

WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL LIAISON GROUP

Ecumenical Centre
150, Route de Ferney
1211 GENEVA 20
Switzerland

13th August, 1971.

TO: The Members of the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group

Dear Colleagues,

Although it is still the middle of summer and many of you are certainly on holiday, we must give thought to our next meeting at Cartigny (October 25th-29th). When a few of us met in Vienna, on the occasion of the Conference on "The Image of Woman in the Mass Media", we heard from Pilar Bellosillo that the Joint Working Group had shown great interest in the situation of women in Church and society and wanted the WEIG to let them have, not only a report on our own activities, but also our views on the whole subject of "Women in Church and Society", development trends, requisite studies and programmes, etc. The relevant paragraphs in the Minutes of the Joint Working Group are given below:

"The Joint Working Group expressed appreciation for a report received from the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group and undertook a substantial discussion of the developing place of women in Society and in the Church. Attention was drawn to the new situation created by the access of women to education and culture at all levels and the new possibilities opened up for the contribution of women by the increased human life-span. It was felt that some of the current expressions of this new situation were exaggerated and required evaluation; but that nonetheless there is in this sign of the times (as Pope John XXIII described it) a new opportunity for the release of the potential of the Gospel, and also that the Churches' organisms were slow to meet the challenge.

The Joint Working Group takes note of the date set by the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group for reviewing in 1972 the results of its exploration of the possibilities of ecumenical collaboration between women and questions of common concern to women of the Churches. The Joint Working Group asks the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group to present not only a report of its activities but also an indication of the questions which require further study; of fields of activities in which collaboration might be serviceable, preferably in the form of a limited number of specific projects to be undertaken for a limited period; and of the organisational arrangements desirable (including the question of whether or not the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group itself should continue in its present form)."

We believe that there ought to be enough time set aside at Cartigny for us to include this item on the agenda, and for the preparation of such a report. However, we shall need good personal preparation. May we ask you, as a matter of urgency:

1. To send material to Rosemary Goldie not later than the end of August (please refer to her letter of April 7th, in which she described in detail the kind of documentation she is gathering);
2. Please yourselves circulate material which you have already had mimeographed or printed and which you think could be useful to us: articles, working papers, etc. An article by Marga Bührig on "Discrimination against Women" will be sent to you this month, and Liselotte Nold's article, written for Cartigny in 1969, is still valid as a basis of our discussions. In accordance with the Joint Working Group's wish, the subject for discussion will be the Position of Women in Church and Society (and here we have a request to make of Margaret Shannon: Is there a good, comprehensive article about the Women's Liberation Movements which she could make available to us?).

The agenda for our meeting in Cartigny will be sent to you in good time. Please let us have your suggestions for this agenda by the end of August.

With kindest regards to all,

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Your co-Presidents:

MARGA BUHRIG

MARIA VENDRIK