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### HERE IT IS: THE OCSW ACTION PLAN FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Again this year we will schedule the Newsletter to precede each general meeting so that the time, place, topic and some background information will be in front of you prior to the session.

In fact, we hope to make the Newsletter more useful to you by running issue-related articles. The objective is to enable you to come to each general meeting feeling confident and knowledgeable about the topic at hand. Thus it is especially important for OCSW members to contribute articles and story ideas. (Call Carol Sutton, 690-3213, to do so.)

For instance, for our Wednesday, Oct 19 session on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we will be running substantial, up-to-date explanations on the issues. The intent is to educate and organize ourselves in preparation for a national, lay conference on the Charter being planned by the 1984 Charter of Rights Conference Committee for spring/summer of next year.

As a result, the Oct 19 session will be open to the public. Plan to bring friends, including fellow OCSW members who may not attend as often as you do. Location will be announced in the Newsletter. (For more information about the lay conference, contact Nancy Jackman, 961-7747.)

A follow-up session on Charter issues for OCSW members comes next on Nov. 16. We are concentrating on the Charter, building toward the spring when we plan to lobby members of the Ontario legislature.

On Jan 23 our meeting will focus on lobbying strategies and will be geared to the first-time lobbyist. If you have never met with a politician on a public issue to present your views, don't be frightened. We will be taking things one small step at a time.

How to lobby is the theme of the meeting planned for Feb. 23. OCSW  
continued next page

### FUNDRAISER: A WAY TO RAISE BOTH FUN AND MONEY!

The second annual OCSW fundraiser will be held at Oakham House on the Ryerson campus, 63 Gould Street, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21. Look for the Rams Corral, downstairs at Oakham House.

The evening will include wine and cheese, a bake sale/auction and a fun auction of unusual and novelty items and services.

Donations to be auctioned are coming from various Ontario politicians who are women, prominent OCSW members and many others. If you have something to contribute, please let us know.

A few of our male supporters have agreed again to bake goodies,

an aspect that raised a surprising amount of money last year.

Tickets for the fundraising auction will sell for \$15 each. Anyone interested in selling tickets or donating baked or other items, please call Lee Grills, 488-1486 day or evening.

### DIRECTIONS TO OAKHAM HOUSE:

OAKHAM HOUSE IS AT 63 Gould St, two blocks east and one block north of the corner of Dundas and Yonge. Parking is available in the Victoria and Gould Sts. lot on Ryerson Campus. Or take the subway to Dundas station and walk, approximately five minutes.

## PLAN OF ACTION con't

member Lee Grills will be showing us how to make the appointments, present a case and influence political thought.

Lobby Day is March 8, 1984, International Women's Day. Those OCSW members who volunteer to do so will be meeting with MPP's to explain our concerns on issues we will be selecting during the course of the year. That is why it is especially important for all OCSW members to get involved this year, bringing forward prime issues for inclusion in this lobbying session.

We will certainly be raising our voices on Ontario legislation which impinges on the Charter, but there are other important areas we might include, such as social services, pornography and other forms of violence against women.

The concluding session of the current program year is a party -- the annual OCSW picnic on a date yet to be decided. After such an intense and active year, we will certainly deserve a fun break!

### OCSW YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Sept 21	FUNDRAISER: AUCTION
Oct 19	PUBLIC MEETING ON THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS
Nov 16	OCSW GENERAL MEETING ON THE CHARTER
Jan 23	LOBBYING STRATEGY AND TECHNIQUES
Feb 23	SETTING UP A LOBBY: HOW-TO
Mar 8	LOBBY DAY
TBA	ANNUAL OCSW PICNIC

This issue of the Newsletter was prepared by Beth Atcheson, Toba Bryant, Lee Grills, Brigid O'Reilly and Carol Sutton. To submit articles or suggest material, please feel free to call Carol Sutton at 690-3213, day or evening.

## OCSW AND NEW WOMEN'S ISSUES MINISTER DISCUSS COMMON INTERESTS

Only 21 four OCSW members -- Beth Atcheson, Chaviva Hosek, Brigid O'Reilly and Carol Sutton -- met The Honourable Robert Welch, the Minister responsible for women's affairs in the Ontario government. Glenna Carr, Executive Director of the Women's Directorate also attended the meeting.

Mr. Welch's recent appointment has created much interest among organized women's groups in the province and the OCSW asked him to clarify his mandate. He explained that he will through the Policy and Priorities Board of Cabinet be monitoring all policy of the provincial government to assess its impact on women. Mr. Welch is Deputy Premier and thus we expect his voice will carry a certain weight in Cabinet.

The OCSW brought to Mr. Welch's attention several of our current issues of concern: the transfer of family benefits from the province to the municipalities; equal pay for work of equal value; federal/provincial funding and the impact of the Charter of Rights on Ontario legislation.

We also expressed some concern about the lack of consultation between the government and organized women's groups on policies that affect women. Mr. Welch recognized this as a difficulty and assured us that he plans to be responsive to the concerns of organizations such as the OCSW.

### ABORTION CLINIC NEEDS SUPPORT

The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics is coordinating public support activities for the free-standing abortion clinic on Harbord Street. The clinic needs the support of all women who believe we must have the right to determine our own reproductive destiny, more than ever following the fire at the clinic in July. To get involved call them at 532-8193.

### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

If you haven't yet paid your 1983-84 dues, please send a cheque along right away; mail it to the postal box listed on the Newsletter masthead.

# RETURN THIS PAGE!

## PORNOGRAPHY: THE VIOLENCE AFFECTS US ALL

This page is meant to solicit your ideas and opinions. Please read it, indicate your opinions and return it to the OCSW postal box or to Lee Grills, 555 Balliol St., Toronto, M4S 1E1 as soon as possible.

In the next issue the Newsletter will follow-up on this topic with some suggestions on how you as an individual can take action.

Changing laws will not eliminate pornography from our society. Eliminating pornography will not erase the problems pornography causes. The problems in our society and the violence to which women and children are subjected go far beyond imagery. People's attitudes must change. This will only evolve through positive sex education and positive depictions in all forms of the media.

People who have been studying the issue of pornography have made several suggestions regarding law reforms which may lend assistance in stemming the proliferation of pornographic materials. We are asking OCSW members to respond to these suggestions by returning this questionnaire.

### Federal Level

I. The criminal code is not presently equipped to deal with pornography regarding the exploitation of sex rather than people nor can it adequately contend with material that explicitly represents or describes degrading and abusive behaviour for sexual gratification so as to endorse and/or recommend the behaviour as described.

Furthermore, the current obscenity section is vague and subjective.

Recommendation: Section 159(8) of the criminal code should be repealed

Agree     Disagree     Better idea  
(DESCRIBE ALL BETTER IDEAS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, PLEASE.)

II. Pornography must be defined to reflect the danger inherent in the material. At the same time we wish to preserve the opportunity for people to obtain information about sex.

Thus the definition of pornography proposed for the criminal code could be:

Pornography is deemed to be any printed, visual, audic, or otherwise represented presentation, or part thereof, with a theme of violence including but not limited to the depiction of submission or coercion or lack of consent or denigration of any human being for the sexual gratification of another or others, and in which such behaviours can be taken to be advocated or endorsed.

For the purposes of this definition, the depiction of any person under the age of 16 in such material will be considered proof of lack of consent sufficient to warrant prohibition of such material.

Wherever appropriate, the words "obscene" and "obscenity" should be deleted and replaced by the words "pornographic" and "pornography".

Recommendation: This definition should be situated under the HATE PROPAGANDA section of the criminal code with an accompanying heading of PUBLIC ADVOCACY OF VIOLENCE.

Agree     Disagree     Better idea

III. This definition must be incorporated into all legislation dealing with the flow of 'offensive' literature. The Customs Act and the Postal Act are currently used to deter this flow.

Recommendation: Federal laws that have hitherto incorporated the Section 159(8) definition of obscenity should incorporate the new definition of pornography.

Agree  Disagree  Better idea

IV. Pornographers use the techniques of hate propagandists in the portrayal of sex, violence, and power. Eliminating pornography is a human rights issue and can be defined as hate propaganda.

Recommendation: Amend the Broadcasting Act to reflect the premise that pornography is a human rights issue by adding the words "or sex" to Section 6.1(b) so it reads: "No station, network operator, or pay television licensee shall broadcast ... any abusive comment or abusive pictorial representation of any race, religion, creed, or sex."

Agree  Disagree  Better idea

#### Provincial Level

I. The Supreme Court of Ontario recently ruled that "some prior censorship of film is demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." Films may be censored if The Theatres Act is accompanied by regulations pursuant to its legislative authority or by the enactment of statutory amendments, imposing reasonable limits and standards.

Recommendation: As an interim measure, the Ontario Censor Board, with clearly defined guidelines written into its enabling legislation, should have the authority to censor films that advocate violence against people.

Agree  Disagree  Better idea

#### Municipal Level

I. Constitutionally, municipal governments are limited in their ability to enact by-laws to eliminate pornography. Municipalities may regulate various aspects of "adult" entertainment parlours which are defined as "any premises or part thereof in which is provided, in pursuance of a trade, calling, business or occupation, goods or services appealing to or designed to appeal to erotic or sexual appetites or inclinations". This illustrates once again that the authority to regulate focuses on the sexual aspect of the material, not the violent.

Recommendation: The Municipal Act should be amended to enable municipalities to regulate effectively with respect to pornographic materials.

Agree  Disagree  Better idea

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SUGGESTED READING ON THE SUBJECT:  
"Pornography: What does the new research indicate?" an article by Gillian Ridington in Status of Women News, Summer, 1983 (published by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women)