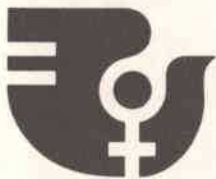


# IWY BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR  
ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FEMME  
AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LA MUJER

# 1975



Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

No. 1

JULY 1974

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The International Women's Year Bulletin will be published periodically by the Branch for the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Its purpose is to keep people informed of activities of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels during International Women's Year, 1975.

Through this Bulletin we hope Governments, organizations and individuals will be able to exchange ideas and action programmes for the Year, and learn of the events taking place all over the world. We would be grateful, therefore, if recipients of this Bulletin would send any relevant information on IWY activities to the Editor.

Man's World, Women's Work

Road building in Lesotho (UN 118,420)

MESSAGE FROM KURT WALDHEIM  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



It is important that everyone gives serious attention now to International Women's Year 1975, and to how the role of women in society could be substantially improved all over the world. We are talking, after all, about half of the world's population, and we must think positively about how the position of women in their own societies and in international affairs could not only be improved but their large potential contribution be better utilized for the benefit of all.

The Year coincides with the time of increasing awareness throughout the world of the extreme importance of the achievements of equality of men and women, not only as a fundamental principle of human rights, but also as a necessary prerequisite for social and economic development, and stimulus for world peace. The implementation of the programme of activities for the Year will receive the highest priority and my full support.

The significance of the Year will be what we make of it. We could, with the help of all of you, make it a year which will leave an imprint on history, not only the history of women's advancement but also that of people all over the world.

MESSAGE FROM HELVI L. SIIPIÄ  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
YEAR, 1975



Women, who constitute 51 per cent of the world's population, have not been able up to now to give their full contribution to the development of their countries. Their views and experiences are almost totally missing when governmental and inter-governmental plans are made and policies adopted in political, economic, social and cultural fields.

This is due to many reasons, in particular traditional attitudes of both men and women, and the division of rights and responsibilities along stereotyped sex roles, which to a great extent has deprived women of opportunities outside their traditional role of mothers and homemakers.

Today's world cannot afford to continue this division. We cannot hope to solve the increasing international problems of economic and social development, and improve the quality of human life while leaving aside half the resources of humanity.

International Women's Year will be a time to translate into action the principle of equality of men and women, clearly stated in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without which no development effort is likely to succeed.

## I. UN PREPARES FOR IWY

### Appointment of a Secretary-General for the Year and the Conference

On 5 July 1974 the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mrs. Helvi L. Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as Secretary-General of IWY and of the UN Conference to be held in 1975 to act on his behalf regarding both events and to demonstrate the importance attached to them.

### Voluntary Fund established for IWY

The Economic and Social Council has called upon the Secretary-General to accept voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private foundations and interested individuals to supplement the resources available for the International Women's Year Programme.

Contributions of any amount should be sent to the Secretary-General earmarked for International Women's Year Fund.

### Highlights of the programme for IWY

The programme of suggested activities for IWY published by the UN Office for Public Information (OPI/518) can be obtained from the local United Nations Association, UN Information Centre, UNDP Resident Representative, or by writing to the Branch for the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women UN Headquarters, New York, N.Y.10017.

Some of the highlights extracted from the programme follow.

IWY is a time to set in motion dynamic action programmes around the Year's central themes:

#### Equality, development, peace

IWY is a beginning only. New initiatives and sustained efforts are needed of both women and men to launch activities which will have an impact long after 1975.

The programme sets goals and objectives for the threefold theme of the Year and suggests activities to be carried out nationally, regionally and internationally.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF IWY

### Equality

1. To achieve full equality before the law in all fields where it does not yet exist.
2. To meet the health needs of girls and women equally with those of boys and men.
3. To develop and extend a network of health services for the protection of maternity and the health of mother and child.
4. To promote equality of economic rights.
5. To promote equality of rights and responsibilities in the family.
6. To ensure women as well as men participate fully and as equal partners in policy formulation and decision-making at all levels of government.

### Development

1. To improve the awareness of women in the developed countries towards the problems of women in the developing areas.
2. To improve the living and working conditions of both men and women throughout the world.
3. To improve the quality of rural life.
4. To improve the condition of rural women regarding training in co-operatives, modern agricultural and technical methods, vocational training, the use of modern labour-saving devices in homes and modern methods of child-rearing;
5. To eliminate illiteracy and ensure equality of educational opportunities.
6. To encourage women to train for and enter non-traditional occupations, and provide proper guidance and counselling for this.
7. To provide training for women in all fields and help find employment for women after completing their training.
8. To provide social services for women.
9. To improve the situation of women in prisons and places of detention.
10. To combat racism and racial discrimination wherever it exists.

11. To combat exploitation of women and girls through illicit trafficking.

Peace

1. To promote the peace efforts of women's groups and other organizations, and encourage through women the promotion of détente in the world, international peace and cooperation among States.

2. To encourage the participation of women in safeguarding peace so as to contribute to the advancement of the status of women and men.

3. To develop and implement standards to encourage peaceful relations among States on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter.

4. To facilitate the free flow of information among countries on the contribution of women and men to the promotion of peace.

5. To recognize the value of the untapped resources of women to contribute to national culture, development and spiritual values through their work.

Suggested activities at the national level

1. Issuance of an inaugural statement to launch the Year:

- by the highest official authority;
- by appropriate local officials;
- by men and women leaders in all fields.

2. The establishment of specific national targets, programmes and priorities to bring progress towards promoting a full partnership between men and women.

3. The establishment of national machinery to review, evaluate and recommend measures to ensure the full integration of women in all sectors of national life.

4. The setting up of fact-finding bodies to undertake special studies on the needs and problems of women in both rural and urban areas.

5. The creation of a network of special counselling offices to advise women of their rights and provide them with legal aid when required.

6. The development of a variety of publicity and educational measures, emphasizing the objectives of the Year, including:

- the establishment of women's studies programmes in schools and educational institutions;

- the preparation of material for use (i) by students and teachers at all educational levels, (ii) by employers, workers, trade unionists, (iii) by community groups and voluntary organizations;

- the establishment of women's history centres;

- the development of educational programmes to inform women of their legal rights and how to secure their enforcement;

- the development of programmes (i) to aid the upward mobility of women through education, (ii) to promote their equal participation with men in the trade union movement, including leadership positions, (iii) to prepare women for participation in politics at all levels and (iv) to offer training opportunities for executive leadership and management.

7. The undertaking of studies and surveys on any aspect of the status of women in law and in practice and on the changing roles of women and men in society and in the family (specific topics are suggested).

8. The convening of national conferences, seminars, training courses and other types of meetings during the Year to discuss the attainment of its three main objectives.

9. The organization of exchange programmes for both women and men to study common problems.

10. The development and strengthening of the activities of women's organizations for improving the condition of life and future prospects for women.

11. The ratification and implementation of all existing international instruments relating to women's rights.

Suggested activities at the regional and international levels

1. Issuance of inaugural statements and proclamations by international leaders.

2. The organization of an international conference.

3. The establishment of regional commissions and programmes and the organization of regional meetings.

4. The inclusion of items relating to the theme of IWY in the major annual meetings of the UN and its agencies.
5. The elaboration of measures to achieve the integration of women in the development effort.
6. The development of publicity and educational measures, studies, surveys, conferences and exchange programmes.
7. The adoption of measures setting an example to others on the elimination of discrimination against women throughout the UN system.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE, 1975

A focal point of the international observance of IWY will be a major United Nations Governmental Conference to be held in Bogotá, Colombia in 1975, most probably in June. It is hoped that all Member States will send representatives to the Conference and include both women and men in their delegations.

The resolution of the Economic and Social Council requesting the Secretary-General to convene the Conference recommends specifically that countries should provide equitable representation for women and men in the delegations they send to Bogotá. This point emphasizes the fact that discrimination against women will only be ended when both sexes focus attention on the problems involved, and when attitudes are changed in the minds of both men and women.

Conference Topics

Outlining the topics for consideration at the Conference, the resolutions says it should "examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment ....".

It calls on the Secretary-General, in drawing up the agenda for the Conference to focus attention on:

- evaluation of current trends and changes in the roles of women and men

in political, social, economic, family and cultural life, including sharing of responsibilities and decision-making; and

- examination of the major obstacles which hinder the contribution of women and men as full partners in the total development effort and in sharing its benefits in both rural and urban areas.

In addition, the resolution requests the Conference to: "launch an international action programme including short- and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and at eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON IWY IN 1975

A separate item on International Women's year - including proposals and recommendations of the International Conference - is expected to be discussed at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly in 1975.

Another closely related item has been proposed for inclusion in the Assembly's agenda for 1975; an exploration of the "status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need to achieve equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States".

It is hoped that the percentage of women delegates to the General Assembly will be greatly increased both during and after IWY. (In 1973 there were only 180 women compared to 2,369 men delegates. 55 countries had no women representatives in their delegations last year and 44 had only one woman).

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The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), consisting of representatives of the UN and the specialized agencies is holding a special meeting in Geneva on 25-26 July to discuss joint plans and programmes for IWY.

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ILO to discuss "Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Women Workers" at the 1975  
ILO Conference

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This is expected to be a major item at the bi-annual ILO Conference, based on a major ILO report currently being prepared which examines progress made in the last decade to eliminate job discrimination.

The preliminary report reveals that there has been little basic change in the pattern of women's economic activity in the last decade. The major barrier being "social discrimination which starts at the cradle and haunts women all their lives".

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Ba-Hmwe-Gon (Burma)  
(UN 56413)

Primitive mud holes such as the one from which this village woman is drawing water for her vegetable garden are being replaced by modern tube-wells which provide villagers with clean wholesome water.

II. NGO'S PLAN FOR IWY IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA

New York

A group of interested international organizations having consultative status with the United Nations have set up an NGO Committee in New York for IWY. Their purpose is to assist organizations in planning joint national, regional and international activities during 1975, to distribute information on the Year, to make suggestions on observance for the Year and to keep members informed about developments related to preparations for IWY by inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

A media committee has been established which is preparing a kit of material on the Year.

For information about the IWY NGO Committee in New York, please contact Esther Hymer, President, NGO Committee for IWY, 345 East 46th Street, Room 815, New York, N.Y.10017.

Geneva

The Sub-Committee on the Status of Women of the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights (Geneva) will have a meeting on 2 July 1974 to discuss the contribution by NGO's to the International Women's Year.

The Sub-Committee has prepared a document designed to serve as a basis for discussion which notes: "The efforts of a large number of men and women who cherish justice and progress and the substantial work done by national and international organizations and women's associations have been instrumental in bringing about the drafting of a number of Conventions and Declarations for the advancement of women. However, in many countries, women continue to suffer de facto discrimination in numerous fields. During this Year, everyone is urged to give logical thought to the obstacles to the advancement of women and to take appropriate action to overcome these obstacles."

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FUTURE NGO MEETINGS

A series of regional and international NGO meetings are also being planned. For example, on 14-16 February 1975, a Latin American Regional NGO Conference is contemplated to examine the situation of Latin American women and to establish priorities for regional programmes.

In June 1975 a similar regional NGO Seminar is planned for Nigeria followed later in the Year by a regional Asian meeting in Manila.

Future information on international NGO Conference and other activities will be included when the plans are further advanced.

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III. NATIONAL PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

Some countries set up National Committees for IWY (governmental and non-governmental)

Jordan:

A group of Jordanian women have formed a Preparatory Committee for International Women's Year. They aim to mobilize the men and women in their country to participate in the Year, making it a milestone on the road to complete emancipation in order to secure for their children and the coming generations a happy fruitful life free of want, misery and wars, assuring for all full equality and rights.

They have issued an appeal which was signed by a large number of men and women, including the former Prime Minister, Mr. Suleiman Nabulsi, as well as doctors, lawyers, chairmen and members of trade unions, political leaders and others and have published in the name of the National Assembly of Women in Jordan a declaration in order to notify the public of this important event, calling for help and support in the participation of women in the preparations for the Year.

The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee is Emily Bisharat, and members of the Founding Committee are: Hanan Goshe, Rabab Nabulsi, Intisar Jardaneh, Hala Khorshid and Selwa Zayadine.

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III. NATIONAL PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

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Canada:

A Secretariat for International Women's Year has been set up with Mary Gusella as the Director, to plan Canada's programme for IWY and coordinate the activities of Government Departments to mark the Year.

Plans for 1975 include:

- a national educational and promotional media campaign aimed at influencing attitudes;
- regional and national conferences designed to create an awareness among Canadians of the changing attitudes towards women;
- removal of barriers to equality in existing legislation and regulations;
- funds available to organizations for projects relating to women's year;
- implementation by Government Departments and agencies of special programmes promoting equal opportunity for women.

Secretariat address:

Mary Gusella, Director  
 International Women's Year  
 Secretariat  
 Privy Council Office  
 Ottawa, Ontario  
 Canada K1A 0A3  
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United States of America:

A Center for International Women's Year has been set up to spread information about the Year throughout the country and to coordinate the activities of private organizations and government agencies. The Center, which is funded by a small grant from the Department of State is non-partisan and non-political.

Its President and address is:

Dr. Ruth Bacon  
 U.S. Center for IWY  
 1630 Crescent Place N.W.  
 Washington, D.C.20009  
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Belgium:

More than 40 Organizations have formed a national IWY Committee with Lucienne Hermann Michielsen and Emilienne Brunfaut as Co-Chairpersons.

Plans for 1975 include: a series of research studies and the convening of regional seminars and a major European seminar to explore "The economic independence of the European woman on the eve of the 21st Century".

To close the Year they plan to organize a General Assembly in Belgium which would review all the arguments and proposals put forward during the Year.

The theme for their efforts will be "The independence, integration and responsibilities of woman in a changing society", to make possible the real integration of women in society and the equal participation of women and men in the contribution of a new world.

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Australia:

The following letter was addressed to major Australian newspapers announcing the formation of a national committee for IWY under the auspices of the UN Association of Australia:

Sir,  
 We have formed a national committee for International Women's Year under the auspices of the United Nations Association of Australia.

Our aim is to develop UN initiatives for improved integration of the sexes in the interests of both men and women.

Representation on our committee and our programme includes all sections of society. We have drawn up plans for International Women's Year which would lead to constructive social readjustments between men and women in harmony with other changes in the life of the community.

We invite the Federal Government, State Governments and non-governmental organizations to co-operate with us in bringing about necessary reforms speedily and in making 1975, International Women's Year, the focus of our endeavours.



To this end we request the Australian Federal Government to join with us in convening a national conference concerning the rights and responsibilities of women as citizens of Australia.

During the Year it is hoped to publish a book written by representatives of trade organizations, professional bodies, educational institutions, etc., giving an account of the part played by women in the life of the Nation and making proposals designed to assist women to advance further.

We appeal to the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations to sponsor a national conference on the Advancement of Women in Employee Organizations during 1975.

Similarly, we request the Australian Council of Employers Federations to hold a conference on the Advancement of Women in Management.

We are all agreed that girl children are constrained into an outmoded female role during their earliest years which inhibits the development of their personalities and restricts their choice of occupations. It is therefore our request that the following changes be made as a matter of priority:

- The withdrawing of vocational guidance publications based on sex differentiation to be replaced by vocational guidance material without reference to the sex of the student;
- The revision of primary school readers so as to remove sex type-casting inconsistent with current social trends;
- Preparation of "teaching units" for all age groups of boys and girls to give them an insight into their social conditioning for sex roles;
- In every way to make young people aware of the aims of the International Women's Year and the manner of its observance in other countries of the world.

Many more decisions were made at our last meeting to ensure that economic, social

and cultural adjustments are made which will promote the welfare and the range of participation of women and thereby benefit all Australians.

To enable the committee to perform its functions adequately we sincerely urge the Federal Government to give us a substantial grant, as has been the practice by Australian Governments in previous years that were designated "special years" by the United Nations.

In conclusion, we wish to draw your readers' attention to the United Nations General Assembly resolution which calls on all countries to devote 1975 to intensified action in the following three areas:

"The promotion of equality between men and women;

"The full integration of women in the development effort;

"The recognition of the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and cooperation among States and to the strengthening of world peace."

EREDA BROWN (NSW, National President, Union of Australian Women); MARGARET GUILFOYLE (Senator for Victoria); BERYL HENDERSON (A.C.T., Representing Women's Liberation); THELMA JARRETT (Vic., Soroptomists International); JOYCE NICHOLSON (Vic., Representing Women's Electoral Lobby); ADA NORRIS (Vic., Past Australian representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, NY); EDNA S. ROPER (Deputy Leader Opposition, Legislative Council, NSW, Federal President Labour Women Australia); NORMA D. YOUNG (Vic., National President, Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs); PAULA CULLEN (NSW, President, United Nations Association of Australia; Chairman, National Committee for International Women's Year); JULIE DAHLITZ (Vic., Federal Executive Officer and Secretary, National Committee for International Women's Year).

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France:

President Valéry Giscard d'Estang appointed the writer Françoise Giroud, a leading feminist, to the new post of Secretary of State for the Condition of Women on 16 July 1974.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEES, INTERESTED GROUPS AND CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS

1. The following could be valuable contacts when setting up a national IWY Committee and developing national programmes:

- local United Nations Association;
- local United Nations Information Centre;
- local UNICEF Committee;
- local (or regional) UNDP Resident Representative.

2. Local trade union, employer and professional associations could be called upon to commit themselves to specific action to improve the status of women in their organizations during the Year.

3. "Open letters" to national newspapers, or articles on what IWY could mean for your country could be written or suggested to local editors (See example from Australia).

4. The attention of national media could be drawn to the programme for the Year and requests made to them to write articles or make documentaries around the theme of the Year - Equality, Development and Peace.

5. Universities and educational institutes could be encouraged to establish or expand their programmes for teaching and research in questions related to the themes of IWY; also to expand or initiate fellowship programmes and scholarship activities for women during the Year.

6. Schools and education departments could be encouraged to revise textbooks replacing traditional stereotyped images of women and men by new concepts.

7. Photographic and arts exhibits highlighting women's historical or contemporary role in all aspects of national life could be organized.

8. A national arts festival drawing ideas from the proposed International Women's Arts Festival being organized by an International Women's Arts Festival Task Force could be organized in each nation of the world.

The aims of this proposed Arts Festival are summarized below:

AIMS

1. To create and coordinate an international festival of women's arts during International Women's Year in accordance with the United Nations program of activities for the Year..

2. To establish a worldwide network of aesthetic and cultural communication among women, by women, for all people.

3. To establish educational programs, training courses which will promote the advancement of women artists in different areas of the world.

A truly international festival is envisaged which would embrace the grass roots movement in women's arts as well as the more established and recognized women artists and art forms.

The festival is planned to open on International Women's Day, March 8, 1975, and continue throughout 1976 with the major international show of visual and performing arts in the Fall of 1975.

It is hoped that such a festival would foster understanding and cooperation between women and the countries they represent which would transcend the barrier of race, creed and religion and therefore contribute to the strengthening of international peace.

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SOURCE PROGRAMME

For IWY, Verna Gillis, New York City, is working to put together a series of records on WOMEN MUSIC MAKERS from all over the world, including instrument and voice. The emphasis is to be on non-Western music, both folk and classical, village, tribal and ritual music, etc. She would like to include as many countries as possible. Tapes of music, identifying the type of song and words if possible, instruments being used and the names of the women should be sent to:

Verna Gillis  
700 Greenwich Street  
New York, N.Y.10014

Slides and/or photographs would also be most welcome for purposes of mounting an exhibit to be accompanied by the music to travel around the U.S.A.

IV. UN/OPI MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Notes, pamphlets and similar material

The following material can be obtained by writing to the Branch for the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women, UN Headquarters, New York, N.Y.10017 or through your local UN Information Centre.

1. Programme for International Women's Year (OPI/518).
2. Centre for Economic and Social Information Notes Nos.1-11.

Statement by Ms. Margaret K. Bruce, Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to the Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/1).

Have Women's Roles been Overlooked in the "Population Explosion"? by Ms. Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/3).

United Nations calls of Member States to make significant progress for Women during 1975 - International Women's Year (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/7).

Women and the United Nations - A special message for IWY 1975 from Ms. Helvi L. Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/8).

UN to hold International Conference in Colombia as highlight of IWY 1975 (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/9).

UN Emblem for IWY 1975 emphasises equality (OPI/CESI NOTE IWY/10).

3. "What is International Women's Year?" Brief fact sheet about the Year and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which was instrumental in designating the Year.
4. UNICEF New (Issue 76, July 1973) on Third World Women - contains articles about the situation of women in the Arab World, China, Kenya, Nepal, Oman, and Thailand.

5. Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (OPI/297).
6. The United Nations and Human Rights (UN Sales publication: E.73.I.13) - Chapter IV examines the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.
7. Equal Rights for Women - A Call for Action (OPI/494). Available from the UN Sales Section, UN Headquarters, New York, N.Y.10017 for 25¢ each of \$12.50 per 100 net.

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UN Films available for IWY

Two films "Fear Woman" and "Women up in Arms" are presently available for rent or purchase from the United Nations Information Centre in your area and applications for TV showings can be arranged by writing direct to the Office for Public Information, United Nations, New York. A brief description follows:

WOMEN UP IN ARMS (1966)

English and French

Black and White - 28.1/2 minutes

Grandmother wears a headress and veil, speaks only Arabic, seldom sees anyone outside the family. Daughter wears up-to-date clothes and dances to modern music. Mother is somewhere between these two ways of life. There are laws on the books against polygamy and women can vote, but bringing about a revolution in attitudes still takes a lot of work. This film tells why.

FEAR WOMAN (1971)

English

Colour, 28.1/2 minutes

The women of Ghana have a reputation for independence. They, rather than the men, sit at the market stalls and run a large proportion of the nation's retail trade. This film shows three successful women: Esther Ocloo, a businesswoman and owner of a food processing industry; Mrs. Justice Annie Jiagge, a Supreme Court Judge and Nana Okosampa VI, the hereditary Chief of the Community of Atwia.

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Another film is currently being produced and will be available later this year. It's release will be announced through the IWY Bulletin.

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