



801 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

U/TF. 400

10 April 1980

Dear Ms. Lourdes de Pintillio

I am pleased to invite you to participate in a UNITAR Seminar on "Creative Women in Changing Societies" to be held in Oslo, Norway from 9 through 12 July 1980. Participants will arrive in Oslo on 9 July prior to the formal opening of the seminar on the morning of 10 July and will depart from Oslo on the morning of 13 July. The seminar will constitute UNITAR's main contribution to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980.

The seminar will bring together approximately 35 women from all regions and cultures and will focus on the way in which creative women have and have not managed to overcome obstacles in order to succeed in their respective professions. An additional concern will be how women can put their knowledge into political practice and thus influence the developmental process both within and beyond the national level. The major goals of the seminar are: (1) To identify the psychological and structural determinants that both allow and prevent creativity in women and to explore the similarities and differences among creative women within the same profession; (2) To examine alternative perspectives, structures and institutions for the advancement of women; and (3) To discuss and encourage the formation of regional follow-up meetings, seminars and networks.

Participants are being selected for their expertise, creativity and outstanding contributions on behalf of women and will come from the areas of communications; literature and fine arts; health science and natural and social sciences; and from practical fields of work on behalf of women, such as the creation and management of women's co-operatives, trade unions, etc.

Participants will be expected to prepare a brief paper of not more than 5 single-spaced pages for the seminar. In order to allow time for the paper to be distributed to other participants, it should be received by UNITAR by 1 June.



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Subsidiary



The focus should be on such questions as:

Do women change the ethics and attitudes of a given profession upon entering it -- or, does the profession remain unchanged?

To what extent does the family exact a price from wives and mothers who work creatively?

What strategies for psychological and economic survival have you used?

How can these strategies be communicated to larger numbers of women?

To what extent are other women -- and men -- either mistrustful or supportive of women within your profession?

The seminar proceedings and papers will be in English and will be published under the auspices of UNITAR.

I very much hope you will be able to take part in the seminar and through your recognized expertise and stature enhance the significance of the proceedings. Further details concerning the format and agenda of the seminar will be sent to participants at a later date.

We do have a very small amount of funds with which to subsidize the travel of participants to the seminar. If it were possible for you to find funding for your own travel from other sources this would be of course very helpful as it would enable us to increase the number of women attending. If this is not possible UNITAR will provide a roundtrip economy air ticket to enable you to attend the seminar.

During the seminar itself, you will be the guest of UNITAR.

I will be most grateful to receive your response at your earliest convenience, by letter or cable, but not later than 7 May. In your response please indicate if it will be necessary for UNITAR to provide for your transportation. If we have not heard from you by that date, we will assume you are unable to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Davidson Nicol

Davidson Nicol
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Executive Director, UNITAR



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