

News Line 11

April 2000

Federación Centroamericana de Mujeres Liberales

On March 8 and 9, 2000, a meeting organised by INLW and the Nicaraguan Liberal's Women organisation took place in Managua Nicaragua. INLW was represented by its Secretary General Marie T. Bianchi. The main objective of the meeting was the establishment of the Federation of Liberal Women of Central America. Delegations of the women's liberal groups from Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica liberal parties participated and signed the Declaration founding the "Federación Centroamericana de Mujeres Liberales". The representatives of San Salvador and Panama, who were unable to attend the meeting will join the Federation at a later date. A plan of action was equally approved (see Spanish version in annex).

The seminar was attended by 250 women: each received a certificate of attendance, which was signed by Dr Myriam Fonseca, President of the "Mujer Liberal del PLC" (Nicaragua) and by Marie T. Bianchi.

The presidency of the Federation will rotate, every two years, among the different countries members of the Federation. The first President is Dr. Myriam Fonseca from Nicaragua, and the first Vice-President is Haydee M. de Rodriguez, presidenta del grupo de Mujeres del Partido Liberal de Honduras.

Congratulations to Mobina Jaffer

On March 19, 2000 Mobina Jaffer, member of INLW Board of Management, was reelected President of the Women's Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada. This reelection is a clear recognition of Mobina's good and hard work as leader of the Women's Commission.

The organisation of INLW's next General Assembly, at the occasion of the 50th Congress of Liberal International, which will be held in Ottawa next October, will add work to Mobina already hectic schedule.

Second world water forum

The Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference was held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 17 March to 22 March 2000. The Forum was attended by representatives from 130 governments and NGO. Eve de Roo van Alderwerelt, our treasurer, attended the Conference on behalf of INLW.

The conference covered the many questions related to water supply in the world, health, poverty and the need to develop water supply and sanitation for rural and urban slum population. A part of the Programme "Bridging the Gaps" was dedicated to develop a framework for concerted action on sustainable water management from a gender perspective. The keynote speech on "Water and Gender in a New Century", was delivered by Monique de Vries, Vice Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Monique de Vries is one of the founders of INLW, and it is one of our special advisers.

Les Françaises sont appelées a une journée de préparation a la défense

La formule de remplacement du service militaire devient mixte. Les premières jeunes Françaises convoquées pour la journée de préparation a la défense se sont présentées, le samedi 8 avril, dans les différents sites civils et militaires où se passent ces réunions. Pour la première fois, 8015 jeunes femmes et 7333 jeunes hommes se sont retrouvés a la journée d'appel de préparation a la défense. Chaque année, désormais, environ 800 000 jeunes Français et Françaises seront accueillis par les armées. La loi du 28 octobre 1997 prévoyait la disparition progressive du service national en 2002, la création d'une armée professionnelle et l'instauration d'un parcours de citoyenneté. Depuis, les jeunes hommes, du moins ceux qui sont nés après janvier 1979, ne font plus le service, mais restent soumis a l'obligation légale de se présenter a la journée de préparation a la défense. Aujourd'hui, c'est le tour de jeunes femmes nées après janvier 1982, de devoir répondre a la même obligation. (source Le Monde du 8-4-00)

New Zealand : 106 years after the obtention by women of voting rights.

Newzealander women were the first women in the world to obtain the right to vote in 1893. Today they are winning the power battle on all fronts. The present Prime Minister, Helen Clark (Labour) replaced in November 1999, Jenny Shipley, leader of the opposition now, The third political force of the country (the Greens) is headed by Jeanette Fitzsimmons. The Mayor of the biggest city of the country, Auckland, is the former member of Parliament Christine Fletcher. The Chief Justice is Dame Sian Elias, The boss of New Zealand Radio is Sharon Crosbie. In the world of business, trade union, arts, literature women also hold a leading role. The last male bastion the rugby team All Blacks is not more in the best shape. May be they will hire a woman to reinvigorate them.

Spain: domestic violence

The Spanish Institute for Women has published a study on domestic violence. The study reports that 640 000 Spanish women are victims of domestic violence. Nearly 2 million women declared to be victims of abuse, not necessarily physical, but victims of threats, insults, psychological pressure, harassment, etc.

Since the beginning of the year, 25 deaths of women were the result of domestic violence, five more deaths than for the whole 1999.

52% of the victims suffer violence at the hands of their husbands, 12 % are victims of their children, 11 % from their parents.

The profile of those women victims of domestic violence is the following: they are aged between 45 and 64 years, they are married, they have a low level of education, 61 % do not have a job. 70% of the victims wait more than five years before trusting someone with their plight, therefore very few complaints are registered with the police. (source Le Monde,)

Marcha mundial de mujeres

La Marcha Mundial de Mujeres contra la Violencia y la Pobreza, en Perú, integrada por más de 150 organizaciones de mujeres a nivel nacional, inició su presentación pública a través de una Marcha por las principales calles de Lima, reclamando acciones contra la pobreza y la violencia hacia las mujeres. En el Canto a la Vida presentaron públicamente su Campaña de adhesiones contra la Pobreza y la violencia, la misma que se sumará a los millones de firmas que se recogerán en el mundo y se presentarán el 17 de Octubre en los Estados Unidos ante la oficina de Naciones Unidas, el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial (fuente: fempress)

Angela Merkel elected as head of the CDU

Angela Merkel was elected as leader of the Christian Democratic Union in Germany. The 46-year old daughter of an East German Protestant vicar, her election is a first for a party that traditionally preferred to be led by male Catholic southerners average age 66. Some wonder if she will not become Germany's version of Margaret Thatcher. She will try to reverse a steeply downward trend with strictly limited financial resources.

Please remember

As for every Liberal International Congress we are planning to submit resolutions to the next Congress, Ottawa October 2000). All members of INLW can submit draft resolutions to INLW Board of Management. The draft resolutions will be circulated among INLW members for possible amendments, approval or rejection after consideration by the Board of Management. The draft resolutions must reach the Secretary General of INLW before June 1st 2000.

Publications

Women's Political and Social Thought, an anthology by Hilda L. Smith and Berenice A. Carroll. Indiana University Press. 2000

The first collection of source readings of women's important writings in political and social theory from ancient times to the twentieth century. From Sappho of Lesbos to Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Adams to Simone Weil.