

GLC Women's Committee



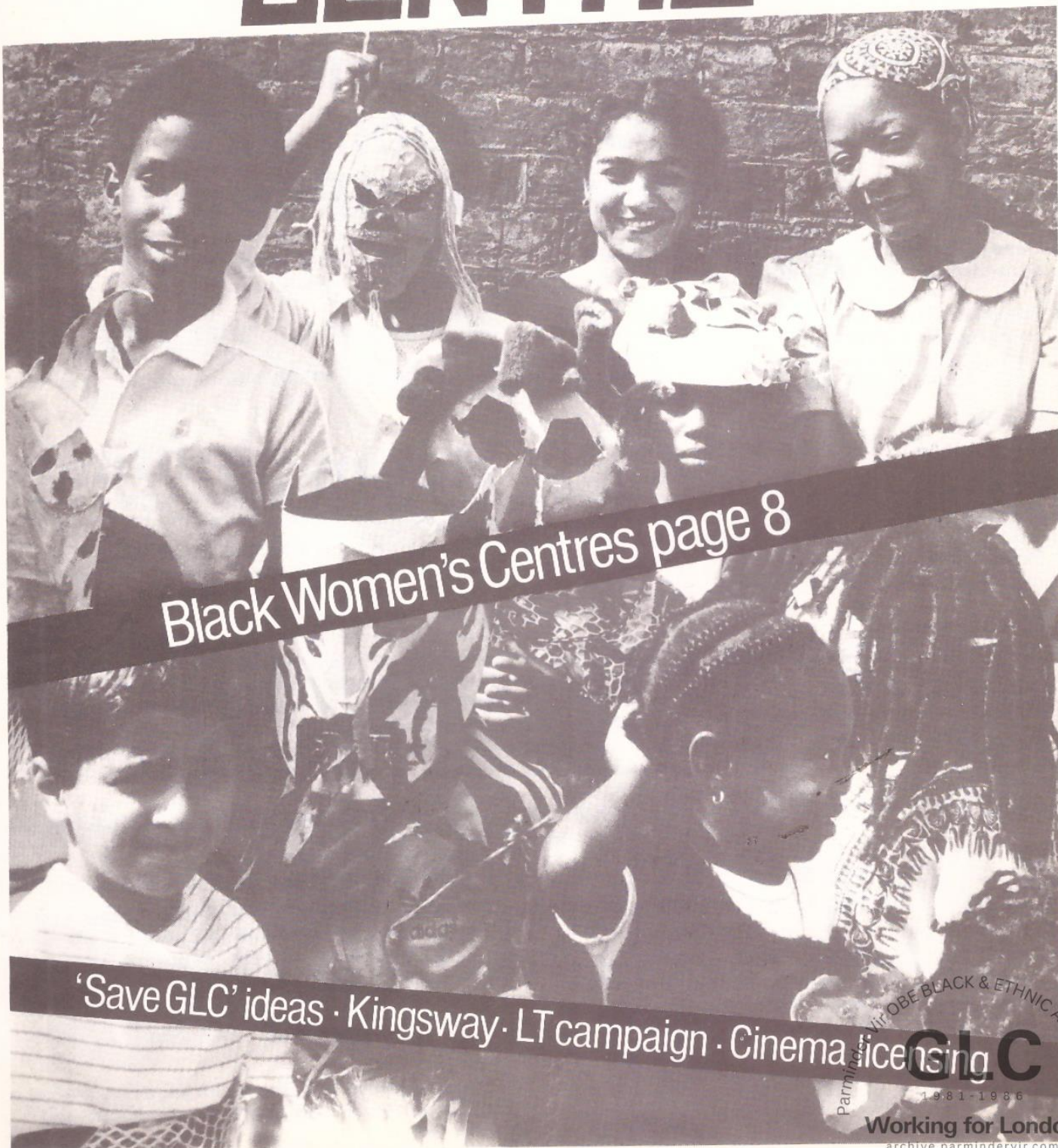
Issue 10

Bulletin

September 1983

GLC Working for Women
in London

BLACK WOMEN'S CENTRE



Black Women's Centres page 8

'Save GLC' ideas · Kingsway · LT campaign · Cinema licensing

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Greater London Council Women's Committee

Chair

Valerie Wise (Room 136) — 633 6065

Policy Personal Assistant to Valerie Wise

Nicola Murray (Room 133c) — 633 5641

Secretary Personal Assistant to Valerie Wise

Mary Nolan (Room 140D) — 633 6065

Clerk to the Women's Committee

Jane Ringham (Room 209) — 633 1255

Assistant Clerk to the Women's Committee

Beverley-Jane Coppins with assistant *Alison Green* — 633 1259

GLC Women's Committee Support Unit Room 92B County Hall SE1

Head of the Women's Committee Support Unit

Louise Pankhurst — 633 1961

Administration

Lynda Hamlyn — 633 1047

Bertha Joseph (PA to Louise Pankhurst) 633 1961

Janis Stanford — 633 1047

Child Care

Rosemary Taplin — 633 1047

Employment and Training

Mandy Snell, Ann Graham 633 1114.

Ethnic Minorities

Joan Miller — 633 1115

General Services

Beverley Taylor/Catriona Courtier (Jobshare) — 633 1153 Transport, Housing, Planning, Women's Centres.

Fiona McLean, — 633 8543 Violence against Women, Women in Prison, Prostitution, Women and Police, Pornography, Health, Education.

Health

Janet Whelan — 633 1047

Information and Campaigns

Helen Hewland — 633 1113

Legal

Deborah Worsley

Sports, Arts, Recreation

Beverley Huie

Room 95

Grants

Applications are now in for 1983/84 (deadline was 31 March). We are welcoming applications from childcare groups anytime up until 30 September (apologies — we incorrectly stated 23 December in the April Bulletin) as we realise the problems these groups have had in getting the applications ready. Late applications will also be considered once we have considered applications that were in by 31 March closing date. 633 3474/2260 *Claire Keatinge, Paula Ghosh, Shirley Andrews, Audrey Cork, Lynne Gardiner, Helen Randall, Lidia Rolak, Linda Watts and Caroline Charlton.*

Cover photo by Joanne O'Brien:

Workers at the Black Women's Centre, 41a Stockwell Green, Brixton, with children on the last day of their Summer Project. The Centre, which has received a grant for a salary from the Women's Committee, runs playgroups, information and advice help, a lunch spot and sessions for single parents and on arts and crafts and health care. SEE CONFERENCE REPORT PAGE 8.

Bulletin

The Women's Committee Bulletin publishes information for the use of women in London. If you have any news, facilities, services, campaigns, contacts which women could benefit from knowing about, send them in, marked 'Bulletin' to Helen Hewland, Women's Committee Support Unit, Room 92(h), County Hall, SE1.

We cannot advertise charges for goods or services and in the meantime do not advertise books and magazines.

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Feature

An outline of GLC powers and policies and legislative and other measures against
sexist violence in films shown in cinemas and clubs

13/14/15

Dear Sisters,

I hope you have all had a good summer. We certainly have.

This issue of the Bulletin is as usual packed with lots of interesting pieces and reports. A main focus for our activities over the coming months is the campaign to defend the GLC and prevent London Transport being removed from us.

Inside is an article about the Government's White Paper on London Transport. It is essential that women play their part in the campaign to prevent the loss of control of LT by the GLC. After all, we are the biggest users of public transport and so have lots to lose if this latest quango, the London Regional Transport, is set up.

Any ideas about what we should be doing over the next couple of months on this campaign or the general campaign to defend the GLC would be most welcome. Please send ideas to me.

I haven't introduced the **Women's Committee Vice-Chair** to you all. Her name is **Jenni Fletcher** and she was recently elected on to the GLC to represent **Tottenham**. It's great to have someone who is putting a lot of time and energy into the Women's Committee. We talk things over and share the tasks, including speaking at meetings.

Don't forget to note down the date of our next Open Meeting on 19th October. I think the last one on Defence and Disarmament was the best we have had.

Finally, we have just produced an Information Pack on the Women's Committee. Copies are available soon from me or the Support Unit.

Good reading.

Valerie Wise

Working Groups – how they're working with Women's Committee Support Unit

The Women's Committee Coordinating Group agreed that an up-to-date list of working group contacts in the WCSU should be drawn up and circulated to all Working Groups together with guidelines on the relationship between the WCSU and the Working Groups. Here they are:

The Working Groups that have formed around the Women's Committee are autonomous groups which report only to the Coordinating Group and the Women's Committee, and not to any other GLC Committee.

The groups consist of women interested in working on specific issues (as outlined below). They should send at least one delegate (possibly on a rotating basis) to the Coordinating Group. They should make policy recommendations from their group. They should also make suggestions of further work which might be done by themselves or which could be undertaken within the WCSU. They should also suggest agenda items for the Coordinating Group.

The officer working on a particular area of women's policy will liaise with the appropriate working group and will be able to influence GLC policy by producing Committee reports for consideration by the Women's Committee, by incorporating women's policy into reports being submitted to other Committees and by drawing attention to working group recommendations.

The liaison officer will endeavour to attend all meetings of the Working Group, however, it must be borne in mind that due to other commitments that may not always be possible. In order to respect the autonomy of the group the liaison officer will not decide the subject for discussion, the policy proposals, or the follow-up work.

WCSU officers are, however, in a position to advise the Working Group on GLC policies and powers, to keep groups informed of current areas of work within the WCSU and to advise the Working Group on what action can be taken as a result of Working Group recommendations. It is thought that Working Groups will wish to take advantage of that knowledge.

When the Working Groups were originally established it was agreed that although an officer from the WCSU would be present at meetings the members themselves would draft the minutes of the meetings and submit the minutes to the WCSU for mailing. Over time, however, this arrangement has varied from group to group in response to the particular needs and requests of the members and agreement on the responsibilities of the liaison officer should be subject to negotiation between the liaison officer and the Working Group members.

Working Group dates

Working Group plans for GLC Anti-Racist Year 1984

At its **late September** meeting, the **Black Women's Working Group** discuss ideas for marking Anti-Racist Year. Ring Joan Miller (633 1115) for date.

Women with **Disabilities** are meeting 7pm on these **Mondays: 26 September** (subject: Women's Committee grants), **10 October** (joint meeting on employment) and **31 October** (assessment of campaigning work).

The **Employment Working Group** is holding its next meeting on **Monday 10 October** as a joint one with Women with Disabilities on employment issues for women with disabilities. Access is via Westminster Bridge Road entrance. A signer will be provided. (Room 92b)

The **Media and Arts Working Group** at 6.30pm on **Wednesday, 5 October** will discuss a paper for the GLC's Cultural Industries and Cultural Policy conference and other items. (Room 93).

The **Lesbian Working Group** meets 6.30 pm **Tuesday, 20 September**.

Calling all Women with Disabilities

Any woman with a disability, who is unable to use public transport, and would like to attend meetings connected with the Women's Committee can now claim reimbursement of travelling expenses. Leaflets advertising the reimbursement scheme and further details are available from Janis at the Women's Committee Support Unit on 633 1047. Car mileage rate available.

Working Group Liaison Officers

women with disabilities	Janis Stanford	633 1047
lesbian	Ann Graham	633 1114
black women	Joan Miller	633 1115
violence against women	Fiona McLean	633 8543
sport	Ann Graham	633 1114
women and planning	Beverley Taylor	633 1153
employment	Mandy Snell	633 1114
media and arts	Beverley Huie	633 1115
peace	Helen Newland	633 1113
childcare	Rosemary Taplin	633 1153
women and social security	Louise Pankhurst	633 1016

Sport Working Group Report

November 12

gives women a sporting chance

The Women's Committee Sport Working Group are organising a Women and Girls Day of Sport on 12 November 1983.

So far, approximately 20 sports centres throughout London have agreed to co-operate on this event. Lists of these venues (and others!) will be publicised nearer the day.

By providing a well-publicised day of activities at a centre women may be encouraged to come along and try a variety of sports.

Wherever possible, women should be able to turn up on the day and see sports demonstrated and then be given a chance to 'have a go' under some instruction.

The day's timetable should be arranged to include a balance of common and more unusual activities e.g. keep fit, ante-natal, post-natal, exercises, handball, badminton, archery, self defence, indoor bowls and aimed at attracting different groups e.g. older women, youth, women with disabilities. (Sports offered will be dependant on facilities and sports expertise available).

For further details contact Beverley Huie, Women's Committee Support Unit, Sports/Arts/Youth Adviser on 633 1115 or Ann Graham on 633 1114.

Kingsway — Ideas now!

Kingsway, the Women's committee building in Holborn, won't be ready for permanent accommodation until September 1985.

Some temporary accommodation will be available in the next couple of months — but virtually all of this space is already committed to groups in urgent need.

A steering group has been set up to guide the development of Kingsway. This is headed by Louise Pankhurst, Head of the WCSU, and includes a range of GLC employees in departments such as Valuers, Engineers, Architects, Financial and Legal.

Ideas for use of the building are still wanted. The WCSU has had a range of replies including suggestions for offices, a bookshop, a counselling and advice service, a literacy project, a cafe, a training workshop and a media resource centre.

If your group wants to be considered for space in Kingsway please write in to the WCSU, Room 92(b), County Hall, SE1, marked "Kingsway Accommodation".

News

Open Days, publicity on women's projects among Co-ordinating Group's ideas for Save GLC Campaign

Twenty-two ideas for informing Londoners about the work of the GLC and campaigning to save it from the Government's axe flooded in at the last meeting of the Women's Committee's Co-ordinating Group.

And that was all in the space of less than half an hour! A bigger discussion is planned for the Tuesday, 13 September meeting at County Hall.

A one-day fair with stalls, leaflets for Advice and Women's Centres, publicity about the Women's Projects the GLC has backed, poster and artwork and Open Days at County Hall for Londoners to meet and talk with County Hall staff are among the suggestions.

The next meeting at 7pm on 13 September is also going to discuss the election of a co-opted member to represent Black and Ethnic Minority Women's interests and the remaining election of advisory members.

● If you've got ideas on how to campaign to save the GLC, send them in to Valerie Wise, Room 140d.

Two and a half of the six floors are already committed to permanent accommodation for the Kingsway Children's Centre (already in existence) and the Fleet Street Creche Campaign. Kingsway cannot be a "women only" building because of the commitments to these creche projects.

The criteria for considering potential use of Kingsway is that the project should further the interests of women in London, that it should serve women on a London-wide basis and be able to justify its need for space in the building.

It is intended to appoint a Kingsway Centre Co-ordinator in the new year of 1984.

If you want to see inside Kingsway, write in to the WCSU, marking your request "Kingsway Visit".
WCSU, Room 92(b), County Hall, SE1

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- Women's Committee -

Join us in fighting for a better deal for women in London

Two new posts for Deputy Unit Heads have been created within the Women's Committee Support Unit. Each will have a specific area of responsibility:

Grants and Voluntary Sector Group including grant aid, resourcing the voluntary sector and other policy issues such as property assistance to community groups. Ref. 150.

Central and Policy Groups including administration, information and campaigns, ethnic minority and legal advice. Ref. 151.

Applicants will deputise, as necessary, at committee, conferences and other events on all work associated with their relevant group. As part of the management team duties include co-ordination of the unit's activities and the effective management and administration of the work programme.

Candidates should have working experience of the problems encountered by women and have the ability to develop appropriate action in response. Knowledge of public administration procedures, the ability to negotiate and communicate with a wide range of people and proven administrative and management skills are also essential. Salary: £15,096-£16,776 inclusive.

Reply, quoting appropriate reference to: Director-General's Department, Greater London Council, Room 203, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 1526. Closing date: 7th October 1983.

The GLC welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic origin, colour or sexual orientation and from people with disabilities who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

Open Meeting – Defence and Disarmament

The GLC Women's Committee had shown its commitment to disarmament and peace by giving its support to the Greenham Common women, backing International Women's Day for Disarmament and making a grant for the Women's Peace Bus. Valerie Wise, the Chair, told the Committee's Open Meeting on Defence and Disarmament.

Further support for women and peace was now being given with the decision to grant aid women's groups with peace projects up to a total of £50,000 to mark the remainder of GLC's Peace Year, she said.

The theme of this Open Meeting, the third in this year's series of quarterly meetings, was underlined by the "Peace Exercise" which was held at the start to bring people together and give everyone a chance to participate.

It was introduced by Janice Owens, of the Women's Committee's Peace Working Group.

Working initially in pairs the women were asked to arrange in order of the most and least importance, several quotations on peace, defence and disarmament. Once this was done, the pairs joined two others making a group of six, and then discussed their choices.

International

Gloria Frankel from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom outlined WILPF's foundation during the middle of World War 1, and the difficulties women had in travelling to attend a women's meeting at The Hague. It was attended by 1000 women including Americans and Germans. Gloria explained that the League has many more sections in Japan, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, America and several other countries.

Gloria went on to explain that the League does not campaign with a single objective and is not necessarily feminist, but attempts to mediate and discuss the issue with both sides.

The league are holding an International meeting in Gothenburg in August and having a seminar on the Arms Race in London on September 10th.

Teachers

Hilary Lipkin from Teachers for Peace explained that this group was an autonomous sub-group of C.N.D., formed in May 1981 after teachers became concerned about the extent to which pro-war and military propaganda was entering schools. She went on to say that they wanted young people to come to an informal decision about defence and disarmament, and that they arrange peace games in schools, which start debates amongst the young people.

Hilary went on to say that the group were very anxious for the Government to fulfil its commitment to Peace Studies, which so far have not been forthcoming.

Greenham

Barbara Heslop from Women for Life on Earth then spoke to the meeting about the way the group had formed as a result of the involvement by many women in the days of action and marches to Greenham Common. She went on to stress that it had been made very clear that women were very worried about particular aspects of participating, such as childcare and the problems of disablement.

It had been shown that all women had in common their need for help, and that strength comes from mutual assistance in campaigning against violence. It was important that women see themselves as strong and capable of achieving change, and that even apparently insignificant actions like letter-writing could be worthwhile.

Non-violence

Lilian Stoddart outlined some of the activities of London Peace Action which is a mixed group concentrating on anti militarist action. She added that it was not specifically a women's group but had mutual support within the organisation. Lilian said that during the recent Falklands conflict the group had taken flowers to the War Office and wreaths had been laid at the War Office, Westminster Abbey, the Cenotaph, and dith Cavell's statue.

Grants

Other women suggested that the Council give financial support for the London Greenham Office and that the women's peace movement be allocated one floor of Wesley House (Kingsway) to arrange workshops for women.

The idea of an East-West conference of women to discuss peace was not put forward.

The Women's Peace Bus project was outlined by Janice Owens. She said it was hoped that the Peace Bus would act as a mobile resource centre, visiting housing estates and shopping centres. Suggestions for its use could be sent to her c/o Valerie Wise at County Hall.

**Open Meeting
on Employment
7pm Wednesday
19 October**

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October 8 drive to keep public transport on road and rails!

Saturday 8 October is the crucial date for saving public transport in London, following the Government's White Paper announcing plans to take control of London Transport from the GLC.

If implemented, the White Paper would mean cuts, fragmentation of services, and higher fares. Londoners will be footing a bill for worse services with no say over how their money is spent!

So the GLC is calling a meeting at County Hall from 2pm on 8 October for all groups and organisations interested in a future for public transport in London.

Women's organisations have been invited. If you want more information, phone Catriona Courtier on 633 1153.

If the proposed London Regional Transport authority took up the Government's plans for privatisation of services, LT's fares would increase by 17% **above** inflation in 1984/5, and services would be cut by 23 million bus miles in 1986/7.

The only way in which the public would be able to raise a voice would be through London MPs. But they could not perform the same role as a democratically-elected local authority in representing the transport interests of Londoners.

What future would there be for pensioners' free travel when the Government's drive is to reduce costs and limit resources?

The "Save London Transport for Londoners" campaign is faced with a shabby set of criticisms from the Government about present services and policies.

The Government's charge is that LT's services have become "shabbier" when their improvement is there for all to see. Transport Secretary Tom King — what about the Jubilee line, the tube extension to Heathrow, the new light rail scheme for Docklands, the new stock on Northern Piccadilly, District lines, the new buses, the station modernisation programme, the garage modernisations and so on?

And the Government doesn't impress anyone on its ability to analyse transport problems when it can't get its fact right. New York, not London, has the largest Underground in the world, Tom King!

Open Meeting about **WORK** County Hall 19 October

8-point training plan for GLTB

An eight-point plan to develop training initiatives for women in London has been agreed by the Greater London Council Women's Committee.

It will now go with recommendations for adoption to the Greater London Training Board, which funds training schemes for women outside the GLC, and to the GLC's Industry and Employment Committee.

Valerie Wise, who chairs the Women's Committee, said "The GLC has taken initiatives on women's training opportunities, both as an employer and through the activities of the GLTB, which has done a lot to improve training opportunities, particularly for manual trades.

"We are now urging the board to widen its focus if it wants to provide training which meets the needs of the majority of women in London more fully."

Main areas for considerations for the GLTB are training for women already in employment, initiatives in clerical, service and other white collar areas, adult training initiatives, access or 'bridging' training for women to give them the confidence, support and skills they need to enter either traditional male areas of training, training schemes linked to other employment initiatives to break down job segregation training for new technology.

Other important considerations are flexibility with respect to training initiatives, for example, training provided at unconventional hours and training provision which reflects the particular needs of black and ethnic minority women.

Nearly half of women working full time in London are in clerical occupations. Another 17 per cent work in areas like teaching, nursing and social work, and 10 per cent work in cleaning, catering and other similar occupations.

Jazz, reggae, women's films at Institute

Catch the World Music Village programme at the Commonwealth Institute Kensington High Street while you can, if you can! Jazz, folk, reggae until Saturday 10 September, it's sponsored by the GLC and the Institute. And, early September, watch out for "Third Eye", a programme on Third World films devised by the GLC's Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee. There's a special section on women's films.

More details from Parminder Vir, 633 1273.

And there's the Latin American festival for peace and freedom on till 10 September, Gordon Street, WC1, 272 4298. It's organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign working with GLC Peace and

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'Support Black Women's Centres' call Black Women unite

Backing for Black Women's Centres was one of the calls from the Black and Ethnic Minority Women's Conference convened by the GLC Women's and Ethnic Minorities Committees

The conference brought together Afro Caribbean, Asian, Latin American, Irish, Turkish, Filipino and Chinese women. About 200 attended during the weekend of 2 and 3 July.

Organisations and groups represented included the UK Asian Women's Conference, several nursery and child care projects, Community Relations Councils, local Black Peoples' organisations and Black Women's projects.

Women from the Filipino Migrants Action Group won support for a resolution opposing the Philippines Government's Executive Order 857 to tax Filipinos in Britain. Valerie Wise, Women's Committee Chair, has taken the matter up, securing all-party opposition.

Child care, training and employment, the elderly, mental health, low pay and Black Women's Centres were the workshop themes.

These provided the basis for an exchange of information and for devising proposals for new policies, many of which are contained in a report going before the Women's Committee.

The report will also inform the work of several GLC Committees such as the Ethnic Minorities Committee, the Health Panel and the Industry and Employment Committee, which is committed to furthering employment and training projects.

In the workshop on the elderly, there was a strong call for a new approach to be taken in local authority planning to involve ethnic minority communities.

Running throughout the discussions was an awareness of the role Black Women's Centres can play.

A report recommending support for Black Women's Centres has been drawn up for the Women's Committee.

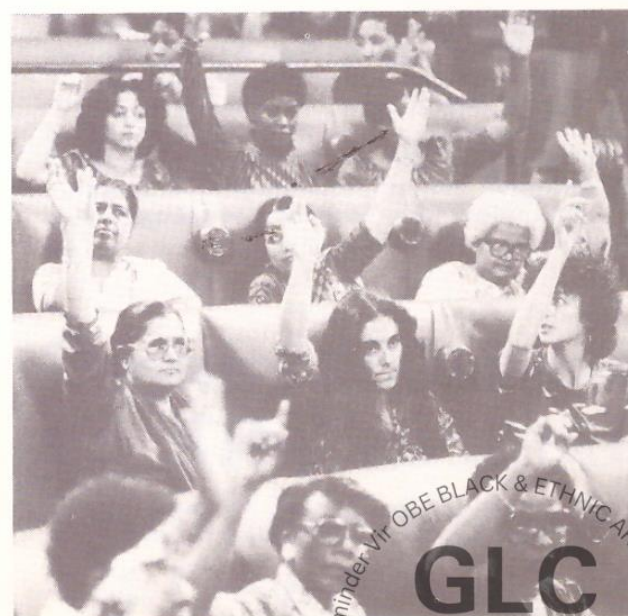
It points out that there are only two Black Women's Centres in London, though many more black women's groups are planning such projects.

One of the two London Centres is the Black Women's Centre in Brixton, which the Women's Committee has grant-aided by paying the salary of a community development worker. The other one is in Lewisham.

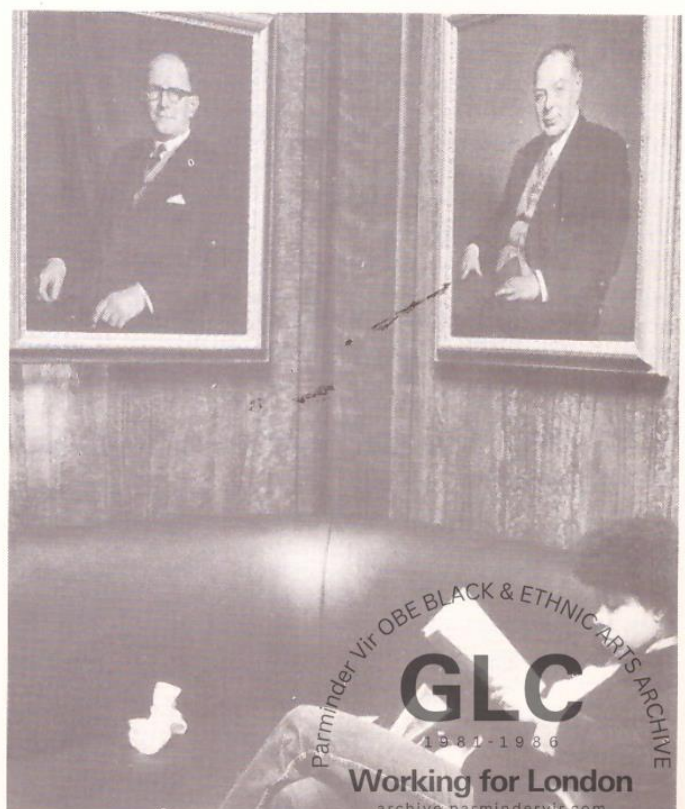
The report says that Black Women's Centres can perform many much-needed roles!

Like bring women together for language teaching, take up concern about MSC training places, provide drop-in counselling and advice outside traditional working hours, give childcare support and contacts, create a basis for campaigning initiatives...

If endorsed by the Women's Committee on 6 September, both reports, on the conference and on Black Women's Centres, will be available to the public from Jane Ringham, the Clerk, 633 1255.



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Local

Mobile Centre, meetings, better deal for council workers, more services on Southwark agenda!

Southwark Women's Equality Unit works to the Southwark Women's Committee of the Council, to promote the achievement of equality of opportunity for women and improvements in the status, living conditions and environment of women in the borough. The workers are Nathalie Hadjifotiou, Tanya Whitty, Rita Stallard and they are based at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 Phone: 703 6311 x 2174

Work with Women's Groups

We hope to build up a network of women's organisations that will campaign to promote women's rights: to get better housing, more nurseries and creches, more jobs and training opportunities and improved leisure and health facilities. Fifteen groups have been given grants by the Women's Committee. Half of these are new groups. Others have made applications to the GLC which are strongly supported by Southwark.

One of these is for a Mobile Women's Centre that will travel round the Borough to estates, schools, clinics. There will be two workers who will be able to give advice and information, run a creche and organise meetings, classes and health sessions on the bus.

Women's Meetings

The Committee wants to involve as many women as possible in its work. The Committee meetings are open and there's a baby-sitting allowance if you need it. Anyone can speak, agendas and reports are sent out in advance.

Anyone who wants regular information should phone Rita at the Women's Unit.

Publicity

We want to let women know what is going on for them in the Borough. This newsletter is one way. There will also be a Women's Page in the next issues of the 'Southwark Sparrow'.

Equal Opportunities

Although almost half the council's workers are women, most of them work in a small number of jobs and departments.

Manual woman workers are mainly in low-paid caring and domestic jobs such as home-helps or care assistants in old people's homes. 70% work part-time.

The non-manual women workers are nearly all in the lower grades, as clerks or secretaries, even in departments such as libraries and social services which have relatively large numbers of women working in them.

We will be creating ways of changing this situation: new training opportunities for women, a work-place nursery, improved maternity and paternity arrangements, job-sharing, more flexible working patterns etc.

Women and Council Services

Our third main area of work is to get women's needs and interests taken into account in all the services the Council provides: housing, planning, employment, amenities and social services.

A team of women officers from all these different departments will meet regularly to discuss ways in which this can be done.

Enfield women work together after public consultations

As a result of the Programme of Action for Women in London Public Consultations a group of women are meeting regularly in the London Borough of Enfield. Our next meeting will take place at 8.00pm at the Enfield Highway Community Centre, Hertford Road, Ponders End, Enfield on Thursday 15 September.

If anyone is interested in gaining more information about the Enfield Women's Centre Group they can phone me on 01-360 8538 — Kathleen Hall.

Ealing Women's Support Network

Ealing Voluntary Service Council has published a report back on Ealing Women's Day.

A planning group has been set up to organise a Women's Support Network in the borough.

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Services/Contacts

Women fire-fighters please!

The London Fire Brigade is actively seeking to recruit women (and ethnic minority) fire fighters.

If you wish to become a London firefighter you must be able to fulfil the following minimum requirements:

Live in Greater London

Be aged 18 — 30

Be physically fit

Be at least 5'6" tall

Have a 36" chest with 2" expansion*

*This is a measure of lung capacity

Have good unaided eyesight

All firefighters are recruited at the same level and earn in excess of £7,000 p.a. after basic training. Promotion is entirely on merit, so even the most senior command, management and administrative positions could therefore come within your reach.

We are particularly keen to receive applications from ethnic minorities. Our first woman firefighter completed training recently (and three more are in training) and we would welcome applications from women keen to follow in their footsteps.

If you want to get on with the jobs as a London firefighter send for further information now by writing to the London Fire Brigade, Ref FB/PA/PO, Room 506, Queensborough House, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SD.

Grants help at Mutual Aid

The Mutual Aid Centre has set up a Research Project to assist groups in the Greater London area. The service, which is completely free of charge, will allocate a research worker to help with drawing up plans for a project, working out Financial projections, filling in application forms, or suggesting appropriate funding bodies.

All Community Groups are eligible to apply for this help. At the present time we are assisting a Women's Group, and Unemployed Group, a Toy Library and a Youth Group.

Further details from: Val Marshall, Head of Research Project, Mutual Aid Centre, (Managing Agency), 28 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, E8. Tel 986 4411/2, or evening contact: 446 2250.

Women's Computing Resource pack

The EEC has given two women a grant to develop teaching material and background information for training courses for women in computer technology. They are planning to produce 500 copies of this resource pack, which will be distributed free.

The two women would like to contact women who may be interested in receiving a copy of the resource pack when it is completed, or who may be thinking of setting up training courses for women in this field. If you are interested, please contact: Mary Jennings, 157 Maryland Road, Wood Green, London, N22 5AS.

Computing error — sorry!

Computing at the GLC: To book appointments for women's groups/individuals to come and see/use the GLC's computer workshop please contact David Kimpton Room 431, County Hall, SE1 — telephone 633 1814. (correction to Summer Bulletin (issue 9) page 17.)

Can Planners help you?

Planning Aid for Londoners provides free and independent professional planning advice for any group or individual in Greater London. It is particularly for those who need independent expert planning advice but cannot afford to pay a consultant.

The advice is given by the full-time staff or from a network of over 70 volunteers, all of whom are qualified town planners. The service is run by the London Branch of the Royal Town Planning Institute and receives GLC grant aid to employ the paid workers.

Last year I understand a number of groups receiving GLC grants were unable to take them up because of delays introduced by the planning system e.g. the need to obtain planning permission to use a house as a women's refuge.

Planning Aid for Londoners can deal with a wide range of enquiries on Town Planning questions, such as: applying for planning permission.

Planning Aid for Londoners, 26 Portland Place, W1N 4BE. 580 7277.

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Will London have menstrual clinics?

Women in London may be interested to know that The National Association for Pre-Menstrual Syndrome has been set up from among self-help groups, **writes Debbie Frith.**

Dr Katharina Dalton and her husband, Rev Tom Dalton, are on the committee, (all members of which give their time and services free). Dr Dalton pioneered PMS work over 35 years ago, but it is only in recent years that PMS has been recognised. There are still experienced doctors who will not acknowledge that PMS exists, despite the fact that medical students are being taught PMS in medical schools.

Dr Dalton would like PMS to be recognised as the serious problem it is. 30% to 40% of all women suffer from PMS. 5% to 10% suffer severely.

The aim of Dr Dalton and her committee is to set up menstrual clinics and training schemes for doctors.

Further details available from: Mrs Debbie Frith, 6 Beech Lane, Guildown, Guildford, GU2 5ES, Guildford 32573.

Lesbian Line

Lesbian Line, B.M. Box 1514, London WC1N 3XX is a phone service run voluntarily by 26 women. 837 8602 Monday & Friday 2-10pm. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 7-10pm.

London's Chileans want your support

CAMUR, the Chilean Women's Group based in London, is taking part in the demonstration "1973-1983, Ten Years of Resistance in Chile" on Sunday 11 September, which is assembling at 1pm, Clerkenwell Green and going to Trafalgar Square for a rally.

The London CAMUR seeks to share experiences, information, and ideas about how women organise themselves under a repressive regime.

We prepare materials and arrange public events to highlight the struggles of women in Chile and to build solidarity between women there and here in London.

We have speakers, and exhibitions and slide-shows (as sent by groups from Chile) to offer any groups interested in hearing more of women's struggles in Chile.

It is hoped CAMUR groups will be set up elsewhere in UK — London CAMUR welcomes all women to participate and/or form other CAMURs.

CAMUR — Box 17, Sisterwrite, 190 Upper Street, London N1.

Classes Floodlight out

Floodlight 1983-4. The ILEA guide to part-time day and evening classes in Inner London, is now available from bookshops and newsagents (price 50p).

Pensioners and the unemployed can take classes for only £1

Evening classes in childcare

Margherita Vietri, Social Sciences Secretary at the University of London Department of Extra-Mural Studies, wants women in London to know about these evening classes.

Child Care In The Community, Monday 26 September, 6.00 — 8.00pm for 24 weeks, Mary Ward Centre, Queen Sq. WC1. Tel 01 831 7711, Tutor: Angie Salfield.

This course will take a critical look at recent research in the psychology of child care and development and its relevance to the different ways in which children are looked after in the community today.

Family Policy: Politics, Parents and Child Care, Tuesday 27 September 1983, 7.00 — 9.00pm for 12 weeks, Camden Adult Education Institute, Holmes Rd, NW5. Tel. 01 267 1414, Tutors: Jane Hoy and Sue Owen.

There is constant concern from all political viewpoints about the quality of family life today. This course takes a systematic look at the diversity of families, class and cultural differences and the range of debates about what the family ought to be like.

Further details from the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, 26 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DQ, Tel: 01-636 8000 ext 3853. Please register with the centre where each course is held.

Creche guide in study pack

The Workers Education Association (WEA) has produced a useful 'women's studies' resource pack which covers these topics: Women and Society, Politics, Work, Education, Creativity, Mind and Bodies, Childbearing and Childrearing.

A practical guide to setting up a creche is included in the section Childbearing and Childrearing. This section of the pack includes information on staffing levels, the suitability of rooms and local authority regulations. It also contains many suggested activities for the creche.

Available from WEA, 9 Upper Berkley Street, London W1.

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GLC's Cinema Licensing role may change – September 3 meeting is your chance to suggest how!

A major meeting on the GLC's role in cinema licensing has been called by the Women's Committee to give women in London the opportunity to put their views.

The GLC's Cinema Licensing policy is under review by the Council's Cinema Policy Working Party. This working party has sought written and oral evidence on the subject from women's organisations in London.

The Women's Committee meeting 'Images of Women in the Cinema', is being held at County Hall, York Road, SE1, on Saturday 3 September 2-6pm.

These are some of the questions that the WCSU is hoping to receive feedback on to inform its report to the GLC's Cinema Policy Working Party.

Should people have the right to see what may be considered to be offensive by others?

Do we want censorship?

What is the effect of censorship, what would be the effect of any increased censorship on women? Would it decrease violence towards women?

Would it extend Police powers?

What would be the effect of more censorship on women in the sex industry?

On what grounds do we define imagery as offensive?

Cinema Policy Working Party to recommend new GLC policy

The GLC Arts and Recreation Committee and the Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee in April 1983, appointed the Cinema Policy Working Party, to review council policy with regard to film censorship and the licensing of cinema premises.

A list of organisations, (including 43 women's groups submitted by the Women's Committee Support Unit), were written to inviting comments to the group on film censorship policy.

An initial draft report on the comments received, will be prepared for consideration at the next Cinema Policy Working Party meeting in mid-September.

The final report on the findings of the Cinema Policy Working Party is expected to be submitted to the Arts and Recreation Committee and Public Services and Fire Brigade Committees by, October or November.

The Women's Committee Support Unit, will be writing a report to be submitted to the Cinema Policy Working Party in September, expressing the views which emerge from their public meeting on images of women in the Cinema.

GLC powers over films and videos in clubs and cinemas

Under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952, the GLC as cinema licensing authority, has a statutory duty, to apply censorship to films seen by children under the age of sixteen.

It also has the power, but not a statutory duty, to apply censorship to films which are shown in Greater London either to the public on payment or where the exhibition is promoted for private gain.

In practice, the Council performs its duty and exercises its power by allowing films to be shown which have been granted a certificate by the British Board of Film Censors (BBFC).

This is an independent, non-statutory body which was set up on the initiative of the film industry. There are at present, 7 examiners, of whom 5 are women.

Normally the Council restricts its own film viewing role to inspecting films 'on appeal' from a BBFC decision (such viewing is currently within the terms of reference of the Arts and Recreation Committee).

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982 has redefined a cinematograph exhibition as an exhibition '... of moving pictures which are produced otherwise than by the simultaneous reception and exhibition of television programmes broadcast by the British Broadcasting Authority or distributed by a system licensed by the Secretary of State under Section 89 of the Post Office Act 1969.'

This means that club cinemas showing sex films, video lounges in public houses and restaurants and films shown at ethnic film clubs now come within licensing control. The conditions of the council's cinematograph licence include censorship requirements.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, also includes exhibitions promoted for private gain, but exempts exhibitions, the sole or main purpose of which provides information, education or instruction. The Act increases the fines for exhibiting without a licence or in breach of a licence and provides for certain powers of search and seizure.

New rules

The Home Office in conjunction with the BBFC in December 1982, introduced a new multi-media category system which classified not only films but video tapes, and replacing the old categories of U, A, AA and X. With these new categories: (U) Universal — suitable for all. (PG) Parental Guidance — some scenes may be unsuitable for younger children. (15) Passed only for persons of 15 and over. (18) Passed only for persons of 18 and over. (Restricted 18) Passed only for persons of 18 and over who are members (or their guests) of a properly constitutional club.

The Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee (17.8.82) authorised officers to make the necessary alterations to the rules of management when the new category system was introduced.

No. 108 of the Council's rules of management for places of public entertainment currently provides that:

— **No film shall be exhibited at the premises unless:**

it is a 'flash' or a current newsreel.

It has been passed by the British Board of Film Censors as a U, PG, 15, 18, 18R film and no notice of objection to its exhibition has been given by the Council; or

it has been passed by the Council as a U (London), PG (London), 15 (London) or 18 (London) or restricted (18) (London) film.

The 'restricted 18' category

Films in the 'restricted 18' category will only be shown at club cinemas, i.e., in premises where persons under the age of 18 years are not admitted and where other persons who are admitted will be club members or their guests. It is likely that the 'restricted 18' certificate will be granted to some sex films and some films depicting violence such as Kung Fu.

When the new category system is introduced it will be necessary for films which have been certified under the existing system to be re-classified. It is understood that most films which have been given an X certificate will be re-classified as '18'. However it is likely that when films which have not previously been classified are considered for classification some films which would have received an X certificate will now be classified as 'restricted 18'.

The Entertainments Licensing Panel (12.10.82) decided that applications by cinema licenses to show 'restricted 18' films at their particular premises should be advertised (in order to afford an opportunity to anyone who so wishes to oppose the application), and that all such applications be determined in public by an authorised group of members or the Entertainments Licensing Panel.

Rules for showing films

No 116 of The Council's rules of management for places of public entertainment provides that: 'No film shall be exhibited at the premises which is likely:

to encourage or to incite to crime; or

to lead to disorder; or

to stir up hatred against any section of the public in Great Britain on grounds of colour, race or ethnic or national origins;

OR

the effect of which is, if taken as a whole, such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely to see it;

OR

which contains a grossly indecent performance thereby outraging the standards of public decency.

If the licensee is notified by the Council in writing that it objects to the exhibition of a film on any ground, such film shall not be exhibited.

Any film shown at a licensed cinema, under the terms of the licence, must therefore comply with that criteria.

On occasion requests have been received from members of the public or organisations such as the Festival of Light asking the Council to inspect films with a view to them being prohibited from being shown in Greater London.

To date the Council has not agreed to inspect any film which has been passed by the BBFC.

GLC has system for vetting LT film adverts – but what counts as offensive?

London Transport Advertising receives typed lists each week of 50-60 film posters submitted for approval before being advertised. The majority of these are films for re-release, or posters which have been already approved in the past.

The Society of Film Distributors Committee, set up by the GLC, looks at 18 or 18R posters. They usually meet each week and view on average about 11 posters, but the numbers of posters each week varies, depending on the time of year. There have been far fewer 18 or 18R posters submitted in the last few months. The Society of Film Distributors Committee is made up of members from the Advertising Standards Authority, the Society of Distributors, the British Board of Film Censors, London Transport Advertising and the Evening Standard.

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Among London Transport conditions governing the acceptability of advertisements are, that they will not accept or retain on display adverts which:

are calculated to demoralise, extenuate crime, break the Law or incite anyone to do so;

depict or refer to indecency or obscenity;

are likely to wound racial susceptibilities;

are likely to offend the general travelling public . . . because of wording or design of the advertisement or the possibility of its defacement. (London Transport management do not accept adverts with a lot of white space because of the possibility of defacement).

The GLC Women's Committee have recommended that the conditions of acceptance should be reviewed as a matter of urgency and that a clause be introduced making sexist advertising unacceptable.

The GLC has within the last few weeks appointed five new part time members, (2 of whom are women), to the Board of the London Transport Executive. We are sure the two women will represent our views.

Video's answer to sexist violence?

The British Videogram Association has introduced a voluntary code, designed to provide the Video Industry with its own standards and policing similar to the control over advertising by the Advertising Standards Authority. When it is introduced all videos will have to be submitted for classification, (issued by the BBFC), like cinema films.

'Nasties' and other videos outside the law will be refused a certificate and all distributors, publishers and rental shops will be required not to handle them. Any member of the British Videogram Association (representing 50 member companies), who continues to supply unregistered dealers, will be expelled.

To administer the scheme, a Video Standard Council will be approved, consisting of 11 members, (3 from the industry, 3 from the retail market, 4 from outside the industry and a chair).

Videos shown at present in private dwellings are not covered by the Cinematograph (Amendment Act 1982), and if they are not on public display, they are not covered by the 1981 Indecent Displays Act.

However, a private members' bill has been introduced by Graham Bright MP, which should get its second reading in the House of Commons in November. Selling or hiring video cassettes which have not been approved by a central censorship

authority will be a criminal offence and offenders may face fines of up to £10,000 and possible imprisonment. The bill is likely to get all party support and has full government backing.

These GLC reports are available: Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982. Public Services & Fire Brigade Committee. (No 349 & 348) Entertainments Licensing — Film Censorship. Women's Committee. (No 49) For a more comprehensive list of publications, Contact the WCSU (633 1038).

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GLC Women's Committee 28 July

These reports were considered:

Opportunities for People with Disabilities (FGP470) first progress report on work started as a result of 'An Action Plan for Disabled People in London' (FGP 405)

Greater London Development Plan — draft alterations (P479, W305) presents the first draft alterations to the GLDP, including first observations on the Women's Chapter.

Equal Opportunities Policy — summary of action taken (S576) a summary of action taken on the implementation of the Council's equal opportunities policy.

Data Protection Bill (S589) Data Protection Bill — Implications (S570) reporting on the re-introduction of the Bill into the new Parliament.

Filipino Executive Order 857 (EM328) outlines the threat of legislation from the government of the Philippines, compelling migrant workers to remit 50-70% of their wages to the Philippines.

GRANTS were awarded to: Arndale Community Centre, U.K. Asian Women's Conference, Battersea Black Women's Centre, Berners Tenant's Association Women's Centre, Chinese Information and Advice Centre, Safe Women's Transport, Speak, Pre-school Playgroup, Women's Action for Mental Health, Women for Life on Earth, Black Women's Centre, Coldfall Parents Group, Cypriot Elderly and Handicapped Group, Ferry Lane Play Association.

■ **The numbers given after the title of each report are useful in identifying which report you want to get hold of. Copies of any of these reports are available from Jane Ringham, Clerk to the Women's Committee, DG/PR/W, Room 209, County Hall, SE1. 698 1255.**

These reports are available

GLC Women's Committee 28 June.

These reports were considered

Women's Committee Mid Term Report (W224) describes the progress and achievements made during the first year of the GLC's Women's Committee and provides an assessment of work at the mid point of the term of the current administration of the Council.

Women's Committee meetings Payment of Babysitting/Dependants Allowances (W222) outlines payment of allowances to women wishing to attend Women's committee and other meetings arranged by the Committee.

Open Meeting on Health (W225) a report back on the open meeting on health held on 29 April 1983.

Women in the Arts (W220) a report from the Media and Arts working group making proposals for consultations on women in the arts in London.

Equal treatment in the Invalidity Care Allowance and the Non-Contributory Pension (W228) is a report outlining discrimination within the operation of the I.C.A. and N.C.I.P.

GLC Equal Opportunities Code of Practice (S527) details the Council's equal opportunities statement and its implementation.

Job Sharing: measures and principles for its implementation in the GLC/ILEA (S529) details measures for the introduction of job sharing within the GLC/ILEA.

Information Technology for Londoners — Charging Arrangements for Equipment for loan for use by Voluntary and Community Groups (S534) outlines the case for charging or funding groups for the use of I.T. equipment.

Summary of Grant Applications for Childcare and Youth Projects in 1983-4 (W230) lists applications for childcare and youth projects received so far and gives to each preliminary officer priority (low, medium, high). The report will be circulated to all Members of the Council and there will be a period of one month allowed for appeals.

Summary of grant applications for Women's Projects (W229) is a supplementary report on Women's projects prioritising them (low, medium, high). This report will also be circulated to all Members of the Council with a period of one month to appeal.

GRANTS were awarded to: Community Links, Dalston Community Centre, Hornsey Ridge After School Project, Independent Adoption Service, Lambeth Mobile Creche, Lambeth Under 5's, Magpie Youth Centre, Meanwhile Gardens Community Association, N.C.C.L., Rape Counselling and Research Project, Women Community Workers Training Group, Women's Peace Bus, A Women's Place, Combination Outreach.

GLC Women's Committee 19 July

These reports were considered:

European Social Fund (W304) looks at what has been done by the Council to take advantage of the E.S.F. with respect to training schemes for Women.

Female Genital Mutilation (HP15) examines the legal position of doctors performing female genital mutilation operations.

Racial Harassment and Attacks on Housing Estates (HG589) is a report back on the Home Office Study on Racial attacks.

Finsbury Park Area (P765) reports on an inter-authority strategy for the Finsbury Park area.

Training for Women in London (W226) is a policy report on the opportunities for women in London with regards to training.

The Printing Industry in London (IEC 949) outlines the current situation of the Industry, including a report on the exclusion of women from certain areas within the printing industry.

Equality Targets (S551) is about the introduction of the concept of equality targets to the Council's personnel practices.

Development of a policy on Women's Centres (W255) describes the various functions of Women's Centres and how they can benefit women in London.

GRANTS were awarded to: Brent Women's Centre, Camur, Doddington and Rollo, Grainne Mhaol Collective, 'Hollycats', Kentish Town Women's Workshop, London Community Health Resource, Maternity Services Liaison Scheme, North Paddington Women's Centre, Robert Montifiore Playgroup, St Lukes After School Centre, Stoke Newington Community Association.

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