

*It starts when you care to act,
It starts when you do it again after they say no,
It starts when you say WE and know who you mean,
And each day you mean one more.*

—Marge Piercy

One effect of a women's only action is the creation of a role reversal. Throughout *ourstory*, 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 women'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 women'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.

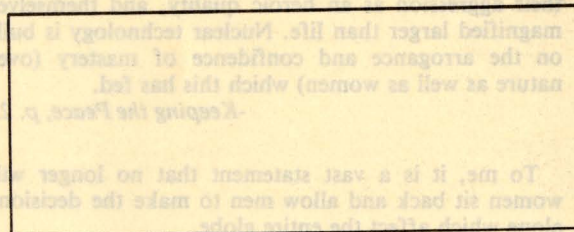
—Susan Pines

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**

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Geneva, New York 14456

Why a Women's Peace Camp?



**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

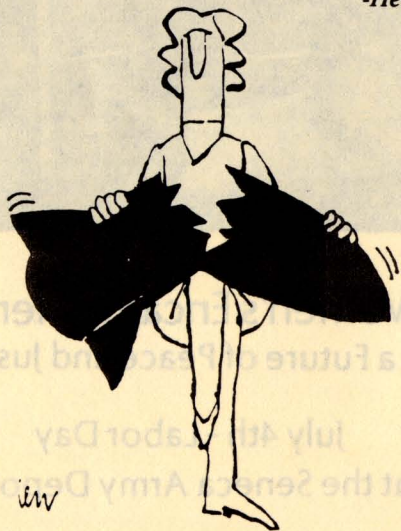
There is a unique, strong and beautiful energy that flows among women and out from women when they come together—a spirit and joy that is quite different from the energy, often positive, that can be generated from women and men coming together.

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 sure don'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 peacemaking 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