

## THE SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL STRATEGY MEETING

From Nov. 11 to Nov. 16, twenty-five of the Contributors to Sisterhood is Global: The International Women's Movement Anthology edited by Robin Morgan (Anchor Press/Doubleday) will meet in seclusion in Long Island, N.Y., to develop a global feminist strategy for women. These twenty-five Strategy Meeting Participants (see attached list of Participants) are all women with long experience in and commitment to activism on behalf of women's rights, and with special expertise both at governmental policy-planning levels and in grass-roots organizing.

This first global feminist "think tank"--which some have already called the "women's version of the Brandt Commission," or the "feminist Club of Rome"--evolved out of smaller meetings between Contributors to the anthology Sisterhood Is Global, and was made possible by grants from The Ford Foundation, the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, the United Methodist Church (World Division, General Board of Global Ministries), and numerous individual women supporters.

The goal of the Strategy Meeting is to develop women-defined tactics -- accessible, acceptable, and adaptable tactics -- to improve the situation of female human beings cross-culturally -- and by so doing, to have a wide and positive impact on the current world crisis. The aim is to produce concrete, practical, and original proposals which national governments, the UN, non-governmental organizations, and independent feminists alike can recognize as being common denominators.

Women constitute the majority of almost all national populations, and of the entire human species. The most serious of "the world's problems" are women's problems, albeit not acknowledged as such, and there is no issue that is not a "women's issue".

\*The majority of the world's war victims and refugee populations are women and children.

\*The majority of the world's starving, poor, and malnourished are women and children.



- \*The majority of the world's illiterates are female -- and while the male illiteracy rate is falling, the female rate is rising.
- \*The majority of the world's elderly are female -- and women are also the primary caretakers of the elderly in almost all cultures.
- \*The crisis in world population cannot be approached sanely except in the context of women's right to reproductive freedom.
- \*The problem of children's welfare, health, rights, and education is inseparable from the problems faced by women.
- \*The increasing dangers of nuclear war, nuclear accident, and/or nuclear waste have been addressed by women as founders of cross-national peace movements for years -- and radiation damage shows itself in rising cancers of the female reproductive systems and in deformed or stillborn births.
- \*The abuse and exploitation of the environment has been a target for women's activism from Rachel Carson to the anti-toxic dump movement, both in the United States and abroad.
- \*The crisis in world economy is a women's problem since women suffer from "GNP invisibility" in our labor, women are the world's purchasing consumers and also the majority of those employed in multi-national corporations.

The above are only a few examples of how central the more than half of humanity which is female is to the solving of global political problems today, of how feminism is the politics of the 21st Century. In July 1985, the third and final World Conference of the UN Decade for Women will take place in Nairobi, Kenya. The UN Decade has brought forth many pronouncements on and commitments to women's freedom, but has seen little concrete change. "Top-down" solutions dissolve into rhetoric or mere unworkability, since the policy planners are rarely women. The Sisterhood Is Global Strategy Meeting will be addressing the above-named specific crises as well as the tactical problems of how to bring about swift and lasting progressive change both within the existing systems and outside of them.

On Monday, Nov. 19, at ten o'clock a.m., at the Playhouse at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York City, the Strategy Meeting Participants will hold a press conference to present their first findings, to announce their plans, to issue a Position Paper, and to respond to questions from the international press.