

W O M E N

*Alive*

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MARXISM TODAY

JULY  
5TH  
6TH 1986



A SUMMER EVENT FOR WOMEN

AT THE  
SOUTH  
BANK  
POLYTECHNIC  
LONDON



AT LAST

A MAGAZINE OF THE LEFT THAT TAKES FEMINIST CONCERNS SERIOUSLY



**New Socialist** stands for socialist politics fundamentally transformed by belonging to, and speaking to, the constituencies of women, gays, blacks and greens. Michèle Barrett and Rosalind Coward have just joined the magazine as associate editors.

**On sale at Women Alive** is the bumper summer issue. On the Central Books stall you can also catch up on recent back issues too, like May's roundtable discussion on Feminism and Class Politics and June's articles on images of masculinity and the politics of breastfeeding.

**90p, but subscribing is cheaper** - three free issues plus 11 issues a year cost only £8.90. For full details write to New Socialist Room W314, Labour Party, Freepost, London SE17 1BR (No stamp needed).

## 7 Days, the weekly that puts feminism at the forefront

Not just on International Women's Day, but every week, 7 Days carries news, views and reviews by, for and about women - looks at the politics of the personal and what's personal about politics.

7 Days, the weekly paper of the Communist Party, price 30p (annual sub £15.00). For a free sample copy write to 7 Days, Freepost, 16 St John Street, London EC1B 1BL.





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AVAILABLE ON  
CASSETTE TAPE FOR  
BLIND WOMEN. PLEASE  
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This programme was put  
together by Kate Steele and  
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## TIMETABLE SATURDAY

9.30am-10.30am	REGISTRATION ( <i>Coffee, tea, snacks available</i> )
10.30am-12.30pm	SESSIONS
10.30am-12.30pm	<i>Film showings: Women and History</i>
12.30pm-2.00pm	LUNCH and PRACTICAL SESSIONS Body Conditioning/Keep Fit Stalls, Exhibitions, Discussions. . .
2.00pm-4.00pm	SESSIONS
4.00pm-4.30pm	TEA BREAK
4.30pm-6.30pm	SESSIONS
4.30pm-6.30pm	<i>Film showings: Women and Work</i>
7.30pm	Entertainment: <i>Women Alive And Kicking</i> at The Camden Centre, Kings Cross. (with evening meal available)

## SUNDAY

10.00am-10.30am	REGISTRATION ( <i>Coffee, tea, snacks available</i> )
10.30am-12.30pm	SESSIONS
10.30am-1.00pm	Women and The Built Environment (1)
10.30am-12.30pm	PRACTICAL SESSIONS <i>Film showings: Women, Health and Sexuality</i> Rights Advice sessions
12.30pm-2.00pm	LUNCH and PRACTICAL SESSIONS Poetry-reading Self Defence Stalls, Exhibitions, Discussions. . .
2.00pm-4.00pm	SESSIONS
2.00pm-4.00pm	<i>Film showings: Women in Protest</i>

Late in 1984 a group of Communist Party women started talking about the idea of a national event for women. Women's lives are changing: both for the worse (with poverty, violence and cutbacks in services) and for the better (more widespread acceptance of women's right to work, to equal pay and independence). Within the women's liberation movement political divisions have been overlaid with divisions of race, dis/ability and sexuality. And feminism has been forced to cope with the increasing awareness of the complexities of women's experiences and values, from abortion and motherhood to economic strategies and political parties. But while the women's movement has fragmented, it has spawned a richness of culture and writing that has greatly contributed to the continued struggle for women's recognition and independence.

We were aware that the historic conferences of the '70s could not be replaced with 'our' event, and we do not claim to be able to organise *the* women's liberation conference of 1986. But we have felt that it is both legitimate for us to organise a women's event, and also a logical extension of our political commitments as feminists to strengthening feminism and women's intervention in politics.

We felt deeply that there is a need for a women's forum that would draw together women and push forward feminist debate and thought on a wide range of issues. Our ideal has been to provide that space for many different women and organisations to contribute to and gain from; and where women's experiences are not ghettoised but genuinely brought together and involved.

We have also been aware of our own shortcomings. As able-bodied, mainly (but not totally) white, youngish women, we have not always been sufficiently aware of what is required to fully represent all women's needs. But we have been deeply committed to trying to overcome our limitations; and as Communist women we have made many contacts with different organisations, movements and individuals that we know will contribute to Women Alive having the widest possible appeal.

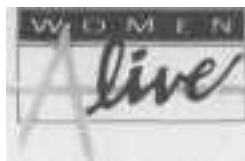
Women Alive has been an immense effort and expense to organise (we would have loved a GLC grant!). And it has been beset by problems, from finding a suitable venue (which is still not ideal), to finding enough money to fund it. We are grateful to all those people who have contributed to the financing of Women Alive.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of 'Marxism Today' magazine, which is sponsoring this event. Their role in creating a climate on the Left for genuinely popular, accessible and honest debate through events like 'Left Alive' has provided an important model for us to draw from.

Finally, we have been excited by the response from so many women. We feel there is a new desire to tackle our inequalities and divisions that can strengthen the women's movement in Britain today. We hope that Women Alive will contribute to this.

WOMEN ALIVE CO-ORDINATING GROUP

PLUS. . . ALL WEEKEND. . . BANNERMAKING, WOMEN'S SELF-HELP HEALTHBUS, 'PICTURES OF HEALTH' EXHIBITION, STALLS. . .



## PRACTICAL SESSIONS

### BODY CONDITIONING/KEEP FIT

Exercise your way to fitness, improve your stamina and mobility - all in music!

Saturday lunchtime 12.30-2.00

Ran by Maria Peor

NB: Upper limit of 30; first come first served

### SELF DEFENCE

For women who want to reclaim the night - learn how to protect yourself at this taster session

Sunday lunchtime 12.30-2.00

Ran by Sue Bradley

NB: Upper limit of 30; first come first served

### BAINT/BLANKING

Practical art/craft/creative session, continues throughout the weekend to make a banner/wall hanging around feminist images of socialism. Drop in any time and add your bit!

Ran by Lynette Willoughby

NB: If you'd like to make something beforehand and bring it along, please write to Lynette at 111 Querrymount Terrace, Leeds, LS6 2JG

### POETRY READINGS

Informal readings on Sunday lunchtime 12.30-2.00 with Jackie Kay, Barbara Barford, Gabriela Peers (three poets from 'A Dangerous Knowledge')

### THEATRE WORKSHOP

Details to be announced

### WOMEN'S SELF-HELP HEALTH DEN

The bus will be on site during the weekend for women to visit, look round and use

### VISITING AUTHORS

Women writers will be holding lunchtime chats during the weekend. More details later

### PICTURES OF HEALTH

The Exhibition 'Pictures of Health' is a chronicle of Joyce's own remarkable battle against cancer using photographic therapy. It will be on display throughout the weekend

### PRACTICAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

Learn the rudiments of making and reading plans, and designing a workplace with women's needs in mind. A first step towards building a women's world. Organised by Matrix Feminist Design Co-op, the workshop will be run all day Sunday. Full details under main sessions list

NB: Space may be limited in the workshop and women are invited to register an interest in advance of Women Alive by ringing 01-251 4406.

### RIGHTS ADVICE

Starts where the problem pages and agony aunts leave off. Individual practical advice sessions on housing, social security, employment, training, careers, equal opportunities, divorce, custody, sexual harassment, infertility and other subjects will run throughout Sunday morning. These confidential consultations will be held with women who have specialist knowledge in the different areas. You will be able to fix up a time to chat confidentially with them when you come to Women Alive on the Saturday

NB: Please book in a time at Women Alive

### FILM SHOWS

Cinema of Women and Circles, two feminist film and video distributors, will be showing a selection of short films throughout the weekend, grouped around four main themes. Each theme will have a wide range of videos, all made by women, from documentaries designed to provoke discussion, to animated satire, from 1900 to present day

Films:

Women and History (Saturday morning)

Women at Work (Saturday afternoon)

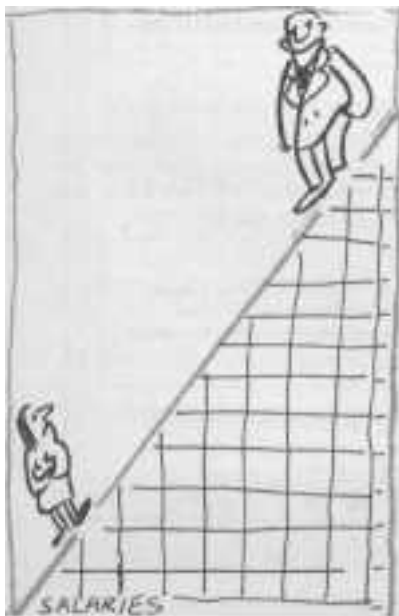
Women, Health and Sexuality (Sunday morning)

Women in protest (Sunday afternoon)

### WOMEN AND HEALTH: ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Discover things about your own past and how it links up with other women. Learn how to use the powerful personal political messages of oral history in present-day campaigns on crucial issues. The project is being run on Sunday morning by members of NUPE Northern Ireland Women's Committee. Full details under main sessions list

# SATURDAY 1030-12.30



## ON THE BOTTOM LINE

Women have always been on the bottom line of earnings and jobs. But only very recently has low pay become a priority area for action by trade unions. Besides examining some of the causes of low pay, this session will ask what pay strategies might best suit women's needs, and how can we make sure they are put into practice in labour movement campaigns against low pay? To help, the session will split into four groups, highlighting the low pay problem in relation to equal pay, trade unions, local authorities as employers, and poverty.

### WOMEN ALIVE AND KICKING!

evening.

Nidborough Street, Kings Cross. It kicks off at 10.30pm, with live music, bar and hot food. Tickets can be bought in advance, see registration form for

### Speakers

Carrie Oppenheim  
(Child Poverty Action Group)  
Margaret Prosser  
(Transport & General Workers Union)  
Nazreen Rahman  
(Low Pay Unit)  
NUPE Activist

All speakers appear in a personal capacity.

Chaired by  
Mary Harrison (Scottish TUC)

## COMMUNIST PARTY

What's in it  
for Women?

communist  
women give  
their own  
reasons for joining.



**KATE SULLIVAN (London)**  
Working parent

*The CP's programme, the British Road to Socialism, recognises that feminist ideas are central if we want to transform peoples' lives. We still have to win this understanding among some comrades who regard feminism as a peripheral issue. But which other party even has it on the agenda? For socialist feminists the CP really is the only choice — warts and all.*



**JANIE GLEN (Hull)**  
Trade Union activist and member of the party's Executive Committee

*I come from a communist family, so I joined the Young Communist League when I was 15 and the party when I was 19, although I didn't stay long in either. Both experiences taught me to think of politics as boring and intimidating. I came back to politics through the women's liberation movement. Feminism changed me, and although you ain't seen nothing yet, it's changing the CP. That's the reason why I'm here, to stay this time.*

## FIND OUT MORE!

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## NICARAGUA

Programme of 16 day study tours operated jointly with the NSC and New Socialist travelling throughout the country, with full programmes of visits, meetings and discussions £795. Also specialist trade union, health, building and cultural workers tours, and a four week combined study tour and work project in summer vacation £950.

## CUBA

16 day study tours to Havana (7 days) followed by beach stay at Playas del Este close to Havana with optional tours throughout the island from £670 — also specialist tours for theatre workers (October) and the Havana Film Festival (December).

## RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

Intensive Russian courses in the USSR include Summer Term in Kiev (3 months), vacation courses in July, August and September (1 month) at Volgograd, Kharkov, Minsk, Moscow, Kalinin, Leningrad and Krasnodar — one month in Moscow (November) and three weeks in Leningrad (Krus and New Year) from £650, including all travel, 6 days per week tuition and full excursion and cultural programme. Courses may be combined for up to 6 months continuous study.

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Further details from Mary McIntosh (CA), Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

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BOOKS

THE CUTTING EDGE:

Women and the Pit Strike  
*Vicky Seddon (ed.)*

A moving collection of contributions by many of the  
women most centrally involved in the strike. Drawing on  
experiences from English, Scottish and Welsh coalfields, it  
examines the roles played by women in the strike and  
their relevance to contemporary feminism. Contributors  
include *Kath Mackay, Jean Miller and Beatrix Campbell.*

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issues available for hire or sale from: Sheffield Film  
Co-op, Albreda House, Lydgate Lane, Sheffield S10 5FH.  
Tel: (0742) 668857.



## STRUGGLES OF OUR OWN

### (WOMEN IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES)

Die-hard socialists preach that socialism is a necessary precondition of women's liberation. But many feminists would doubt whether the socialist countries have achieved this in reality, and don't see why women should have to wait any longer!

A group of women with interests in very different socialist countries will shed some light on how those societies are developing, the impact of change on women, and what forms and expressions of women's politics are alive ...

Recent advances in medical technology have enormously improved the life chances of fetuses. This directly raises huge questions about the right to life of the disabled - a dilemma which has been skilfully manipulated by anti-abortionists with their horror stories of aborted handicapped fetuses left to die ...

Important advances in women's struggles for control of their own reproduction have been won - for many. But women with disabilities still face open discrimination and denial of their rights to bear and bring up children. This session will face some of these difficult questions about feminism and reproduction, in discussions between women who are active in the feminist disabled movement, and Women involved in reproductive rights campaigns.

Recent years have seen an upsurge in Black women's writings being published in Britain. Many writers, such as Alice Walker and Maya Angelou, have been 'imported' from the USA and have given us a wealth of inspiring and literary energy. But has this new fashion for Black women's writings been at the expense of British Black women writers? There are many British Black women writers, yet very few are published. Why is this? We will discuss what Black women are writing and how they are challenging, creating and documenting their struggle through fiction and non-fiction.

*This session is organised by Sheba Publishers, and will be chaired by one of the Sheba collective.*



## LOCKING US AWAY

Who are the women in prison, and why are they there? What's prison like for the women inside? This session will look at Home Office-imposed secrecy and some of the issues this secrecy tries to blank out; in particular, the treatment of mentally and physically ill women, and death in prison. We will ask what can be done by women outside to open up prison and change it?

### Speakers

Marian Sling  
Gania Browning  
*(Writer on Women in the USSR)*  
Elizabeth Kroll  
*(Writer on Women in China)*  
Barbara Einhorn  
*(European Nuclear Disarmament Campaign)*

### Speakers include

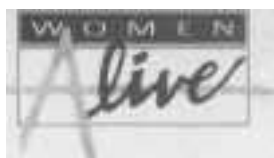
JaneWoddie  
*(activist in reproductive rights campaigns)*  
Micheline Mason  
*(Member of the Liberation Network of People with Disabilities)*

### Speakers

Chris Tchaikovsky  
*(Women in Prison Campaign)*  
Melissa Benn  
*(Author: Death in the City and Women in Prison Campaign)*

## DISABILITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

## MAKING WAVES: BLACK WOMEN WRITERS



## HERE TO STAY

The government's immigration policy is sexist: even the European courts have agreed that. But the rules, procedures and practices are also deeply racist. Black women, especially from Pakistan and India are made to endure humiliating interrogation about their lives; are forcibly separated from their families, and risk being thrown out of Britain if their marriage ends. Black women are organising resistance now. Anti-deportation campaigns, in which Black women are to the fore, are becoming a growing political reality throughout Britain.

*Women involved in anti-deportation campaigning and with personal experience effacing deportations will introduce this workshop.*



## WOMEN'S ART, WOMEN'S CRAFTS?

Are you too a closet knit? One of the growing band who never go to anything political unless armed with your carrier bag stuffed with knitting needles, patterns and balls of wool? Traditional women's crafts - needlework, embroidery, crochet as well as knitting - are back in fashion, but also among feminists. Proof of feminism's middle-class orientation? Or is something rather subversive going on in reclaiming traditional 'feminine' skills as a new expression of women's liberation and resistance? Untangle some of the ambiguities with us in this session!

Chaired by

Rosemary Betterton  
*(feminist art historian and writer)*

## WOMEN IN EUROPE

Is the European Community working for women? It has certainly proved useful in counteracting some of Thatcherism's worst effects on women, through, for example, favourable judgements in the European Court on pay comparability and retirement rights. Women are also more prominent and numerous in the European Parliament itself. But beyond these limited improvements how should feminists judge Europe's impact on our lives?

Is it worthwhile devoting energies to building up contacts and networks among European women to make a mark on the EEC?

Catheryn Hoskins will lead an assessment of the balance-sheet of benefits, possibilities and limitations of a European Community for women.

Speakers include  
Catheryn Hoskins *(writer on women and Europe)*  
Carole Tongue *(Euro MP)*

## OLD HABITS DIEHARD

'Realignment' is a buzzword much in use on the left wing of politics right now. But what do these shifting attitudes and policies mean for women? We'll be looking critically at how much feminism has influenced recent left wing ideas; if realignment really holds any political promise for women, and how to make an impact on the shake-up of the Left.

Speakers include

Glenys Thornton  
*(Labour Party)*  
Jackie Hayward  
*(Communist Party)*

## SATURDAY 2.00-400

## A WORLD TO WIN

Feminists have been described as the modern Utopians, projecting the possibilities for future societies through our lifestyles, work and culture. But is our ability to dream being dulled by the overwhelming realities of economic insecurity, unemployment and hardship? What are our starting points for a better world: some kind of super-advanced capitalism? A less abrasive, less austere socialism? Or perhaps somewhere altogether different over the rainbow . . .?

This session will bring together women with a wide range of political and social backgrounds, some well-known, others not, to reveal and share together our aspirations and fantasies for the future.

Speakers

Barbara Burford *(writer)*  
Sarah Lefanu *(author)*  
Teresa Gorman  
*(Conservative Councillor)*  
Janice Owens *(Green Party)*  
Dorothy Grey *(longtime member, Communist Party)*

Chair

Janie Glen *(feminist in search of Utopia)*



## POVERTY-TRAPPED WOMEN

Do you hide your poverty, saying: you don't like going out, you hate having people round, you've gone right off food, who needs new clothes when the jumble sales are so good, the kids like wearing wellies in the summer?

Have you ever had to: go to work at 5am so the neighbours won't see; told the children not to talk about the family to outsiders; said "he's not my lover, he's my brother"? What can women DO? Come and discuss with a panel, some of whom have lived out some of the questions and are still searching for the answers ...

Chaired by

Mary Gardiner (*Campaigner for children's rights*)

## GETTING IN A LATHER

Love 'em or loathe 'em, millions tune in for their weekly diet of soap - from the money-drenched world of Dallas and Dynasty to the more realistic Brookside, Eastenders and Coronation Street. Just what makes them so popular? Entertaining, moving and gripping they certainly are but what do they say about our society and women's position in it? Using video excerpts, we'll dissect these shows and the way they're portrayed in the tabloid press and magazines.

Speakers include

Christine Gerraty

## IS THERE A FEMINIST MORALITY?

The family, sexuality, reproduction: these are all issues which have hit the headlines in recent times. The underlying theme linking controversy in all these areas has been 'morality', and it is the Right who've been setting the tone of that morality. On some key questions, such as law and order, feminists' desire for action has resulted in an uneasy convergence of demands with the moral right. We've never really considered if an alternative 'feminist morality' is necessary, desirable or even possible. Can we now begin to piece together our own views on morals and society?

Speakers

Lucy Bland (*Writer and lecturer in sexual politics*)  
Chris Tchaikovsky (*Women in Prison Campaigner & author*)  
Melissa Benn (*Journalist*)

Chair

Jane Woddis (*Communist Party*)

## HEROINES



There are few heroines in our society. In some of the most enduring - Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Janis Joplin - we discover behind the cultivated gloss of the image-makers, impressarios and ad-men, women who were lonely, unhappy, even desperate victims. But times and images are changing: today's 'heroines' from Tessa Sanderson to Annie Lennox or Madonna, project more complex and often less 'feminine' attributes, resisting attempts to be packaged as stereotypes.

What models and which heroines do we fashion for ourselves and our daughters? In this session women who've had to create their own images talk about heroines.

Speakers include

Kathy Myers (*journalist*)  
Jane Graves

Chair

Julie Lawrence (*Sussex District Committee of the Communist Party*)

# SATURDAY 430-630

## THE GENDER OF SCIENCE

If as the nursery rhyme claims, little boys are made of rats and snails, is it so surprising that they grow up into mad scientists who want to portray women as genetically inferior? This session will try and shed light on how far scientific theory is a male construct which is used to justify as well as explain the way the world works. We want to try to put together a feminist approach to science, using the example of the 'nature versus nurture' debate and biological determinism; and other examples from technology and the physical sciences.

Lynda Birke (*Feminist & biologist at the Open University, Author: 'Women, Feminism & Biology'*) will be talking to Lynette Willoughby (*Lecturer in electronics*) and Gale Vines (*Biological sciences editor, New Scientist*)

Chair MaryAttenborough (*Computer programmer*)

**...AND MORE...AND MORE... AND MORE... AND MORE...**  
There will be various stalls and stands in addition to those mentioned over the weekend. If you would like to run a stall, provide a display or organise some other activity please let us know. Ring Women Alive on 01-2514406

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## Facts about the LRB

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## A Literary Journal?

The LRB publishes articles on any subject intelligible to the layman. As well as poets, novelists and literary journalists, LRB's contributors are specialists who know how to write. They include: Martin Amis, A.J. Ayer, Julian Barnes, John Bayley, Alan Bennett, William Boyd, Anita Brookner, Angela Carter, Garrett FitzGerald, E.H. Gombrich, Nadine Gordimer, Lawrence Gowing, Ian Hamilton, Stuart Hampshire, Tony Harrison, Seamus Heaney, Patricia Highsmith, Ted Hughes, Kazuo Ishiguro, Frank Kermode, Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie, David Lodge, Peter Medawar, Craig Raine, Christopher Ricks, J.M. Roberts, Richard Rorty, Salman Rushdie, Mike Selvey, A.J.P. Taylor, Emma Tennant, E.P. Thompson, Bernard Williams, Raymond Williams.

## A Political Journal

The *New Statesman* has praised the "clear and central lines of debate of the sort recently maintained by the *London Review of Books* over the miners' strike and the sinking of the *Belgrano*". Other recent political analysis in the LRB includes J.K. Galbraith on Truman, Peter Shore on Gaitikoll, Peter Jenkins on Socialism without Socialism, R.W. Johnson on the French elections, Anatole Kaletsky on the international debt crisis, Robert Cecil on Soviet intelligence, Neal Ascherson on the rise and fall of the political press in Britain, Joel Shurkin on Atomic tests.

The *London Review of Books* is not a light journal. Some would say it was positively formidable. Certainly, it assumes people want substance for their money. We are sure that readers of *Women Alive* will enjoy and value the LRB. That's why we are offering you the chance to take out a subscription with a free trial period of 3 months (six issues). We think you'll become addicted. If you don't, we'll give you your money back in full at any time in the trial period.

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## London Review OF BOOKS



SLAVE TRAIL: LITERARY CRITICISM

## London Review OF BOOKS





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**FIRES**

arts/culture/politics

The first ever issue of FIRES will be out in May and will feature: Ben Zephaniah, GLE Johnston and the Arts, Henry Ho in Belfast, British poetry since the war, Norman Walker, Ken Kil, comics, punk, Neoromanic folk singer Carlos Mabe Gadeo and dancer Harold Alford Wines and more...

**BURNING ISSUES!**

PLUS: News reviews and comment; Food, film, food and fashion; Strength to push, politics and painting; FIRES will be opening up debates; reporting on issues and people; and giving information.

**COMING UP!**

In the next few issues we'll be looking at women photographers, Norman Maclean MP on Labour's Arts policy, Arts in the Third World, mural painting, artists and GND, videos and still more...

**LOOK OUT FOR FIRES!**

FIRES will be available in bookshops from May but if you have any trouble getting hold of a copy just send us a cheque or postal order for £2.00 (made payable to 'Fires Publishing') and we'll rush you a copy of our first trailblazing issue!





## HOW AID MAKES WOMEN POOR

What effects have 'aid' and 'development' had on women in the Third World? Colonialism certainly damaged women's position in many Third World societies, but many aid and development programmes have not only ignored women's role and status, they have seriously worsened them. Various independent aid agencies have started schemes aimed specifically at women now, but are these working? Or is more radical action needed to improve women's position in the Third World?

Speakers include

Suki Field (*Women's Officer, VSO*)

## MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

Speakers

Josephine Zara  
Sheila Tabard (*Haringey Women's Unit*)  
Geraldine Tabard

Discussion facilitator  
Zelda Curtis

"The guards at the cell door" is how writer Andrea Dworkin describes mothers. They "raise daughters" she says, "to conform to the strictures of the conventional female life as defined by men ..." Strengths, tensions, exasperations and warmth; the struggle for individual identity and the need for closeness: these are all facets of a mother-daughter relationship. Even more complex is the relationship of a lesbian mother to her heterosexual daughter, or a young British-born Asian woman who challenges her mother's cultural inheritance. The potential of this workshop discussion will extend as far as you want to in exploring your own relationship and experiences.

IMOTHE^I

## DO WOMEN RIOT?

'Riot' conjures up many images and meanings: anarchy, uprising, struggle, protest, resistance ... As a form of mass political action, 'riot' has a long and honourable history. But in what possible conditions or circumstances might such action be justifiable today? What factors distinguish national liberation movement actions in S. Africa from Brixton or Broadwater Farm? Above all, can there be a *feminist* justification of violent, aggressive, warring behaviour? Or must we redefine the vocabulary and the content of 'riot' if it is to be of use to us?

Speakers

Sally Alexander (*Historian*)  
Eleanor Khanyilef/4 N C)  
*Women from Broadwater Farm Defence Committee and Greenham Common*

Chair

Jean Miller (*Barnsley Women against Pit Closures*)

## WOMEN'S PAGES

Do commercial women's magazines contribute towards a feminist future? Both 'career-woman' glossies and 'home-based' magazines have done some excellent reporting and launched campaigns on important issues such as women's tax, equal pay, health care and nurseries. But how can this be reconciled with the fashion pages and beauty tips? Do women's pages, TV or radio programmes offer any better perspective when presenting a women's angle? Is the fight for a 'women's voice' in the media in danger of creating a ghetto?

Speakers

Sharon Maxwell (*Cosmopolitan*) Jean Shapiro (*GoodHousekeeping magazine*)

*This session is organised and chaired by Everywoman magazine*

## IN THE FAMILY WAY

If violence against women says something about relations between women and men in general, what meaning does violence against children express and what should feminism or the Left be doing about it? What is happening to the condition of parenthood: why are parents being driven to kill their children, and what can be done to stop it?

An uncomfortable workshop in which there will be opportunities to listen to each others' experiences as children, parents and allies of both. Young people especially welcome.

*Speakers include Frankie Rickford and a woman from the Children's Legal Centre*

## THE TOUGH COP

Media images of policing have traditionally been overwhelmingly of macho men. But what have we here ...? Cagney and Lacey, Juliet Bravo, The Gentle Touch: these new media policeladies seem far removed from the Sweeney and Starsky and Hutch. Are they trying to present a 'feminised' view of the police force, and why? How do these images relate to women's actual experience of policing, and policewomen?

*These issues will be debated by women who have experience of both the fantasy and real cop worlds.*



WOMEN IN SOCIETY  
A Feminist List edited by  
Jo Campling



NEW TITLES FOR 1986

**WOMEN IN IRELAND: Voices of Change**

Jimmy Beale

Draws on a wide range of Irish women's experience to examine the conflict between progressive and traditional forces and asks whether women in Ireland can hope to achieve real equality.

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**OUR WORK, OUR LIVES, OUR WORDS: Women's History and Women's Work**

Leonore Davidoff and Belinda Westover (eds)

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- The Color Purple
- Horses Make a Landscape Look More Beautiful
- In Love and Trouble
- In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens
- Meridian
- The Third Life of Grange Copeland
- You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down
- The Women's Press

