

*Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life
Commission Indépendante sur la Population et la Qualité de Vie*

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Professor Maria Irene Irene Ramalho
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Madame,

Mrs Pintasilgo requested me to transmit to you the abstract of her intervention, both in Portuguese and in English, for the Conference of Coimbra.

The texts have been typed during Mrs Pintasilgo's absence. I apology for any spelling mistakes left over by my fault.

Yours respectfully,
Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

F. Brunel

Françoise Brunel
Assistant to
Mrs Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo



9 June 1997 - Abstract of Mrs Pintasilgo's intervention 'Women, citizenship and the active society' during the meeting on Citizenship in Coimbra on 8 to 12 July 1997.

Throughout history, women exercised a wide variety of activities which were seen as duties. In the last decades of the XXth century, some of these duties have emerged as corresponding to the universal rights of 2nd, 3rd, 4th generation. However, women had (and still have) to go through a long process since the end of the XIXth century to have access to the first political right to elect and to be elected, as the minimal condition for citizenship. Today, their history in private and public life has a manifold expression and is paving the way to a multiple citizenship.

Women can become decisive social actors in the building up of an active society, a society in which there is the recognition of the multiple areas of activity - market and non-market - that individuals are engaged in, and the acknowledgement of the interdependence between all areas of activity.

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New forms of building life in the family, new patterns and definition of work, reshuffling the goals of education, restructuring the basic schemes of production and consumption, are referred to as some of the many areas in which original perspectives may emerge from the women's citizenship.

The new social contract is possible only if a new sexual contract is seriously built.

