

BACKGROUND

Brought together by the Women and Africa Development programme of the ^{African} American Institute, a planning committee met in Harare, Zimbabwe in December 1982 and agreed on the need for this conference and discussed the conference format. Funding for the conference has been provided by: the Carnegie Corporation; the Ford Foundation; the Pathfinder Fund; the Africa Programme and the Intermedia Programmes of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; and the Rockefeller Foundation. A secretariat has conducted preparations working cooperatively with the Ministry of community Development and Women's Affairs of Zimbabwe.

PURPOSES

To bring together representatives of agencies and organizations, and individuals in Southern Africa (defined by the Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference), as well as committed international organizations to study the facts of Women's lives in the region and strategies for change.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:-

- To look at how women relate to the economies and policies of development in Southern African countries
- To look at how different institutions-- i.e. politics, the church, media, education, community development organization, etc.-- impact womens lives
- To share existing information about women in Southern Africa, about resources for women and to build communication networks
- To strategize on policies, activities and structures for advancing women, to be reported throughout the region

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

These sessions, to include no more than 20 people, are where in depth discussion and strategizing are to take place. Group leader(s) will present the issues to begin with, followed by discussion. Volunteers are needed for groups where no name is indicated. Each session should identify a rapporteur in the beginning who will record important comments and group recommendations. These should be turned in at the office immediately after the session.

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition of photographs of Women in Southern Africa is by South African photographer George Hallett. Another exhibition, Women in Zimbabwe, coordinated by Kate Truscott, can be seen opposite the Conference Room at the Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs.

REPORTS

A printed report will be made available to all conference participants. Additionally, a videotape to be produced on the themes of the conference will be distributed via conference participants for viewing in participating countries, hopefully by a wider audience.

(Any changes in the Agenda will be announced daily)

Women in Southern Africa Conference: Strategies for Change

November 16-19, 1982, Harare, Zimbabwe