great movement of working class organisation of the 1830's and 1890's.

ARMLEY PRISON CAMPAIGN

The Campaign Group consists of prisoners' relatives and friends, ex prisoners, probation officers, social workers, advice workers, lawyers, teachers, health workers and others moved by the plight of prisoners in Armley.

Contact:

Armley Prison Campaign
c/o Law Centre
Roundhay Rd,
Leeds LS8 4HS
Tel. 491100

STOP YOUNG DEATHS IN CUSTODY

Five people, in nine months, have had cause to kill themselves while being locked up in Armley Jail by magistrates and judges.

At least NINETEEN others have attempted suicide since January this year. In the USA the authorities in some states use the death penalty to openly, brutally kill prisoners. In Britain we have no death penalty but still the authorities send people into inhuman conditions which drive many to take their own lives.

We demand

A full INDEPENDENT public inquiry to investigate all injustice within Armley Prison, with particular attention to the circumstances surrounding the suicides of the five young remand prisoners and the attempted suicides of many others.

FATAL FACTS

- * Massive overcrowding of Armley prison: 1300 Prisoners are crammed into cells designed for 650.
- * Most prisoners are held 3 to a cell built for one in 1840.
- * Prisoners are locked up 23 hours a day.
- * There's no work and no "free association" for prisoners.
- * Prisoners get one shower and one change of underwear a week.

- * There are no toilet facilities in the cells; there is one urine bucket for three people. Prisoners are often forced to throw their excrement out of the cell window.
- * Prisoners are regularly intimidated, racially abused and brutalised by prison officers
- * Visits are severely restricted and facilities for visitors are appalling.

- * The right for remand prisoners to have food of their choice brought in has been withdrawn.

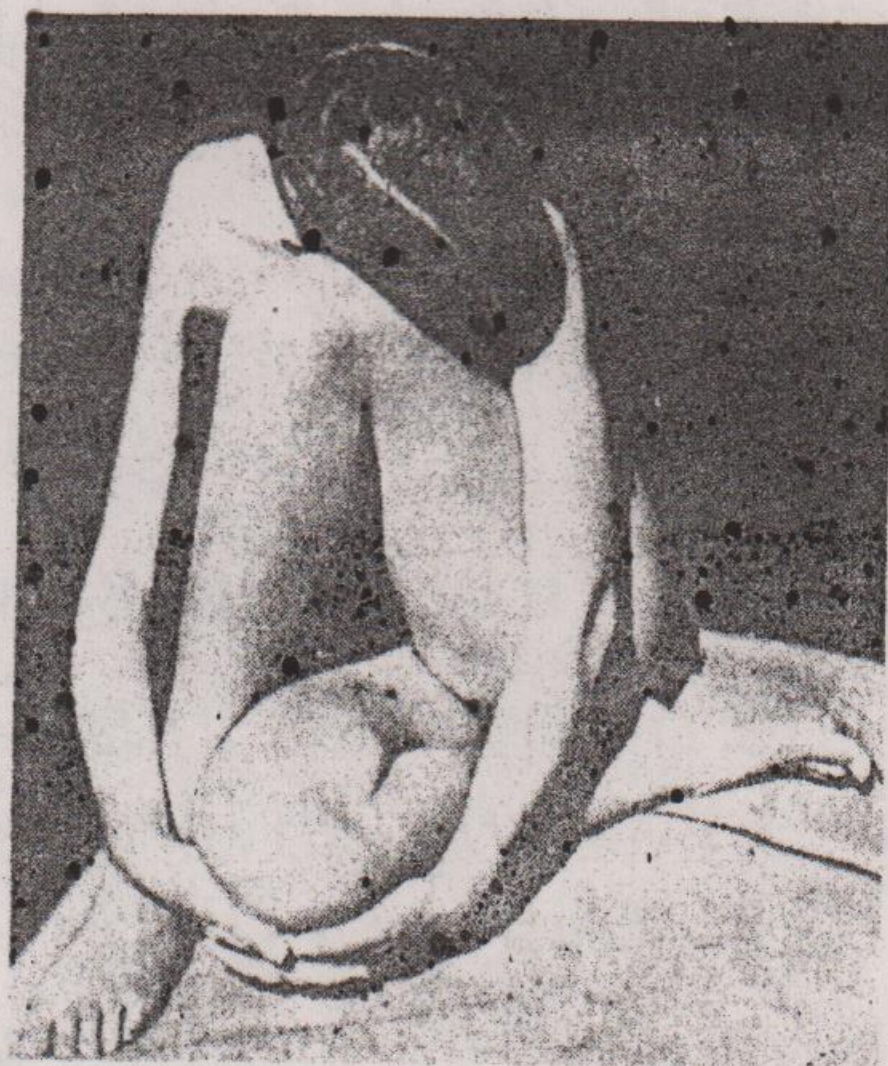
**WE MUST HAVE YOUR
SUPPORT IF THESE
ABUSES ARE TO BE
STOPPED.
PLEASE GET
INVOLVED.**

Sterilisation? No Thanks!

There is intense pressure, in fact it is acceptable practice within the medical profession, that women with learning difficulties who show the slightest interest in sex be sterilised. The idea is that women (and men) with learning difficulties can in no way cope with being parents, and therefore they are not given the chance or the choice. Some people with learning difficulties might not be able to understand what having children involves, however many times things are explained to them, it will just be beyond them (it is so far from their own experience). But others can understand, and know that they want children; often this is denied them. What is also lacking are the support systems that could enable people with learning difficulties to cope with children, as they will probably need support in bringing up children, as in all areas of life. It would be better if resources could be used to develop these support systems rather than sterilising women.

The frequency with which this is done is frightening - women with learning difficulties are being treated as less than human. The mentality which kept men and women apart in single-sex wards in hospitals, so that no more children

with learning difficulties would be produced, still exists in the way that women are sterilised, kept on the pill for years without knowing it (they may think that it's medication for something else), or not allowed to have sexual relationships. It's a shame that society thinks it's so bad for there to be more people with learning difficulties, that they are worthless members of society.



Public opinion makes the issues relating to people with learning difficulties even more complicated, including the right for them to have children. Any children growing up with parents with learning difficulties will have to cope with other people's, often hostile, opinions of their parents. This is an important point that must be borne in mind, however wrong that public opinion may be, as it is very

powerful. However, the over-riding idea is that women with learning difficulties should NOT be able to have children.

Often the fertility of the male partner is not checked, so sterilisation may in fact be unnecessary. the question

of men with learning difficulties is rarely raised, even though they may be

having sex with more than one woman.

Doctors may also sterilise women with learning difficulties to guard against

pregnancy even though they may not be

having sexual relationships, but "just

in case" anything does happen. This

underlines the number of women with learning difficulties who are raped - either by other residents of a home or hostel, or by male staff, who think they are an easy target and won't say anything, or won't be believed if they do.

The over-riding feeling in this matter is that women with learning difficulties should be allowed to have children if they choose, and be supported if they do so. Choice has throughout history been taken from people with learning difficulties, and it is important that it is given back, and that education allows their choices to be informed ones.

LEEDS ABORTION FUND

Just recently, a fund has been set up in Leeds for women who need money to help pay for abortions. The fund needs a regular flow of money so please help by sending donations to the address below. Also women who need financial help for abortions, then get in touch.

Correspondence to:
Leeds Abortion Fund
c/o Box 32
52, Coll Lane
Leeds. LS1

Watch this space for more details.

Thanks!

FREEDOM THROUGH

CHOICE

H.P. SAUCE!

'Why, what have you done with it?' quoth I.

'What have we done with it?' said he; 'nothing much, save clean it. But you know the whole outside was spoiled centuries ago: as to the inside, that remains in its beauty after the great clearance, which took place over a hundred years ago, of the beastly monuments to fools and knaves, which once blocked it up, as great-grandfather says.'

We went on a little further, and I looked to the right again, and said, in rather a doubtful tone of voice, 'Why there are the Houses of Parliament! Do you still use them?'

He burst out laughing, and was some time before he could control himself; then he clapped me on the back and said:

'I take you, neighbour; you may well wonder at our keeping them standing, and I know something about that, and my old kinsman has given me books to read about the strange game that they played there. Use them! Well; yes, they are used for a sort of subsidiary market, and a storage place for manure, and they are handy for that, being on the waterside. I believe it was intended to pull them down quite at the beginning of our days; but there was, I am told, a queer antiquarian society, which had done some service in past times, and which straightway set up its pipe against their destruction, as it has done with many other buildings, which most people looked upon as worthless, and public nuisances; and it was so energetic, and had such good reasons to give, that it generally gained its point; and I must say that when all is said I am glad of it: because you know at the worst these silly old buildings serve as a kind of foil to the beautiful ones which we build now. You will see several others in these parts; the place my great-grandfather lives in, for instance, and a big building called St. Paul's. And you see, in this matter we need not grudge a few poorish buildings standing, because we can always build elsewhere; nor need we be anxious as to the breeding of pleasant work in such matters.'

There is always room for more and more work in a new building - make it pretentious. For instance, elbow-room

In the last issue of Resister, I wrote an article looking at the dioxin content of tampons, sanitary towels & disposable nappies. However, not only do these products contain the most dangerous toxins known to women, but they carry other health hazards, including vaginal ulceration, & are causing massive environmental problems.

Today in Britain, there are two major manufacturers of sanitary products - Smith & Nephew, who produce the Dr Whites range, & Kimberly Clark whose product is called Simplicity. The products they make are not covered by any standards, the Companies themselves decide what standards to use. This has resulted in a code of the utmost superficiality, concentrating on characteristics such as size of lettering on the packet, & number of items in the box. Vital issues concerning health & safety & environmental sensitivity are largely ignored.

While maternity pads & dressings which are used in hospitals are covered by the good manufacturing practice as specified by the DHSS, 'Sanitary Protection' is merely covered by the manufacturers own code of conduct. This means that sanitary towels & internally worn tampons ARE NOT sterile. To sterilise them would apparently hinder absorbency, & there are no obligations to list fibrous or chemical contents on the box, only quantities.

As far as sanitary towels are concerned, even though the product doesn't have to be sterile, in Britain the bacteria that the product contain, at least have to be within safety limits - unlike when the same products are sold in the 'third world countries'.

Tests performed in Malaysia, the Philippines, & India, found that sanitary towels sold in these countries contained high levels of bacteria & fungi. In a Malaysian test on bacteria levels - in towels performed in 1987, the major offender was a Southalls brand of towel manufactured by Smith & Nephew. Unacceptably high bacteria counts of 11,000 per item were noted, over 10 times the safety standard, which could lead to vaginal infections in women using the towels. (Malaysian Consumers Association. Utusan Konsumer. April 1987.)

The tests were conducted in response to complaints from consumers who had found foreign objects in sanitary towels, including a fishing hook, a needle, cockroach eggs, & rat droppings - along with various unidentified stains found in previously unopened packets of towels. On the other hand, sanitary towels exported to Australia were not found to be significantly contaminated with bacteria.

In 1938, tampons were introduced to Britain. At long last women didn't have to walk bowlegged for a few days of every month. However, these new devices, were not/are not covered by any DHSS guidelines either.

Tampon manufacturers are under no obligation to reveal the chemical contents of their product in Britain. But research on American tampons provides some useful information, revealing that contents other than cotton include: rayon; polyacrylates & polyester; polyvinyl alcohols & ethers; pheno-derived from coal tar, & listed by the Toxic Substances Control Source book in the states, as a possible toxic substance; & carboxymethylcellulose (a woodpulp derivative).

In the 1970's, Toxic Shock Syndrome erupted, a sometimes fatal disease which occurs only in women using tampons. But not only is toxic shock syndrome a problem, but drying, micro-ulceration & ulceration of the vaginal membranes. Tampons on average absorb 65% menstrual blood & 35% genital secretions (R.J. Levin, G. Wagner). The ulcers produced then become portals of entry for toxins into the bloodstream. They also resulted in more vaginal bleeding. Other studies have also found fibres incorporated into the granular tissue of vaginal membranes - which has been linked to cervical cancer.

Like the sanitary towel & tampon market, the disposable nappy market is vast & growing all the time. Neither are there any health guidelines for the manufacturers to follow. The superabsorbent type contain a layer of granules in the paper filling which turn to gel when wet, & are retained in the centre of the nappy. No studies have been done on the migration of chemical to the reproductive organs of babies wearing such superabsorbent nappies, but complaints from parents include: severe skin irritation, oozing blood, fever & vomiting. One mother reported that the clear tiny beads of gel were oozing from her daughters vagina.

Disposable nappies are also implicated in the very tedious nappy rash syndrome. Research shows that disposable nappies are a bigger problem here than Terrys nappies & rubbers which in turn are worse than Terrys on their own. Any plastic covering left for too long around the baby's backside will give rise to the most common form of nappy rash - ammonia dermatitis. This happens when bacteria from the bowel get a chance to breakdown the urine in the nappy, releasing ammonia which inflames the skin. It is prevented by never allowing the baby to remain damp & incarcerated in plastic for long periods & by efficient sterilisation.

Then theres the disposable attitude of not only nappies but just about everything else that surrounds us in a capitalist world. This way of thinking means not only waste of resources, but a never ending demand for manufacturers to gain a permanent market.

One pine tree makes just 500 disposal nappies. In Britain alone, 3.4 billion disposables are used per year, that's 9.3 million a day, (Facts about Disposable nappies. Spring '88) The average 35 year use of tampons/sanitary towels results in 10 010-12 530 per woman.

The disposable nappies end up in dustbins & are taken as refuse to landfill sites, posing problems of hygiene. At least 100 viruses which are found in faeces have been found to survive for over two weeks in rubbish. Babies who are inoculated, could be eliminating the live virus for several weeks. And what of non degradable polythene.

Sanitary towels & tampons are flushed out to sea via an inadequate sewage system. 75% of blocked drains in public places are the result of sanitary products. Small plastic articles are becoming the largest plastic pollution problem in the seas. They're eaten by marine life, including turtles & whales, fish & seabirds, causing their deaths.

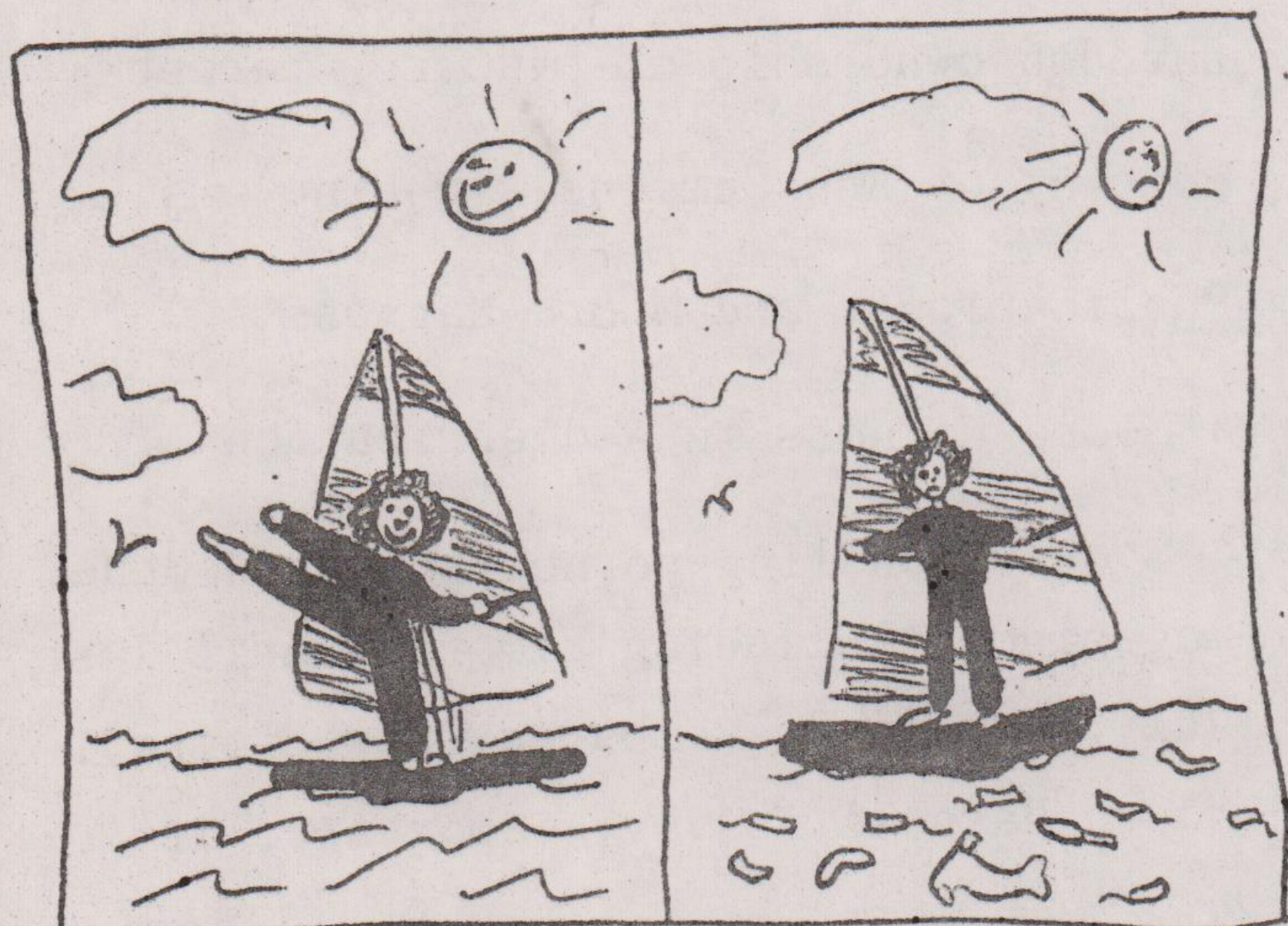
Solid plastic tampon applicators were manufactured, but withdrawn four years ago after publicity surrounding their distinctive appearance on beaches. However, they're still being washed up, indicating how long these nonbiodegradable plastics will persist in the environment. The adhesive strips in sanitary towels are also a big problem. However, degradable plastics are far too expensive for manufacturers to spend their profits on.

Disposable products are a problem - 1/2 a billion sanitary towels & tampons end up in the North sea each year, no wonder the last decade has seen such an increase in sea-bathing infections. Not only do sanitary tampons & disposable nappies create environmental problems, BUT, although convenient, they're not exactly safe - particularly tampons which are worn internally, & are made up of dangerous materials & poisonous chemicals. It's shocking to think that society's made us so blasé about using such items - but then again, are 'hammocks' an alternative? They're not exactly safe either, containing high amounts of dioxins & various other artificial chemicals. Natural sponges can be used for tampons - but attach cotton first as they can be difficult to retrieve; & in America reusable cloth menstrual pads are available.

At least there is an alternative to disposable nappies. Terry's nappies are easily kept clean by soaking in sterilising solution & rinsing thoroughly. Once upon a time, nappy services used to thrive in Britain's towns & cities, whereby for a few £ per week, your dirty nappies were collected & exchanged for clean, sterile ones. In the States this service continues - anybody need an enterprise allowance idea...

Women's periods result in a multi-million pound business for men, & the least we should demand is the labeling of chemicals; absorbency ratings; & toxic shock syndrome symptoms. Tampons or towels with deodorant added should always be avoided, & tampon use restricted to use during heaviest flow & used intermittently with towels (ie use towels on the night)

It's about time our safety should be put before not only profits but convenience - what's the point of eating wholemeal this & brown that if we're shoving poisons into our bodies via other orifices!!



With a tampon, every day's fun, & no-one knows I'm on my period, it's invisible.



Classified Information

Manutal-
Ashton Indus-
trial Estate
Road, Leeds LS8 5BZ.

HAVE you got a spare evening? If you have, why not hold an Ann Summers Party, or enquire about becoming a demonstrator. All areas. Phone Hilary (Pontefract) 707093.

PEOPLE to earn an excellent income working part-time from home.

Preserv
scar Gri

Domestic

CLEANER
Fri., 9.30
p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
house in
£2.00 p.h.
please
459581 an.

for details ring Kelghley
0535-669616.

ANN Summers - require
demonstrators and party
holders. All areas
Phone Andrea 710067
between 5p.m. - 7p.m.

CLEANING supervisor
required for market.

NANNIES
require
"Nannies
Live in or
part-time,
holidays
available
land.
(Er
EVE-

695994/697397.
ANNE Summers needs
demonstrators now. 23%
commission. 100% fun.
Ring Eileen 867922.

EARN extra cash, hold a

at £2.00 p.h.
795515.
ANNE Summers - hold a
party. 10% commission.
Tel 733700.
EARN with Avon. Become
a Representative.
Phone 459581.

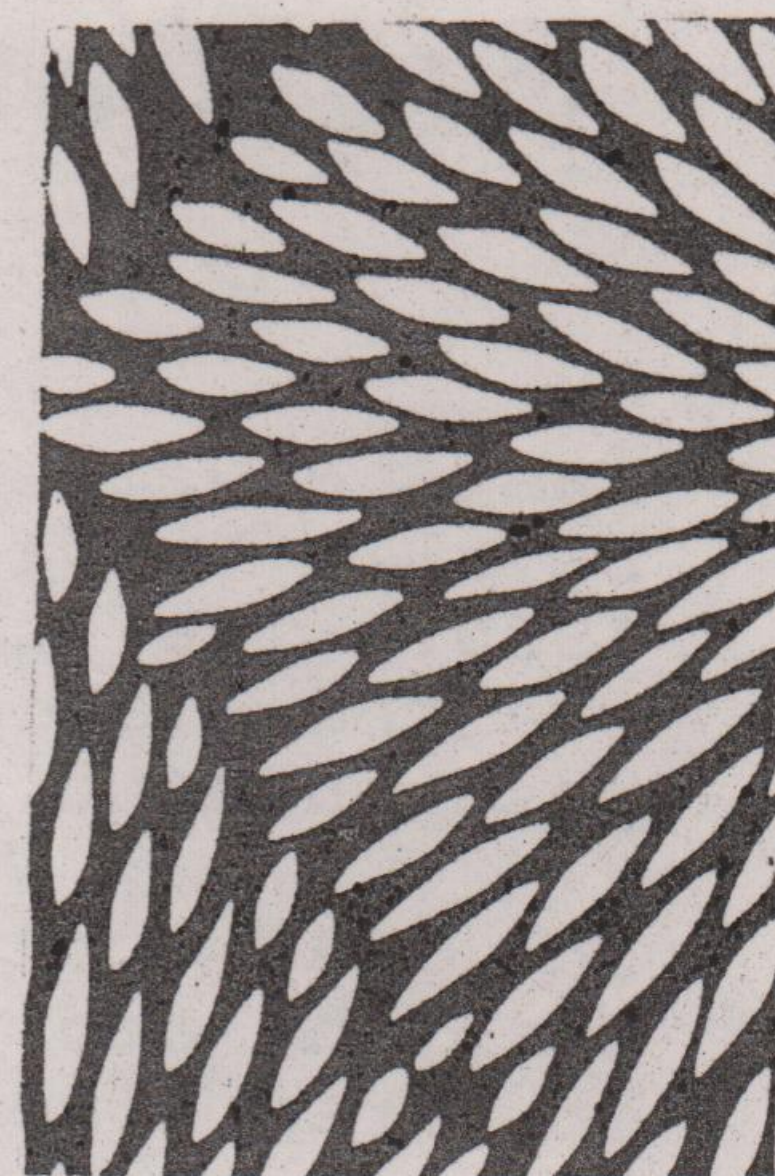
We've been noticing an increase in adverts for Ann Summers lately in local papers. Ann Summers is a trade name for tupperware-style parties, but selling sex aids and naughty undies, aimed at women. However, there are also many Ann Summers porn shops in many towns throughout Britain. The company, Ann Summers Sales, is obviously flourishing - gross profits for 1987 (the latest available figures) were £5,105,727, up from £340,004 the previous year.



Ann Summers is owned by top pornographers Ralph and David Gold, who also own Gold Star Publications, which issues "Rustler", "Raider", "Parade", "Park Lane", "Glamour Girls", etc. But Ann Summers is the only company the Golds run directly (and it makes their biggest profits), as they resigned directorships in their other companies to keep their pornography earnings quiet. They control Gold Star Publications through its parent company, A & P Roberts (Holdings), and keep the rest of their business in line through ownership of Lydcare, parent company of Ann Summers, Ve-Line Publications, and Moore Harness.

Moore Harness is a distribution company, handling pornography and other magazines (including Time Out until last July, now it distributes City Limits). Moore Harness is very important, it distributes Gold Star titles, other pornography, the Sunday Sport, etc.

Ann Summers, Moore Harness and Sunday Sport offices.



Time Out distributed
by Moore Harness.

It has a warehouse at 50, eagle Wharf Road, London N1, where Gold Star Publications and Ann Summers Sales also have offices.

Apollo Ltd. also have offices above the Moore Harness warehouse. This firm was set up as an equal partnership between the Gold brothers and David Sullivan, another powerful pornographer to publish the Sunday Sport.

Sullivan's dealings are another story but here we've illustrated some of the links between what some people might think of as a "harmless bit of fun" of an Ann Summers party, and pornography empires.

More information and addresses appear in "Looks Can Kill" by I-Spy Productions, available for £2 from Box 60, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT.

Ralph Gold lives at

21 Woodlands Way, Purley, Surrey.

David Gold lives at

260 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey.

LOOKS CAN KILL
PORNOGRAPHIC BUSINESS

LOOKS CAN KILL



**pornographic
business**

I-SPY

Solidarity with Spanish women

Last November 5 women and 3 men were going to be tried in Seville, Spain, accused of performing over 500 abortions back in 1980. The trial didn't take place then as one of the accused started labour pains (4 weeks early) and the defense asked for a postponement.

In 1980 abortion was considered a crime in Spain. The current Spanish abortion law was passed in 1985 and makes abortion legal in three circumstances: rape, physical or psychological danger to the life of the mother and fetal abnormality. There would be a lot to say on the way this law is being implemented, but we'll not go into it this time.

The alleged "criminals" were all members of the Collective "Los Naranjos Birth Control Centre" and for them performing abortions was a political statement, a demand for a basic right, the one of a woman to decide when and whether to have children and it was one more of the activities of the centre, amongst their other work they organized talks on sexuality on rural and deprived urban areas in and outside the province. An interesting note is that the accounts of the centre were regularly audited by the women's movement. The Centre stayed open for 9 months and women from all over the Spanish Estate used its services. In September 1980 the Centre was raided by the police who arrested all the workers and the women present there at the time and took all the equipment. In the 80's this trial gave rise to a massive national and international campaign, your solidarity is needed again, the trial will now take place the 30th March.

An international campaign is now specially important as Spain holds the presidency of the EEC for the first half of this year and the Spanish government will be very sensitive to outside criticism/pressure.

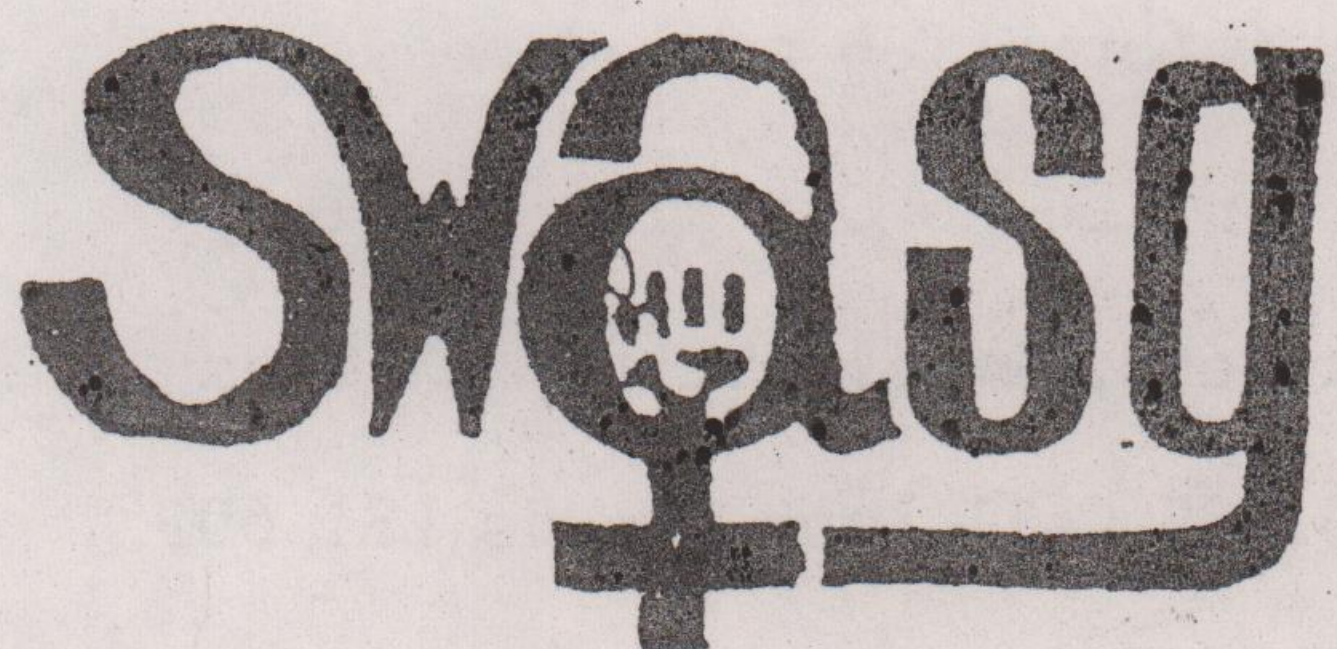
Please send letters of solidarity with the following text "We demand the withdrawal of the charges against all the accused in the abortion trial 20/81, concerning the birth control centre "Los Naranjos" to:

Javier Moscoso, Fiscal General del Estado (The General Prosecutor), C/ Plaza de la Villa de Paris s/n, 20804 Madrid, Spain and to Enrique Mujica, Ministro de Justicia (Minister of Justice), Ministerio de Justicia, 28015 Madrid, Spain.

Please also get "known" people to send a letter too. Send copies of all your letters to SWASG, c/o WHRRIC, 52 Featherstone St, London EC1Y 8RT. If closer to the time the trial still is going ahead there will be a call for more direct action (ie: demonstrations in front of the Spanish airlines offices, "invasions of the Spanish Embassy, Consulate, etc").

For more information contact SWASG (Spanish Women Abortion Support Group)

c/o WHRRIC
52 Featherstone St
London EC1Y 8RT
Tel 490 0042.



FINANCIAL AID FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN DETAINEES

dear friends,

we are a newly formed group set up with the purpose of campaigning for financial support for Palestinian women who are political prisoners.

Having recently spent several months in the occupied territories of Palestine, we made links there with each of the four different Palestinian womens committees.

The Palestinian Federation of womens' Action committees, the working womens' committees, the association of womens' committees for social work
the union of Palestinian womens' committees.

These committees are formed around the oppression Palestinians face in the West bank & Gaza & urgently need international support & solidarity work on many different levels, wide campaigning work, solidarity actions in the form of demonstrations, marches, pickets, & on a material & financial level.

All the work of the Palestinian womens' committees is therefore in the context of national struggle for independence. Thus, the womens' organisations are grass roots movements which links the question of womens' liberation with socio-economic liberation.

The uprising in several localities actually started with womens' demonstrations. Demonstrations & sit-ins were organised in front of the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem, protesting against the U.S. support of the occupation.

In the Popular committees, women have actively participated in popular teaching & in health.

The solidarity campaign with Palestinian women political prisoners is one which desperately needs your support as currently, thousands of Palestinians are detained in the most horrific prison conditions, subjected to a mass array of physical & mental torture inflicted by the Israeli authorities with no legal rights whatsoever.

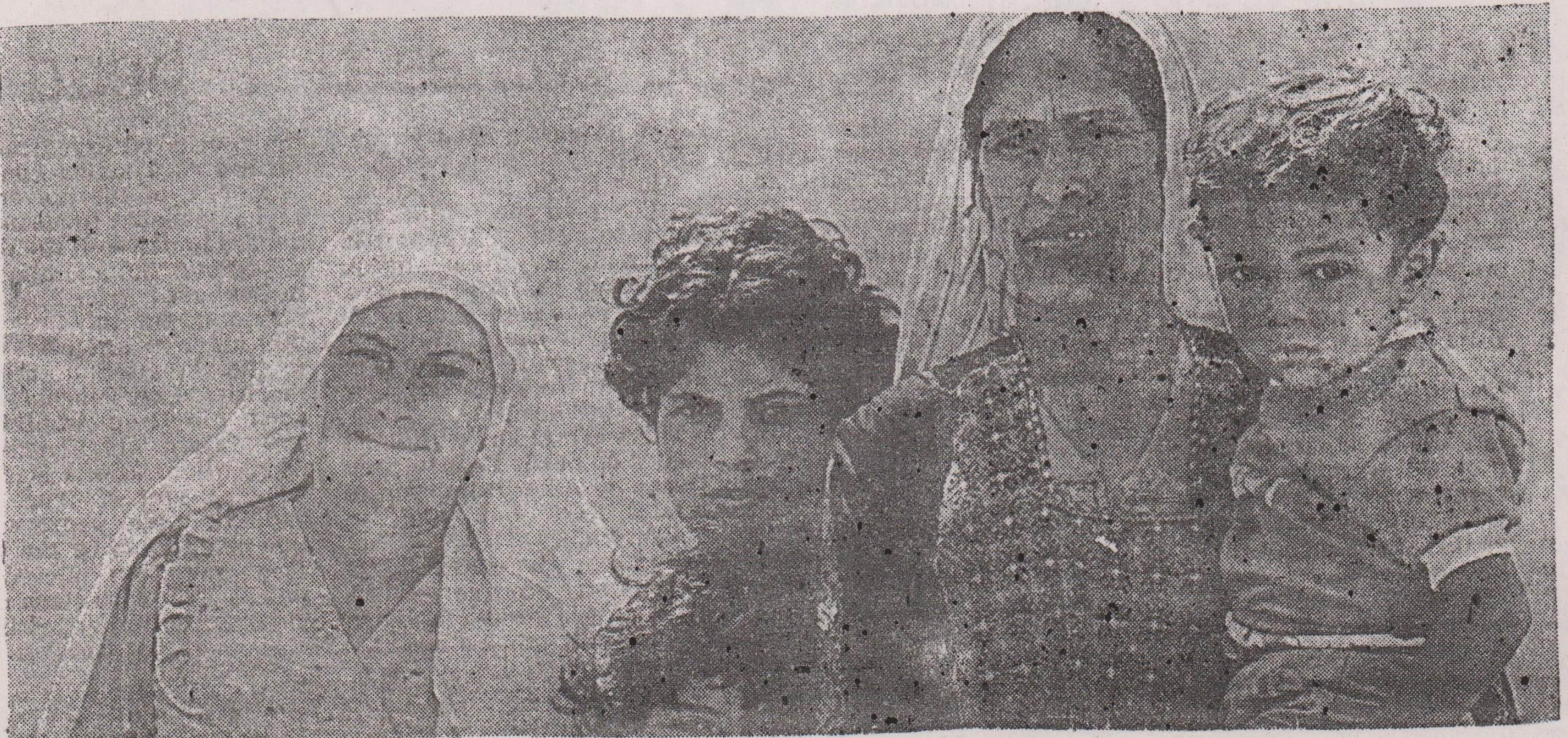
Many Palestinians are held under administrative detention; A detention order is signed by a military officer, the detainee can be held for any length of time without anybody knowing of their whereabouts, with no rights to see a lawyer, minimal rights to appeal & all this without any formal accusation or charge brought against them.

Financial support is needed to contact lawyers who will help find where the detainee is being held & provide legal aid to them. Detainees are also in need of basic necessities, like medical care, blankets & warm articles of clothing.

We ask for your help to raise financial support which will be sent to the Palestinian womens' committees & the womens' organisation for political prisoners.

N.B.-To enlist your support & to make a donation, please immediately contact us at the Pankhurst centre, 60-62 Nelson St., Manchester.

From: Action for women in Palestine.



whats on

10th-14th April Margaret McCreath prints, textiles, ceramics. Jacob Kramer Gallery, Cookridge St.

22nd-23rd April-European weekend against racism & fascism, including Leeds festival with bands & street performers in the town centre.

1st-19th April-Anne Lamb flower water-colours & pastels. Grape Lane Gallery, Low Petergate, York.

Until April 16th-Five textiles exhibition. Ad Lib Gallery, Drury Lane, Wakefield.

Until May 6th-Charlotte Mellis, Anne Forde. Designs in black & white. Piece Hall art gallery, Halifax.

Until May 14th-Tades Union Banners, 100 years of womens banners. Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, & Industrial Museum, Bradford.

Until May 20th-Dorothy W Moore paintings. Dewsbury Museum, Crow nest park.

Until October-Sample Pieces for Improvement Womens' sample pieces. Oakwell hall, Nutter lane, Birstall, Nr. Batley.

10th-12th April-'A Taste of Honey', by Shelagh Delaney. Huddersfield sports centre.

11th April-'Pinchdice & Co', presented by Womens theatre Group. Wakefield Arts Centre. 7.30pm.

12th April-Womens Gas Federation. Illustrated talk 'Leisure times in olden days'. 2pm. Leeds Methodist Mission, Oxford Place, Leeds.

13th April-Lesbian/Gay disco. 1 in 12 club, 21-23 Albion St., Bradford.

15th April-Womens healing space. £/15. Visualisation/voice movement, massage. Tel; 432711

1th April-Womens massage day in meditative healing. Playful space. Tel; 620454

13th April-Meeting to discuss the possibility of a centrally based womens centre in Leeds, OR of forming a local network of womens centres & organisations. In Room 7, Leeds Civic Hall. Info; including chilcare, phone Tracey Kennedy, 462214/9 or womens centre, 421232.

17th April-'Red is the colour of night'. Play by Double Exposure Theatre Co.-the first company to intergrate actors with & without disabilities. 12.30-3pm. Leeds art gallery, free. Please book in advance. Tel. Shape Up North 431005.

22nd April-Moving & Drawing from within for women. Swarthmore. £12-£20.

15th-16th April-Northern Black Cross meeting. (Prisoners support network). 1 in 12 club, Albion St, Bradford.

29th April-Black people on TV. Day event. Bradford Film theatre, Bradford Playhouse. 10.30am.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

Parents friend. 1st sunday of the month.

Tel: Bradford 674627.

Bradford Lesbian/Gay youth Gp. 7.30pm

Womens football, Hyde Park moor, Leeds. 2-4pm

Leeds claimants union business meeting, every sunday. Tel 753160 or 426148

MONDAYS WOMENS SPORTS NIGHT. Manningham Sports centre, Bradford.

York Lesbian & gay solidarity. 7.30pm

TUESDAYS

Leeds Lesbian & Gay youth Gp. 7.30pm

Leeds Mozambique Gp, 3rd Tuesday of every mth. 8pm. 130 Harehills Ave.

Leeds campaign against the poll tax.

Alternate Tuesdays. 8pm. Trades Club. (starting 10th Jan.)

Leeds women & Ireland Gp. Meet Tuesdays, Civic Hall, Leeds. Contact Box 173, 52 Call lane.

WEDNESDAYS

Lesbian with children/in relationship with partner with children-Contact, Jennie, C/O Leeds other paper, 52 Call Lane.

DAM meetings, Woodpecker pub, Marsh Lane, 8pm.

THURSDAYS

Irish in Britain Representation Gp. meets 2nd & 4th Thurs. of month. 8pm, Trades club, Saville Mt.

Womens Action on benefits, Open Thurs. morn -ings, 9.30-12.30. 202 Bellevue Rd, Leeds

FRIDAYS

Lesbian social Gp, First friday of month. Tel; 453588

SATURDAYS Leeds lesbian & Gay youth Gp Leeds lesbian & Gay youth Gp. 2-4pm Box 300, C/O LOP.

The word is out lesbian writers Gp. Leeds 0532 43300

