

Events for Week of Feb. 25 — March 9 1988

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7:00 p.m.

REFUGEE WOMEN — BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS

U of T Library Sciences, 7th floor

Sponsored by U of T Refugee and Immigration Coalition

Call 598-2199

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 7:30 p.m., \$6 (sliding scale), Signed for Hearing Impaired

ANGELA DAVIS: SISTERS IN STRUGGLE — BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Convocation Hall, U of T

Sponsored by Toronto Black Women's Collective

Call 535-4309 or 532-2672

MONDAY FEBRUARY 29, 7-11 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WORKSHOPS

OISE, 252 Bloor St. West, 2nd Floor

Sponsored by the March 8th Coalition

Call Carla-Kristina 530-4691

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, 8 p.m., \$2 donation

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE STATE: THE CASE OF IRAN 1981-87

OISE, 252 Bloor St. West, 6th Floor, Sociology Lounge

Sponsored by Socialist Feminist Discussion Series, Marxist Institute

Call Lorna Weir 533-0798 or Kari Delhi 536-0414

FRIDAY MARCH 4, 7:00 p.m.

SOFIA MONTENEGRO, NICARAGUAN FEMINIST

Harbord Collegiate, 286 Harbord St.

Sponsored by Canadian Action for Nicaragua, Tools For Peace & Women's and Solidarity Organizations

Call Ellen 922-0852

SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2:00 p.m. and MONDAY MARCH 7-FRIDAY MARCH 11, 11:30 a.m.

CELEBRATION CINEMA — A SERIES OF FILMS ABOUT WOMEN

Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. West

Sponsored by National Film Board

Call 973-0895

TUESDAY MARCH 8, 7:30 p.m.

EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE ON WOMEN

Sponsored by Women Against Free Trade

Call 441-2731 for location

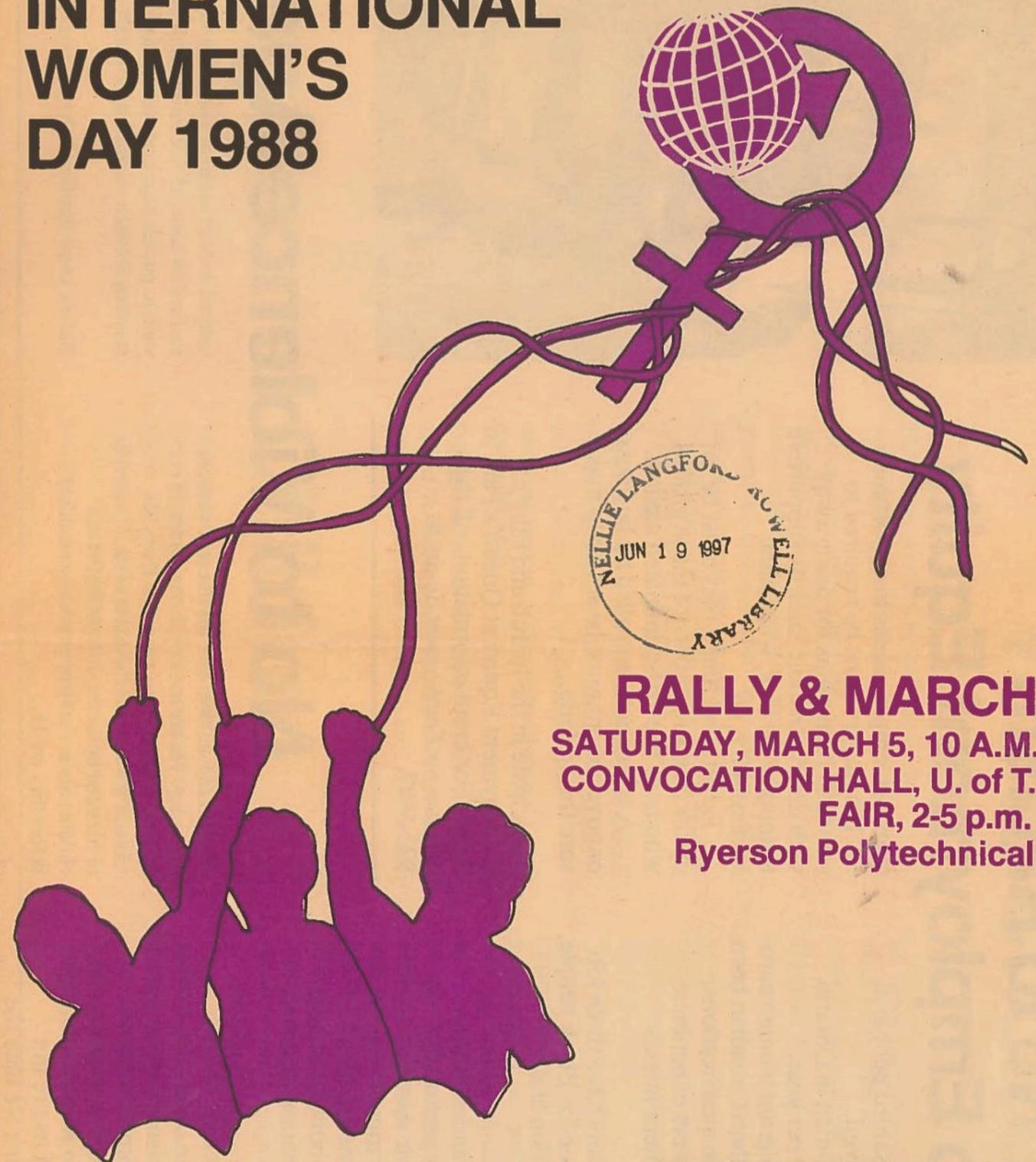
WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

CHANGING IMAGES OF LEADERSHIP

Scarborough Civic Center, Committee Rooms 1 & 2

Sponsored by Scarborough Social Planning Council

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1988



RALLY & MARCH
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 10 A.M.
CONVOCAION HALL, U. of T.
FAIR, 2-5 p.m.
Ryerson Polytechnical

WOMEN UNITE
TO FIGHT RACISM, SEXISM
& ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

No to Racism Yes to Employment Equity

... 50% to 80% of disabled people in Canada are unemployed.
... 67% of Native women in Ontario earn less than \$5,000 per year.
... West Indian immigrant women earn \$6,000 less per year than Canadian born women with the same qualifications.
... South Asian workers experience twice the unemployment rate as other workers.
... White job applicants have three job prospects to every one for Black people with the same education and experience.

Racism, like sexism and economic inequality, is a major part of our political and economic system. Employment Equity must be used to correct past inequalities in the workplace brought about by racism, sexism and discrimination against disabled people.

Women of Colour include Native, South Asian, Chinese, Black, and other women who face racism in every area of our lives. In the workplace we are trapped in segregated low-paying jobs. Unions are formed to protect our rights at work, but many of us are not unionized. That means we face the worst working conditions.

Racism affects groups of people at every level of society — not just individuals. It is used to divide us and to exploit our labour for profits. Racism gives white people advantages. We must all fight this every day.

Racism is more than just a misunderstanding among people, a question of personal relations or an unchangeable part of human nature. It is found in the policies, practices, and procedures of government, institutions and our workplaces.

We cannot just teach racism away, and changing laws is not enough. If racism is ever to be fully done away with, we must change the economic and political system to meet our needs.

We have joined together with others who face discrimination. We recognize our differences but also understand that it is only through fighting together that changes can be made.

People of Colour, disabled people, Native people, and women have joined together and formed the Alliance for Employment Equity as one way of fighting to change the unequal situation that we all face in the workplace.

We demand support for women who want to work in non-traditional jobs.

We demand Employment Equity (affirmative action). This includes more

than just simple access to opportunity.
... Employers must be required to establish clear plans for doing away with discrimination, such as supportive training programs, wheelchair accessibility, etc.
... Targets and timetables must be set up for hiring members of those groups who have been discriminated against.
... A group not controlled by business or government must be set up to make sure this is done.

Participate in the march and rally for Employment Equity at Queen's Park in April. For more information call the Alliance for Employment Equity at 923-5987.



No to Violence Against

Women and children face the threat of violence every day. We are not safe in our homes, in our schools, at work or on the street. Every six minutes a woman in Canada is sexually assaulted or harassed by a man. Almost half of our children are sexually or physically assaulted before they are 18.

Women of colour, disabled women, prostitutes, homeless women, old women, Native women, lesbians, immigrant women, Jewish women — we face even more violence just because of who we are. Power is the issue. The less power we have to fight back with, the more we are assaulted.

We demand that everyone believe women and children when we talk about our lives. We do not lie. We are not exaggerating. We are angry and we have a right to be angry.

We demand the right to a life without the threat of physical, sexual and incest assault.

It does not help when the government gives us band-aids. It does not help when they tell us what our problems are and how to solve them.

Right now, the government of Ontario is trying to take away the community services we have

worked so hard to build. They want to control shelters for battered women and children. They want to put our rape crisis centres and free-standing abortion clinics into hospitals.

But we know that hospitals, police stations,

Yes to th

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Women are organizing and fighting in struggles for people's liberation around the world. Nowhere is this more obvious than in Canada's own backyard. We must support Native women in their struggles for their people's self-determination and self-government, just as we must support the women of South Africa who are fighting apartheid.

Yes to the Right to Lesbia

Lesbians in Ontario are supposed to have human rights. We are protected under the provincial human rights code. But Bill 7 is not enough.

The courts take away our children just because we are lesbian. If we hold hands on the street we risk violence.

OHIP refuses to give us family benefits. Union support for Karen Andrews' fight for family benefits shows us what people can do to help.

The federal government wants to control our

books, our music, our films and our art. It wants to pass a censorship bill — Bill C -54. Every time there is a law like this it is used against lesbians and gay men.

The government is using the threat of AIDS to control lesbian and gay sexuality. It is not responding to the needs of the people who have AIDS. It is not providing good education to help prevent AIDS.

Lesbians don't cause these problems. These

Yes to Choice!

The Supreme Court decision that struck down the abortion law is a tremendous victory for women. This victory was won by the force of the women's liberation movement.

We celebrate winning this stage of the struggle. We must continue to fight for our reproductive and sexual freedom. We must actively fight government control of abortion and struggle for full access to reproductive health services. Formal legal rights for individuals are not the end of our battle for full reproductive choice.

We know choice is still an illusion for most Asian, Native, Black, South Asian and other women of colour. Choice is still an illusion for most immigrant women, working class, poor and disabled women.

Our right to choose in every part of our lives is denied by: forced sterilization, lack of decent jobs, free childcare, paid parental leave, control over

birth, affordable housing and access to benefit plans for same-sex partners.

We face medical regulation by a racist, sexist health care system which is insensitive to our needs. We face cultural and language barriers.

We must demand —

- a network of publicly-funded community health clinics to provide a range of reproductive health services, including abortion
- immediate public funding and OHIP coverage for the Scott and Morgentaler free-standing abortion clinics
- no restrictive government legislation on abortion
- immediate federal government enforcement of the principle of universal access to health services. We must ensure that the health care system across Canada does not, in any way, interfere with women's access to abortion.
- safe and effective birth control and safe sex education with all information and services provided in our own languages. Ban Depo Provera!
- no more forced and coerced sterilization of Native women, immigrant women, disabled women, Black, Asian and other women of colour
- no further harassment of lesbian, Native, and single mothers by the courts and Children's Aid.
- fully accessible universal childcare on a 24-hour basis
- the right to determine our own sexuality.



Women and Children

children's aid and welfare offices are not always the best places for women and children to find help. The people who know us and know our problems best live with us in our communities.

We want the government to stop telling us what

kind of services we need and who should run them. Women are told that we must go to the doctor, call the police, get a lawyer, place our children with children's aid, see the social worker. We can, will and do provide these services in our own communities.

No to Imperialism!

The Struggles of Native People and all the Women Fighting Around the World!

Apartheid is the system of forced segregation and political and economic discrimination against people of colour by white people.

South Africa's government studied the Canadian Native reservation system to construct its own apartheid system.

United States imperialism supports the

South African regime as well as many other oppressive dictatorships around the world. Imperialism uses racism as one of its main tools for dividing people against each other for its own economic benefit.

Canada is also an imperialist country. It supports the United States around the world. At home, the Canadian government is trying to destroy the culture of Native people. It refuses to accept Native self-government.

Britain, the first imperialist country, still maintains its imperialist power over Ireland. It maintains military power in the North and economic power in the South.

Women in Ireland, Native peoples, aboriginal and Maori peoples, women in the Philippines and Asia, women in the Caribbean, Central and South America, South Africa and in the Middle East know they cannot be free until they free their people from imperialist control.

Women in Nicaragua know that to keep the gains they have made they must keep the United States out of their country.

At the same time, no people are free until women are free.

We support women's struggles for their own and their people's liberation everywhere. We demand an end to United States intervention everywhere. We demand an end to Canada's own racist system for Native peoples and an end to our government's support for U.S. imperialism. We demand an immediate end to the strip searches of women political prisoners in Ireland. We support the struggle of Palestinian women and demand an end to the apartheid system in South Africa.

We demand the right of self-determination for all countries and all peoples. We want peace with justice now.

Sexuality

problems are caused by people who are homophobic and heterosexist.

Homophobia is a fear and hatred of lesbians and gay men.

Heterosexism happens when people, when the government, church, schools and businesses, think and act as if everyone is — or should be — heterosexual.

Lesbians are proud of who we are. We love our lives and we demand the equal right to live openly honestly and with dignity.

No to Free Trade Yes to Full Employment

Women are speaking out against free trade. We are speaking out with union workers, with cultural workers, and church groups. We are speaking out with immigrant women, women of colour, Native peoples, and farmers. Women are united in a campaign against the Brian Mulroney and Ronald Reagan trade deal. It is a bad deal that won't work for women, people of colour or immigrant people, in Canada or in the United States.

This free trade deal will only work for people who make big money out of big business.

The government is spending a lot of time and money on this free trade deal. At the same time, they are refusing to spend time and money on things that women think are important.

We want the government to implement quality childcare. We want the government to pass a bill that will ensure us of mandatory employment equity. We want a decent minimum wage. We want improved job benefits for ourselves and our family. We want job security for full-time and part-time workers.

Free trade means we lose jobs:

Most women, immigrant women and women of colour work on jobs that are threatened by this free trade deal. Job loss, lower wages and a deterioration of working conditions in industries like textiles, electronics, and food processing will hit women and immigrant groups hardest.

Free trade means we get lower pay:

We believe that the trade deal will increase the wage gap between women and men and further erode the standard of living for women.

Free trade means poorer access to social services:

Mulroney promised that health and social services would not be included in the deal, but they are. The job loss for women in these areas will be devastating.

The free trade deal also means that the delivery of social services may be shifted to the private sector. Social services are important to women and if delivered through private means they will be less accessible to women and more expensive.

Let Canadians decide — demand an election now! Write Mulroney and let him know that his free trade deal is bad for women. We need alternatives where women's economic concerns are central.

For more information: Call *Women against Free Trade*: 441-2731.



Yes to Universal Childcare

Single mothers and their children are the poorest families in Canada. Women of colour, Native women and disabled women are often in low-paying jobs and in jobs where we work shifts. This means that we can't get good childcare because it costs too much or because the centres are closed when we are at work.

All working parents need good quality, free childcare.

Right now there are not enough childcare spaces for the children who need them. The government of Canada promised us that it would find a way to solve this problem. In December they told us what they plan to do. We don't think that they plan to do much.

The money the government will spend on childcare is less than they used to spend. They say they will spend 3 billion dollars on childcare in the next seven years. **What they don't say is that they spent more than that in the past seven years.**

Our taxes might go down a little, but that won't help us find good childcare. It won't help when we have to pay more for childcare next year.

Most women in Canada have to work. Women of colour, Native women, disabled women, Jewish women — we all face discrimination at work. So, getting a job and keeping it is not easy. We should not have to worry about finding childcare too.

Tell the government you don't like their childcare plan. Tell them you want them to spend money on a childcare plan that will help all of us.

For more information: Call the *Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare*, 532-4031.



INSIDE

**NO to
Racism!**

**YES to
Employment Equity!**

**NO to Violence against
Women and Children!**

YES to Choice!

YES to the Right to Lesbian Sexuality!

NO to Imperialism!

**YES to the Struggles of Native Peoples
and all the Women Fighting around the World!**

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International Women's Day Toronto 1988