

The Fight for

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

A Newsletter for Student Activists

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FALL/WINTER 1996

The Fight for

ABORTION RIGHTS and REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

*11th Annual Conference
for Student and
Community Activists*

APRIL 5-7, 1997

"How-to" Training Sessions

Campus Organizing — Grassroots organizing skills training

Menstrual Extraction — Informational session

Tracking and Combatting the Right — Updated information, organizing strategies, and opposition research techniques.

Workshops

Threats to Abortion Access

Lesbian/Bi-Sexual Women's Issues

Women and AIDS

Violence Against Women

Reproductive Rights Issues for Communities of Color in the U.S.

International Struggles for Reproductive Rights

Media, Art and Activism

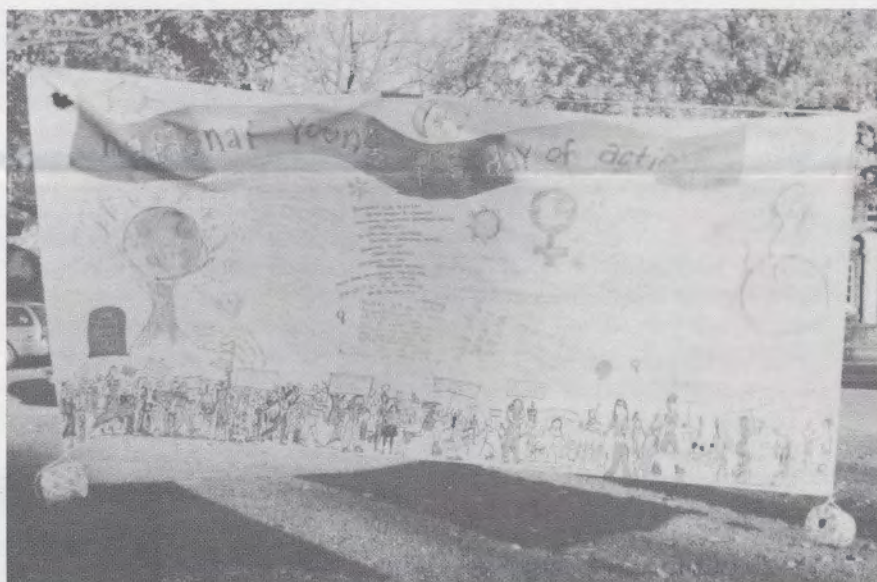
Reproductive Rights & Human Rights

Disability Rights & Reproductive Rights

Organizing for Abortion Access

Free and Open to All

See page 7 for contact information and list of speakers



NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S DAY OF ACTION

On October 24, 1996 thousands of young women raised their voices, felt their power and demanded the freedom to make their own choices. Over 200 campuses across the country participated in the fourth annual National Young Women's day of Action (NYWDA). Campus events included rallies, voter registration, video screenings, speakouts, street theater and much more.

The actions were aimed at bringing national attention to young women's concerns about a broad range of issues — access to abortion, education, jobs, domestic violence, child care, lesbian and bisexual rights, affirmative action, and racial justice. An important goal was to connect the issues and to create a network of young women activists.

Here are some of the NYWDA activities. Please continue to send us information on what happened on your campus and ideas for next year.

Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, Mt. Holyoke and UMass-Amherst held a Five College rally and march. They also used NYWDA to kick off new organizing projects.

Colorado U., Boulder: The Colorado Campus Women's Organization organized a rally and workshops on a range of issues including women of color organizing; domestic violence; access to reproductive rights.

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NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

A special feature of this year's NYWDA was the Young Women's Bill of Rights.

The bill was a collective effort at creating our own platform. It is a work in progress to be expanded and changed by your campus and community. We thought it might be especially useful as an organizing tool in building coalitions, and in media work. Let us know how you are using it.

AS YOUNG WOMEN WE DEMAND OUR RIGHT TO:

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM — As women our freedom depends on the ability to control our own bodies, including choosing when and if we bear children, without endangering our own health and well-being. To ensure this for women of all races, classes, ages, regions, and abilities there must be:

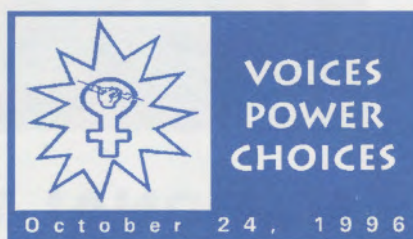
- accessible pre-natal and child care
- safe, legal, funded, accessible birth control and abortion
- an end to coercive contraception and sterilization policies which target poor women and women of color
- federal funding to develop safer and more effective methods of birth control and further research into the effects of present day options.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE — All people have the right to the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, clothing, and the opportunity to support ourselves economically without undue sacrifice, be it physical, emotional, or moral. Should that opportunity be obscured we have the right to be supported through entitlement programs. To this end we demand:

- non-punitive welfare programs which aid and empower, and do not enforce the social mores of a segment of the population
- the creation of living wage jobs
- fair and affordable housing
- an end to tax breaks and other policies that favor big corporations and the wealthy
- an equitable distribution of wealth and resources

RACIAL JUSTICE — No person's worth and future shall be decided by their race. Neither shall we as women choose between race and gender in our struggle towards a just society. To ensure all people's right to self-determination regardless of race we demand:

- corporate and federal affirmative action
- an end to punitive immigration policies



SEXUAL FREEDOM — As lesbians, heterosexual and bisexual women we have the right to love whom we please, without the fear of reprisal or violence. To this end we demand:

- recognition of gay rights as civil rights
- freedom from domestic violence, sexual violence, and harassment
- repeal of all laws which target homosexual sex as illegal, immoral, and indecent

EDUCATION — Education is a powerful tool and a basic right. To ensure that all people have equal opportunities, not contingent upon gender, race or economic status, we demand:

- an end to policies that discriminate against legal and illegal immigrants and their children.

- affirmative action and equal opportunity policies in employment and admissions
- affordable day care for students
- gender-fair and multicultural curriculum
- quality primary, secondary, and higher education for all people, supported by federal funding; need based aid; and direct loans
- literacy initiatives

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT — Environmental pollution causes disease and lowers the quality of life for all living things. Western nations and corporations, not third world women and "overpopulation," are responsible. We demand policies that respect the web of life on this planet and hold the proper entities accountable, including:

- corporate and industrial responsibility and accountability
- land reserves
- public transportation and energy conservation initiatives
- mandatory use of minimally destructive and recycled products in manufacturing

QUALITY HEALTHCARE — Healthcare is a basic right that should be denied to no one, regardless of ability to pay or immigration status. We demand:

- universal coverage, including mental health care
- increased funding for research on health issues affecting women, including AIDS and breast cancer
- reproductive health and abortion included in medical training

Revising the Political Imagination

by Betsy Hartmann

Director of the Population and Development Program, Hampshire College and Co-ordinator of the Committee on Women, Population and the Environment (CWPE)

(Text of a speech originally delivered at the Dangerous Intersections conference, October 1996, Union Theological Seminary).

A colleague of mine recently remarked that there is a profound failure of imagination on the progressive side of the political spectrum. It is as if our political imaginations have become sanitized, specialized and commercialized, not surprising in a culture where you are supposed to have a precise field and identity that fit easily into a financial ledger book. Yet the Right, and by the Right I include here many of our erstwhile liberal politicians, seems to have plenty of imagination, or at least plenty of old metaphors in stock. Malthusian ones are enjoying a special upsurge in popularity.

The population bomb is exploding once again into public consciousness. Don't you know that there are too many of 'them' and too few of 'us'? Masses of poor, dark people in the Third World are destroying the environment and causing political instability and violence. Hordes of immigrants are swarming at our borders like killer bees, taking away American jobs, draining public coffers, and degrading the U.S. environment too. Overbreeding single moms on welfare are gobbling up resources, there is an epidemic of teenage pregnancy, female sexuality is out of control...

It plays like a broken record: blame people of color, blame the poor, blame women, blame people of color, blame the poor, blame women... And yet it sells and it sells well, because they keep repackaging it. It is also in tune with the illogic of the current global economy.

If free trade and the free market are good, then population growth has to be bad, for there is no way that laissez-faire

capitalism can deliver all the goods to all the people and 'sustain' both the natural environment and the grossly inequitable distribution of wealth. The best way to shrink the numbers of the poor and the labor supply is to limit their births. Never mind that birth rates are coming down in virtually every area of the globe already — they must come down even faster through the aggressive promotion of modern contraception.

The liberal gospel of free trade also goes hand in hand with a conservative siege mentality. Capital can flow freely across borders, but not labor.

At first glance, the kind of offensive Malthusian imagery now in vogue would seem to clash with the spirit of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. While controlling population growth still occupied center stage at Cairo, the so-called consensus reached there advocates women's empowerment as the best way to bring birth rates down. And who could be against women's empowerment?

Cairo Consensus: Gains and Limitations

Undoubtedly, the international women's movement made important gains at Cairo. Women's groups had more access to the corridors of power than they had in the past. Their participation helped spur a redirection of family planning away from the target-oriented, coercive techniques so common in population control programs to a broader vision of reproductive health. This includes not just access to contraception but to maternity services, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted dis-

eases, and sexuality education, among other things.

At Cairo male responsibility for birth control also figured prominently for the first time, and women fought off many fundamentalist attacks on reproductive rights. In the end, however, they did not succeed in having safe, legal, voluntary and accessible abortion recognized as a universal right.

Whether the Cairo reforms will be adequately implemented remains to be seen. There are some signs of hope — India recently abandoned targets and quotas in its family planning program — but Indonesia simply decided to call them something else. One must also question how far a reproductive health strategy can succeed when basic living standards and health services around the world are under savage attack as the result of privatization and structural adjustment measures. And in an era of deepening economic inequalities, what does the empowerment of women really mean — more responsibility for managing scarcity?

The fundamental contradiction of the Cairo consensus is that while it endorses women's empowerment, it reinforces the economic and political status quo. As the key to development, the Cairo Plan of Action calls for more efficient government, higher levels of foreign investment, and more reliance on the private sector and non-governmental organizations, rather than any substantive measures to redistribute wealth and power. It places much of the blame for poverty and environmental degradation on human numbers rather than on human systems of labor and resource exploitation.



It is one of the few true truisms that rapid population growth is more a symptom than a cause of poverty — for a variety of reasons, birth rates generally decline as standards of living improve, urbanization proceeds, children go to school, and women find employment outside the home. But not even all the historical evidence or the charts and curves of economists seem to be able to keep Malthus down. His ghost haunted the halls of Cairo, twisting the demographic logic so that people were made to believe once again that population stabilization is the key to development rather than the other way around.

Harmful Production and Consumption

Despite the occasional lip service paid to harmful production and consumption patterns, the Cairo consensus also fails to note that the environmental damage done by poor populations pales in comparison to that done by the rich. Tropical rain forests are not being felled primarily by poor peasants, but by corporate loggers and large farmers and ranchers — that is the real rain forest crunch.

Industrialized countries, with 25 percent of the world's population, consume 75 percent of the world's energy use and 85 percent of its forest products, and generate 75 percent of pollutants and wastes. Military and related activities meanwhile cause up to one-fifth of all global environmental degradation. Even after the cessation of conflict, the lingering effects of land mines, scorched earth policies, and chemical warfare obstruct environmental restoration.

How often does one hear a serious discussion of that, or of current technological priorities? Why the private car instead of public transport, plastic packaging over recyclable materials, expulsion of wastes di-

rectly into the environment rather than safe reprocessing? Why is it so much more difficult to talk about curtailing the profits and harmful practices of corporations than it is to talk about curtailing the fertility of poor women?

Well, one of the reasons it's easier to talk about population control than corporate control is because it's what we've been taught by schools, the media, and the junk mail that lands on our counters from NPG, ZPG, etc., etc. Spreading the Malthusian

message is a well-funded enterprise. Pre-Cairo millions of dollars flowed from private foundations such as the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Turner Foundation to fund the population and environment propaganda machine.

While the Cairo consensus could lead to some long overdue reforms of international population programs, we cannot afford to be naive about its ideological role, especially within the United States. Whether it is simply historical coincidence or a shrewd political calculation, the

Clinton administration's endorsement of women's rights both in Cairo and Beijing serves to divert attention from its repressive domestic agenda. How can a true proponent of women's rights sign into law so-called welfare 'reforms' which end 60 years of guaranteed federal aid to poor families and threaten millions of poor women and children with hunger and homelessness?

Current welfare 'reforms' are largely based on myths which have no empirical validity, including old Malthusian misconceptions about poor women's fertility. Contrary to conventional wisdom, women on welfare average less than two children, and the longer they are on welfare, the less likely they are to give birth. Moreover, they hardly profit from additional children, receiving only a minor increase in benefits.

Punitive child exclusion laws in states such as Wisconsin and New Jersey have had virtually no impact on reducing birth rates.

Population Control Policy in the U.S.

In the immediate months after Cairo there was much talk about "bringing Cairo back home" — developing a U.S. population policy centered on women's rights. Instead, we got a de facto population control policy centered on social exclusion. Its main components are:

One, the continued promotion of long-acting, provider-dependent contraceptives such as Norplant and Depo-Provera in poor areas and communities of color at the same time that access to abortion is increasingly restricted.

Two, the imprisonment of more and more young men of color in the name of fighting crime. The U.S. now has one of the highest, if not the highest, per capita incarceration rates in the world. Don't feed or educate them, the unspoken policy goes, just put them behind bars where you can make them work for slave wages and undermine labor unions at the same time. Along with this strategy goes the steady erosion of civil liberties by so-called anti-terrorism legislation.

Three, welfare 'reform' designed to destroy families.

Four, repressive anti-immigrant measures.

The Greening of Hate

The attack on immigrants is having powerful ramifications within the mainstream environmental movement. In "the greening of hate," conservative anti-immigrant groups — notably, Carrying Capacity Network, Population-Environment Balance, Negative Population Growth and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) — are using the population and environment issue as a window through which to penetrate the environmental movement.

According to these groups, immigrants, by contributing to U.S. population growth, are destroying the environment in addition to draining public coffers and causing crime and cultural collapse. These groups advocate draconian anti-immigrant meas-

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ures and are active lobbyists on Capitol Hill as well as in states such as California.

Last year, for example, Population-Environment Balance launched the Coalition for United States Population Stabilization which blames environmental degradation on population growth, while mentioning nothing about the right-wing assault on environmental regulation in Congress. The Coalition advocates reducing net immigration to near zero and reducing U.S. fertility rates through "changes in tax and welfare incentives." Among its founding members are prominent environmental figures and organizations such as Lester Brown, Paul and Anne Ehrlich, David Brower, Dave Foreman, Foundation for Deep Ecology and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

There is nothing remotely progressive about this kind of environmentalism, yet a number of the same foundations that support reproductive rights organizations and other worthy causes have funded the greening of hate — for example, the Weeden, Compton, and Cowell Foundations. Explicitly right-wing funders include the Laurel, Carthage and Scaife Family Foundations in Pennsylvania. There is a

eugenics connection too. The Pioneer Fund, the major financier of eugenics research in North America, has supported the efforts of FAIR, the American Immigration Control Foundation and the work of Garrett Hardin, the infamous advocate of lifeboat ethics — better to let the poor die than to sink our privileged lifeboat. Hardin is a major link between population and environment groups and the anti-immigration movement.

Moving further to the right are anti-immigrant groups connected to Pat Buchanan, the US Taxpayers Party, and the militia movement. The broader agenda here of course is not only anti-immigrant, but anti-gay, anti-abortion

Instead of blaming women's fertility for environmental degradation and violence in Haiti and Rwanda, we can ask how violence adversely affects women and their capacity to support the family and community institutions on which protection and restoration of the local environment depends.

and anti-people of color. It is worthwhile remembering that green fascism existed in Nazi Germany and there is plenty of fertile soil for it here in the United States.

Malthusian environmentalism is also alive and well in national security circles. The latest fashion is to blame population pressure for causing resource scarcity, which in turn ostensibly leads to violent conflict in many Third World countries. According to this reasoning, the political upheaval in Haiti and the genocide in Rwanda are mainly

due to population growth — not dictatorship, foreign intervention, the arms trade, and a long history of social and economic inequality. A whole academic enterprise has been set up to prove the connection, and prominent U.S. State Department officials now subscribe to this view.

It has been further sensationalized by journalist Robert Kaplan — a darling of the liberal press — who has warned about the "coming anarchy" in the Third World which threatens our borders and described Africans in racist terms which harken back to the worst colonial stereotypes. As for women, Kaplan has gone so far as to suggest that if women in Rwanda had lower fertility, the genocide would not have occurred. And many mainstream environmentalists and security pundits, I hate to say, are lapping it up.

This kind of analysis could not only further distort U.S. foreign policy, but could also intensify the domestic anti-immigrant backlash. When poverty and political violence are naturalized, refugees are dehumanized, turned into faceless invaders fleeing the chaos and environmental devastation they brought upon themselves. It is all right to turn them away and absolve ourselves and U.S. policy of any responsibility for their plight. They are 'boat people', not human beings.

UN STATISTICS ON MATERNAL MORTALITY

A survey developed by researchers from Johns Hopkins University, the World Health Organization and UNICEF estimates that:

- 585,000 women around the world die every year during pregnancy and childbirth
- 50,000 women and girls attempt to perform abortions on themselves each day
- 75,000 women die annually from unsafe abortions.
- At least 15 million women/year suffer injuries — infections and disabilities, ruptured uterus, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, lower genital tract injuries — from self-abortion
- 300 million women — more than one-fourth of adult women now living in lower-income economies — live with debilitating health problems.

National Reproductive Health Statistics for the U.S.

In August the Guttmacher Institute announced the results of a major national survey on the demographics of women who have had abortions and their contraceptive usage. The survey was based on 9,480 women who had abortions between 1994-95 in 100 hospital and non-hospital facilities. Key findings include:

- Half of all women in the U.S. will have an abortion at some time in their life.
- Catholic women have an abortion rate 29% higher than Protestant women.
- Twenty percent of U.S. women who have abortions identify as born-again or Evangelical Christians.
- Sixty percent of women having abortions used contraception during the month they became pregnant.

These are the some of the links between population, environment and immigration in the Malthusian imagination.

Using Our Political Imaginations

But we can use our own political imaginations, knowledge and experience to make very different connections and conclusions. For example:

Instead of blaming women's fertility for the environmental degradation and violence in Haiti and Rwanda, we can ask how violence — largely initiated by power elites, aided and armed by external forces — adversely affects women and their capacity to support the family and community institutions on which protection and restoration of the local environment depends.

We can point out the environmental consequences of the militarization of the U.S. border — the harm done to both humans and wildlife in the name of immigration control. We can show how allowing waivers of the endangered species act in border regions will open the door to more attacks on environmental regulation.

We can point out how many immigrant communities suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation through exposure to pesticides like methyl bromide and toxic dumps in poor neighborhoods. Many immigrants are leaders of the environmental justice movement. Many immigrant communities live far more sustainably than average Americans. The Immigration and Environment campaign in California is highlighting these important connections.

We can look at the impact of environmental pollutants on women's reproductive health and the health of their offspring. We can consider women's bodies as environments too, which should not be put at risk by violence, poverty, AIDS, unsafe forms of contraception, and lack of access to safe abortion.

We can support abortion and reproductive rights, not as means of population control but as important elements of self-determination.

We can draw the link between the imposition of economic austerity measures and the increased sexual trafficking of women

and children. Militarism plays an important role too. Even though US military bases were shut down in the Philippines in 1992, for example, proposed refuelling of U.S. warships in that country threatens to revive the exploitative sex tourist industry. What does the U.S. commitment to 'reproductive health' mean in such a context?

We can identify and challenge the economic and political power structures that are leading to gross concentrations of wealth as well as to extensive environmental degradation. We can fight against the kind of government restructuring which means more tax breaks and corporate welfare for the rich and less and less health care, education and social services for the rest of society.

We can fight racism — we must fight racism. It is a moral imperative and a political imperative, for it continues to be the most effective divide and rule strategy in this country.

We need to make another kind of connection too — we must take the political risk to cross the borders of our own constituencies and social movements. We must find concrete ways of working together — of linking struggles for environmental justice, immigrants rights, women's rights, civil rights, gay and lesbian rights, human rights. The stakes are too high to remain divided.

Already in many places, people are crossing those boundaries. Many of the speakers and participants in this conference are among them. It's hard work, and there are no simple strategies or solutions. But it will only be the products of our collective political imaginations that will lead to new forms of analysis, organizing, and social transformation.

Together, we are stronger than they think, we are stronger than we think, we are strong.

A Call to Protest Quinacrine Use

by Judy Norsigian, Boston Women's Health Book Collective

(Reprinted with permission from "Political Environments," Winter/Spring 1996.)

Quinacrine is a drug which can sterilize a woman essentially by burning (sclerosing) her fallopian tubes. It has not been approved for this use by the drug regulatory authority of any country, but some doctors continue to perform quinacrine sterilizations, largely for poorer women in developing countries. Most international agencies working in the family planning field do not recommend that quinacrine be used at this time, even in human clinical trials, let alone in nonresearch settings. This is because it has been found mutagenic in preclinical toxicology tests. While this does not necessarily mean the drug is carcinogenic in humans, generally accepted research practices would require that further animal studies be done before any testing or use with humans. Because this would be a fairly expensive proposition, so far no organization is planning to do the research.

The most vocal advocates for quinacrine have been Stephen Mumford and Dr. Elton Kessel of the Center for Research on Population and Security, a North Carolina based organization which receives primarily private funds. They have been encouraging greater use of quinacrine in a number of different countries around the world. Through an oversight of conference organizers, these two individuals had a booth at the Women's Expo '96. They were also promoting quinacrine at the Global Forum in Beijing.

Women's groups and health care advocates everywhere should protest any further use of quinacrine, especially in the absence of animal studies essential to demonstrate the feasibility of human clinical trials. Women in Chile are already doing this. For more information about this method contact AVSC, 79 Madison Ave, NY, NY 10017. Also see Marge Berer, "The Quinacrine Controversy One Year On," *Reproductive Health Matters*, no. 4, Nov. 1995, and no. 6, Nov. 1995.

STATEMENT ON CHURCH BURNINGS

by Abortion Providers and Women's Rights Activists

We join with others in condemning the burning of black churches. These churches are far more than just bricks and mortar. In addition to being places of worship, they are institutions of community organization and voter registration. They are the symbol and reality of resistance to Jim Crowism and of fighting modern segregation.

Is there a legal conspiracy connected to white supremacists? Perhaps. Definitely, there is a connection to the climate of hate that now deems necessary the abolition of affirmative action programs. Politicians of both major political parties have joined this negative effort, defying the ugly truths of the past and the need to make work opportunities equal. There is a connection when the U.S. Supreme Court sanctions racially segregated Congressional districts. There is a connection when recently an Alabama State senator, on the State House floor, used the Bible to justify slavery. Shameful history is repeating.

As abortion providers and political activists we are compelled to speak out against these attacks. There is a connection between those who burn black churches and those who bomb, burn and spread toxic acid at abortion clinics. Hooded Klansmen protest at abortion clinics, symbolizing the connection between male supremacy and white supremacy. Their presence sends a message of hate, fear and intentional intimidation. Since the 1970s our clinics have been targeted by this systematic campaign of terror. There are too many parallels, too many similarities to be a coincidence.

There are connections between the acts of terror, the hate mongering groups and even the way law enforcement led the desultory first investigations. Just as black church members have been, we, too, have been the ones questioned when the obvious perpetrators go unquestioned until their footprints are cold. We, too, are accused of setting fire to our own buildings even though dozens of arsonists are caught and convicted of the arsons, and are revealed to be anti-abortion extremists. Not one abortion provider has ever been actually charged with arson. We are denied justice from the Justice Department even though the crimes against us are those that would be swiftly prosecuted if the targets were a bank or another type of small business.

Why doesn't the guarantee of "equal protection under the law" apply to black churches or abortion providers? Why aren't these crimes being investigated swiftly and thoroughly, cognitive of the organized enemies who are the likely perpetrators of the church and clinic attacks? Can we expect strong prosecutions of those responsible? Or does the U.S. government intend to let the climate of hatred against black churches, and the entire pattern of anti-abortion extremism, spread?

We express our solidarity with the members of all the burned churches. We join with everyone who is speaking out and organizing to expose and resist all such attacks. We support you and stand with you in your resistance. We must all fight together for justice for us all.

Signatories

Patricia Baird-Windle, Founder & President, Aware Woman Centers, West Palm Beach and Melbourne

Phyllis Chesler, Editor-at-large, "On The Issues" magazine

Peg Johnston, Administrator, Southern Tier Women's Services, Vestal, NY

Brenda Joyner, Director, Feminist Women's Health Center, Tallahassee, FL

Gloria Steinem, NYC

Deborah J. Walsh, President, Family Reproductive Health Charlotte, NC

Susan Wicklund, MD, abortion provider and Medical Director, Mountain Country Women's Clinic, MT

1997 Abortion Rights Conference Speakers: Partial Listing

Fred Clarkson, political researcher & author
Marilen Danguilan, Physician and women's health activist, Manila, Philippines

Marlene Gerber Fried, National Network of Abortion Funds and CLPP, Hampshire College.

Rita Hashim, Women's health activist from Malaysia

Betsy Hartmann, Committee on Women, Population and the Environment, and Population and Development Program, Hampshire College

Francis Kissling, Director, Catholics for a Free Choice

Sylvia Marcos, Director, Center for Psychological Research, Cuernavaca, Mexico

Vernice Miller, Director, Environmental Justice Initiative, National Resources Defense Council

Soheir Morsy, Director of Women's Studies, Tufts University, MA

Claire McCurdy, PPFA Clinic Defense and Research Project, NYC

Donna Redwing, National Field Director, Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Oregon

Judith Richter, author "Vaccination Against Pregnancy: Miracle or Menace," pharmacist and researcher from Germany.

Gabrielle Tayac, League of Indigenous Sovereign Nations, Washington, DC

Yamila Azize-Vargas, Public Health and Women's Studies, Cayey Univ., Puerto Rico

Susan Yanow, Abortion Access Project, LICSW, Boston

The conference is free and open to the public. CEU applications pending. Schedules and registration info will be available in early February. If you're not on our mailing list and would like to receive a brochure, contact:

CLPP
Hampshire College
Amherst, MA 01002-5001
(413) 582-5645 phone; (413) 582-5620 fax
e-mail: mjmSS@hamp.hampshire.edu
<http://hamp.hampshire.edu/~clpp>

NYWDA

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Louisiana State U. organized workshops and a self-defense training.

Mankato State U., MN, students had an information table in the student union, a gravestone display and opinion boards for every plank of the Young Women's Bill of Rights.

Manhattan Community College held a vigil and an educational series focused on the intersection of racism and gender oppression.

Michigan State U. held a screening of "If These Walls Could Talk" followed by a panel discussion.

U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: A coalition of campus women's organizations, lesbian/gay/bisexual groups and the student government organization worked in a coalition of UNC, Duke, and N. Carolina State U. to organize a rally of 2500 people and a take back the night march.

Oregon State U. had a rally sponsored by a wide range of campus organizations at which students presented the Bill of Rights. They also had workshops and a self-defense training.

Portland Community College, OR, had a commemorative event and film screening.

Portland State College, OR, had a rally.

SUNY Binghamton did tabling; some students occupied an administration building

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Edited by Marlene Gerber Fried.

HOW TO STOP DANGEROUS WELFARE REFORM

1. Challenge negative stereotypes "self-sufficiency," "low self-esteem," "cycle of dependency."
2. Advocate for recognition of "interdependence" as a goal instead of independence.
3. Compare welfare to widow's pensions (Social security) or private child support.
4. Speak out through press conferences, letters to the editor, and talking to others.
5. Get or give money without strings attached to moms doing organizing.
6. Expose corrupt rules and behavior of government agencies.
7. Find lawyers to do class action lawsuits to stop county, state, and federal abuse.
8. Pay stipends to impoverished moms invited to meetings, hearings, actions, etc.
9. Validate and support unpaid labor of caregivers.
10. Advocate for pay for caregivers.
11. Demand an end to mother hunting and mother blaming.
13. Counter corporate propaganda with pro-mother truth.
14. Lobby to change the name and image of AFDC. It is public support for dependent children. Call it what it is: "mother's pension."

From a leaflet by Welfare Warriors, reprinted in *Sojourner: The Women's Forum*, September 1996.

for two days over issues of campus violence and a lack of ethnic studies.

SUNY Albany: Students organized a petition drive protesting anti-women legislation including welfare cuts for children and single mothers.

SUNY Buffalo: The campus women's organization did a phone bank to get out the vote preceded by petitioning and tabling.

SUNY Morrisville: Students screened feminist films, and held a vigil and march.

Temple U.: Temple students and the Young Communist League held a rally at Independence Hall.

U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor: held a rally and discussion.

U. of Wisconsin, Greenbay, Milwaukee

and Madison: the United Council of Wisconsin Women's caucus held a joint conference on women's rights, reproductive rights and environmental issues.

If your campus or community participated in NYWDA, we'd love to hear from you. Send news clippings, posters, schedules of events, etc. to CLPP, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, or e-mail to clpp@hamp.hampshire.edu

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