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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

October 22, 1979

At a general meeting on October 17, 1979 the coordinating committee initiated a discussion on the general direction of the group for the fall in light of the perspective discussions of the spring and summer, the basis of unity statement, and the numbers of active members who are able to carry out activities at this time.

The meeting as a whole felt that it was very important for us to have taken the time to develop our basis of unity, which is an analysis of how we see ourselves as a group and what our role in the women's movement should be. We have clarified that we represent a particular current, that we want to build unity in the women's movement, and that our orientation is to mass action. We will now have a more coherent approach in terms of the type of activities we participate in, and how we act out that participation.

But we also talked about the reality of not being able to overnight turn ourselves into the driving force we want to become, but that each activity should be moving us in that direction. We had talked in the summer of initiating a mass action campaign in the fall, and the action committee had investigated possible areas of activity and brought forward proposals relating to daycare. It became clearer in the discussion that because of the changed community response to that issue since the summer, and our own limited resources and numbers, that we aren't in a position to initiate that type of campaign at this time. The fact that, if we are to involve ourselves in International Women's Day once again, we must start much earlier than last year was also a consideration. A number of options were discussed and a motion was passed that "in view of our resources and assessment of where we are right now we should move into planning March 8 and undertake other limited activities".

The other activities include marching in the October 23 CHALK demonstration at Queen's Park under our own banner, and joining the planning committee for women's support for the Radio Shack strike at the invitation of the United Steelworkers. Proposals will be brought to the next general meeting on October 23 at 7:30 SHARP at University Settlement House, 23 Grange Road for our internal discussion of International Women's Day 1980. Any of our members with ideas or interest in the discussion are urged to attend. Almerinda Travassos will be showing her short film on International Women's Day 1979 which according to all reports is well worth seeing.

Almost ninety women have sent in money to receive the newsletter and be kept up to date on IWDC activities which is a great start. Future meetings will be held at University Settlement at 7:30pm on October 31, November 14, and November 28. We hope to see you there. The abortion demonstration was successful on October 5, and was a good example of womens groups working together on an issue of common concern.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE

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