

A WOMAN'S PLACE



429-4063



1225 BARRINGTON ST

A WOMAN'S PLACE - FORREST HOUSE PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Preamble:

A Woman's Place, as part of the Women's Movement, is committed to the full and equal participation of women in all facets of society.

To attain this goal, A Woman's Place recognizes the need to work for legislative change and for the elimination of stereotyped sex roles.

A Woman's Place advocates positive change for women, both on an individual and collective basis through social action, education and supportive services.

Therefore A Woman's Place is committed to initiating and supporting efforts to improve the status of women in at least the following areas:

Health:

- a) - a woman's right to non-sexist physical and mental health care.
- b) - a woman's right to choose, with dignity, if and when she will have children, and how many.

Child Care:

- a) - for universal access to affordable, high quality, non-sexist child care.
- b) - for universal access to free, twenty-four hour day care facilities.

Employment:

- a) - for an employment climate in which women can exercise their productive capacities to the fullest extent.
- b) - for equal employment opportunities in the context of a public commitment to full employment, which would make available to every woman the option of entering the paid labor force.
- c₁ - for recognition of homemaking and child care as work of value to our society deserving of monetary regard, the implications and implementation of which require full exploration.
- c₂ - for recognition of the importance of child care and homemaking for single parents, income guarantees

Philosophy Statement (Continued)

should be sufficient to ensure a quality of life, over and above the minimum, so that single parents can freely choose between working at home or working outside the home.

- d)- for cessation of sexual discrimination in firing and personnel policies and practices.
- e)- for equal pay for work of equal value.
- f)- for employment services specifically for women to assist in exploring and choosing options; to assist in eliminating barriers to full and satisfactory employment; to give support to women seeking reentry to the labor force, etc.
- g)- for training programs for all women in traditionally male fields, for women returning to the work force in middle years and for low income and minority women that provide opportunities for future employment at fair and adequate levels of remuneration.
- h)- for affirmative action measures that will increase the status of women in the work place to a position of equality with men.
- i)- for meaningful "job creation" opportunities at adequate pay levels that relate to human needs and are long range and continuing when demonstrated to be effective.

Education:

- a)- for an educational system which allows women to develop their full potential.
- b)- for the elimination of sexism in the curricula, teaching methods, materials, and administration of all educational institutions, including pre-school.
- c)- recognizing the importance of books, magazines, newspapers, films, T.V. in the education and socialization of women - for the end to sexism in the public media and advertising.
- d)- accepting that learning should be a life-long process - for more women controlled women's studies courses in continuing and adult education programs.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION:

Membership:

Criteria:

- a) the individuals who were eligible to vote in the June 13, 1978 general meeting or,
- b) the individuals who have attended at least one of the three meetings of the Orientation Group
- c) the individuals who have been active in volunteer work or committee participation.

Rights:

- a) eligible to vote at general meetings re election of representatives to Steering Committee or on any other resolutions.
- b) eligible to be elected to the Steering Committee
- c) eligible for appointment to committees, special projects, etc.
- d) eligible for participation in committees, etc.

General Meeting:

- a) all members of AWP are eligible to vote,
- b) regular meetings are to be held every three months,
- c) a general meeting can be held at any time as requested by at least ten members with at least two weeks notification,
- d) all general meetings are to be open to the general public,
- e) at each general meeting, ten members constitute a quorum,
- f) all decisions are to be made by two-thirds majority, with the exception of election of representatives to the Steering Committee which are to be made by majority.

Functions:

- a) elects members of the Steering Committee
- b) vote on major policy or philosophical changes
- c) vote on changes in structure

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION: (Continued)

Functions of General Meeting:

- d) information sharing
- e) resolve controversy which can not be handled within the committees
- f) receive reports from Steering and Standing Committees

Steering Committee:

Membership:

- a) ten members elected by the general membership, and one-two staff appointed by staff and two representatives from the YWCA(at least until December, 1978)

Terms of Office:

- a) each member (elected or appointed) of the Steering Committee is to hold the seat for a period of six months and is eligible for re-election twice, for a total term of eighteen months,
- b) each member (elected or appointed) of the Steering Committee, after serving eighteen months must vacate the seat for one term of six months before becoming a candidate again,
- c) elections and appointments are to be held at the General Meeting in October and April of each year,
- d) if a member, (elected or appointed) of the Steering Committee, vacates her seat, for other than the above reason, the vacancy will be filled, if considered necessary by the Steering Committee, by special election or appointment at the next general meeting or at the next regular election time (October or April)

Functions:

- a) overview of ANP, under direction of ANP philosophy and specific resolutions adopted in the general meetings,
- b) policy decisions, as referred by committees, under the guidelines of the philosophy of ANP,
- c) resolution of committee controversy or passing the problem to the general membership for resolution,
- d) each member must serve on at least one committee,
- e) communications link between the committees, the YWCA and general membership,

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION: (Continued)

Steering Committee, General Resolutions:

- a) any member of AWP is welcome to audit Steering Committee meetings.
- b) the Steering Committee will meet at least once a month or as often as necessary.

Standing Committees:

- a) Four committees with functions in following areas:
Program - orientation group, development and presentation of programs, co-ordination with Social Action Committee when necessary,
Services - information/referral, records, staff, newsletter, co-ordination of publicity, recommendations to other committees as needs require,
Social Action - strategy development, initiation of activity, workshops on strategy, co-ordination with other committees within AWP and outside groups,
Administration/Funding - relationship with landlord, (tenants/house management), bookkeeping, secretarial, setting up procedures for nomination concerning elections of representatives to the Steering Committee, co-ordinator for supplies, materials, etc.
- b) these committees are composed of volunteers and at least one representative from the Steering Committee,
- c) all decisions by committees are to be guided by the philosophy of AWP,
- d) all decisions are to be reached by two-thirds majority, If majority cannot be obtained the committee can approach the Steering Committee as a whole for consideration by that body or bring the issue directly to the general membership for resolution,
- e) all committees report to the Steering Committee, by way of reports and evaluations, on a monthly basis,
- f) all committees should meet as often as necessary, but a required meeting must be held at least once a month,
- g) all committees are expected to make decisions in regard to areas of activity, but are responsible to the Steering Committee and ultimately to the general membership. Where it is clear that areas of activity overlap, committees have the responsibility to work together.

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION: (Continued)

Task Groups:

a) four task groups or as required:

- Health
- Child Care
- Education
- Economics/Employment

b) the task groups are to do research and make recommendations to the appropriate committees

c) these task groups will be related to one or more of the standing committees, depending on what the task groups are involved in.

All Standing Committees, task groups and Steering Committee must report to the General Meeting on activities either directly or by way of reports submitted to the Steering Committee.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"Sex prejudice has been the chief hindrance in the rapid advance of the women's rights movement to its present status, and it is still a stupendous obstacle to overcome. This world taught woman nothing skillful and then said her work was valueless. It permitted her no opinions and said she did not know how to think. It forbade her to speak in public and said that the sex had no orators. It denied her the schools, and said the sex had no genius. It robbed her of every vestige of responsibility and then called her weak. It taught her that every pleasure must come as a flavour from man, and when to gain it she decked herself with fine feathers, as she had been taught to do, it called her frivolous."

Carrie Chapman Catt, 1902.

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SOME CHANGES:

The physical layout of AWP has been altered lately, with the reception area and information/referral service moving into the room at the head of the stairs on the second floor. Para-Legal has moved to the third floor. As a result, the library and resource room is being expanded with more shelves and display areas made available for use.

The contents of the library itself have been recatalogued and a booklist is on the bulletin board with books listed by topic. There is also a request list posted by the library shelves, please add the names of any books, magazines, etc. which you would like to see in our library/resource centre.

We have been very fortunate in receiving a large shipment of books from Canada Council on a wide variety of topics. These books are being catalogued and placed ^{on} the shelves for your use. In addition, we received a very generous donation of women's books from Rita Pierog of Tatamagouche for our library, which is very much appreciated.

This is your library and resource centre. If you desire information, education or entertainment, or a quiet place to think, read or talk, then this is the place for you. We also have children's books and toys, so bring the children with you. AWP is for all women and their children.

Please remember that AWP will be closed for the month of August and all books or resource material should be returned by the end of July or renewed until September.

The following is a partial list of some recent acquisitions:

1. "Other Choices for Becoming A Woman - A Handbook to Help High School Women Make Decisions" by J.S. Mitchell
2. "A Woman Born" by Adrienne Rich
3. "Unwholly Woman, History of Woman as a Religious Symbol" by M.L. Janz
4. "About Face - Towards A Positive Image of Women and Health" by the Ontario Status of Women Council.
5. "The Millstone" by Margaret Drabble.

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PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON PHILOSOPHY:

Women are, first and foremost, human beings, who must have the chance to develop their fullest human potential. Women can achieve such equality only by accepting to the full the challenges and responsibilities they share with all other people in our society, as part of the decision-making mainstream of political, economic and social life.

The mobilization of women to social action, without adequate preparation (in terms of acquiring knowledge and skills), almost automatically ensures the continued manipulation of the many by the few similar to what has previously occurred in the political arena.

In full recognition of the above, "A Woman's Place" identifies with women's needs in order that they might fully participate in their new role in society today. This new role or fourth dimension portrays women as a person herself, using her abilities in a changing world in contrast to the three dimensional role of women as wife, mother and housewife, an essentially passive and dependent role in a timeless world. Women are the invisible people in society today.

The realization, for women, of their presence in a world larger than themselves as individuals has profound implications, for not only women, but for men and society in general because it intrudes upon all facets of society today.

Women are people who must be free to move in society with all the privileges, opportunities and responsibilities that are their human right. The Women's Movement is thus more than an overthrow of power, it is a restructuring of institutions - a transformation of power.

Gayle Cronwell

WHAT IS A WOMAN'S PLACE TODAY?

Since the granting of female suffrage was achieved in the early part of this century, there has been little appreciable improvement in woman's place within society. Although individual women have broken the mold and demonstrated the fallacy of an all-embracing "woman's role" or woman's place" women as a group have not been able to achieve their goal of full and equal participation. Why has woman's sex role; that is the division of labor allocated by the biological determinant of sex remained essentially the same as her gender role; the division of labor allocated by cultural determinants, particularly since at the same time legal and political rights are being extended to women as explicit guarantees of the goals of the women's movement.

In law, women have achieved near equality, but in fact women have been unable to change the outside world's perception of them and moreover, seem reluctant and threatened by radical change in their gender role. The ambiguity with which women perceive themselves appears to relate to two paradoxes inherent to a woman's place in society.

The first paradox relates to the numerical equality or majority position which women hold within each class, race, ethnic or regional alignment, thus creating the potential for achievement of goals. However a universal feature of all these alignments is that women are the only group treated unequally as a whole - this cuts across these groups as a common characteristic. In other words, the goal of maintaining the subordinate status of the female transcends any differences or conflicts which appear within or between groups. This overarching value is an effective counterbalance to present legal and political measures designed to change woman's place.

WHAT IS A WOMAN'S PLACE TODAY? (Cont'd)

The second paradox relates to the intimacy within which women live with their oppressors rather than with each other. This is a biological and cultural relationship unique to subordinate/dominant groupings and acts to further segregate and separate female groupings from developing.

These paradoxes relate to a woman's place today by permeating all of women's life experiences. Women, in order to transform their place from subordinate to equal must attempt to change the entire system. The process of socialization, is an ongoing comprehensive process, with the content of the socialization severely restricting women from developing a shared identity or consciousness of the full extent of their oppression. In addition, the socialization pattern is reinforced by not only the weight of institutions but the weight of history and tradition. Any change in a woman's place constitutes not only a transformation of institutions but also a reversal of history, - a formidable task indeed!

Women must recognize and understand these major deterrents to the formation of separate women's groupings, which by definition include a shared identity and purpose. Without such groupings women remain segregated and powerless. Women must come to terms with these paradoxes and develop original strategies to accomplish their objectives or repudiate society as it now exists. Whatever decision is made, women must come together as groups to facilitate real change in a woman's place.

Gayle Crowell

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LET'S GET MORE INVOLVED!

- If you have any special expertise, ^{knowledge or interests}
- If you enjoy community service, or
- If you want to be more politically involved, and
- if you wish to become part of the governmental process,

THIS MAY BE YOUR CHANCE!

This summer

The Nova Scotia Woman's Action Committee is sponsoring a project whose aim is to compile a data bank of names of competent women in Nova Scotia ^{to be submitted to} ~~to be considered by~~ the government when ^{it appoints} ~~it~~ new members to its various boards and commissions. If you are interested in having your name, or the name of someone you know, added to this list, or if you would like additional information, please write to:

is compiling this summer

for appointments

as a source of names

Women's Data Bank Project
 c/o Peggy Morrison,
 Site 20, Box 4, R.R. 4,
 Armdale, N.S., B3L 4J4
 or call 425-5052

The list of boards and commissions and an explanatory letter from Peggy Morrison are now posted on the bulletin board outside the reception area for interested people.

A final General Meeting to finish outstanding matters, has been scheduled for July 12, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will deal with funding, the setting up of a Hiring Committee, and the content of the Orientation Group for the fall. We urge all interested women to attend this meeting. Copies of the final AWP statement relating to philosophy, decision-making, structure and organization will be available at AWP by July 15, 1978.

Women and The Arts Celebration:

More than forty women participated in the Women and the Arts Celebration sponsored by A Woman's Place-Forrest House and Halifax YWCA on Saturday, June 3, 1978. Musicians dancers, painters, photographers, weavers, writers and other artists took part in an afternoon meet - the - artists drop-in and an evening performance. A baked bean and coleslaw supper was provided by YWCA volunteers. In spite of a small attendance, response from artists and visitors was positive and the Committee is already laying plans for a second celebration next year. Anyone interested can call Brenda Bryan at 425-3823.

National Gay Rights Coalition Conference:

The sixth annual NGRC Conference was held at Dalhousie University, June 28, 1978 to July 3, 1978, hosted by the Gay Alliance For Equality, Halifax. Of particular interest to women were workshops on lesbian power within the organization, anarcha-feminism, youth liberation, older lesbians, and sexuality. A proposal that delegates votes be pro-rated to give women fifty percent control of the Coalition was hotly debated, but rejected. A workshop on feminism and gay liberation attracted a large number of gay men as well as lesbians, and produced a resolution on the solidarity of the gay with the feminist movement. Although a number of open and closet lesbians have long been active in the Halifax women's movement, no official gesture of support was made by local women's groups.

Announcements:

The Halifax Coalition for Full Employment has now set up an Unemployment Centre at 122 Roy Building 1657 Barrington Street. In addition to offering counselling services, the centre staff is developing strategies aimed at helping those individuals affected by the recent decision of the Unemployment Insurance Commission to call for repayment of benefits received in 1977 by claimants, which exceeded the legal payment period. This overpayment affected over 5,000 people in Nova Scotia, 900 in the Halifax-Dartmouth area!

The Centre plans to assist individuals with their appeals against an unfair, although strictly legal, application of law. Any person affected by this decision or interested in assisting the Coalition in this work is invited to call 423-4813.

The next general meeting of the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment has been set for August 8, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. Meeting place to be announced.

In connection with the recent United Nations talks on disarmament a coalition has been formed to participate in the Halifax Natal Day Parade. Any interested people can contact Bernadette , at 428-2515 (day) or 423-6992 (evenings). Remember the money now spent on arms could be spent on better day care centres for our children!

Interested in future happenings at A Woman's Place?
Get involved!
Be part of it.

Volunteer staff are needed to do a three hour shift a week. This involves answering the phone and talking to women who drop in.

Interested women are needed in the already developed task groups, health, child care, education, economics/employment.

All newcomers and members are encouraged to plan to attend any/all of the Orientation Group sessions which will commence in early September and deal with topics of interest to women in A Woman's Place (ie., philosophy of AWP, volunteer services)

Bus. Eng.
421-4311

Al Morris

A WOMAN'S PLACE
1225 BARRINGTON ST
HALIFAX, NS

Janet Eaton
Leslie Doolan
Women's Place

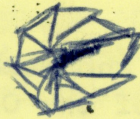
9:30 Issues
coordination

Christie Melanson,
Metro Action CBC.

4:30 this afternoon.

Sackville, 3rd floor.
receptionist

4:15



Send letter

PEGGY MORRISON
SITE 20 BOX 4
R R 4 ARMDALE
N S B3L 4B4

Diane Stevens.
19 Briarwood Court.
Lower Sackville.

Bertrude Tynes
16 Power St.
Dartmouth
6-

