
Materials

Workers' Party of Ireland

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Convenor's Report on the Womens Sub - Committee For Year 1974

Sinn Fein

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Convenor's Report on the Womens Sub-Committee for year 1974.

The first meeting of the Womens Group took place on the 4th May 1974. This group was set up under the Auspices of the Comhairle Ceanntair with Nuala Monaghan as Convenor.

At the first meeting the importance of Education was realised and Helena Sheehan was elected Education Officer for the Group. Dolores Roberts was elected to take charge of Economic Affairs and Anne Cooney was elected as Secretary.

Three main topics discussed at this meeting were Women and Education, Women and Trade Unions and Women and Propaganda.

The Education Officer proposed drawing up three Educational Lectures. a) Women under Socialism, b) Women under Capitalism, c) Women - their role in the Irish Rev. Movement. It was agreed that all lectures given at womens meeting would be submitted to the National Education Committee and if suitable would be incorporated in the N.E.C. programme.

On Economic Affairs it was agreed that there should be a series of lectures on T.U. and how they function. In relation to propaganda we decided on a long term aim of producing our own posters, leaflets and pamphlets. We saw other Womens Groups as potential outlets, through which we must work, and which our Propaganda must combat.

The first meeting laid the basis for all future work as Revolutionary Women. We discussed the importance of research and study realising the mistakes that Womens Liberation made in neglecting research and ending in comparative catastrophe.

At the second meeting the Womens sub-committee was formally set up and arising from discussion at the first meeting Eamonn Smullens spoke to the group on Economic Affairs. Later on in the year Pat Brennan gave a paper on the History of the Womens Movement.

Book Reviews.

Members of the group volunteered to read books on women and to discuss them at meetings of the womens sub-committee. The purpose of this was first of all to encourage members to read and secondly to gain an understanding of what the womens question entailed. There was some problem as regards getting some of the books and the first book review is to be given on the 16th March. It was agreed at the last meeting that every meeting from now on ~~nn~~ ^{should} do a book review.

United Irishman.

An arrangement was arrived at with the Editor of the U.I. that the paper should carry a series of articles on women of our time. In the initial stages some difficulties occurred as members found it difficult to find information pertaining to particular women. However this area has been tightened up and articles ~~xf~~ have improved. It is hoped to start on International Women in June.

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have improved. It is hoped to start on International Women in June.

The most important results of all our meetings was the Weekend Seminar held in Mornington. Speakers on this weekend discussed Womens Liberation, Women under Socialism, and Women in the Rev. Movement. From this weekend a sub-committee was set up to draw up proposals for the Ard Fheis. The Committee comprised Nuala Monaghan, Marion Kennedy, Anne Cooney, Virginia O'Reilly and Mary Reid. The proposals drawn up by this Committee were unanimously accepted at the 1974 Ard Fheis. The purpose of these proposals was an attempt to set out a clear programme of work for all our members with regard to the Womens Question.

While we accept that many of our original ambitions were not realised as effectively as intended we play to rectify this situation in the New Year.

Suggested Programme of Work for 1975.

Our main emphasis for 1975 should be placed on internal education. The production of our three pamphlets which we discussed before Christmas should be a matter of priority. Also the work outlined in the Re-Organisation Document should be started as soon as possible. Members of the group have already been asked to set up their terms of reference for work.

Another matter which is of considerable importance in terms of international women's year is the question of working with other groups. Women members should think about this and if they have any ideas they should bring them along to the meeting on March 16th.

Another area in which I would welcome ideas is on the question of propaganda again as stated above any ideas would be welcomed.

In the Economic Affairs Areas much work remains to be done and a programme will be presented on March 16th by D. Roberts.