

FA, contella 3, 36

June 24, 1973

Dear Sister,

I apologize for the long delay in answering your letter asking for information about the newly formed STEWARDESSES FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS. Actually, the first meeting was not held until March 12, when officers were elected and some organizational structure arranged. As the Historian of SFWR your letter was forwarded to me by Sandra Jarrell, one of our co-founders, but by an extremely round-about route. It finally caught up with me on my holidays in Greece. All I can say is that the delay was not intentional and that we were very happy to hear that you are organizing the Italian women flight attendants.

I personally am interested for another reason, since I am writing a book on the working conditions for women, image, managerial attitudes etc, for international airline stewardesses. I have interviewed in France and England (so far in western Europe) but have yet to do any interviewing in Italy. I have also done research in Israel, Greece, India, Hong Kong, Australia, and next week will go to Tokyo to interview Japan Air Lines which is from what I can gather, one of the most chauvinistic, male dominated airlines, in an industry which has almost complete contempt for women. I have been a stewardess for TWA for over ten years now and while doing my job full time, have also wrote and published two books and as I have said am doing research on a third.

I look forward to getting your article in Radical America when I return to New York. I did read one article on Italian Feminists in MS Magazine which painted a very grim picture of the position of women in Italy. When I return to New York in the middle of July, I will send you a copy of an article about stewardesses and our organization which was in the January issue of MS. I will also send you copies of our newsletters. I hope that they will aid you in your efforts to organize the Italian stewardesses.

I would also ask you a favor. If possible I would very much like to contact any enlightened Italian stewardesses to interview for my book. I am able to work flights to Rome and if you think it would be worth it, I could also come to Italy in my time off to meet with you and other feminists. I must say, if the picture painted by MS Mag. of the violent reaction against Feminism by insecure Italian men is anywhere near accurate, you have my admiration and I would be happy to do anything I can to support all of you. I would appreciate it if you could send any reply to my publisher's address:

Elizabeth Rich
c/o Stein & Day Inc.
7 East 48th Street
New York, New York 10017
USA

*In sisterhood,
Elizabeth Rich*

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