One effect of a woman's only action is the creation of a role reversal. Throughout our story, despite periods of women's uprisings, men have generally been the ones to go forth, with their swords, tanks and philosophies, to bring about change. Women, generally, have stood back, supportive, loving or outraged, with children at hand—strengthened by the call on them to endure and create a life for themselves and their families.

In a woman's action, men stand back. If willing, they take on the support roles. They learn, hopefully, to be stronger, in a very different way than before. Not necessarily the intent of feminist organizers, the effect of a woman's action on men in the movement can be as empowering for those men as it is for the women themselves.

*Barbara Reale*

All those who feel the effects of violence must be willing to challenge it. And challenge it in a way that affirms our vision of a non-exploitative, non-authoritarian, non-sexist, non-armed future.

It is said that when an oppressed and frustrated group begins to have hope, that anything can happen. As evidenced by the Women's Pentagon Action, Greenham Common and many actions like them, women and all those who withdraw their cooperation are beginning to have hope. This spirit can only help energize the whole movement for peace and social justice.

*Susan Pines*

I have had the dream that women would at last be the ones to truly experiment with nonviolent struggle, discover its full force.

*Barbara Deming*

The Encampment needs your energy, contact us to get involved. Your financial help is also much in need. Make checks payable to Women's Encampment, and send to either contact.

**Local Contact:**

**Regional Office:**

**Women's Encampment**

for a Future of Peace and Justice

150 Castle St.

Geneva, New York 14456

**Why a Women's Peace Camp?**

*Hello can you stop for a talk?*

Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice

July 4th - Labor Day

at the Seneca Army Depot
The Women’s Peace Encampment grew out of the
Global Feminist Disarmament Conference in June
1982; the encampment is to be an act of sisterhood in
support of women at Greenham Common. Seeds for
believing in the effectiveness of such actions were
planted at Greenham Common; and with the Women’s
Pentagon Action; and with Women’s Strike for Peace;
and at the Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention;
and with women throughout time who have chosen to
act. This time women are choosing to act for an end to
violence against the Earth; and against the deployment
of Cruise and Pershing II missiles; against the nuclear
mentality.
-Bette Shulman

There is a unique, strong and beautiful energy that
flows among women and out from women when they
come together—a spirit and joy that is quite different
from the energy, often positive, that can be generated
from women and men coming together.

This special energy flow comes, perhaps, from the
communal expression of the feelings of care and
concern that every woman carries in her, but that are
most often expressed at the individual level, where they
must compete with, and are ruled by, dominant values
such as competition, ‘might is right,’ possession, etc. In
addition, an all-women space allows women the safety
to feel the anger towards male domination—in all
its expressions—that is inside us. We are more easily
able to move beyond anger because there are no
representatives of the source of that anger among us.

Women need occasions such as the Women’s Peace
Camp to share this safe, joyous energy in order to
affirm our belief in and hope for a future and the
possibility of living peacefully together.

For these, and other reasons an all-women’s peace
camp is an essential part of the struggle against
militarism and sexism. Activities involving women and
men are just as essential, for different reasons.
-Helen Durie

I’m 64-years-old. All my life up to the time my father
died I listened to him telling my mother over and over
“What do you know...you don’t know anything.” In
my own marriage of 35 years, my husband has never
asked “what do you think?” and when I tell him
anyhow, he always disagrees with me even when he
agrees. It has taken me a long time working on women’s
actions to find out just how dumb and smart I can be.

I’m leaving out all the other steps of the way which
have led me to believe the following and with all my
heart; that as women we have to set up a separate
consciousness about our ties to this “Patriarchy” that
can no longer preserve life on earth. We may have to
think the unthinkable like the Women’s camp at
Comiso have begun to do. I don’t know. But now, for
this time our peace camp, we as women need to be by
ourselves without men’s voices to blur the issues.

Anyhow even if we disagree and complain all
summer, I for one won’t want to hear some man’s
voice saying “Oh, you women, you’re all alike, always
complaining!”

-Joan Durant

We don’t think that women have a special role in
the peace movement because we are naturally more
peaceful, more protective, or more vulnerable than
men. Nor do we look to women as Earth Mothers
who will save the planet from male aggression. Rather,
we believe that it is this very division that makes the
horrors of war possible. The so-called masculine, manly
qualities of toughness, dominance, not showing
emotion or admitting dependence, can be seen as the
driving force behind war; but they depend on women
playing the opposite (but not equal) role, in which the
caring qualities are associated with inferiority and
powerlessness. So women’s role in peacekeeping should
not be conciliatory but assertive, breaking out of our
role, forcing men to accept women’s ideas and
organization, forcing them to do their own caring. Women
have for too long provided the mirrors in which men see
their aggression as an heroic quality, and themselves
magnified larger than life. Nuclear technology is built
on the arrogance and confidence of mastery (over
nature as well as women) which this has fed.

-Keeping the Peace, p. 23

To me, it is a vast statement that no longer will
women sit back and allow men to make the decisions
alone which affect the entire globe.
-Rebecca Linsner

An action of this length without men...allows for
creativity and a community unique within the American
peace networks with the possibility of a totally new
direction emerging from the acknowledgement of
women’s experience.
-Terry Faatz

You might say that women’s culture and women’s
politics have had the same fate and history as (that of)
other colonized peoples, and now we must give
expression to these (our own culture and identity).
-Vera Williams

Throughout history, in all the world’s warring,
 feminist process has never been used for conflict
resolution.
-Helene Aylon

Greenham Common did not start as an intentional
women-only peace camp, but women quickly learned
that women together can find ways of working which
are cooperative, supportive, and effective. In order to
make peace in the world, people need to develop these
skills. Men are by-and-large socialized to be
competitive, to pay no attention to feelings, to use
strength and threats of violence to get their way.
Women who have worked in mixed peace groups often
find their voices stifled, their ideas ridiculed, their
feelings ignored. Women together have developed a
process for sharing these feelings, for ensuring that each
one is heard and respected.
-Myrna Greenfield

We’ve taken (women’s) space and in it we are finding
ourselves. But I think there’s a deep difference between
affirming this as a necessity for a time and making the
metaphysical statement that for all the time to come
men are fated to be what they are now under patriarchy.
-Barbara Deming

My fantasy is that a group of women and men will
decide that it is crucial to make the connections between
feminism and militarism, and that the most effective
way to do that is a women-only action.
-Carol Baum