

SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL STATEMENT

From November 11-16, twenty-five women's rights activists from around the world met in New York, ~~in~~^{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.

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For the international women's movement, there are no issues--from reproductive freedom to apartheid, from an act~~s~~^{of} of rape to an act of war, from childcare to the International Monetary Fund--which are not women's issues. The anthology--thirteen years in the making--reflects this span of subjects from women's perspectives. In fact, many countries in the book appear for the first time from such a perspective--concentrating on women's situations. The book proves that ^{it} no matter under what political system we live, and respecting and including all political, cultural, and historical differences, all women have the same problem: being the slaves of the slaves. Different forms of this slavery only show how important it is to see and understand them all ^{as a process} (which the book illumines), and to fight against them all. We are proud to have been able to bring 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. Our book proves that there is no First, Second, or Third World when we are speaking of women--there is only one world; it has been patriarchy's to destroy, and is now women's to save. [At the Sisterhood Is Global Strategy Meeting, the book came alive, with Participants from such different places as Nigeria and Norway, Colombia and Yugoslavia. ^{12th} The accomplishment of ~~the~~ ^{the} book, and the fact that we succeeded in finding a common language in a world of so many tragic divisions, brought us to the idea of establishing a permanent and ongoing Sisterhood Is Global Institute. ^{11g}

The Institute, which would rotate periodically, regionally, and in terms of personnel, is considering a proposal for the first time-period to be based in Greece, and has defined certain immediate plans:

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* 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 ^{INCREASING POVERTY.} ~~social cutbacks, from the Reagan Administration.~~

* Initiation of 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 for women in both private and professional capacities to refuse to participate in or respond to censuses or household surveys or registration systems unless and until the invisibility of women's unpaid work as producers and reproducers is recognized in the national accounts.

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

* To work actively regarding the 1985 UN World Women's Conference to take place in Nairobi, against any attempts to sidetrack the conference on ideological, ~~class, race,~~ or other grounds, thus avoiding the polarization of the first two World Women's Conferences, where women per se were used as pawns or altogether ignored by delegations from Patriarchal governments.

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

The Institute's general goal is to encourage women to dare recognize one another, across culture, religious affiliation, age, race, sexual preference, national, class, and regional differences, to recognize what we each too frequently must whisper to ourselves alone.

We believe that women's multifaceted global vision is the politics of the 21st century.

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute
November 19, 1985

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