

# WOMAN'S STRUGGLE

(O AGONAS TIS GYNAEKAS)

A Journal of the League for Women's Rights

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## SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

### **Editorial: The Legal Council of State a Bastion of Sex Discrimination**

The few women who are working with the Greek Legal Council of State are not granted equality of treatment in their professional advancement.

Although they are as competent - and sometimes even more - as their male colleagues, they are never promoted to become even assistant judges.

The writer of this article recommends changes in this procedure before the 1980 preliminary International Women's Decade Conference which will take place in Copenhagen and where all States will assess the progress made toward fulfilling the World Plan of Action that was drawn up at the Conference held in Mexico City in 1975.

### **SEMINAR: The Problems of Sex Equality Today**

The sex roles can be viewed as an interplay between two fundamentally different definitions of the social relations of the sexes, one of which stresses similarity, the other distinctiveness. With the change of woman's role in society a new sociology and psychology is being formed which needs continuous study. We organised, therefore, a Seminar on May 16 - 18, at the Foundation for Human Rights (G. D. & M. Marangopoulos) the topics of which were focused on woman's position today in Employment, Education, Family and Public Life.

To increase women's awareness of the latest issues, we decided to print the full report on the seminar. The keynote speeches are as follows:

#### **Women in Employment Equal Pay and Working Women in Greece and in EEC Countries**

by Prof. S. Voutyras

Prof. Voutyras concluded that, while the achievement of equal pay undoubtedly has marked an important step,

there are still many injustices which are difficult to regulate by law. It is even more important to persevere in attempts to alter attitudes and behaviour. Working women should learn to fight for their rights to equality and stop demanding a protecting and privileged status - which leads finally to their disadvantage. Moreover, working women should participate actively in Workers' Unions.

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### **The Working Mother**

by Iris Avdi - Kalkani, lawyer

Ms Kalkani proposed that child care should become a social function, facilitating this way both parents in the pursuit of their career. The government should assume a major role in providing child care of high quality.

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### **Women and Pension Inequalities**

by Ms. A. Miniati, Lawyer, Vice - President of LWR

Ms Miniati analysed all the existing inequalities in the pension regulations. Regulations should be amended and adopted as follows:

- 1) To equalize the pension age
- 2) To abolish discrimination in the years of work
- 3) The pension of the dead husband or wife should be transferred to the one who is still alive without sex discrimination
- 4) Children who are not of age should profit by the pension of either parents.
- 5) Parents and disabled brother/sister should take the full pension of the person who supported them without sex discrimination.

### **Women in Education Emancipation in Education**

by Ms. E. Yotopoulos - Sisilianos ex - member of the Education Board of the Ministry of Education and Ms. E. Kessissoglou, former Principal of Pierce College

The two rapporteurs analyzed the existing situation in Greece and pointed out the necessity of:

- changing sexist stereotypes in text books used in schools
- extending co-education in secondary public schools
- including nonsexist counseling at every level of education, with encouragement of women to increase their range of options and choices to include both non-traditional and traditional occupations.

### **Women in Family Roles in Transition - The Multiplicity of Women's Roles**

by prof. D. Tsaoussis  
Sociologist

Prof. Tsaoussis began by developing a historical framework for the study of women by focusing on the transition from the rural family based economy of the 18th century to the commercial and industrialized economy of today.

He pointed out modern woman's multiplicity and contradiction of roles, but he thinks that this multiplicity of roles characterizes present times in general and it is not as important as the fact that women have no full choice for their basic roles which are imposed on them.

In concluding, he said that married couples of today are aiming at the equality and companionship, which is now easier to achieve because of the improvement of women's education and their active participation in social life.

### **The Equality of the Conjugal Pair is Essential for the Protection of Family**

by Ms. S. Spiliotopoulos, lawyer

Legislation in almost all European countries is now based on the principle of equal rights and obligations between the two spouses, which means that marriage is a partnership in which the contribution of each spouse is of equal importance and value, including child care.

Greek family law establishes many inequalities based on man's legal superiority, and this superiority turns finally against all family members.

The new constitution forbids enacting sex discrimination laws, and there is a dead - line for the abolition of previous laws. On the other hand, Courts are obliged by the Constitution not to apply the unconstitutional laws.

### **Family is the Place Where Children's Character is Shaped.**

by Ms Kalliopi Poumpoura. Psychologist

Ms Poumpoura stressed the importance of family life in children's education. A family where children can truly become socially useful persons should be as follows;

- a place with a climate of confidence
- a place where each individual will be considered as a separate entity with the right of being different
- a place where children will not be victims of cruel criticism.

Sex inequalities do not help in the creation of such a climate. Father's authority does not leave space for many - sided communication. Family members are living together but remain strangers.

### **Women in Public Life The Difficult Road to the Decision - Making Positions**

by Ms Rena Lamposa, Vice - President of LWR

Women are sparsely represented in the decision - making positions. The most important reason for their absence is that most women have a job outside their homes and cannot cope with both maternal duties, responsibility posts and Union life. It is difficult for them to participate in leadership. Women have to choose and give priority of values, as their role has a multiplex structure.

It is therefore important to change man's traditional family role. An equal distribution of tasks will imply that politically active women can lead a successful family and social life.

It is also important to change the working conditions. In some countries they are already following an experiment with a six - hour shift.

Finally, we cannot have women representatives just because they belong to the female sex, they must be progressive women, capable to achieve positive things in favour of women and of society in general.

### **The Role of Greek Women in Politics**

by Ms. F. Panopoulou, lawyer, President of LWR of Salonica

Ms Panopoulou analyzed the reasons for the small participation of Greek women in political life, which are:

- The comparatively brief period of time since the achievement of suffrage.
- Political action in bourgeois society requires a complex political preparation which is not accessible to women

Moreover women lack the time or strength to devote themselves to political work, because being outside of the political game for centuries now, they do not know it, they are afraid of it.

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### **Feminism in Films**

by Ms Karina Lampsa

One of the big victories of women's movement is that it succeeded to raise conscience in every form of art, to make people understand that there is a «problem». Film directors are also trying to change women's image, to look behind the ideas of women's liberation and the superficial impact of our new sex equality mentality, to assess the reality of what women need to achieve. In this field, women directors are closer to the truth than men who are doing films for women.

Ms Lampsa, after a brief criticism of the latest «feministic» films, points out that although these films are trying to show the very real difficulties women are facing in breaking out of their traditional roles, they are not giving us solutions to the problems. Film women have always to make a choice between love, family life and professional career, between slavery and independence, between black and white. In her fight for liberation she has to follow the path of her career sacrificing love and family life. If she is not happy, there does n't seem to be another solution. Women are entitled to love, to both professional and family life as any other human being. Movies should therefore be less pessimistic and try to give a message of hope.

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### **Activities of the League Common Parental Roles in Children's Education**

Since two years our League has replaced «Mother's Day» by «Parents Day». This year we celebrated «Parents Day» with a Round Table Discussion on the

theme «Common Parental Role in Children's Education». In the discussion Ms Ellia Sakellaropoulos, lawyer, member of our Board, who was also the coordinator of the discussion, Ms S. Moschou, lawyer, member of our Board, Mr. D. Pallis, psychiatrist and Prof. D. Tsoussis, sociologist, participated.

«We wish to abolish «Mother's Day», Ms Sakellaropoulos pointed out because we want the responsibilities for the child to be shared by both parents. We do not want the mother to be «the queen of the house», a marginal and isolated person. We want her to be equal with the father».

Prof. Tsoussis stated that according to the new statistical figures women have a much longer span of life now, which means that a woman has at least 20 years of life without the maternal role, but only the role of spouse».

Mr. Pallis analyzed the psychological effects of the parental role on children.

Ms Moschou spoke about the necessity of changing the existing Family Law.

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### **The League for Women's Rights in Larissa**

Our local branch in Larissa organised a very successful exhibition of works by women painters of their region.

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### **News from Everywhere Books**

We are willing to exchange this review with other similar reviews in any language.