

THE SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Statement of Purpose

Women constitute the majority of almost all national populations, and of the entire human species. In a world of many tragic divisions, we believe that women can find a common language.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

For the international women's movement, there are no issues--from reproductive freedom to apartheid, from an act of rape to an act of war, from childcare to the International Monetary Fund--which are not women's issues. When we are speaking of women there is no First, Second, or Third World--there is only one world; it has been patriarchy's to destroy, and is now women's to save.

The Sisterhood Is Global Strategy Meeting Participants, 25 women with long experience in and commitment to activism on behalf of women's rights, have agreed to the formation of a permanent Institute dedicated to improving the situation of female human beings worldwide.



The Sisterhood Is Global Institute brings together women from the West and the East, the North and the South, from socialist countries, so-called "free enterprise" countries, and the Third World; women with special expertise both at governmental policy-planning levels and in grass-roots organizing.

The goal of The Sisterhood Is Global Institute is to develop a global strategy for women.

The Institute will rotate periodically, regionally and in terms of personnel. The Institute is considering a proposal to be based in Greece for the first time-period.

The Institute has established the following immediate plans:

* The establishment of an Urgent Action Network Alert System, to organize international campaigns of support for women censored, jailed, tortured, exiled, or otherwise persecuted for activism on behalf of female human rights.

* The establishment of independent Women's Commissions to visit and investigate the specific situation of women in crisis situations: Palestinian women, migrant women, women and children dying in the Sahelian famine, women suffering under apartheid, indigenous women caught in the crossfire in Central America, minority women in the USA struggling against social cutbacks by the Reagan Administration.

* To initiate the translation of books by women's rights activists, particularly from those regions where such indigenous feminist consciousness and activism is claimed not to exist.

* To call on women (in both private and professional capacities) to refuse to participate in or respond to any censuses or household surveys or registration systems unless and until the 'invisibility' of women's unpaid work as producers and reproducers is recognized in national economic accounting systems.

* To launch an investigation of and subsequent action against specific airlines, tourist agencies, and hotels which promote sex tourism.

* To expose religious fundamentalism in all its forms (from Christian fundamentalism in the USA to Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East) as being particularly adverse to women.

* To work against any attempts to sidetrack the 1985 UN World Women's Conference on ideological or other grounds, thereby seeking to avoid the polarization of the first two World Conferences on Women--where women per se were used as pawns or altogether ignored by delegations from patriarchal governments.

The aim of The Sisterhood Is Global Institute is to have a wide and positive impact on world crises--from the dangers of nuclear war to the problems of the world's elderly. We believe that the most serious of "the world's problems" are women's problems, albeit not acknowledged as such.

We are dedicated to the belief that women's multifaceted global vision is the politics of the 21st century.

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute
November 19, 1984

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Background Notes

From November 11-16, 1984, twenty-five women's rights activists from around the world met in New York, at the Sisterhood Is Global Strategy Meeting, the first meeting of its kind, to develop plans toward an international strategy for women.

The Strategy Meeting Participants are among the Contributors from 70 different countries represented in Sisterhood Is Global: The International Women's Movement Anthology (November 16; Anchor Press/Doubleday) compiled and edited by Robin Morgan.

The Meeting was made possible by grants from The Ford Foundation, the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, the Norwegian Government, the United Methodist Church (World Division, General Board of Global Ministries), and numerous individual women supporters.

The anthology--thirteen years in the making--reflects a wide range of subjects from women's perspectives. In fact, many countries in the book appear for the first time in a work concentrating on women's situations. The book demonstrates that



we can succeed in finding a common language; overcome political, cultural, and historical differences; illumine our common problems and join to fight against them.

The accomplishment of the book brought us to the idea of establishing the ongoing Sisterhood Is Global Institute.

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