

# Womens VOICE

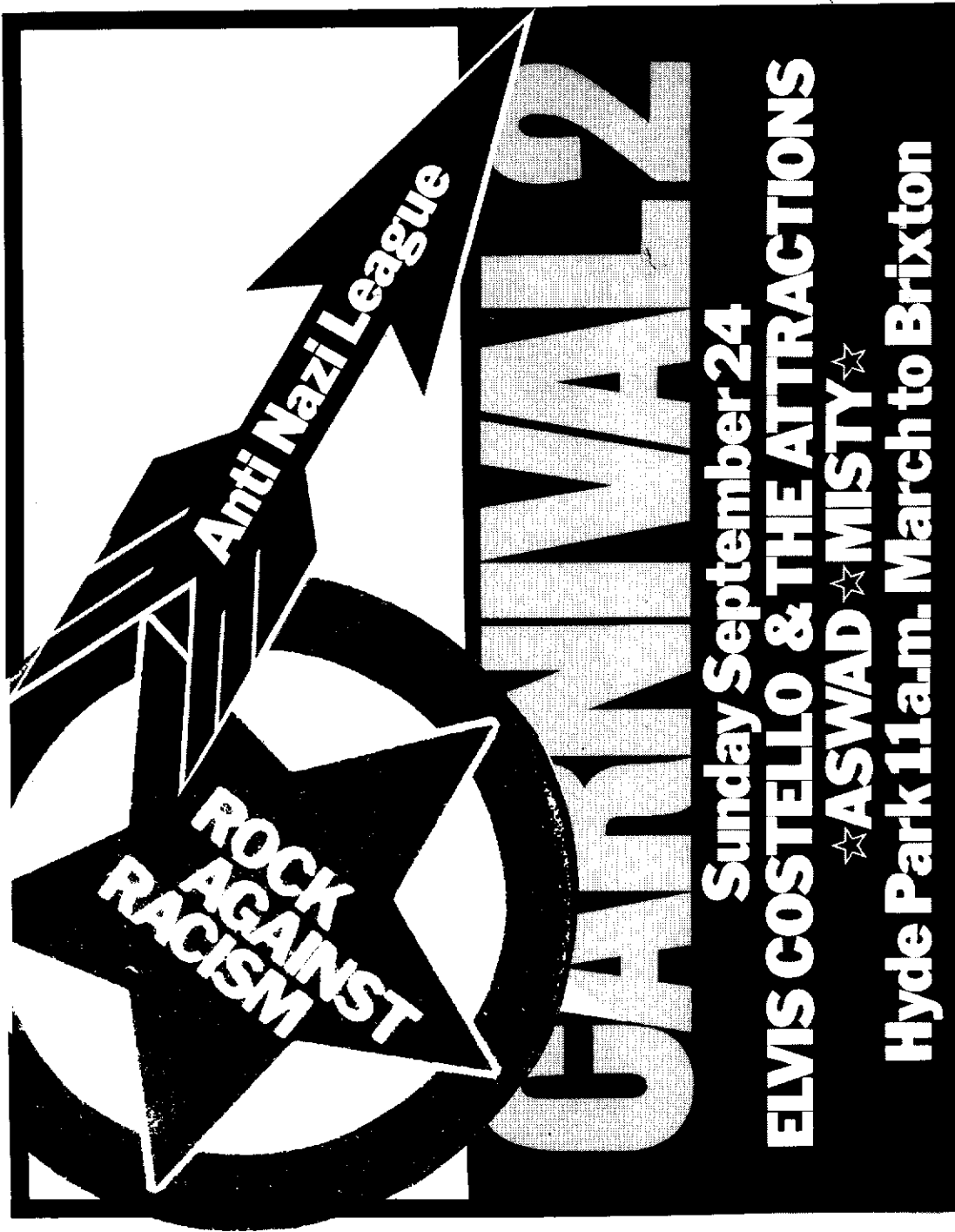
September 1978

Price 15p

Issue 21



**Sex: No place  
but the park**



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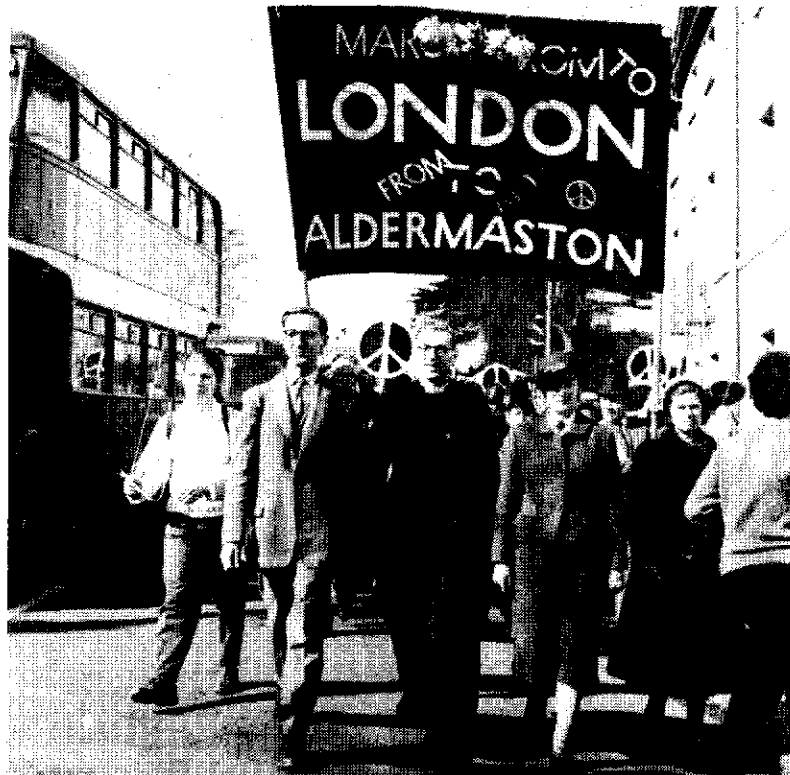
September 15 will be the last date for letters, articles, news for the October issue. We will then appear *a week early* in time for massive sales of Womens Voice before the election. So don't hesitate, write to us now.

Cover photo:  
SYD SHELTON

Printed and Published  
by Larkham Printers  
and Publishers  
Limited, Box 82  
London E2

# OUR POINT OF VIEW

## The one chance in a million



'Ban the Bombers' march to Aldermaston, twenty years ago.

'THE Ministry of Defence announced today that three women working at the Aldermaston Weapons Research Establishment have an excessive dose of plutonium in their lungs.'

Angela Rippon didn't bat an eyelid.

As the days went by the full horror of what was happening at Aldermaston was revealed. The women hadn't been working in any high risk area of the plant, so every worker at Aldermaston could be suffering from too much plutonium. Plutonium in the lungs causes cancer. Cancer kills.

What happens within the walls of Aldermaston was, and still is, covered by the Official Secrets Act, which will probably prevent the truth ever being known. We can only guess that it's very serious because in the end they were forced to close down the entire plant.

At the same time, in America, the inhabitants of a town built close to a nuclear launching station were evacuated from their homes. There had been a leak of nuclear fuel.

A similar leak of radioactive material from the Windscale nuclear plant, in the Lake District, stopped a fishing village going out for its catch.

And advice on the use of microwave ovens has just been published, because the Environmental Health Officers Association is worried that housewives have no experience in dealing with 'invisible' dangers, like leaking radiation

from microwave ovens.

Every week there is a *new* horror story.

The answer seems to be—scrap it all. Stop using nuclear power and radioactive materials at all. That way we can be safe from their harmful effects.

There is another argument, however. The enormous potential they unleash could be used—to feed, clothe, warm the millions of millions of poor and starving in the world. Technological progress like this could change all our lives for the better.

The trouble is we can't trust the people who take the decisions about nuclear power to take them in our best interests. Their decisions rest on considerations of wealth and power.

Nuclear war heads are needed by powerful States to defend themselves from each other. So places like Aldermaston exist to develop bigger and better weapons.

Everyone in the business of manufacturing, whether its planes to carry the war heads or microwave ovens, is in it to make a profit. Cut corners, cut the safety, and you can make a bigger profit.

So don't let some slick commentator lull you into a false sense of security with clever statistics — a one in a million chance of a major tragedy, or a one in a thousand chance of getting cancer.

It's the one chance of something going wrong we ought to be worried about.



## CAMDEN TYPISTS SHIFT KEY

**'CONSIDERABLE inconvenience... suffering to the public... frustration... unhappiness to members of staff...'** writes Camden Council's highest paid worker, Frank Nickson, to the Council's lowest paid workers, the typists. He was of course trying to get the typists to return to work and end their long strike.

At the end of his tearjerking letter Mr Nickson abruptly dismissed their claim and pointed out the merits of the council's latest offer.

The offer to the 81 typists, who have been on strike since 12 July, is so vague that it might as well have been typed with a transparent ribbon. It's intention is to divide the typists. The two most militant supervisors have been offered regrading, but no one else. The final insult is an appeal to the typists' sense of responsibility and cooperation! The employers don't seem to have grasped that their arguments about national grades and pay policy have convinced no one.

If the typists win, other low-paid workers in Camden will get the message and push for decent pay rises, and the Council knows it. Lambeth's typists are at present drawing up a claim. Hence the hard line from the Council.

NALGO, the typists' union, is in a somewhat uncomfortable position. The strike shows just how unacceptable is official NALGO pay policy to accept 9.94%, and that workers are prepared to strike to get a better pay deal. The NALGO full time negotiator must be seen to be negotiating, so the typists understandably refuse to negotiate when an 'offer' has no resemblance to their claim.

Pressure on the Council will intensify with the end of the summer recess. The typists bargaining position is stronger than ever. Everyday they are exploding the myth that women workers are a docile low paid labour force.

Sue Milnthorpe

The victory of the Camden typists would spearhead a fightback against low pay in the Public services. Lambeth are putting in for regrading, Islington typists have been paid on the higher secretarial scale for three years. They need your support.

Fact sheets outlining the Camden typists claim and asking for messages of support and donations are available from Womens Voice.

Will any typists in NALGO interested in helping to set up a typists charter please write to Womens Voice, Box 82, London E2.

## A start with a union

AS I WAS taking the kids to the carnival, I saw a picket line outside a Heron garage, at Westley Road, Birmingham.

Two women on the picket line told me about the strike. They were demanding full union recognition, equal pay with cashiers at other garages, shift allowances, job description.

Janet and Joyce had joined the Transport and General Workers Union, but when they asked for their union membership to be recognised, Heron claimed to be already negotiating with the union. After more union talks they decided to strike.

Joyce takes up the story:

'We started picketing our own garage. We stopped tanker drivers delivering fuel. They agreed to respect pickets at all Heron garages. The drivers phoned before they delivered to a Heron garage so we could send someone down there.

'Our main weapon was the support we got from the car delivery drivers. Last year Heron made £9 million profit. £7 million came from the car sales side. A month before the new T registration cars were due the car delivery workers blacked all Heron Sales areas in the midlands—we were made! Management caved in after two weeks.

'We won union recognition for all Heron garages in the West Midlands. I was elected as steward to cover the seven garages in Birmingham. We intend to get stewards elected to cover the others. Regular union meetings will follow.

For us, winning union recognition was just the beginning.'

Jeannie Powell

## Not so bright...

JOHN Bright's textiles have been open in Rochdale since the 1950's, a firm built on cheap labour, mostly women's. The easiest way to lure women to the factory was to open a 200 place nursery.

Now profits are falling, orders are low and Bright's say that the nursery has to go and with it comes immediate redundancy for many of the mothers with children in the nursery. 'Why should we pay for the loss of profit', we say. 'Let the bosses sort out their own problems, as soon as things start going wrong, don't ask us to pay', said a mother of a child in the nursery.

At the first public meeting women from the factory together with supporters have organised themselves and set up a campaigning committee.

Gillian Murray  
Nursery Nurse



## Striptease in the Isles

THE Shetland Womens Group has organised a demonstration against the first striptease show in Shetland. We had only one day to plan it, as the show was announced so soon before it was due to happen. The women at the planning meeting had different objections to the striptease: striptease degrades women; it is capitalist exploitation of women's bodies; it is the new oil economy that introduces striptease to Shetland as opium for the new working masses. We planned a petition, a letter to the paper, and a demonstration at the Jubilee 77 (groan) dancehall where it was to be held.

The next day we petitioned on the street and made sure that the local radio gave us coverage. In the evening we discovered that the strip show was cancelled. The strippers were fogbound in Aberdeen! But we went on with the demonstration as quite a few people had turned up for the show, not knowing that it was cancelled. In the course of the slanging match we tried to explain that we are not sex objects, and that whilst the conditions for the oil workers are inhuman, striptease shows are not a solution for them. We plan to hold another demonstration in a few weeks time when the managers of Jubilee 77 rebook the strippers.

Jane Cook  
Shetland Womens Group

## OUR MEAN EMPLOYER

SOUTHWARK Council is one of the meanest employers in the country. Even after they were paid the latest 10 per cent increase qualified social workers earn only £60 a week.

The job demands lots of overtime, usually at short notice. Southwark council only pay for overtime if it is booked in advance.

The job demands long hours. Southwark Council say the 36 hour week is only a *minimum* week.

For unqualified social workers the prospects are even worse. Their wages can be as low as £40 a week.

Southwark Council have got away with such disgusting exploitation because the social workers union, NALGO, negotiate national

pay agreements. Southwark refuses to negotiate with the local stewards. They visit on paying only the very minimum national rates.

Southwark social workers have been followed out on strike by workers in Tower Hamlets and Newcastle. They're hoping other boroughs will follow. They're hoping at last to put an end to their miserable wages.

**THE campaign in Nalگو for better maternity leave and nurseries has been pushed a stage further with the call by Lambeth Council Branch and Edinburgh Gas Nalگو for a delegate conference on Maternity Leave and Nursery Provision in January 1979. For a letter inviting your branch to sponsor the conference and more details of the progress of the campaign write to Womens Voice.**

## Womens Voice bulletins

WE produced our first Fleet Street Bulletin in August. Our group covers women workers working within Fleet Street, the majority in the clerical union, NATSOPA.

I suppose it was more of a fact sheet than bulletin—giving the basic government requirements on Maternity benefits and what we thought *should* be our basic right. Plus a letter from a NATSOPA member, who has taken maternity leave, explaining how hard it is to come back to work, even though she had quite a good maternity agreement. Lack of nurseries forced her to leave her baby with a baby minder.

Hopefully, we will produce a bulletin once a month with regular

articles on maternity benefit and nursery facilities and news of the issues that our group are involved with.

I have been involved in Socialist Worker Party politics for years but can hardly describe the confidence I have from being involved with this Womens Voice group and seeing someone come along because they read our first bulletin. For the first time as a woman trade unionist I don't feel as though I'm fighting a lone battle. I actually know there are at least another twenty women in my industry fighting as hard as I am. And not just for our basic trade union rights but for the rights of women.

If you have thought about forming a group at your work but thought no one would be interested,

## Twentieth century threat to childcare

ON THE first day of term in September local mothers are to visit Rowdown Infants school in Addington, Surrey, to see what can be done to guarantee their children's safety.

Yvonne Cotterill explained to Womens Voice:

‘One night in July there was a fire



think again. Just two of us started it off. Our sales of Womens Voice are well over 100 and going up to 130 this issue! Good luck!

Maggie Rutter  
Fleet Street Womens Voice

at Twentieth Century Electronics. It's about 100 yards from the Infants School. There was a great black cloud of smoke belching from the factory and the police toured the area telling us all to stay in our houses.

‘They told us there was hydrochloric acid on the premises, but my husband heard over the police radio that a D Notice had been slapped on to stop any reporting because there was radioactive material there. The factory works on Government Defence contracts.

‘Of course they deny it, but I suffered from pains in my chest, tingling in my ears and headaches. So did some of my friends.

‘How can we be sure it won't happen again, during the day time, and during term time. Factories like this shouldn't be built so near to schools and homes.’

## WOMEN AGAINST THE NAZIS ANSWER BACK



A KNIFE? or a steel bar? Or a bottle in the face? which do you imagine as you hurry home late at night, wishing you were not alone, or that you were trained at karate? I never used to be nervous. Now I am, and I don't think that I am peculiar....I think that most women feel like me.

We read about muggings in the papers, about violence on the increase, about the wild youth of today who, it seems, are only out to cut the throats of innocent people like you and me....

There are many people around who will tell you that the violence is due to the black population. Their solution is to get rid of the blacks. Do you know what to say when someone puts this line of argument.... or do you perhaps believe it?

Sandra, a Womens Voice member from South London, tells us how she answers back:-

'We have to look our fears straight in the face. The biggest, of course, is that of violence. Well, in 1977 there were 7,400 muggings. Of these, 500 did not involve any injuries AT ALL! Compare that to 1 in 140 of the population of England being injured in road accidents! You are 22 times more likely to be involved in a traffic accident, and injured, than to be mugged. And your house is far more likely to be burgled than you stand to be robbed on the streets.

Street violence has always existed, particularly in areas where there is poverty. But now it is called mugging.

In fact muggings increase proportionately with youth unemployment. The kids have nothing else to do. They have no money. Often it is the black kids that are worst off. This society discriminates against black people. They find it more difficult

not the blacks to blame for this crime mugging.

Look at Glasgow—there are almost no blacks but there is a lot of poverty, and unemployment, and the official statistics



show that there are 9 times more muggings per person than in London. In 1973 youth unemployment dropped drastically. What happened to the rate of muggings? It dropped also. Since 1973 the rate of muggings and youth unemployment have both soared. At the same time the number of black people moving to Britain has decreased.

So, think clearly, get the facts right. The blacks are not to blame.

### Did you know...

WE'RE painting out the nazi filth!! What about you? Make sure that your local Anti Nazi League/Women Against the Nazis is taking part in our national day of action—Sunday 10 September. Involve the local Council—ask them to buy the paint; or better, to come along to the paint out.

Leaflet the shopping centre/high street, and surrounding estates, with the special leaflet we've produced: £3.00 per thousand, or £1.50 per 500, post free.

Why not have a picnic at the same time? If you decide to take part in your area, ring in the details to me on 01 734 5456.

Write up reports and send photos for us as well! Good painting!!

Anna Keene

**DON'T STAND THERE! — you might get put inside.** Like Phyllis Innes who was sent to prison, first offence, for 3 months, for standing on the pavement talking to some friends. Mind you, it was an anti nazi demonstration — perhaps that had something to do with it?

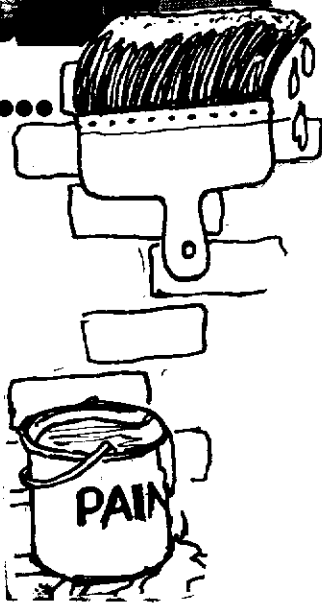
Perhaps it was because Phyllis is black, an unmarried mother, and on the dole?

A policeman grabbed her roughly to move her on. Phyllis is under 5ft. She is not deaf. Couldn't the policeman have asked her to move?

She responded to his treatment by biting his hand....he didn't like that!, and he made sure that she suffered for it. Now Phyllis is worried that she will lose her place on the council housing list, and also the flat that she has been offered by them. She needs your support. Her address is: Cookham Woods Prison, Rochester Kent.

**YOU'VE sold 10,000 copies of the Women Against the Nazis pamphlet!** But don't stop there; we're printing more. Especially for sales between now and the election.

There are so many disillusioned distraught women in this country, to whom the NF extend the hopes of a bright new future. We know that the National Front is nazi, is rubbish, is wrong: lots of women don't. So get out onto the local estate and sell them this pamphlet, talk to them; show them there is an alternative to the NF.



Copies price 5p each. 100 for £5.00 post free.

Send me your ideas, experiences, suggestions about the nazis, womens reactions to you on the doorsteps, what you've done locally.

**WE need Womens Voice sellers for the Anti-Nazi League Carnival 2. Can you help? Ring 01 734 7410 for details. We'll be selling special cut rate Womens Voice T Shirts to sellers!**

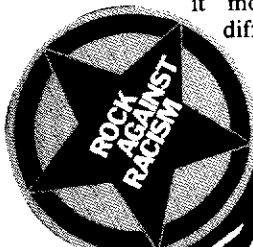
**DON'T miss carnival 2!!** It'll be bigger and better than the first one! The line up is SHAM 69, Elvis Costello, Aswad and Misty. And don't miss Women Against the Nazis at the Carnival. We're going to make a splash. But....(of course) we are going to need a bit of help..any spare people to make banners and floats, blow up balloons?

On the day we need badge sellers, pamphlet sellers, women to help distribute placards, kites, balloons.

Meet us by the Women Against the Nazis float 10.30am onwards. Or ring 01 734 5456 with offers of help.

Childrens Buses will be by the bandstand on Serpentine Road to take children straight to Brixton, leaving at 11 and 11.30 am.

• All orders to the Anti-Nazi League, Box 151, London WC2



than white kids to get jobs. But its

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# ONE NEWBORN BABY DIES AND ONE NEWBORN BABY BECOMES PERMANENTLY BRAIN-DAMAGED EVERY TEN DAYS IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

The Ministry of Health is proposing further cuts in staff.

Babies born eight weeks premature have only a fifty per cent chance of survival here in the North East instead of the ninety per cent chance they would have in an intensive care unit, if the units were available.

Plans to provide them have been shelved because of understaffing and lack of equipment. At the hospitals where such units do exist, shortage of staff means that only babies born on the premises can be dealt with. Most other regions in the country have at least one of these units, which operate efficiently and are properly staffed.

We are constantly being reminded of the dangers of home births, and urged to have our babies in the 'safety' of a hospital, where we are assured of expert care and the benefits of sophisticated equipment. In the Northeast these facilities are just not available to every mother and child. It seems we get this care and attention only if we are lucky enough to have our babies in the right hospital at the right time.

Now we are told of a probable cut in staff proposed by the Health Authority, by which we stand to lose three registrars. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists advise that each maternity unit should have at least two resident doctors of registrar grade, capability and experience. In this case, the Northeast is already short of six registrars! If these cuts are carried out it will mean that the

maternity unit at Preston, Tynemouth, will be without any registrar at all!

Many consultants in the region are appalled by the proposed cuts.

It has been said that the Northeast should give up three registrar posts for re-deployment to 'less well off' regions. As we are already six registrars short, and bearing in mind the frightening statistics already mentioned, it would be interesting to know where these regions are, and how their facilities compare to those in the Northeast.

Even if the consultants, the mothers-to-be, and their MPs are successful in their campaign to stop the proposed cuts in staff, it still leaves the Northeast as a potentially dangerous place to have a baby.

Instead of these cuts we would like to see improvement in the standard of our maternity units. This means an increase, not a decrease, in staff, and more money being spent on the equipment needed to make our maternity units as safe and effective as they ought to be. Only then can mothers feel that living in the Northeast is not a disadvantage to their health or their babies!

It's time the Health Service got their priorities right and made sure that wherever you live in the country you get the same standard of care and attention.

Lynne Saunders Newcastle Womens Voice

## Make the children suffer

CHILDREN are to be sent home from the Greenwich District Hospital, and the children's wards closed, staff have discovered. The local Health Authority needs somewhere to move the patients from St. Nicks hospital, which has been under the axe for sometime, and propose to move them into the childrens wards.

The 2,500 children being treated in the hospital each year are to be looked after at home. Instead of recovering in the childrens wards, with every surgical facility, where they are well fed and cared for by friendly nurses, and where they can play, paint, do puzzles in the special play rooms, the children will linger in the loneliness of their own homes.

They will be supervised by a team based on the ancient Brook

Hospital. The team would have one doctor, three nurses and two part time therapists.

A campaign to keep the wards open has begun. A petition has been circulated by the matron of the childrens wards. Porters at both Greenwich District and the Brook have promised not to move children. Engineers and plumbers have pledged not to make any changes in the childrens wards.

Womens Voice are holding a public meeting for mothers in the area on Tuesday 5 September, 8pm, at the East Greenwich Church, opposite the Library, Kensing Road, SE10.

Julie Fancy

## Lying in in lay-bys

SIXTY miles to the nearest maternity unit at Inverness was too far for Helen Horne and Frances Munro one night in July. They both gave

birth to their babies in the ambulances which were trying in vain to get them to hospital. The births occurred within four hours of each other, and on both occasions the only people in attendance were 25-year old district nurse, Margaret Watson, and ambulance driver, Robert Wilson.

The problems have been caused by the closure last November of the Pope maternity unit at Helmsdale.

## Save the Prince

WE officially launched the Save the Prince of Wales Campaign at a public meeting in August.

Despite the holidays forty people came along, nearly all of them local people who will be badly affected by any closure.

Dr Mitchell, a consultant physician at the Hospital, was on the platform for the meeting, enthusiastically brandishing a copy of the special Save our Hospitals

edition of Womens Voice.

Everyone at the meeting offered to help with leafletting and petitions, and we've organised a small committee to ensure that everything gets done.

Mary Robson

## Let 'em jump

SEACROFT Hospital in Leeds has the best equipped childrens ward in the country. It's on the ground floor, with plenty of play space, and a mothers unit. In October it's due to be closed down and moved into the new St. James hospital, onto the 7th floor, in a ward where the windows don't lock.

If they do move the ward it will not only be disastrous for the children and their mums. Without the ward the Seacroft Hospital will not be a viable proposition and it will probably close altogether in the next couple of years.

Pat Edwards

+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE



+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE

picture: ANGELA PHILLIPS



# NHS KILLS THE PATIENTS AND NURSES

**I AM** leaving the nursing profession soon. I do not want to work in private medicine, where I can give adequate care to only those who can afford it. And I do not want to work in NHS hospitals where I can't give adequate care to anyone.

I would love my job if I had a workload I could cope with comfortably—about four patients to one nurse. When I was training I used to come home nearly every day and weep with exhaustion and frustration. I thought that if I kept trying I would learn in the end to do seven jobs at once. But I have never learned.

Let me describe a typical night on a "well-staffed" ward in a general hospital. There were two qualified nurses and an auxiliary to care for seventeen patients, all of whom were recovering from operations.

Seven of them needed constant surveillance: five were on intravenous drips, and two were old and dying. Another patient was mentally handicapped, and highly disturbed by her surroundings.

All went well until the staff nurse went to relieve a nurse on another ward and then for her meal break. Before she went she checked some drugs for me to give. She was gone for three-quarters of an hour. The auxiliary nurse was in the sluice coping with a broken bed-pan sterilizer. I was left responsible for the smooth-running of the

five drips, for calming the mentally-disturbed patient, coaxing a reluctant patient to take some water, and responding to the needs of other waking patients.

When the staff nurse returned we went together to give a dying old lady her painkiller, only to find that she had died alone with no-one in attendance. While the other nurses laid the old lady out I was again left alone on the ward. I checked the drips, changed a wet bed, and constantly checked the other old woman who was dying, her two daughters by her bedside.

One and a half hours after she had first woken up in pain, a woman patient requiring a



**Womens Voice** posters for your local campaign. 25 for £1. Money with orders please. Badges will be available soon. Send us your local campaign. We can organise speakers for your meetings, on the cuts in the health service, and womens health. Phone Womens Voice 01 734 7410. Money with orders to Womens Voice, Box 82 London E2

painkiller was finally given her drugs. Two hours later than scheduled the auxiliary went for her tea break at about 4.00am

At 8am I went to make a cup of tea for some people who had travelled overnight to see a patient. Then, feeling very sleepy, I sat down to talk to the mentally handicapped girl for a few minutes. While my back was turned one of the drips nearly ran out completely—a neat ending to the night! I went off-duty twenty minutes late after working for ten and three-quarter hours.

I should have been able to be at that old lady's side when she died; I should have been able to give that woman a painkiller as soon as she needed it. I should have been able to talk at length with the mentally handicapped girl to reassure her—and a dozen other things as well.

I am full of admiration for nurses who stay in the health service. Employ more nurses and give them better working conditions and I would be amongst the first to return. Cut back on spending and I certainly won't be the last disillusioned nurse to leave her profession.

**Bristol Womens Voice supporter**

+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE OUR HOSPITALS+SAVE

# A PROPER MARRIAGE

HACKNEY Womens Voice gathered together to discuss the problems that immigrant women have to face today. The main speaker that evening was Androulla, a Greek Cypriot young lady.

Androulla explained that although in England women have more freedom, Cypriot women over here still lead a lonely and sheltered life.

Previously Androulla had explained about the kind of life that Cypriot women are expected to lead in their own country. Over in

Cyprus, marriages are by arrangement between the parents of the young girl (who may sometimes be as young as 14 or 15) with or without the girl's consent.

A dowry is customary, but most important, as Androulla stressed, it is imperative that the prospective wife is a *virgin*. On the morning after the eve of the wedding, the sheet which the couple have slept on has to be hung and displayed on the washing line outside for all the village to see that it was a 'decent' marriage.

This attitude towards women and

marriage in Cyprus is governed by religion. The most fundamental concept laid down by the Koran stresses that women are inferior to men.

After Androulla's explanation of life in Cyprus, those who attended the meeting discussed what *could* and *should* be done for the oppressed women.

Women have been conditioned to act and think in certain ways that help to make men *seem* inferior but luckily our speaker informed us that there is now a new and better awareness among

Cypriot women today which is very good. Androulla told us about the recently formed Cypriot Womens Voice Group which will encourage Cypriot women to talk about themselves, to draw out the problems that have been hidden for a long time, and, of course, to eventually take ACTION.

Jane Marshall  
Hackney Womens Voice

## What did you learn in school today?

GIRLS in a single sex school in North London organised a petition for the provision of metal work and wood work in the school. The petition was sent to the headmistress who wrote a lengthy reply listing the financial and timetabling constraints involved.

The matter rested there. In other schools where complaints have been made to Local Education Authorities, they have got themselves off the hook by pointing out that such facilities are provided by some coed schools in the Division and pupils should have opted to go to those schools.

Now that the National Council For Civil Liberties have produced their excellent pamphlet "Sex Discrimination in Schools:—How to fight it" action over discrimination against girls in schools should be much more straightforward, as it lays down clearly the procedures to be followed. It is vital to get parents involved as a complaint about sex discrimination in education cannot be taken to court by a person under eighteen.

The pamphlet covers briefly the forms of discrimination against girls that occur in schools, in teaching materials, subject choice, careers education and 'hidden' in the actual organisation of the school. Girls are given an education which re-inforces stereotyped views of female roles.... Girls do Domestic Science, boys do woodwork; girls play netball, boys football; girls make the tea at parents evenings and tidy away after the teacher. The cleaners are all women.... the school keeps all men.

The pamphlet is available from the National Council For Civil Liberties, 186, Kings Cross Road, London W.C.1. Price 75p.

## Eat and be damned

HEALTH food addicts always say that preservatives in food are bad for our health.

We often dismiss them as cranks and carry on eating our corn beef sandwiches. But it is a fact that preservatives *are* bad for you and can cause cancer.

The press is full of new information about the dangers of tinned meats. The case they are presenting is that if you don't use preservatives in tinned meat you get awful food poisoning like botullus—which two old age pensioners have died from—and that if you do use preservatives you can get cancers like leukaemia and Hodgkins Disease.

What the press never says is that maybe we should stop eating spam, corned beef, and pork pies until they discover a preservative that is safe.

Most of us don't eat health foods because they cost too much, take too long to prepare and we genuinely don't know about the dangers. But if you could afford a minute steak with fresh grown potatoes would you ever look at another tin?

A lot of the food we eat can kill us in the end. Also we work in factories making food using these chemicals and that can kill us too. It's about time women started finding out more about what's in their food and more about what's in their air at work.

If you want advice about chemicals at work, write to us Womens Voice Box 82 London E2.

## Shoddy shoes scandal

SHOE shop profits were so massive last year that the Government has had to step in and instruct the shops to cut profits in future. They aren't being asked to reduce prices, though, so no cheaper shoes for the likes of us.

But when we buy shoes do we get value for money? It appears that most of the shoes we buy are a load of rubbish. The Office of Fair Trading's figures show that nearly 30,000 complaints of shoddy shoes were received last year. These came in from Citizens Advice Bureaux, Consumer Advice Centres, and don't of course include the numbers of pairs of shoes that have been taken back to shoe shops, or lay abandoned in a cupboard somewhere.

Half the complaints in a sample survey came from women. Heels falling off, stitching coming undone, wafer thin soles, shoes letting in water are just some of the more familiar complaints. Good money wasted on expensive rubbish. No wonder so many kids have to wear gym shoes.

If you take shoes back to a shop, a repair or credit note is often forced upon you rather than a refund of money. But a refund is your legal right and at least gives you the chance to try elsewhere. For more information about your rights your Consumer Advice Centre will give you an excellent leaflet, "Shoes" in the "For Your Protection," Series.

Alison Kirton

## Rape by courtesy of the police

JUST over one half of sexual assault cases were reported to the police over the last two years, and only about a quarter of these reached the courts, according to the Second Annual Report of the Rape Counselling and Research Project.

The reasons for women not reporting assaults are often because of well founded expectations of not being believed, and fear of repercussions—particularly since it has emerged that about half of rapes are by acquaintances, friends or relations, including husbands.

Rape is not confined to back alleys either. A third occurred in the

women's own homes, and other places included a hospital and even a children's home.

The RCRP is the only organisation in Britain conducting research on rape, but funds are not forthcoming. It has failed to get a penny from the Equal Opportunities Commission for a research project into the way women secretaries and production workers are forced to exchange sexual activity or attention for their job security, promotion or wage increase.

The RCRP hopes to change police and legal practice by accumulating evidence on a crime that is far more widespread than is generally accepted.

Jane Henriques.

## Live and let live

DONNA works in New York City, for RCA Global Communications. She started there four years ago as the first woman technician.

The men she works with were violently opposed to her getting the job and have been intimidating her ever since.

'I've put on weight. My face broke out in spots. But I wasn't going to let them force me out of this job' said Donna.

Then in May 1,400 members of her union, the American Communications Association (part of the Teamsters Union) came out on strike against RCA's blatant attempt to undermine the union.

Donna argued for the strike.

They occupied the New York office for 36 hours, and as Donna put it, 'If you're in the same room for 36 hours, you either kill each other or learn to live with, and understand, each other.'

After 63 days on strike it was overwhelmingly won, and the union is now stronger than ever.

For three years Donna has been trying to get a permanent day shift so that she can go to evening school for further training. The men she works with are now supporting her demand as they would for any other worker.

Ann Darby



OLIVE Schriener, a British born South African writer led the attack on Rhodes and the Chartered Company among whites. In 1897, one year after the Shona uprising, she published a book in London titled: Trooper Peter Halket of Mashonaland.

It was met with abuse and hysteria.

Little wonder the so-called civilisers of Africa were disgusted—the book was an indictment of everything they did. They went to South Africa to exploit the land and the people, Olive wrote, and didn't care of the consequences. The narrator of the book, a trooper in Rhodes' invading force, spells it out.

'All men made money when they came to South Africa—Barney, Barnato, Rhodes—they all made money out of the country, eight millions, twelve millions, twenty six millions, forty millions; why should not he!

'When he had served his time as volunteer he would have a large piece of land given him and the Mashonas and Matabeles would have all this land taken away from them in time, and the Chartered Company would pass a law that they had to work for the white man.'

Of course, if he couldn't make money out of the land he could start a syndicate, issue shares, and then sell out at a fat profit. 'Always sell out at the right time. That point Peter Halket was very clear on. He had heard it so often discussed. Give some shares to men with big names, and get out.'

Before they could exploit the land they had to control it, and if that meant wiping out every black person who stood in their way, then that they would do. In the name of Christianity.

But Peter's christian conscience would not lie down. It argued against war and exploitation, and for the just cause of the black rebels in defending themselves. It argued for a new uprising:

'The day shall come, when (we) shall see no spot where the soil is moist and dark with the blood of man shed by his fellow man, And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Tomorrow's sun shall rise and it shall flood these dark kopjes with light, and the rocks shall glint in it. Not more certain is that rising than the coming of that day.'

Olive Schriener made that prediction eighty years ago. Today it will come true.

Margaret Renn

# The black history of white Rhodesia

IN the early 1890s Cecil Rhodes moved his colonial army northwards through Africa in search of gold and diamonds. Behind him lay the foundations of modern South Africa.

It was a land seized from the black people; savagely exploited for its vast mineral wealth and no less savagely ruled by the invaders. To the north lay the territories of the Ndebele and Shona people.

For a thousand years and more these people had lived peacefully, grazing their huge herds of cattle on the wide grassy plains. The stone cities and walls they and their ancestors had built displayed so advanced an architecture that the whites did not believe them the work of 'natives'.

This was the land that became Rhodesia. It was named after Cecil Rhodes.

The invading armies of Rhodes' British South Africa Company wanted these rich lands and the herds of cattle for themselves. They took what they wanted at gunpoint. The soldiers became farmers and landowners and settled down to what they imagined would be a life of luxury.

The black men and women were forced into slavery on the white farms and in the mines. If they resisted their villages were burned to the ground. Flogging became the order of the day.

In scarcely three years these people lost everything. 'The women were especially timid' wrote one of the invaders. 'This appeared to be on account of the police making a practice of assaulting and raping any native woman they found.'

In 1896 the black people rose in anger. Armed with only spears and old fashioned rifles they drove the whites off their land.

The whites were astounded. They had not believed 'these cowardly and miserable niggers', as they described the Ndebele and Shona people, had a way of life worth fighting and dying for.

Worst of all one of the most powerful leaders of the rebellion was a woman! The whites were so terrified of her they named her 'the witch of Mazoe'.

She was a medium, the priestess of an ancient goddess Nehanda. The people of these lands had worshipped Nehanda, long before any white travelled south of the Equator.

For two years this woman led a heroic and determined war. In the end her armies were crushed. They had only spears and blunderbusses. The whites machine gunned them in their hundreds. Explosives were thrown into the villages and the caves where women and children sought refuge.

The Nehanda medium was captured. She



Nehanda awaiting execution at Salisbury jail in 1898.

was taken to Salisbury jail and hanged in April 1898.

When she was about to die the whites tried to convert her to Christianity. She refused and tried to kill herself. They tied her down and took her to the scaffold. 'Everyone was very relieved after the execution', wrote one of the priests.

The war the Nehanda medium led was called Chimurenga. The spirit of their resistance survived one hundred years of white rule, white oppression and white barbarity. Chimurenga is also the name given to today's great rebellion. The freedom fighters of Zimbabwe are avenging Nehanda.

Joanna Rollo

# The diary of a nobody

Margaret Hilda Robertson was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire, in 1926.

When she was nine years old she won first prize for reciting a poem at Huntingtower Elementary School. The headmistress said: 'You were lucky Margaret'. She replied 'I wasn't lucky—I deserved it'.

Margaret got a second-class degree at Oxford in Chemistry. She was President of the Oxford Conservative Association. A colleague recalls: 'She was mature for her age'.

In 1951 she fought Dartford for the Conservatives and lost. She met Dennis Thatcher, whose father owned the local Atlas Paint Works. She was married in blue velvet.

She changed her course at Oxford to Law.

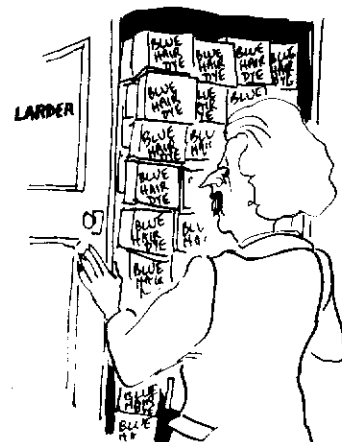
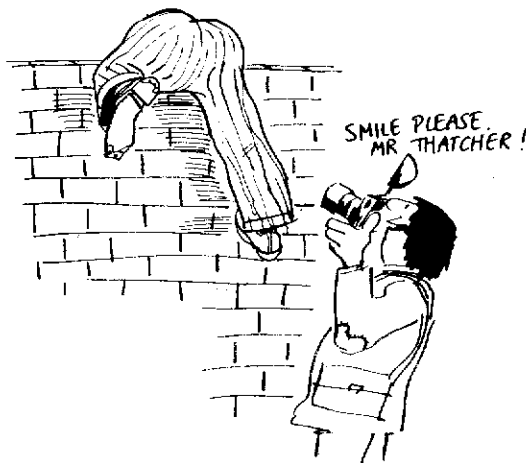
In 1953 she had twins; Carol and Mark. She was called to the Bar as a tax lawyer.

Husband Dennis's family business was bought by **Burmah Oil**. Dennis was made a director. Burmah Oil went bankrupt. Dennis tried to escape publicity by climbing over a wall behind his office. But many journalists took his photograph as he did so.

During the sugar crisis Margaret revealed that she kept a year's supply of food in her kitchen cupboard, including sugar and tinned salmon.

In 1974 Edward Heath was forced out of office after failing to beat the miners' strike. In 1975 Margaret replaced him as Tory leader.

When asked by journalists how she had won she modestly replied: 'Merit'.



A women's magazine observed that she was 'spiky and cold'. And that 'something happens to her eyes, like a cold wind passing over a Norfolk beach'.

In 1959 she was given the safe Conservative seat of Finchley. She was known for her 'suburban style' by colleagues. Prime Minister Harold MacMillan promoted her through the ranks. She liked Enoch Powell and Keith Joseph's political philosophy.

Her hero was Winston Churchill. The Sunday Times Magazine in August 1978 carried a front cover of her standing in front of a statue of Churchill trying to look like him.

She was Education Minister under the Heath government from 1970 to 1974—the longest-ever Tory education Minister. On her first day in office she issued Circular 10/70, which authorised councils to stop the spread of Comprehensive teaching.

She stopped free school milk for children over nine. It was uneconomical.

She said 'The charm of Britain has always been the ease with which one can move into the middle class'.

She attacked Russia, because it was Communist. The Russians said she was an 'Iron Maiden'. Margaret was pleased.

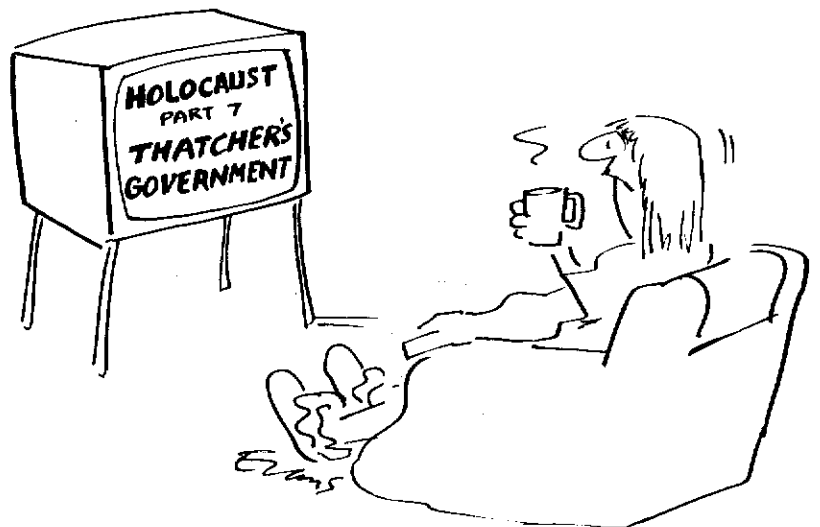
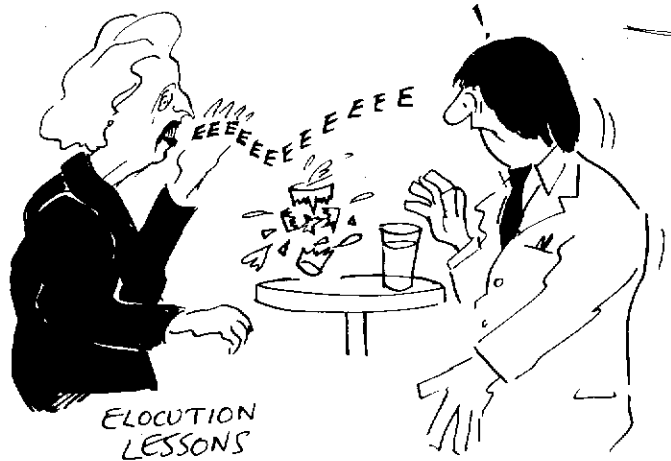
After 1½ years as party leader Margaret got her hair changed and took elocution lessons because people complained that her blue hair was unnatural and they couldn't understand what she said. But nobody could tell the difference. She was upset.

In 1978 she appeared on 'World in Action' and said 'Immigrant cultures appear to be swamping parts of Britain'. She was expecting a General Election.

Saatchi and Saatchi were called in to promote the Party image. They produced a poster showing people dressed like Margaret Thatcher standing in a dole queue. The campaign cost 1½ million pounds.

Margaret appeared on television and promised that the Conservatives would spend more on housing, hospitals, schools, the elderly, law and order and the armed forces. She said that the Conservatives would cut taxation. People were puzzled. How would she pay for the increased spending?

Margaret wouldn't say.



# SEX

## and the single teenager

Are you still at school, fighting mum or dad for pocket money, while they're on the dole, sharing a room in a flat on a grotty housing estate with two sisters and neighbours who complain about your clothes/noise/boys hanging around.

Or are you like the girls in the stories... sharing a flat, glamorous job and no worries beyond what colour nail varnish to wear that night to meet Greg.

Off into the sunset go the girls in the stories—not behind the flats.

And what do they do next?

Do they have a quick grope and fumble scared that mum, or the neighbours, will see?

The stories never go further than a misty heart with *The End* written in it.

Written by  
Beeban  
Jay  
and  
friends

"We didn't use any contraception. We always thought about it but I never got round to it. He suggested that I go on the pill, but I didn't feel ready for it and I didn't have the nerve to ask him to use anything and he didn't suggest it. It's unfair that the responsibility is left to the woman, but it's easier.

The first time I did it I was drunk. I probably wouldn't have otherwise I don't think he was using me because afterwards he asked me out, and said he loved me. I never know whether to take that seriously though.

Blokes have an easier time. If a girl gets off with loads of blokes she's a tart, if not, she's frigid.

My friends are 13 to 14. The blokes are a lot older they are 16-19. They resent the fact that we are younger because they want mature relationships. But it does make it easier for them because the girls aren't so experienced and don't know what they want so they'll try anything, anyone—and they're used. I've done it too but I've come to the realization that you've got to discriminate.

I went to the family planning clinic because I knew I didn't want to get pregnant, I'd like to be safe. I got an appointment and asked my sister to go with me. I went to Brook. I lied about my age. I said I was 14 not 13 but I think they wouldn't have minded anyway. They hardly questioned my age because they deal with a lot of under 16 year olds.

The thing I noticed and found a bit funny was that everyone there was female. I felt something was missing, it wasn't comfortable and it doesn't help the feeling that blokes aren't involved.

*Sex education in schools is boring. We've had about four sex talks. One about what sex is, and three about contraception. They don't teach anything new.*

There are discussions about sex between us, quite detailed as it is a girls school. It is very important to have sex education in schools. When I came to Camden I knew where babies came from. I also knew what things like bugger and 69 were. Talking about sex amongst the class, looking at dirty mags in the dinner hour where it isn't forced on you is good."

Ever seen a girl in a story visit a VD Clinic? You can catch it pretty easily, and it's something that doesn't go away if you just 'leave it be'. It can be very harmful to you and for your kids if you get pregnant. It is very easily treated, not particularly pleasant, but it is quick and completely anonymous. They do ask you who you have had sex with, because most forms of VD are catching,

but these people aren't told who gave their name.

There is a very rare but not very extensive discussion about contraception. We've all heard of THE PILL, but how about the alternatives, and how about durex being used by the bloke? Clinics do treat girls under 16, so there's no need to wait until your birthday. Even the internal examination that you will have to have at some point isn't so bad that you need delay going until it's too late.

How about abortions? Obviously it is better to have contraception, but if you need an abortion you have to fight for it. You can speak to your GP if you are lucky enough to have a sympathetic one. If not, speak to the Family Planning Clinic in your area and they will help. Remember if you have an abortion and you are under 16 your parents will have to know and give permission for you to have a general anesthetic.





I first had it off when I was 15, with a younger girl. We were drunk, she had a friend with her, but we went back to my house and had it off, her friend was in the same room. We didn't really get it together and we didn't use contraception. It was terribly sordid.

*It's better when you're older, it's slower. When you're young you've got no time for yourself, always worrying about who might walk in.*

It's a big thing. You're supposed to go out and prove yourself as a *man* like killing a lion, it creates problems for the so called late developers, the ones that can't cope.

Skinny girls are more nervous than fat ones. Lots of the thing about skinny girls with no tits is a repressive thing. Supressed homosexual tendencies, getting off with a girl that looks like a bloke.

I think that every bloke goes through a homosexual phase. Me and a bloke almost had one but neither of us pushed it, so nothing really happened. Blokes really turn me on sometimes. If it were the

same relationship but with a girl something would have happened, but I suppose we were scared. Its taboo.

Lot's of women don't have orgasms. Women are sexually repressed. Its sad, society works against them. I think its right to discuss it and to bring out ideas of sexual liberation.

I'm easy and I'm not called a tart, a bloke is a stud. It makes me feel guilty but I wouldn't say anything.

Contraception is useful. Its got a long way to go, it's a shared responsibility. The pill is great but dangerous. I hate durex. It's a price you have got to pay for having sex and the woman pays it.

Sex education in schools is abysmal. There should be sex counsellors in schools uninhibited people that kids could go and see. Education depends not only on the facilities but also the kids wanting it. In our school we learnt about it in biology, the class was full of very innocent straight boys. Suddenly this teacher comes up to this really shy bloke and yells 'orgasm, boy, orgasm', he almost died."

The approach  
about the  
the fact that  
necessarily  
to see the  
and a strong  
and

here we get the  
and

Kid's stay in the  
for something that  
end up on the  
waiting for someone  
that entices them to  
a place in society.

This is when teenagers  
present problems for  
adults. They can reject  
the system because  
they have no  
investment in it. So  
they are pressured to  
identify with it. Sex  
keeps them busy until  
they have some stake  
in society.

Even at this age boys  
have an advantage.  
They can exploit girls  
because it's a  
recognised sign of  
manhood.

'You're either a tart or a  
lady'. The competition  
between teenage girls  
leads towards being a  
tart. Keeping a bloke  
often depends on how  
far you'll go. But the  
pressures of parents,  
teachers, neighbours  
make you want to be a  
lady.

The space left for girls  
to discover their own  
needs and ideas about  
sex, a process of  
inhibition and  
experiment that society  
traditionally reserves  
for boys, is very limited.

One way out is  
romanticism. To get  
carried away by it all  
gives us an excuse.

Swept off our feet at a  
party, it also leaves us  
holding the baby and  
marrying to salvage  
some sort of social  
respectability.

The girls who've  
thought it out and have  
gone on the pill aren't

slags, scrubbers or  
tarts. They have more  
chance of enjoying sex.

The fact is that sex can  
be fun and exciting,  
there's no need for it to  
be a male monopoly. It  
doesn't even have to  
involve boys.

Establishing a sexual  
identity is something  
that girls have to do.

We've got the raw end  
of the deal and it isn't  
easy trying to establish  
yourself as a brain and  
a person someone with  
needs and wants like  
the blokes. Although  
sex is only one aspect  
of liberation, if we can  
build sexual identities  
we are near to being  
accepted as people and  
not dependants.

# MAKE YOUR OWN WOMENS VOICE GROUP BANNER

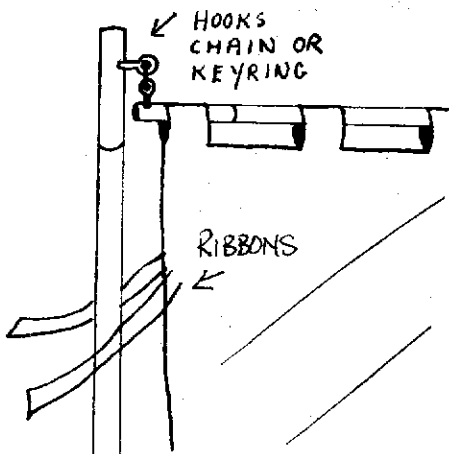
EVERY Womens Voice Group needs a banner. So, here's how to do it, depending on your resources.

1. The easiest, cheapest, and quickest method: take an old bedsheet, or length of material, a paintbrush, and a pot of bright emulsion paint. Plan what you are going to write, measure your letters out approximately, marking them in pencil, and paint straight onto the cloth.

2. The second type is a more sophisticated variation of the first. To make an original banner, a banner with real impact, you'll need strong, clear lettering and some kind of visual image or design.

It's not as difficult as it may seem, if you make use of an epidiascope. This is a piece of equipment which projects a small image up onto a wall, as a large image. Epidiascopes are often used in schools, and colleges, but if you can't borrow one, you can make one quite easily. Contact H. W. English, 469 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1SU, telephone 0277 221685, for lenses and instructions.

This is what to do. Pin your banner material to the wall. Project your lettering and design onto it, and adjust the size to suit.



Then simply pencil round the lettering and image with the help of a ruler. Then paint it in.

You can use the slogan already printed on a leaflet, take a drawing or cartoon from a newspaper, or one which already appears in Womens Voice, or use the 'Womens Voice' title piece from the cover. You can make up your own images or get someone else who is

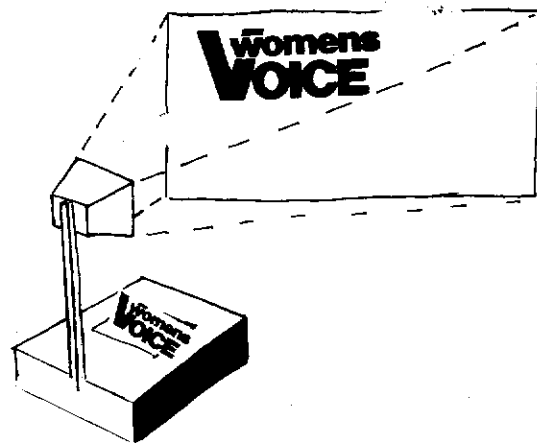
good at drawing to do it. Line drawings are no good, they disappear at a distance.

## Lettering

If you cannot get the letter you want ready made, you can buy a plastic cut out letter stencil from a stationers, WH Smith, or Woolworths. There is also Letraset, which is more expensive. This is a sheet of letters with a transparent plastic backing, which you use like a sheet of transfers. Put the letter needed right way down on a sheet of paper, rub over the top with a pencil. The letter will come off neatly. You may find a book on lettering in your local library. Trace out the letters with tracing paper.

do an Aqua Poster Paint which you can thin with white spirit. It's cheaper and comes in several colours. T. Keep also do fluorescent paint!

3. Cloth Banners are longer lasting. Fine or thick cotton is best, at £1 to £2.50 per metre from shops like the John Lewis chain. Otherwise try your local market. Acrylic paint can be used again, but if you have a sewing machine, with a zig zag attachment to prevent fraying, letters can be cut out in cloth and sewn on. The epidiascope is still the best method for cutting out the letters. Pin the letters in place on the backing material, and sew round the edges.



## Materials

For a hardwearing banner, which will not run in the rain, use acrylic paint, available from most shops selling artists' materials. Acrylic paint comes in tubes costing from 65p to £1.05 depending on colour, but one tube will cover quite a large area. This paint dries extremely quickly. Rowney Cryla is the best.

A good banner material, originally designed for making blinds, which will also stand up to bad weather, is Fine Holland, available from A. Holt and Sons, 115 Whitecross Road, London EC1. Telephone 01 606 5676. Ring for prices and the possibility of obtaining offcuts. It comes in various widths, 3 feet, 4 feet, 6 feet, and in various colours.\*

This material works well with Acrylic paint, though T. Keep and Sons, Theobalds Road, Holborn, London WC1, 01 242 7578,

It is possible to combine sewing and painting techniques on one banner.

## Banner Poles

Use lengths of one inch dowelling. It is light and strong. The length you will need will depend on the size of the banner. Allow for carrying the banner.

A cross pole can be added, using half or three quarter inch dowelling. The crosspole can be attached to the upright pole using hooks, bought in any hardware shop.

The banner cloth is attached to the poles by strips of material tied in a ribbon knot around the pole, or by loops sewn onto the banner through which you thread the poles. Fine Holland can be stapled onto the poles.

\* Womens Voice has a supply of 3 feet wide Holland. Telephone 01 734 7410 and place your order. Must be collected, and paid for before you take it away.

Maurice Valleby.

# DIY DIY DIY DIY DIY



# WOMENS HEALTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Moon Phases New M 4th First Q 11th	Moon Phases Full M 18th Last Q 25th	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Sunset Times 6th 20.41 13th 20.28	Sunset Times 20th 20.14 27th 19.59

## BREAK THE CYCLE OF PAIN

Millions of women know when their period is due, not by the date on the calendar but by the beginnings of back pains, stomach cramp, headaches, depression, sickness and a hundred other nasty symptoms.

Doctors call painful periods dysmenorrhoea and at least half of the female population suffers from it.

When I was at school I had a friend called Sue, who spent at least two days in the month vomiting and suffering acute back pains. Her doctor told her that all this was quite normal and that she would probably have lighter and less painful periods after she had had a baby! She was fifteen at the time.

The average doctors' attitude to 'period pains' hasn't changed much since then. Periods are something you put up with and pain is supposed to be part of the natural process of things.

Very little research has been

done to find out why we get painful periods. The pain is thought to be caused by the womb contracting too quickly and limiting its own blood supply.

Various drugs can be used to slow down the contractions in the womb, but since these drugs cause bleeding in the gut they are only used in extreme cases, which leaves the rest of us to grin and bear it.

Most GPs don't seem to know what to do about period pains, and many don't have the time or the interest. I went to my own doctor (who is male and about 60) because at the end of every period I was getting really blinding headaches which could last up to three weeks. The doctor gave me a bottle of pain killers. He didn't even bother to ask if I was on the pill!

I'm now on a lower dosage pill and don't get headaches any more, but I had to suggest to the Family Planning Clinic that the

pill might be the cause of my headaches before I got any help. I still get backache, depression and stomach ache every month.

Because so many women have to take time off as a result of period problems some women in my union in the civil service, the CPSA, are considering campaigning for a change in our sick rules at work so that we get time off for period pains.

If you have a day off because of period pains management often thinks you're just using it as an excuse to have a day off! Some women work on in spite of their agony for fear that regular time off each month will get them into trouble.

The problem is that there are not many solutions to very bad pain. Paracetamol and soluble aspirin can help. But no tablets are 100% safe.

Lower dosage contraceptive pills are quite often a great help and produce lighter periods.

You can take the pill continuously and not have periods as there is no evidence that missing a period once in a while is harmful. None of these are permanent solutions though and much more research is needed before we can get rid of painful periods from our lives.

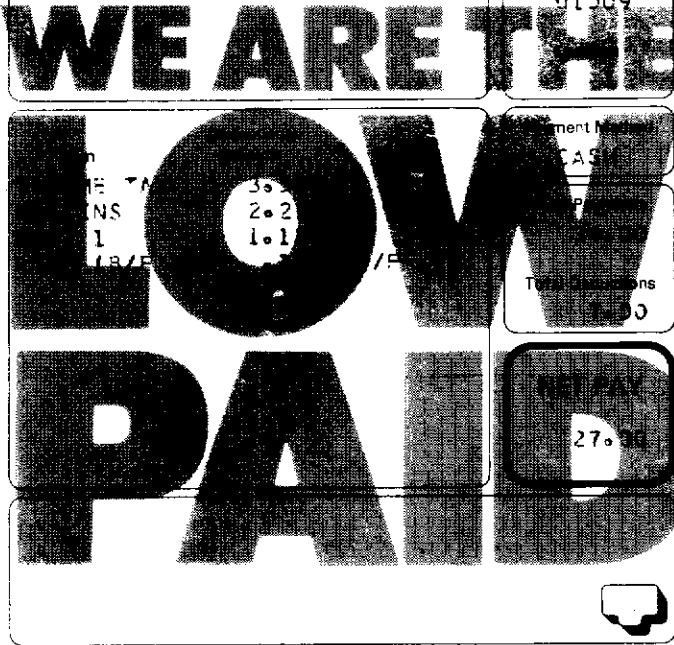
There are things we can do to start dispelling the myths about our own bodies. Period pains are not caused because 'women are neurotic', nor are they psychosomatic.

We should not accept this pain and tension as something we have to endure for ever as part of our natural functions.

Perhaps more articles like this can begin to challenge the idea that our periods are something we don't talk about, but grin and bear in silence every month. There is a solution somewhere—our job is to campaign for money and research into finding that solution.

Mary Littlefield

Employee No.  
01009



**Nine out of ten women earn less than £50 a week—for a full week's work. That's less than the official poverty line! Why? Don't women care how much they earn? Is it because women don't need as much money as men? Or is it because the employers use women as cheap labour? Womens Voice investigates just how little women earn, and how the law works against us getting a decent wage.**

**MOST** women work in industries that are notorious for rotten wages and poor conditions. Over half of us get jobs in clothing, hairdressing, hotels and catering, shops, schools and hospitals. All jobs that pay really badly.

Even in industries that don't have such a reputation for lousy wages, like engineering, if you look a bit closer you find women are doing the bottom jobs—the ones that have the lowest rates.

Even in the sorts of jobs that are supposed to have exactly equal pay, like teachers or local government, you find women get the least. Women teachers only earn three quarters as much as men teachers—they're all on the lower grades, while the men get to be headmasters and the like.

In local government it's the same. 75 per cent of women who are members of the local government union NALGO are below AP4 grade compared to 32 per cent of men.

Why are women on the low grades? It's not because men are better at their jobs! It's partly because women have all that other work to do—like rearing children and doing housework.

**Our families, our schools and our bosses all say we are worth less than men.**

We are brought up as girls to think that the most important thing in our lives is getting married and having a family. Work is just temporary. So we don't get the training at school, when we leave school we don't get the skilled jobs. The only jobs that we can get are in low pay ghettos with other women.

Many women don't see themselves as the real breadwinners. How many times have you heard the expression 'litle job' used to describe a hard slog that leaves you tired at the end of the day and only pays enough to cover the milk bill and some extra food at the end of the week?

Many women describe their wage as 'something to make ends meet' and don't see that they are entitled to as

good a wage as any man.

Work that women do is often undervalued. Why is it that women are only called secretaries and personal assistants when we know they do most of his work for a quarter of his salary?

Our families, our schools and our bosses all say we are worth less than men and we often believe them—so we end up low paid. That's why eighty-eight per cent of full time women workers end up with less than £50 before deductions.

**Last year employers underpaid the low paid by at least £15 million pounds.**

When women workers get so angry that they want to fight for more money, all too often they have to face not only the employers, but also union officials who don't want to fight for 'a bunch of silly women who should be at home looking after the kids anyway'.

So what is the answer—can women use the law to improve their wages? The Equal Pay Act and the Wages Council are the two main bits of law that affect women's wages.

Wages Councils set minimum wages in various industries that traditionally pay very badly and have very little trade union organisation. But the wage rates they lay down are never enforced—the government won't force the bosses to pay. And in any case, the rates they set down are so low, they won't give anyone a decent living.

For instance the wage they say hairdressers should get is just £27.85 a week! Shop assistants in food shops only need to be paid £30.30, while hotel workers have a minimum wage of only £34—for shiftwork!

And the employers don't even pay these lousy wages! A recent survey shows that 43% of cafe owners don't pay the £30 they're supposed to. Last year employers underpaid by at least 15 million pounds. Seventy seven per cent of those investigated were underpaying.

If Wages Councils are no real use—what about the



picture: BEEBAN KIDRON

Equal Pay Act? Surely that must improve women's wages?

The Equal Pay Act became law in 1970 but employers did not have to abide by its regulations until 1976.

So for five years management journals were full of articles called 'How To Get Out of Equal Pay'. They advised employers to put jobs done by women on to the lowest grades. This was done by job evaluation schemes which classed strength (male) as worth more money than dexterity which is a female skill. That's how an unskilled man carrying boxes in a clothes factory earns more than a skilled woman who sews the clothes!

Since the Equal Pay Act became law, the cash gap between men's and women's wages has actually widened.

Nowadays women earn on average £25 a week less than men. If most women work in low pay ghettos with other women, where are the men they can compare their wages to? Many skilled women can only compare themselves with unskilled men working in the same place.

'When it comes down to it, there are no men on my job to be equal with. The finishers are all men and they're strong in the union, but because they negotiate their wages through a separate body it's a real fight to get them interested. Yet we are all skilled workers. We all pay the same union dues, so why should one section get more? We all need a decent living minimum wage.'

Joan Sharpe, Machine knitter, Nottingham

Since the Equal Pay Act the cash gap between men's and women's wages has widened. Women earn on average £25 a week less than men.

Like Joan Sharpe many women feel that they should now fight for a decent minimum wage rather than Equal Pay. And that's when pay policy gets in the way. The Labour government, when it first introduced wages policy claimed that it did so to cut inflation, halt unemployment and help the low paid catch up. Yet it is the unemployed and the low paid who suffer most as a result of Phases one, two, three and now four.

Under Labour at least 800,000 women are out of work.

Under phase four a woman earning £30 a week gets £1.50 before deductions. Many trade union officials now use government wages policy as an excuse for doing nothing:

'Being in the Public Sector you see private sector workers getting high wage rises while your union just accepts anything the government offers.

'A year ago the attitude in my office was that higher wages cause inflation.

'But now everyone is getting more sympathetic to strikes. They see that you don't get anywhere without making a noise.

'If they thought the leadership was serious and well organised they would go out. At the moment they think "what's the point, nothing can be done".

'But if the union took a lead they would consider action.'

Joanne Jeffries, County Hall Clerk, Nalgo

Under Phase Four a woman earning £30 a week gets £1.50 before deductions.

As the unemployed rate shoots past one and a half million, more and more women find that they have to support a whole family on a 'woman's wage'. It could be £30 it could be £50. Either way it's a lousy way to live.

Phase four says that workers earning less than £44.50 a week can organise for more. The public employees union NUPE has already started a campaign on the low paid and are using this clause in Phase Four as a back up argument.

The government isn't worried about a wages explosion because it thinks that since the low paid are mostly women we will not have the interest, the confidence or the strength to fight.

Low paid women have got to take on the bosses and if necessary the government to win a decent living wage.

Under Labour at least 800,000 women are out of work.

That means putting our faith in ourselves *not* the law. It means joining unions. It means electing women to represent us. It means arguing for union meetings in worktime so we can go to them. There is *no* short cut to more money.

Join a union, join us, and fight!

Research: Judith Hamilton  
Written by Christina Potrykus

# WHEN THE WOMAN IS BREADWINNER

Ms Carter is the family breadwinner. She supports herself her unemployed husband and two children on a take home pay of £39.50, plus family allowance. The weekly commitments are rent, fuel, insurance, fares, phone and TV rental, which come to £35.26. She spends £5 a week on food.

'When you are poor, you have to try to explain to young children that they can't have the nice clothes, shoes and slippers that they see other children with. Since Mick has been unemployed we have had to do without quite a few things. When Mick was working we had continuous hot water. Now we can only afford to have the water on one day to do the washing, have baths and wash our hair.

We never have butter and very rarely do we have meat or a joint or fresh vegetables. We never go out as a family or by ourselves. To get the money I have to work 3pm to 11pm in the week, which means I only see my elder girl at weekends.

When Christmas comes we have the choice of getting the girls presents or getting deeper into debt. Because they are so young they don't understand. It's a vicious circle you just owe more money and get more miserable.'

(from *Wasted Labour* by the Child Poverty Action Group)

# REVIEWS\*REVIEWS\*REVIEWS\*REVIEWS\*REVIEWS

Deliver us From Love, by Suzanne Brogger Quartet, £1.95

'Of course I'm paranoid, but if I relax and say the hell with it and glance at the people as I pass as usual, then the obscenities will start... I'm helping to start a "dialogue" that will develop entirely on his conditions, which means that I will either have to accept them (go with him) or become openly hostile in order to neutralise his camouflaged aggression. "Well, so you're out cruising, you little whorecock!" I might say, "and you do it free! So you can't be very fucking good!" And so forth. But that macho line doesn't appeal to me, and anyway, I'm a friendly soul, and I'd like to continue to be... But if a woman can't say good evening without risking her freedom, then that woman isn't free. For that matter, neither is the man who can't say good evening without thinking of his genitalia... Being spoken to on the street would not be a problem if the relations between the sexes were different.'

'Emmanuelle has told the story (of her rape) and written it, and a lot of men have asked her, in all seriousness, if she had an orgasm, which can only mean that those men do not distinguish between rape and love. This is true of any man who can get an erection with a woman who has no desire... The truth of all this is confirmed by the fact that we now have two generations of men who are conscious of this violence syndrome, and who compensate for it by constantly asking what the woman wants. This is a very odd form of consideration, but it couldn't be otherwise. The explanation is that most men are so alienated from women and from their own femininity, that is, from themselves and their own sexual drives, that they must constantly ask (with the best of intentions) what they ought to do next, as if they were solving some kind of Chinese puzzle...

'Marriage is based on St Matthew's assurance that  $1+1=1$ ... His point was that man and woman would become one through marriage... It worked very well indeed, as long as the woman was 0, because  $1+0=1$ . But today people are trying to revise this equation and insist that  $1+1=2$ . This is a very great misfortune... for marriage. The fact that love has been mixed into the economic arrangement marriage once was has not helped to free woman's potential. On the contrary, it has made her position even more vulnerable... The fact that so many people believe they can alter marriage is because we look on marriage as something

# REVIEWS

completely personal... But it is not the husband and wife who form the marriage, just as the atmosphere in a prison depends very little on the personalities of the prisoners.

Why don't the Left-wing parties and the feminists put the elimination of the family at the top of their programmes? It is no excuse to say that we are victims of the system and the products of capitalism. Society isn't going to be transformed by 'products', but by the people who cease to be products. Then perhaps there will come a day when people can live once again two by two without endangering their lives.' (From the Nuclear family to nuclear war).

The day after I bought 'Deliver us from love', I went back to the shop and bought six more copies for my friends—but don't wait for a friend to buy you one, deprive them of that pleasure!

Judith Hamilton





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# YOUR VOICE

## Gay bus driver sacked

Dear Womens Voice

Mary Winter, a bus driver from Burnley and Pendle Joint Transport, has been sacked for wearing a badge which says 'Lesbian Liberation'. Mary was given two weeks notice. She is being victimised because she is a lesbian.

Two workmates and two members of the public complained that Mary's badge offends them. But this badge is a form of protection for Mary against the advances of men she meets both in and out of work.

People who cannot tolerate difference just because society approves of heterosexuals and not homosexuals make me sick.

Please support Mary, her job depends on your support. You can do this by writing to: Mr Greenwood, c/o Burnley and Pendle Joint Transport, Queensgate, Burnley.

DEMAND her reinstatement!

Susan Lane  
Burnley

**LESBIANS**  
**IGNITE**

## Motherhood

Dear Womens Voice

F M Farrar's letter opens up an important debate about child-care but reflects a nasty philosophy about 'natural destiny' which should be seriously looked at. As she rightly points out to be a mother in our society is a tough task—alone on the fifteenth floor, isolated in rural areas, with strained finances, probably loss of job and career prospects, and generally poor child care facilities if you do work—to name but a few of the penalties. But the theory of maternal deprivation is just another burden for a harassed mother.

This theory was developed in a post-war society based on research gathered together by John Bowlby, about children in residential nurseries who were suffering greatly from the loss of their families as the result of a world war. It is also the theory of a post-war economy when women were no longer required to work and the government found it convenient to change its mind about day nurseries and advise local authorities to close them down.

Firstly being a mother is not some wonderful instinctive process which just comes

'naturally'. Women often have to 'learn' how to love and care for their babies—and if they have to, so can fathers.

Secondly—yes I do feel it is crucial for babies and young children to experience deep and strong relationships with adults (please note the plural) but breast-feeding, despite its many advantages isn't some magical formula for that.

Thirdly, babies and children do have voices, in fact very loud voices, it's just that we often don't listen to them or respect them.

And finally let us kill the myth that women committed to the women's movement are eagerly waiting to grab babies out of mothers arms and rush them off to the confines of some vast state nursery come what may. I for one wholeheartedly support any mothers or fathers who wish to stay home with their child, but if our biology is to be a strength and not a chain round our necks, then we must have the choice to define the conditions of mothering and motherhood, and to create the choices, we must have power.

Jane Ashdown  
South East London

## HELP\*\*\*

Dear Sisters

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Shetland Women's Group. We are trying to set up a Women's Centre—for advice, coffee, information, etc.—and we'd like help and advice from any groups or individuals who have been involved in doing the same. We particularly need financial advice: what bodies can we approach for grants? How can we economize or make money ourselves?

If anyone can help, please contact WV as soon as possible.

Jane Cook  
Shetland

Its from Shetland  
— they need funds, and  
want the bottle back for the  
deposit money.



\*

Do you live in an out of the way place? Is there a Womens Voice group in your town? If you've got the lonely-womens-voice-readers blues why not write in and tell us. We'll publish letters like this one from Shetland, so that readers can be put in touch with one another, and we'll answer all enquiries. Don't just be a lonely subscriber. There may be another Womens Voice reader just around the corner who'd love to meet up with you!

## Cardiff Rape Crisis

Dear Womens Voice

A group of women in South Wales are interested in forming a Rape Crisis Centre, to provide help and support to rape victims, and to act as a campaigning body.

We will be holding a weekend school in October at the Polytechnic of Wales in Treforest.

On the first day of the conference there will be speakers from the London

Centre; hopefully a play followed by discussion in the afternoon, and maybe even a bop in the evening. The second day will be more practical, with workshops on specific subjects. We have yet to organise accommodation, a creche and charges.

Anyone who is interested, and would like more information can get in touch with us at 2, Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff.

Sara Dent  
Cardiff

# When the other car hits you...

*Dear Womens Voice*

I had borrowed a friend's car to drive myself and two other women to a conference. A car sped out of a turning, and without so much as glancing to the left, the driver crashed into me, causing over £250 damage to the car...

The negligent driver was a woman. Realising she had caused the accident, she quickly reversed away from the scene. Then she and her husband, who was a solicitor, concocted the fantastical story that I had reversed round the corner and crashed into her stationary car. Lis, all lies.

But my friend's insurance was only third party, so the insurance company had no interest in defending our claim. The AA wouldn't help, either. It was left to my friend to pursue his own claim for damages against the other driver, and whereas she had her husband to represent her, we could not afford legal advice.

So we decided to go ahead and fight the case ourselves, but

our insurance company refused to cover our claim if we lost.

In the end, we did lose. Her damages were paid for, and we were left with a smashed up car and a lost no-claims bonus. Of course, I'm left with an enormous debt to my friend which I can't repay.

So don't be fooled as I was. It doesn't matter who's in the right. What matters is who has influence and money. If someone crashed into you, don't assume they'll take the blame. Memorise their number right away, in case they try to drive off, and write it down with the first thing that comes to hand. Don't let them move their car.

Stop anyone who saw the accident and take their name and address. Perhaps you will be able to put up a better fight than naive women like me. I thought being in the right was enough, but I was wrong. The insurance companies and the courts don't exist to help the poor.

*Womens Voice Reader  
Lancaster  
(name and address supplied)*

# Just sit in a vase on the mantelpiece?

*Dear Womens Voice,*  
The following is from the 1978 Metropolitan Regional Exam Board's CSE in Homemaking. 'An attractive housewife and an attractive home go together. Write all you know about the subject of good grooming so that a busy mother with young children can keep herself looking as attractive as possible.'

*Amazing!*

*Iris Dove  
London S.E.7.*



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# POINTS

## VACCINATION

*Dear Womens Voice*

Vaccination is our responsibility and it already causes all kinds of guilt because whatever you decide might damage the child. But Womens Voice shouldn't go in for emphasising the guilt.

Two points might help. Firstly, most clinics don't start vaccinations until the baby is six months, and, as Lorna said, it's the period before that age when there is the greatest risk. This year there have been nine deaths from whooping cough, and I think all but one were under six months.

Secondly, and very important, you can easily have

vaccinations against tetanus and diphtheria without whooping cough, although the custom has generally been to give all three together.

Bringing up children is a serious matter, and I agree with Elana Dalias' letter where she says it should be taken seriously. The first step is the one she's taken. I think—to talk to other people, share ideas, and stop getting trapped into feeling that whatever one does is bound to be wrong. Guilt is the means by which our society distorts the rearing of children.

*Deborah Thom  
London*

## HAVE TENT WILL TRAVEL

*Dear Womens Voice*

In the August issue you mentioned holidays for the hard up. One suggestion I have is a camping holiday, such as a few Socialist Worker Party members organised recently in Derbyshire.

A Womens Voice group could do the same, hiring equipment if necessary, and organising a rota for cooking and washing up. I feel sure you could have a good time, a real break, whilst getting to know each other better as well. And it doesn't cost very much either. If you don't like the idea of camping you could even get together to hire a country



cottage and split the cost between you.

*Russ Haywood  
Manchester*

## ESCAPE WANTED?

*Dear Womens Voice*

I for one would be pleased to accept a single parent with two children for a weeks holiday, using my place as a base. It would mean helping out with the food and the price of their own entertainment.

Perhaps Womens Voice could devote some space to this idea. We could write to each other as pen friends with a view to spending holidays with each other.

Incidentally, our nearest seaside resort is Blackpool, which is approximately one hours ride by bus. I hope to hear from anyone who is interested.

*Barbara Duckworth  
Preston*

*Ed.* We will pass on letters to Barbara, and anyone else who wants to take up the suggestion.

We want to hear from you. Send your letters to Womens Voice, Box 82, London E2

**YOUR  
QUESTIONS...**

# ANSWERED

## Maternity leave

A PLEA for improved maternity leave and a range of provision for new mothers is made in *Blackmailed Back to Work*, which is published by *Women's Voice* as part of the Campaign for Better Maternity Leave in NALGO. Useful information is given which may benefit any pregnant employee not fully aware of the present scope of maternity leave and state benefits. Advice is also given on how to set up a campaign committee. The pamphlet costs 10p

From the Guardian, 14 August. We received nearly 50 letters asking for our pamphlet. This is just one of the queries that came with them.

Dear Womens Voice

Please send me a copy of the pamphlet on Maternity Leave. I wonder if you know the answer to the following.

Is a Woman entitled to maternity leave if:

(1) She takes sabbatical leave *with pay* in the 2 year period preceding the pregnancy.

(2) She takes unpaid leave in the 2 year period immediately before the birth.

(3) She takes unpaid leave but keeps up Pension payments during that leave.

That is assuming in all three cases that a period of 2 years work for the same employer has preceded the leave.

I'm not sure whether a case such as this has arisen and if so what happens... if you know I would appreciate an answer.

Many thanks, *Margaret Weston (Mrs)*

Dear Margaret

Thanks for your letter. It's a pity that in your letter you did not mention your job and the Union that you belong to. However I will give you as much information as I can and if after you have read the pamphlet, checked with your employer and the local agreement that has been negotiated by your Union, and you are still not clear perhaps you could write again.

The answer to your first question is clear. If sabbatical leave in your contract of employment counts as continuous service, and you are on full pay and paying your National Insurance contributions then you are entitled to the State Maternity benefit and leave (i.e. 6 weeks of full pay plus what has been negotiated by your Union).

With Question 2, if unpaid leave breaks your contract of service and you and your employer don't continue paying National Insurance contributions then you will not qualify for maternity leave.

And finally in Question 3, Pension

payments without National Insurance Contributions wouldn't entitle you to maternity leave.

I hope this helps and that you find the pamphlet useful.

*Alison Kirton*

AT Womens Voice, we are constantly receiving letters from people working on CSE projects, teaching courses, degrees and other forms of research who need detailed information about issues relating to women, eg women's strikes, rape, abortion and women in the labour movement.

Unfortunately, it is beyond our resources to provide this type of information. However, we can suggest other possible sources.

The Womens Research & Resources Centre, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 (telephone no: 01 253 7568) has an excellent library and index of people working on research related to women. You can become a member for £5 per annum, which entitles you to borrow books from the library and receive a newsletter. Otherwise, anyone can use the index and library but it is advisable to ring them first. The centre is open from Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 5.30 pm.

There does seem to be a shortage of facts, figures and information relating to women's issues, and the centre would welcome copies of research or theses on women so that other people can use this information.

LAST year there was a revolt in the schools: striking for dinners, sometimes against the teachers often not. Skan groups, Southgate school pickets, Paddington students and teachers march to save the school. There's a hubbub bubbling under the surface as a result of that action. You can feel it.

The National Union of School Students didn't have much to do with it last year, we missed the boat. We had no one there, no-one phoned us. We didn't think we could help.

We were dead stagnant. It is easy to see why. The aim of a school students union was to improve education. Ah, so we campaign on education, exams, curriculum, discipline. Who is concerned about education? Not the kids going on the dole, not the kids doing CSEs.

You can't tell how cold the water is by standing on the diving board. You've got to jump right in there, feeling it, hating it, fighting it. Then you're involved in the action.

No more educational campaigns for us. We are back to basics, defending kids rights, stopping suspensions, victimisations, letting them know their rights, letting them know they can fight, helping them fight. We're out to make going to school better: less discipline, petty rules. How about a bit of respect from the teachers? Some cheap gigs.



## SCHOOL STUDENTS

Raising money to get table tennis, netball, football stuff. Letting kids into school during breaks and lunch. Giving over our

facilities, our contacts, our experience to kids so they can do what they want.

If you're gonna get kids involved in activity it ain't any use waltzing up to them and saying 'The education system is a load of rubbish, why not put your name down on this petition to change it, so that the curriculum doesn't clash physics with geography'. If you don't know what's bugging people you show them that they can change what *they* want to change and do what *they* want to do. Then you have lots of bodies all over the place doing things to change schools.

There are two things we are going to do on a national level. Skan—build it and broaden it, and prove that the NF are Nazis.

A conference on sexism and sexuality. The aim is to get a women's perspective on school problems. How they are discriminated against, and how they can fight. We want to establish womens groups in our areas, and get the girls in the Union as activists. It also means getting the males to combat their own sexist attitudes.

We are going to grow. We're moving into action. We're breaking with the past and there's a future—a real future for our Union to be more than almost nothing and to make a real impact on ideas and schools.

*Toby Brown*





'WHY can't you have them the *natural* way?' shouted the man outside the Evening Standard. He was talking about babies. We'd just ended our demonstration against that worthy newspaper's scandalous articles on lesbian mothers (shock-horror-scandal). The natural way, in his terms, includes rape, loveless monogamy, the manners of the harem, plain prostitution. Of course that's probably not what he had in mind.



People are always using the word 'natural' in this way. It looks fine on the surface. Well it's only *natural*, they say. Boys will be boys. Every woman has the maternal instinct. Every man is out to look after number one.

Funny how some kinds of behaviour are never described under the heading 'natural'. Intellect or ambition in women, for instance. Gentleness in boys. Solidarity among workers. Oh, definitely not!

No, 'natural' is about basics. Just like in the bible. Man is the head, woman is the helpmate. Or like animals. They do what comes *natural*, you see. The males hunt, the females care for the young, and only the fittest survive. That's the way it was meant to be. Just like capitalism, all so natural.

Socialists come up against 'nature' all the time. Feminists get it thrown at them even more often. Socialist feminists certainly better watch out.

The next time someone says to you 'it's only natural', just say, 'What about the cuckoo?' The cuckoo is a bird that lays its eggs in other birds' nests. The originator of childcare, as you might say. The female cuckoo is distinctly lacking in maternal instinct. As for the male, well he just sits cuckooing on some branch all day. Most unnatural.

You might care at this point to make passing reference to the social organisation of bees, (remember the queen bee), or to the highly-strung antics of the preying mantis who waits til after she's made love—then spears her mate to death.

Ah, but that's just birds and insects, your nature-loving opponent will say. In which case, tell him about the lion, 'king' of the jungle. Ask if he saw a film called Lions of the Serengeti on television, how the pride was made up of four females and all their young, how they stuck together and hunted together right through the tough dry season, how together they drove off the male lion who tried to come and steal their food. Female solidarity like you've never seen, brother.

Tell them about the breed of wild dog, 'the marxist of the animal world' as it's been called, which travels in packs, always letting the sick or frail members of the pack have first chance at what food is caught. Or about penguins who stand together in enormous huddles to keep warm during a blizzard, taking turns at being on the outside edge.

You might even go on to the hermaphrodite earth-worm. Or oysters, my personal favourite. Oysters change sex according to the weather, such a neat variation on putting on another cardigan.

All this behaviour is thoroughly natural to the creatures concerned. But you're never encouraged to think about it.

From an early age you'll read Beatrix Potter with her (thoroughly unnatural) little rabbits dressed in trousers and frocks, mummy making tea, daddy having adventures. Even when you graduate to Walt Disney nature films, the script is still done with the old aggressive human stereotypes.

Watch out. Be ready when someone next says, it's only natural. Human behaviour is not only extremely various. It's also learned from other humans. And we have one big difference because we're human. We have consciousness. That means we can make conscious choices about how to behave.

Ten to one when someone tells you something is natural it's really about as natural as the natural shades in a Harmony natural hair dye.

# Well, it's only natural...

by  
Judith  
Condon



# WHEAT IS GOING ON?

## Public Meetings

● **Birmingham Womens Voice Day School**  
Saturday 9 September  
Women and the union, bulletins, women and the family.  
Details from Jenny, 440 5794, or Cathy 472 5222. Creche. Social.

● **Edinburgh Womens Voice**. Meeting Sunday 10th September 7.30pm, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place. 'Women and the Health Service', speaker: Anne Alden, (nurse and NUPE member). Sunday, 8th October, 7.30pm, Trades Council, Picardy Place, 'Women and the Trade Union Movement', speaker: Jennifer Ross (Glasgow Women's Voice).  
For details of further meetings, phone Penny 557-0731.

## WV Meetings

● **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.

● **Brighton** every Tuesday. Phone Sue (21060) or Manuela (Henfield 3843). Baby sitters provided.

● **Bristol Womens Voice** meets on Wednesday fortnightly in the Dockland Settlement, City Road, St. Pauls. Next meeting 8.00p.m., Wednesday, 20th September. For information contact Katrina at Bristol 22011 ext. 600

● **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)

● **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.

● **Edinburgh** for information contact Susie at Book Marx, 130 Morrison St, Edinburgh. Open 10am-6pm.

● **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.

● **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** meets regularly phone Gail (485 0954) or Sheila (263 0351) 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.

● **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.

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

● **North Manchester** fortnightly on Mondays. Phone Maureen Tottoh (205 2867) after 6 for details.

● **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 West London** on alternate Tuesdays. Phone Marion 673 1329 for more information.

● **South London Womens Voice**: Fortnightly meetings and estate sale, for information contact Jean 674 8641

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

● **We want to organise a toy library** so that we can hire out equipment for creches. We'll start off with London and see how it goes. We need more toys, and helpers. If you can ring Womens Voice 734 7410

## 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. Cheques and postal order to: Vera, 175a Kentish Town Road, London NW5.  
10% discount order over 10. Special discount for Womens Voice sellers at Carnival 2, Ring 01 734 7410.



● **Postcards**, 5p each, plus 10p postage for orders under 20.

● **This Ad Degrades Women**, stickers, 100 for 50p including postage

● **Posters with Womens Voice** and blank space for your own meetings, £1 for 40

● **Back copies of Womens Voice**, issue 2-18, any 5 for 50p including postage. Money with orders please to Womens Voice Box 82 London E2.

## Womens Voice Kicks Back

Do you want to be in a Womens Voice Football Team? If so contact: PO Box 82, E2.



● **Womens Voice has moved into a new office!** We could use a little help:

● some help, if you have few spare hours, to catch up on our work.

● some typewriters, we only have one in working order between us. Have you got an old one you don't use, or a broken one we could get mended?

Write to Womens Voice Box 82, London E2.

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.**

**Terri Quay's Moospirit**  
 Concert of Afro-Jazz  
 Wednesday 6 September,  
 7.30pm, Africa Centre, 38  
 King Street WC2.  
 Admission £1.

**Gay sweatshop**  
 Theatre company  
 A New show with music  
 Gays and Fascism  
 Opening at the Oval House,  
 Kennington, London, 25  
 September.  
 Bookings can be made for local  
 ANL groups, as well as  
 women's and gay groups.  
 Details from Gay Sweatshop,  
 10 Marius Mansions, Marius  
 Road, London SW17.

## small ads

**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.

**Women In Manual Trades**  
 National Meeting, Saturday 16  
 September, 10 to 6pm, Lancaster  
 Road Methodist Hall, Lancaster  
 Road, London W11. £2, with free  
 food and creche.

**East Anglian Womens Weekend**  
 Wensum Lodge, King Street,  
 Norwich.  
 From Saturday 7 October, 11am,  
 to Sunday 8 October at 5pm.  
 The two days include workshops  
 on:  
 Womens health; work; the family;  
 marriage; motherhood; sexuality;  
 sexism in education; women and  
 the media. Also, drama, self  
 defence, morris dancing, films,  
 disco.  
 Creche and overnight  
 accommodation. For more  
 information contact Gill, 101  
 Shipfield, Norwich O603 413603.

# Bookmarx club

So far the Bookmarx Club has brought its members Harry McShane, Victor Serge, Alexandra Kollantai, Tony Cliff and Frank Hardy—some of the best socialist writers of their time. Now we bring you a new Workers' Handbook, a novel of a socialist future and an anthology of feminist art, among others.

**HOW IT WORKS:** You send £4.50 for a quarter year's membership. For this you get the two books in List A below, plus one other list of your choice. If you want a third or fourth selection, send £2.50 extra for each one. For the £4.50 you'll get books worth roughly £7 (retail prices are shown in brackets).

### 1978 THIRD QUARTER

**LIST A**  
**RIGHTS AT WORK**, by Jeremy McMullen. (£2.25).

The latest workers handbook helps trade unionists make sense of recent legislation—emphasising what workers can do for themselves. Bookmarx members will receive this book a month before its general publication in September.

**Ecotopia**, by Ernest Callenbach (£1.20)

A new novel which uses the fiction of a breakaway socialist state in the US to investigate the problems of sexual liberation, ecology, workers control in a socialist society.

**LIST B**  
**CLASS, RACE AND WORKER INSURGENCY**, by James Gschwender (£3.50)

Originally to be called *But the Beat goes on*, this book tells the fascinating story of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers formed in Detroit's auto factories around 1970.

**LIST C**  
**REVOLT ON THE CLYDE**, by Willy Gallacher (£2.75).

The inspiring story of the 'red Clyde' during the first war told by a major participant.

**PLUS** two historical reprints, now out of print: John Wheatley's 1907 play *How the miners were robbed* and J.T. Murphy's a pamphlet of 1917 *The Workers Committee*

**LIST D**  
**MAN'S ESTATE** by Andre Malroux (£1.10).

A new reprint of Malroux's best novel set in the doomed chinese communist uprising of 1927.

**THE ARMS BAZAAR** by Anthony Sampson (£1.25)

New in paperback, Sampson up to his usual form in exposing the working of the grimmest and most global industry.

**THE MOURNED ONE**, by Stanlake Samkange. (£1.20).

Ndatshane waits in the condemned cell in colonial Rhodesia on trumped up charges and looks back on a life spent in a hypocritical racist society.

**LIST E**  
**WOMEN ARTISTS** by Karen Petersen & JJ Wilson (£3.95).

A new anthology which in its presentation of a number of the artists who are 'hidden from history' amounts to a powerful feminist statement.

I wish to join the Bookmarx Club and enclose £4.50.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Send me list*

Send to BOOKMARX CLUB, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

# 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.

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

## join the fight!

### Womens Voice Groups

Scotland

Dundee

Edinburgh

Central Glasgow

West Glasgow

Glasgow Drumchapel

Aberdeen

Wales

Aberystwyth

Cardiff

Llanelli

England

Bath

Birmingham

Brighton

Bristol

Bristol University

Cambridge

Canterbury

Coventry

Derby

Lancaster University

Leeds

Leicester

Liverpool

Manchester North

Manchester South East

Medway

Newcastle

Norwich

Nottingham

Oxford

Preston

Plymouth

Pontefract

Reading

St. Albans

Slough

Sheffield

Shrewsbury

Stockport

Sunderland

Wolverhampton

York

London

North

North East London Poly

Central

Fleet Street

Finchley/Barnet

South

South West

South East

Hammersmith

Bedford College

Lea Valley

Kentish Town

I want to join the fight ...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Womens Voice  
 Box 82, London, E2.

# Women's Voice

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