

85 rue de Lausanne  
1202 Genève

24 March 1975

Tel. 31.70.49

FB, Corbelle 1,62

Dear Sister,

I received your letter of 11.3.75. Enclosed is a program in English which we just prepared. In a week or two we'll have a poster + printed program in French/English.

A woman from the MLF Wages for housework group contacted me. Apparently you had written to her. We have consistently gone to MLF meetings + published information in the bulletin asking for help organizing the event.

"Who" exactly we are is hard to precisely define. For myself - I'm American; working in Genève as a secretary; 32 yrs. old; I was in Ferns last summer during April Weeks; + was ~~at~~ <sup>at the</sup> Coopera in Frankfurt in the Fall; I've been involved in <sup>the</sup> Women's Liberation movement since 1968. Other women involved in the co-ordinating committee have various backgrounds - some more or less militant than others. Some women have

been in MLF groups others have not due ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~problems~~ <sup>problems</sup> with French or general "fear" of militancy. We hope to attract a wide variety of women to the "Celebration". The foreign population in Geneva is over 60%. We have contacts with employee groups (primarily secretaries) in UN, ILO, WHO, CERN and we want those women at the Celebration. So far the MLF has not reached a very large number of these women. I emphasize a spectrum because we hope that women at ~~the~~ very early stages of awareness will come as well as committed feminists.

About the movie, I didn't mean there was a movie "wages for housework" but rather we will have movies about work & work campaigns.

I hope this information will help you make a decision. Write to me again if it does not. Our budget is very tight so let me know exactly what your train ticket will cost.

Look forward to seeing you in May.

In solidarity,

Zoe Clayson  
For Celebration des Femmes  
Co-ordinating Committee

## CELEBRATION DES FEMMES

An exhibition on the theme Celebration des Femmes will be held 2 - 4 May in Salle des Eaux Vives, 82 Rue des Eaux Vives, Genève (2/22 bus line). In addition to the full program of discussion/workshops listed below, there will be permanent displays of photographs, arts, graphics, and projects by women. A music corner (everyone bring an instrument or songs) will go on continuously. Free child care facilities provided. Free accommodations will be available for women arriving from outside Genève. Write in advance if possible the number of women arriving to C. P. 301, 1227 Carouge.

### PROGRAM

Friday, 2 May

- 6:00 pm Exhibition opening.
- 7:30 pm Film and discussion with women from Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, and Ceylon. Definitions of regional concerns and existence of liberation movements.

Saturday, 3 May

- 9:30 am Exhibition opening.
- 10:30 am Workshop and Discussion: WOMEN AND WORK
- a. General Discussion of Work.  
To consider various aspects of financial independence; work fulfillment and responsibility; working in a hierarchy; rivalry among women; equality in salary and promotion; the validity of a "career"; stress and health aspects of work; women's job ghettos; unemployment problems.
  - b. Specific Organizing Campaigns
    - 1) Staff Representative Groups. What's going on? What can be expected?
    - 2) Wages for Housework. Exchange of experiences with actions. Where do initiatives *already exist on the level* of state, trade unions, & factories? Report and exchange with group from Italy.
    - 3) Unions: women's caucuses, efforts at international levels.

12:30 pm THEATRE

Film Showing: THE WOMAN'S FILM

2:30 pm Workshop and Discussion: LIFE STYLES  
The single woman, the nuclear family, community living experiences. What is the cultural availability of these choices? What are some of the advantages and limitations of each?

Workshop and Discussion: INTERNATIONAL  
FEMINIST MOVEMENT

Report from Frankfurt International Strategy Conference, November 1974.

Exchange of literature and resources.

Introduction of ISIS ( International Feminist Communication Network based in Genève).

VIDEO WORKSHOP

Video as a method of consciousness raising and as an art form. Exchange of tapes. Script ideas. Explanation of techniques involved in taping. Preparation of a video.

5:00 pm Theatre  
6:00 pm Short Films  
9:00 pm Fête for women only.

Sunday, 4 May

10:00am Exhibition opening.

10:30am Workshop and Discussion: MATERNITE

Consideration will be given to the aspects of the job of mother and the responsibilities involved: 1) social attitudes toward the role of mothers and their implications for women, such as feelings of inadequacy, difficulty of conforming to the image of the perfect mother; 2) lack of leisure and privacy; 3) working mothers and their problems (social disapproval and guilt, lack of child care facilities); 4) reconciling beliefs about education with what children are taught to think and believe at school and by society.

Sunday, 4 May

- 10:30 am Workshop and Discussion:  
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL AND DISCRIMINATION AT THE LEVEL OF LAW.  
General discussion of divorce laws, marriage contracts, labor legislation, rape, and prostitution.  
Report from Paris on International Tribunal to be held late 1975.  
Presentation of various cases of women political prisoners. What can be done? Specific resolutions?
- 12:30 pm Theatre
- 2:00 pm Workshop and Discussion:  
WOMEN AND THE ARTS  
Exchanges among women artists, writers, and musicians.  
Workshop and Discussion.  
WOMEN AND HEALTH  
Self-Help, abortion and contraception information; evaluation of resources available on doctors and psychological services.  
Workshop and Discussion:  
FEMINISM AND SOCIALISM  
What is the relationship? Potential for a new ideology? Caste vs. class analysis? Alternative economic/social/political forms?
- 6:00 pm Exhibition closes.

85 rue de Lausanne  
1202 Genève  
9 February 1975

Maria Rosa Dalla Costa

*via Cristofori 24  
35100 Padova*

Dear Sister:

I am part of an ad-hoc group of Geneva women, English and French speaking, preparing a Celebration des Femmes for 2-4 May. We are feminists of various nationalities working in the area.

The celebration will have exhibitions, discussion groups, media presentation, and a big carnival with music, theatre and dance outside. On Saturday night, 3 May, we are preparing a presentation on the work of women. We will show some short movies on different aspects of work internationally: agriculture, factories, home, arts, office, etc. We would like you to participate in the discussion after the films on "wages for housework".

Since Geneva is the "heart" of United Nations International Women's Year activities, we feel it is a particularly good place to present our own event, in our own way. As one might expect most United Nations programs for the year are ineffectual, minimally financed farces. Indications are that we will receive excellent publicity for the Celebration which would be good exposure for the wages for housework campaign.

Our group has very little money since none of us are wealthy "functionaires". We would, therefore, not be able to offer you an honorarium but we could pay for your transportation costs and lodgings. I hope that you will be able to participate in this ~~part~~. If you can not come perhaps you could recommend someone else. A reply at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

In solidarity,

Zoe Clayson  
Celebration des Femmes, Co<sup>o</sup>rdinating Committee

*Please →*

*We would like to  
know as soon as possible!  
Thanks.*

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ISIS  
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*Women's international information and communication service*  
*Service féminin international d'information et de communication*  
*Servicio femenino internacional de información y de comunicación*

March 1975

Dear Sisters,

We are a collective of women involved in the women's liberation movement and in international documentation. We have continually experienced the need for communication and information in the women's movement: from our consciousness raising groups to political actions on the local, national and international levels. Because of our concern about this need, we have pooled our resources and experience and have created ISIS - a counterinformation and communication service for all women involved in the struggles for our liberation.

By counterinformation we mean the materials that we are producing in our local groups wherever we are - songs, newsletters, bulletins, videotapes, films, posters, magazines, books, journals, photographs, poetry, art work, human resources -- information which is not readily available through the established communication channels, or widely available outside local situations. The information we collect and receive is cross-indexed and stored in our information system called OASIS (the enclosed Project Description tells how this works). This will provide a rich resource file on any topic of concern to the women's movement. Based on this, ISIS is ready to respond to the information needs of any women or women's groups around the world, to provide information for study, research, projects or actions. Already we are getting regular calls and letters.

ISIS is also a channel of communication for the local, national and international feminist movement - an international network of contacts and exchange. It is not, however, in any way intended to centralize or organize activities of the women's movement. ISIS will help to put existing groups, women and actions in contact with each other, to mobilize support and solidarity for women wherever and whenever they are confronted with oppression and discrimination. For example, a group of Lishon women were attacked in January by thousands of



men during a feminist demonstration: ISIS could have called on its rapidly expanding number of contacts to help publicize this and mobilize support for the Portuguese women. For us, international communication is powerful and crucial.

To help carry out these tasks, we will produce a monthly bulletin containing:-

- counterinformation (reproduction of documentation)
- listings of the kinds of resources ISIS has available
- news of events and projects coming out of the feminist movement and women's groups in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Latin America and North America.

Since the raison d'être of ISIS is to share activities, information and creations among women and women's groups, we invite you to send us:-

- DOCUMENTATION - newsletters, bulletins, magazines, plays, poems, journals, bibliographies, photographs, posters, films, videotapes, tapes, women's art (or information about these and where they can be found), produced by women in their involvement in the political process of liberation.
- CONTACTS - names and addresses of other groups and women you feel ISIS should be in contact with and who can use ISIS. We ask you to pass this letter on to other people too.
- NFWS - about your actions, about conferences, meetings, demonstrations, coming events on the local, national and international levels.
- EXCHANGE SUBSCRIPTIONS with us - those of you who are regularly producing magazines and newsletters, etc. Our monthly bulletin will appear regularly in January 1976, but we will produce several numbers in 1975. We would like to receive your publications now.
- CONTRIBUTIONS - ideas for raising money, and your own financial support if you can afford anything. These can be sent to either: Post Office Account No. 12-22772 GENEVA, in the name of "Service féminin international d'information et de communication - ISIS" (within Europe money can be sent through any post office), or: ISIS, Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102, USA.
- SUGGESTIONS - your ideas about ISIS, what issues you are involved in and how ISIS can be useful to you.

We hope you will call on the resources of ISIS at any time. During the next few months the ISIS collective can be contacted in Geneva, Rome or the United States at the addresses below.

LOVE  
+

ISIS

GENEVA: Case Postale 301, 1227 Carouge (contact person: Jane Cottingham)

ROME : Via della Pelliccia 31, 00153 Roma (contact person: Marilee Karl)

USA : P.O. 16108, Winston-Salem, 27105 N. Carolina (contact person: Judy Sidden)

il viaggio, la durata, le spese ecc.

Ti ringrazio

giornata