



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! COR BLIMLEY WE'VE REACHED 250!

SchNEWS

Printed and Published in Brighton by Justice?



Friday 3rd March 2000

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/> Issue 250 Free/Donation

STRIKE IT LUCKY!

"She meets March 8th with her face erased and her name hidden. With her come thousands of women. More and more arrive. Dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions of women who remember all over the world that there is much to be done and remember that there is still much to fight for. It appears that that thing called dignity is contagious". A Zapatista woman's statement about International Women's Day.

Women and girls do two thirds of the world's work, for only 5% of the world's income, women's average full time weekly earnings are 72% of men's (Office of National Stats 1998), and a report in Red magazine (Jan 2000) stated that two thirds of women working full time do most of the housework.

March 8th is International Women's Day and women all over the world are hanging up their pinnies, turning off their disk drives and taking to the streets. Since March 8th 1907, when the women garment makers of New York went on strike for a living wage and a 10-hour day, the date has been earmarked to inspire women worldwide in their fight for their rights.

The National Women's Council of Ireland have called this year's strike, and it's gone global. Anne Neale from Crossroads Women's Centre reckons that the strike "could be very disruptive. When a similar action took place in Iceland in 1975, factories would not function and everything shut down". Cynthia Enloe in her book "Bananas, Beaches and Bases" argues that "if secretaries went out on strike, foreign affairs might grind to a standstill". Without women's work the world economy would fall to its knees. Kingston Raging Grannies ask "Can you imagine what would happen if all the women stopped work...at Wal-Mart or McDonalds?"

WHAT DO WOMEN WANT?

The global women's movement is a diverse tapestry. Some are calling for the abolition of 3rd world debt, 'cos it's really women that are owed billions for centuries of work, or for clean drinking water, affordable housing, safety from violence, fair wages, and increased benefits for carers and mothers

Women are striking to demand a change in the priorities of the global economy. According to the United Nations \$9billion of the world's budget goes on health and nutrition, \$6bn on water and sanitation, \$4bn on education and \$538bn on military budgets. This spending reflects the attitudes of the people who pull the purse strings, attitudes that consider arms to be more important than welfare. As the floodgates open for multinational corporations to enter developing countries women are forced into low paid work with poor conditions.

And for the boys... Men are supporting the women's strike. Payday Men's Network said, "Like women, we want to work less and have more money. We too want our unwaged work recognised and paid with money, time, resources, land, peace and rights. And we know that as long as women work too much, even more than men, their pay and conditions are the standard for men". The network have men ready to strike on the day, other are making donations to the strike fund, or committing themselves to do all the domestic chores and childcare for the day.

"At the beginning was the deed."

Rosa Luxemburg, Revolutionary Socialist, 1871-1919.

Women have a strong tradition of resistance; from taking up arms in the Zapatista struggle, to the Chipko women in India hugging trees, from the Greenham Common women, to the mum who asks for childcare provision in her workplace, from the suffragettes on hunger strike, to the 1917 Russian women factory worker's strike that started the revolution. In the UK women have made their presence felt actively enough to worry Detective Chief Inspector Kieron Sharp, the copper leading the inquiry into City of London protests on June 18, who panicked that "women are playing a greater role in this kind of subversive activity than you would normally find in criminal activity".

Black women, mothers, lesbians, asylum seekers, sex workers, pensioners, students, women with disabilities, waged and non-waged women, and loads more are holding actions from demos to a day's strike around the globe. So if you fancy making a stand why not make a partner take over household or childcare duties for the day, walkout with your colleagues at work or at college. Undercurrents are keen to film yer fun, contact them on 01865 203662 or underc@gn.apc.org

Here's what women are up to in over 30 countries from Albania to Rwanda...

LONDON: Women are invited to a Day of Celebration and Protest, with films and performances by women singers, dancers and poets from around the world. Full wheelchair access, childcare, and refreshments. 1pm-11pm, Union Chapel, Compton Avenue, Islington, N1 (Highbury & Islington tube). Women working in the red light area of Soho are considering stopping work and hanging banners outside their working flats saying SOHO ON STRIKE to protest about their lack of recognition. Picket the Dept. of Trade and Industry, Kingsgate House (next to Clinton card shop, Victoria or St James Park tubes). Trafalgar Square will be leafleted, and Crossroads Women's centre will be touring the city with their loud speaker system. **ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE:** Tameside women will be invited into a Strike Marquee

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For painting a bus pink! 10 members of the Lesbian Avengers were nicked for hijacking a Stagecoach bus and painting it pink. Stagecoach were targeted because of the Chairman's funding of Keep Clause 28 campaign.

in Market Square for a glass of champers and to list their own strike demands. **GREATER MANCHESTER** - 0161 344 0758. **LIVERPOOL** - contact the Black Sisters about their Open Day 0151 709 8162!. **KEIGHLEY** - check out the Women's Centre for alternative therapy sessions all day 01535 681316.

INDIA Women will do no housework or other work in the villages of Madhya Pradesh; thousands will march in Raipur, Ragard, and Mahasmund. Deputations led by Chhattisgarh Women's Organisation will go to Bhopal to meet officials and to Delhi to lobby the government Chief Minister, pressing demands to end violence and poverty.

IRELAND The Women Count Network will be striking in various ways, and along with the National Women's Council is pressing for a national paid holiday on 1st Feb. (St Brigid's Day), "A DAY OFF - because we're worth it!" to value women's work. Women's unwaged work is the largest industry in Ireland, estimated to be worth at least £314bn a year. **BURKINO FASO** Rural women are Striking to Exist, demanding money for birth certificates and identity cards which most can't afford. **PHILIPPINES** Community groups will lobby the president to issue a Presidential Proclamation making 8th March a paid holiday; parties and picnics are happening all day, and there'll be a "No Shopping Day" to protest against the consumer industry's profits at women's expense. **MEXICO** Daughters of the Corn Women's Collective are holding a strike day with a public meeting, debate and celebration in Mexico City. **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** The National Union of Domestic Employees will lead a women's march and rally in the capital city. **NIGERIA** The Grassroots Women Foundation is demanding that 8th March be declared a national public holiday and that breastfeeding working mothers be paid a special allowance. **USA** Demonstrations and parties in several major cities planned by US Wages for Housework. The Welfare Warriors (Wisconsin) are presenting women's Bills to Bill Clinton on 8th March, stating what welfare they're owed for the work he steals, and other cities will hold parties with the slogan "If you don't pay us for our work, we'd rather party instead!"

More info... Crossroads Women's Centre 0 1 7 1 - 4 8 2 - 2 4 9 6 womenstrike8m@server101.com

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YA BASTA!

Over the past year, two dates stand out as defining moments of global resistance against global capitalism: June 18th and November 30th. Events which the world's press could not ignore; events which showed that not everyone was happy with the neo-liberal* agenda being forced down our throats.

The press like to talk about this 'globalisation of protest' as if it's something new, but what about the international movement against America's war in Vietnam? The mass solidarity against South African apartheid? Hey, some people are even using the Internet to co-ordinate protests across the globe (This reminds SchNEWS of when the cops were getting all hot under the collar because 'new age travellers' were using mobile phones to organise free parties!).

But where did this new movement come from? Where is its inspiration? A good starting point is the Zapatista uprising which came to the world's attention on January 1st, 1994. On the same day the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed, four towns in the Chiapas region of Mexico were taken over by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), and the news was quickly broadcast around the world via the Internet.

SchNEWS recently spoke to someone just returned from Chiapas.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY?

A: The Zapatista's chose 1st January 1994 to occupy four major towns in the state of Chiapas to coincide with the introduction of NAFTA. They only held them for two or three days before the Mexican army chased them back into the jungle, but they'd made their point by then! The Zapatista resistance has been going on ever since.

Q: SO 1994 WAS THE ZAPATISTAS' ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD THAT THEY MEAN'T BUSINESS AS WELL AS TWO FINGERS TO THE NAFTA AGREEMENT?

A: Yeah. I think there had been fights with the army the year before, but the army had decided to not pursue them because the government was trying to negotiate this NAFTA deal. The government we're really keen not to show there was a guerrilla war in any part of Mexico so they kept it quiet.

Q: SO IT'S A SORT OF LOW INTENSITY WAR?

A: Oh yeah, it's definitely a war but not one where many people are getting killed at the moment; and even though we don't hear much about the Zapatistas at the moment, the movement is as strong as ever, even in the face of 70,000 Mexican troops constantly surrounding them.

Q: HOW DO THE ZAPATISTAS ORGANISE?

A: The Zapatista's control 35 auton-

mous municipalities, and each municipality covers a huge area with thousands of people in it. The scale of the area is something people don't appreciate.

Each municipality is named after an important revolutionary event or person. So you have the 1st January, or April 10th when Zapata was assassinated. Or Flores Magon, who was a Mexican anarchist, and Pancho Villa, who was once an ally of Zapata.

What is important is that the Zapatista's have broken away from the old guerrilla style of organising where the central committee tells you what to do.

Instead each village in the municipalities has it's own assembly to run it's own affairs. For example, some communities have decided on completely communal ownership of the land, while others have a mixed system with common and individual land. Each village sends a delegate to the Clandestine Indigenous Revolutionary Committee, where important military decisions can only be made after all the communities have been consulted.

For example during the San Andres Peace Accords, when the Zapatistas talked to the gov't, every single community was consulted, and these debates can go on for days - they talk it out, till everyone who wants to say something has said it, and then some kind of consensus is made. We were in one community where they had called a congress to decide the education structure for the whole of the municipality and the meeting lasted two days!

Q: TELL US ABOUT THE LAND OCCUPATIONS

A: I think the mainland takeovers started around 1995. Just three landlords used to control the municipality we were in. The landowners had passed land to each other for generations, until they were kicked out, and the area put under Zapatista control.

Before, in many places instead of being paid wages, the Indians were given credit for the landowners shop where everything was priced really high so reinforcing their poverty.

Many communities have debated what to do with the old landowners houses because no Zapatistas will live in them. Some

“It is better to die fighting than from hunger” Major Ana Maria, EZLN

have been used as warehouses, some have been demolished. In one community they took down a house brick by brick when they heard the landlord and his heavies we're coming back. They sent him a Christmas card with a picture of where the house once stood and said don't bother - there's nothing to come back to!

Q: WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF LIVING?

A: They are dirt poor, they haven't got any money, but they haven't got anyone to tell them what to do now. They always come out with "we have dignity". Their standard of living probably hasn't changed that much since the uprising, but at least now they are farming the land for themselves.

Q: WHAT'S THE ATMOSPHERE THERE LIKE?

A: Schizophrenic! You get the feeling from some that they can take on the whole world, but at the same time army planes are flying really low every day, there's troop carriers and police helicopters, military bases next to some municipalities - it all causes a certain desperation.

What the army and police do, is come into some communities on the pretext of looking for someone. It's always the women who are there, with these big sticks and little babies on their backs, fighting them off. A Mexican general recently complained that he didn't join the army to fight women and children!

Q: TELL US ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN

A: My experience was that the women are tough as hell. They take part in the command structures of EZLN, for example the occupation of San Cristobal was directed by women. One third of the army are women. When I was in San Cristobal there was this huge women's march against militarisation in Chiapas.

Women insisted on alcohol being banned in the whole of the Zapatista controlled region. Landowners used to make sure the Indians got addicted to alcohol, which got them into so much debt until they were basically slaves. If they tried to leave they would be shot or punished, so this alcohol thing was a really useful form of control

A(VERY) BRIEF HISTORY OF MEXICO

The Institutional Party of the Revolution is the longest-running political dynasty on the planet, and has been in power in Mexico since 1929!

In the early eighties Mexico defaulted on its debts, causing a worldwide crisis. In came the International Monetary Fund, offering cash but with the usual 'structurally adjusted' strings attached. These strings meant that Mexico had to flog off virtually every state owned business. However, after a brief recovery, the

Mexican stock market crashed in 1994, causing the local currency, the peso to be devalued. This neo-liberal miracle culminated in the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, with the Mexican President being praised as champion of "liberal reform who had brought economic stability and social [sic] justice to Mexico". Unfortunately for the President, the Zapatistas disagreed, and began their uprising, which continues to this day.

and it had an effect on the women as there was a lot more domestic violence then.

Now, each community has got a little jail big enough for one or two people and if any of the men turn up pissed they just stick them in the jail for the night. And it works, people don't drink.

Another example of the influence of women is the story of one guy who organises clean water projects for the communities. He put a proposal to the men in one village and said for the water project to work, it would take a lot of hard work; three weeks of solid digging a four mile trench from the mountain to the village. The men decided not to bother, and let the women continue to go down to the river and bring water back in buckets. However, when he went back to the village a week later, he was approached and told by one of the elders, that the women had had a meeting and told the men in no uncertain terms that they were gonna dig the pipeline!

However, in the assemblies there is still a hierarchy and it is still often the men who do the talking; the women's revolution has happened, but it's not all the way there yet by any means.

Q: DO YOU THINK THE UNITED STATES SEES THE ZAPATISTAS AS A THREAT?

A: Yeah, definitely. The US use the excuse of the war on drugs to arm the Mexican army and most of that weaponry is being used against the Zapatistas. And of course the US is worried because the Zapatistas are setting an example in not accepting poverty and injustice. The Americans spent millions destroying guerilla movements in El Salvador, Guatemala and of course Nicaragua. And now a whole new rebellion has happened in Mexico, a country the US has always had a high level of control over.

The region is also rich in oil. The Mexican government wants to get its hands on it, but this revolutionary movement is in its way, so at some point there is gonna be a conflict. There is also huge bio-diversity in the forests, and the American bio-tech companies want to get into the jungle and start copywriting the genetic codes.

Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK THE INTERNET HAS BEEN TO THE STRUGGLE?

A: I had this vision of them all tapping away on their computers in the jungle and that was rubbish - most communities don't even have electricity. It is Zapatista supporters in Mexico City and America who have been invaluable in terms of getting the message out and creating a public mood where the Mexican government feels it can't intervene because it would be too controversial.

Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES GO ABROAD AND VISIT AND SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE ZAPATISTAS?

A: To be honest in terms of material support, the most useful thing that could happen, is some solidarity movement in America to try and stop the weaponry getting to the Mexican army. In the absence of that, it's a morale booster. We went over as

a football team, and every community we visited we had to get up on stage and introduce ourselves, say where we are from - they're all like 'where's Europe?' However, if their grasp of geography isn't very good, they are politicised and they understand why we are there.

Q: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK THE ZAPITISTA STRUGGLE IS FOR INSPIRING PEOPLE?

A: With the collapse of 'communism' there was gloating about the triumph of capitalism. If you want to get rid of the way the world is now being run, you've got to have some kind of idea about what the new world will be like, and the Zapatista's are vital because they are not only saying it, they've actually done it. They're running the municipalities communally, they're organising their own education projects, their own water projects, have their own army, they're reaching out to the other indigenous people of Mexico - it's inspirational.

Recommended reading: Zapatista! Documents of the New Mexican Revolution (Autonopedia, New York '95)

Rebellion from the Roots by John Ross (Common Courage '95)

Zapatista! Re-inventing Revolution in Mexico by John Holloway (Pluto Press '99)

C h e c k o u t : h t t p : / /
www.eco.utexas.edu:80/Homepages/Faculty/Cleaver/chiapas95.html

Contact: Chiapas Link, Box 79, 82 Colston Street, Bristol. Chiapaslink@yahoo.com

SCHNEWS VOCAB WATCH

NEO-LIBERAL:

Initially associated with that romantic duo, Reagan and Thatcher, neo-liberalism has been the dominant economic theory for the past two decades.

Supporters of neo-liberalism talk of 'free market' policies that encourage private enterprise, consumer choice and personal initiative, and use these arguments to justify everything from lowering taxes on the wealthy, to dismantling education and social welfare programmes and scrapping environmental regulations.

These well thought out conscientious, economic policies, have resulted in ...a massive increase in social and economic inequality, a marked increase in severe deprivation for the poorest nations, a disastrous global environment and unstable global economy - but, and here's the key to it's popularity with its supporters, an unprecedented bonanza for the wealthy.

When these pioneers of righteousness, are presented with some of the rather large downside, they claim that the spoils of the good life will invariably spread to the broad mass of the population - as long as the neo-liberal policies that exacerbated these problems in the first place are not interfered with! Or as Robert McChesney put it "at their most eloquent, proponents of neo-liberalism sound as if they are doing poor people, the environment and everybody else a tremendous service as they enact policies on behalf of the wealthy few."

Worse still, the neo-liberal zealots loudest message is that humanity has hit the jackpot and there is no alternative to the status quo.

IT'S YER SCHNEWS BLOW BY BLOW ACCOUNT OF GLOBAL RESISTANCE

Jan 94: The Zapatistas rise up with the signing of NAFTA (SchNEWS 174/5 and SchNEWS 200 for effects of NAFTA in Mexico)

Sept 96: The First Intergalactic Encuentro for Humanity and Against Neo-Liberalism, in Mexico

July 97: The second Encuentro in Spain (SchNEWS 128)

Feb 98: Geneva people's movements from around the globe met and form the People's Global Action against "Free" Trade and the World Trade Organisation (SchNEWS 156)

May 98: Street parties in 40 countries across the globe to protest against the G8 meeting in Birmingham (SchNEWS 168)

June 18th 99: Carnival against capitalism in the City of London, and actions in 27 other countries around the world (SchNEWS 217/218)

Aug 99: Peoples Global Action Meeting in Bangalore, India. (SchNEWS 226)

Nov 30th 99: Battle of Seattle: The World Trade Organisation's talks are de-railed by mass protests, with solidarity actions across the world (SchNEWS 240)

'Big Rattle in Seattle'

New 25 minutes video about last November's successful demonstrations against the World Trade Organisation. £6 + SAE with 80p worth of stamps from the SchNEWS office

GLOBAL DATES FOR YER DIARY

April 16/17 Mobilisation for Global Justice. There will be week long series of events in Washington, with workshops and training on the global economy, ending with a massive rally at the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) headquarters on Sunday April 16. Simultaneous events are planned in other countries. www.a16.org

MayDay 2000 April 29 - May 1st

A four day gathering featuring Workshops, bookfair, film festival, art exhibition, footie tournament, tours of revolutionary London, Critical Mass bike ride, plans for a permanent social centre, music, parties, May Queen event with a twist...

Maypoles, mayhem and a MASS ACTION in London on Monday May 1st to "celebrate our diverse struggles against capitalism, exploitation and the destruction of the planet."

MayDay 2000, BM MayDay, London, WC1N 3XX

www.freespeech.org/mayday2k

Part of the international call for action by People's Global Action on 1st May

September, Prague:

Global Day of Action against the IMF annual meeting: www.destroyimf.org



**A
WORLD
TO WIN**

KOSOVO'S WOMEN

March 2000 marks one year since NATO began its bombardment of Serbia in response to the ethnic 'cleansing' of Albanians in Kosovo. Far from abating the crisis, Nato's campaign not only subjected civilians to the violence, it perpetuated the forced evacuation of thousands of Kosovans. In June, after an agreement of sorts was reached, NATO withdrew and its peacekeeping forces K-For and the United Nations Administration were introduced to the ravaged province. So what's changed one year on?...evidence of human rights abuses is still rife, with Albanians and Serbs engaged in a vicious circle of endless retaliation attacks. Among the countless organisations that are working to instill some sense of security into the humanitarian disaster, are those that are specific to women's needs. As well as enduring the systematic torture meted out indiscriminately to the ethnic Albanians, women have had to endure the added trauma of rape and other sexual abuses.

Medica is an organisation born out of the conflict in Bosnia, who now run the successful Medica Women's Therapy Centre in central Bosnia which has so far helped over 20,000 women since 1993. Bosnian women are now involved in an emergency initiative in Kosovo, undertaking the training of Albanian and Kosovan female psychologists, nurses and doctors in what they term "appropriate, gender-sensitive, medical and psycho-social responses to rape and other forms of war trauma."

Among Medica's aims are: the documentation of women's rights violations to bring about prosecutions; the establishment of a mobile clinic to reach those refugees scattered across rural areas; the establishment of six tent-clinics in Albanian refugee camps.

Medica's principles have a clear woman-to-woman focus: "Women who have been systematically abused need care in the first instant from women; they may be respected and their stories believed."

Medica,
P.O. Box 9560, London NW5 2WF. 0171 482 5670. c.cockburn@ktown.demon.co.uk

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Have you ever worried that perhaps you're too old to be a feminist? Well panic no longer, the Older Feminists Network could be for you!

Launched in 1982 out of the Spare Rib women's magazine collective, this group has been going strong ever since. It's aims are to challenge the stereotypes of older women, to mobilise their skills and provide support and information. "We felt that the larger Women's Liberation Movement was not giving sufficient attention and value to older women" said a spokeswoman.

The group hold day long events on the second Saturday of each month, which include general meetings, discussions and two workshops. Here's just some of the topics covered in these workshops...widowhood, motherhood, self-defence, sexuality, public transport, social status, health...and many more. As well as all this, there's a bi-monthly newsletter containing stories, articles, photos, campaigns and letters to name just a few.

Meetings are held at the Millman Street Community Centre, 50 Millman Street, London WC1 on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11am-5pm. Older Feminists Network, c/o 54 Gordon Road, London N3 1EP, 0208 346 1900

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Tel/Autofax : +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

Need information? Interested in getting active? Want to get help of any sort? Here's your quick run down of what to do and where to go... **BRIGHTON: ** Women's Refuge.** Safe accommodation for women who are victims of domestic abuse. 01273 622822 **** Rape Crisis Helpline.** 01273 203773 **** Stopover Residential Project.** Safe accommodation for women aged 16-21 suffering domestic abuse. 01273 603775 **** Women's Writing Group.** Opportunity for women to write poetry, stories, articles, or anything you want to really! They meet every Tuesday at Brighton Women's Centre, Basement, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton 7.30-9.30pm. 01273 240044 **** Queenspark Women's Writing Group,** space for women to do creative and autobiographical writing. Every Thursday 10-12 am, 49 Grand Parade, Brighton. Annual membership fee of £10/5. 01273 505642 **** Women's Yoga** at the Youth Centre, Whitehawk Road. Thursdays 10.30-12pm. £2 **** Women's Rugby** at Hove Park every Saturday 7.30-9pm. **** Adventure Unlimited** offers women only outdoor activities and camps for those of you who are feeling fit! 01273 681058 **** Mosaic.** Black and Mixed Race Community Group that meets at Community Base, 113-115 Queens Road, Brighton, 01273 234017 **** Akwaaba Black and Ethnic Minority Support and Information.** St. Gabriel's Family Centre, 8 Wellington Road, Brighton, 01273 325039 **** Lesbian Drop-in.** Fridays 12-4pm at Brighton and Hove Lesbian and Gay Community Centre. 113-117 Queens Road, 01273 234005 **** Young Mothers Support Group.** Organisation for mothers up to age 19. Contact Tracy Holder or Sara Downing, Morley Street Family Centre, Brighton, 01273 295858 **** Oasis Women's Drug Project,** 22 Richmond Place, BN2 2NA, 01273 696970 **** Threshold,** women's mental health initiative holding groups, sessions and counselling. **** And last but by no means least,** there's the **Brighton Women's Centre** where you can find practically everything you could ever want. They offer counselling, legal advice, a creche, pregnancy testing and drop-in sessions. Basement, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton BN1 1YD. www.btnwomen.u-net.com 01273 749567 **AND ELSEWHERE: ** Training for Women.** Courses in furniture making, plumbing, electrical installation, carpentry etc for women out of work for over 6 months. Childcare available and no course fees. Also allowances for materials and clothing. Northbrook College, Broadwater Road, Worthing. 01903 606002 **** Women Returning to Study.** Women only college offering certificates to higher education. Residential and day study available. Hilcroft College, Southbank, Surbiton. 0181 399 2688

CAAT'S EYES

In case you didn't know, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) now has a women's network. It was set up in September 1999 and raises awareness of the specific traumas encountered by women during conflict. "Women and children make up the majority of the world's refugees, struggling to survive when families, homes and livelihoods have been lost.

There's a free Women's Information Pack available. And an action planned in London for International Women's Day. Contact June at CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ 0171 281 1297

Let's Haggle

If you fancy some revolutionary feminist activity, join the HAGs! Don't be scared by the name, HAG stands for Hell Raising Anarchist Girls, a Brighton based 'loose collective of anarcho-feminists'. The group originated in February of last year from women attending the Rebel Alliance direct action meetings and the women's nights at the Anarchist Teapot. It combines Feminism and Anarchism to create an alliance better equipped to fight against the forces of capitalism and patriarchy which go hand in hand.

HAG are keen to point out that they are not anti-male, but simply pro-women, a big difference. "Within HAG we can share confidences, humour and experiences. It helps us see things from a different perspective and gives us increased confidence and skills", said a spokeswoman. In their first year, the HAGs have tackled a wide range of issues. Their first action, to coincide with International Women's Day 99 involved a procession round Brighton bringing to the public's attention the large and colourful history of female activists in the town. Since then, they have produced a radio programme (wimminz hour) for pirate Radio 4A, attended the J18 Carnival Against Capitalism in London, took part in International No Diet day with the message 'Riot Not Diet', organised self-defence lessons...and much, much more!

Feeling inspired yet? Here's a quick run-down of what the HAGs have in store for the future...more self defence lessons, anti-GMO actions, climbing training days, making links with other 'anarch-fem' groups, and of course... more fun on this year's International Women's Day.

HAG meet every two weeks, at 6pm on Sundays at The Hag House, 14-16 Newmarket Road (off Lewes Road gyratory). They always need more people to get involved, so get along and get active!

PAINT IT BLACK

Women in Black is a worldwide organisation that aims to address 'the whole continuum of violence, from male violence against women, to militarism and war.' It was formed in 1998 in Israel out of the women's protests against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, and now has bases in Yugoslavia, Belgium, the United States, Spain, Italy and many other countries. Women in Black Belgrade have been particularly active of late, highlighting the ongoing troubles caused by the Kosovo conflict, raising awareness, and addressing those in power.

Women in Black (London) c/o The Maypole Fund, PO Box 14072 London N16 5WB. www.chorley2.demon.co.uk/wib.html) 0171 482 5670.

...and finally...

Sussex Women Magazine needs you now! This is a forthcoming publication that hopes to be up and running in the Summer. It will focus on women's experience in the Sussex area with an emphasis on the positive aspects. "News and information on positive, constructive things women are doing, rather than focusing on the ways in which women are downtrodden."

Contributions are urgently needed, and also people to get involved with the running of the magazine So, if you're a Sussex woman with something to say, get writing. Contact Jacqueline Seamon on 01273 240044 for more details

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers that we'll be on strike next week, but will be back the week after with a new agenda. Honest.