

WISHES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WUCWO CONGRESS

Delegates of WUCWO member-Organizations from 59 countries, women of many cultures, met in Rome, 4-7 October, 1967, on the occasion of WUCWO's 16th World Congress, of which the main theme was Dialogue.

Having studied the demands and commitments of Dialogue on the technical, psychological and doctrinal levels ;

Having endeavoured to make dialogue a reality throughout 4 days lived in community, and in particular in Workshops, in small groups;

Delegates recommend :

- Dialogue in the Family
- Dialogue in social and civic life,
- Dialogue among the People of God,
- An Ecumenical dialogue,

as essential,

if women are to be enabled to fully develop themselves and make their specific contribution to the creating of a new world and to the Church's mission.

1. The Workshop on : DIALOGUE IN THE FAMILY, expressed

warm appreciation of WUCWO's understanding of the place of the family in the modern world, as well as of the urgent problems confronting it to-day.

It hopes that WUCWO will include family education on all levels, as a major priority: pre-marriage training, dialogue between



husband and wife, and training of married couples for responsible parenthood.

It proposes that all available means be used to this end.

It requests WUCWO to mandate responsibility for this task to its member-Organizations.

2. The Workshop on : SOCIAL AND CIVIL LIFE, asks :

- 1) That WUCWO promote a study programme drafted by experts (theologians, psychologists, sociologists), to find the true situation of women to-day and the nature of their task in the world.
- 2) That WUCWO initiate a continuing dialogue with the International Federation of Catholic Men in specified areas :
  - Peace in the world
  - Development
  - Adult education on a continuing basis, adapted to conditions in the world to-day.

3. The Workshop on DIALOGUE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD, urgently recommends to WUCWO, through its member-Organizations :

- the development of human values in Christian women that they may bear witness to Christ in all forms of dialogue to which they are called in modern life,
- to encourage member-Organizations to take the initiative in presenting constructive suggestions to the hierarchy, for the improvement of mankind and to further the Kingdom of God,
- asks member-Organizations to accustom women to seek and hold with expedient reserves, their rightful place as members of Councils of the Laity, and other Pastoral Commissions, now being set up by the hierarchy in the various countries.

4. The Workshop on : ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE considers :

- that Ecumenism is clearly an essential dimension of Christian life for everyone, and not merely a matter for specialists. WUCWO member-Organizations have, therefore, the obligation resolutely to commit themselves to the ecumenical education of their members, by means of suitable teaching methods and by seizing every opportunity for meetings, and joint prayer and action.



This work should lead to an increase of faith, and to the exclusion of all fear, confusions and superficial tolerance.

5. To make such Dialogue possible, WUCWO recommends to its Member-Organizations, on all levels but especially at the grass roots, active methods of working in small groups, which have proved adaptable to the most varied situations and as such contribute to the adult education of all women.

Delegates further express the hope that Dialogue will not be restricted within organizations themselves, but that it may be extended and developed among the most varied groups to promote mutual enrichment : men and women, young people, family groups, cultural, social and civic bodies, unions of religious congregations,, organizations from other denominations and non-denominational organizations.

6. Delegates present declare that :

WUCWO's purpose, life and fruitful activity in this post-Conciliar period, as well as its own specific contribution as co-artisan of a new humanity, requires our World Union to engage in dialogue with the greatest possible number of international partners. However, they emphasize that such Dialogue will bear fruit only to the extent that it derives from a continuing implementation at the grass roots, through its member-Organizations.

#### RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

- mindful of the Christian view of the human person as a being of infinite dignity and worth and of the Christian's duty to regard each and every person as "another self", of the responsibility to promote recognition and respect for man's dignity, freedom and rights ,
- mindful also of the responsibility to promote the integral development of each and every person in the human family without distinction as to race, sex or religion,



- welcomes the designation by the United Nations of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights for the purpose of promoting study, understanding and application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- recalls that WUCWO itself was present through consultative status in the preparatory work by the Commission on Human Rights on this great document; that it has always endeavoured to promote study and dissemination of the Declaration throughout the world, and has further supported United Nations efforts to elaborate the Declaration's implications for particular rights for particular categories of persons - such as women and children - and that it has publicized these efforts and achievements with a view to inspiring action within the particular countries of the world;

Now urgently requests its affiliated organizations :

- 1) To promote among their members during 1968 a campaign of study on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the light of the responsibilities expressed in the documents of Vatican II, particularly Gaudium et Spes, as well as in the Encyclicals "Development of Peoples" and "Pacem in Terris", and in the light of conditions of human rights in their own countries;
- 2) To disseminate knowledge about the Universal Declaration in relation to these expressions of the Church's teaching and in relation to attitudes, conditions, laws and institutions of their own countries ;
- 3) To cooperate actively with other organizations and with national commissions for Human Rights Year in their respective countries;
- 4) To embark on some project, alone or with other organizations or groups and through national commissions, to improve attitudes, conditions, laws and institutions in their own countries and regions.