



# WOMEN'S ACTION for PEACE

## Oct. 30 / Nov. 11

We call on women to join with us to express our outrage at the nuclear threat to world survival, our recognition of the connection between the violence of our militaristic society and the violence in women's daily lives, and our hope for a healthy, peaceful, loving future.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS :

**Alliance for Non-Violent Action Film Series** — an evening of films and discussion on *Women & Resistance*. A screening of "Women's Pentagon Action" which chronicles the women's rally and civil disobedience action at the Pentagon in the fall of 1980; "You Have Struck a Rock", a documentary on women's resistance to the PASS Laws in South Africa; and "With Babies and Banners", the story of the women of Flint, Michigan who were the turning point in the drive for industrial unionism.

Tuesday, Oct. 12 — Guelph  
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Ottawa  
Friday, Oct. 15 — Peterborough  
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Kingston

Wednesday, Oct. 13 — Toronto 7:30 p.m.  
at Harbord Collegiate  
(Euclid & Harbord)  
Tickets are \$3.00 in  
advance at SCM  
Bookroom or at the  
door; \$10.00 for a  
film series pass.

Please get in touch with your local contact for details of time and place. Men are welcome.

## Saturday, Oct. 30 — Ottawa

Join the Women's Action for Peace at the national "Refuse the Cruise" demonstration. As a sign of women's strength, creativity and hope for peace, the women's action will be wearing rainbow-coloured ribbons and carrying rainbow balloons and banners; in recognition of the awesome danger to world survival posed by the nuclear threat, we will have some black ribbons interspersed among the coloured ones. We invite you to bedeck yourself, your women friends and your children in rainbow-coloured ribbons and walk with us to the rally along the demonstration route. Let's all bring extra ribbons for sharing with women who may wish to join us at that time! Feel free to further develop the rainbow theme through street theatre and banners within the context of feminism and non-violence. Please get in touch with your local contact about bus transportation and the time and place of our gathering for the walk to the rally.

## Sunday, Oct. 31 — Ottawa

A day of workshops on the following themes: Feminism & Militarism, Militarism and Third World Intervention, Economic Alternatives, and the Peace Movement. 9:30 a.m. at Fauteux Hall, University of Ottawa.

## Thursday, Nov. 11 — Toronto

A day of non-violent direct actions at Litton Industries, Rexdale, where the brains for the Cruise missile are being manufactured. We invite women to join the Women's Action for Peace at the demonstration. We are forming women's affinity groups; in preparation for participation in the non-violent direct action, non-violence training is required. Toronto Region Non-Violence Training will be on Sunday, October 17th. Eastern Ontario Non-Violence Training date is to be set soon. Child care will be provided on November 11th. For more information on this event and the training sessions, please call your local contact.

For more information, please contact:



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## Statement of Unity

We are women of many ages, experiences, skills, interests and backgrounds who are joining with thousands of other people in Ottawa on October 30th to "refuse the Cruise" missile; but, more importantly, we are gathering at this time as a contingent of women because we perceive the undeniably clear connection between the bomb-making militarism of this male-dominated society and the oppression of women everywhere. We see nuclear weapons as the inevitable manifestation of a patriarchal society which believes that "might is right".

On a daily basis, it is the same male-controlled power structure which controls all women's lives by the ever-present threat of rape in the same way as it controls "weaker" nations by threatening to drop the bomb. In both cases, the act does not always have to be carried out in order for the threat to be effective in intimidating and controlling the movement and the choices of the victim. We have seen this in Viet Nam, during the Korean War, and in the Middle East; and, as women, we experience it daily in our lives, both in our homes and on the streets.

It is this same male-controlled power structure which spends approximately \$1½ billion\* every day on military expenditures to cause death and destruction while it denies women, children and poor people, both in North America and the Third World, adequate access to basic life-giving survival tools such as food, education, housing, control of our reproductive rights, good child care so that we can work, and equal pay for work of equal value. \*(Sivard, Ruth. World Military Expenditures)

It is this same male-controlled power structure which sees the natural resources of the world as theirs to dominate and waste just as they exploit women's energy and skills both in the home and in the workplace.

Because we see the nuclear threat to world survival and the oppression of women as rooted in the politics of domination, we also see that world nuclear disarmament would be only a partial step toward a lasting world peace. We must challenge not only the arms build-up but also all the props that support militarism as the characteristic solution to problems between individuals or nations, in society and the world. We must consciously seek out non-hierarchical alternatives which enable us to live in a healthy, sensible and loving world.

What we are saying is not new. During World War I, our suffragist sisters struggled to connect the "might is right" doctrine with women's oppression, and worked towards systems that would promote a peaceable international postwar order. Our American sisters who worked in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960's also struggled to point out the impossibility of long-term peace while an elitist, sexist political process remained in control. In recorded history, the connection between patriarchal domination and constant warfare is clear. Unless we want to be yet another anti-war movement, we must clearly challenge this patriarchal domination, both in our personal lives and in the institutions and workplaces outside the home. We must expose the relationship between the power which produces nuclear weapons and the power arrangements which oppress us as women in our daily lives.

Women do hold up more than half the sky. Imagine the creative energy we could release by withdrawing our support from this hierarchical, militaristic social order and committing ourselves to seeking life-giving, non-violent ways of sharing the world together.

Please join with us in Ottawa on October 30th, 1982. Arms are for hugging!