

# THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES FUND.

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## That the Lights may Shine Again.

NOW the lamps are being lighted up again in the darkness of Europe. We are beginning to know what has happened in the occupied countries. We have learnt something about the devastation and dislocation, the hardship and privation endured in all the countries from which the enemy has been driven. The suffering is by no means ended. The common needs of all people—food, fuel and shelter—are far from being supplied. And beyond these there are the special needs of different sections of the community, needs of the mind and of the spirit.

The British Federation of University Women is asking for help to meet some of these special needs. In every country occupied by the Nazis, schools and universities have been marked down for destructive attention. In some countries as in Poland, the teaching profession has been almost eliminated, the aim of the Nazis being to degrade the nation to a state of illiterate slavery. Everywhere libraries have either been destroyed or efficiently purged of all books not serviceable to Nazi ideology.

The heroic resistance of great numbers of teachers and students has been magnificent, but the price paid has been heavy. Apart from the imprisonment, torture and death of many members of the teaching profession, a host of others inspired by the same undaunted spirit have worked through years of incessant strain and anxiety. They need rest and refreshment; they need opportunities to recover their contact with the outside world and the intellectual life from which they have been completely cut off during the war; they need books and equipment.

Fortunately the British Federation of University Women has the means of communicating with University Women abroad through the other branches of the International Federation of University Women, founded twenty-five years ago for the promotion of understanding and friendship among the University Women of all nations.

From its foundation to the outbreak of the second world war, the International Federation grew and prospered. Travelling fellowships were endowed, exchanges of teachers were arranged,

clubhouses were opened, hospitality for travellers was organised. The purpose of the Federation was achieved.

Although the war interrupted the normal work of the International Federation, the spirit of friendship remained. In the occupied countries members of the national Associations took very grave risks to help internees and refugee members from other countries. Relief was organised, funds were collected and distributed, board and lodging provided, facilities for study arranged wherever possible. And the Associations continued to hold meetings in secret.

Now that communication is being re-established, the British Federation of University Women hope to give practical effect to their keen desire to help in the reconstruction of the intellectual life of Europe by raising a sum of £25,000 for the assistance of university women of occupied and liberated countries. This assistance will be available in the British Isles and, subject to Treasury sanction, also in other countries, for the following purposes:—

- (1) Relief of material needs by the provision of books, clothing and professional equipment.
- (2) Provision of facilities for rest and recuperation.
- (3) Refresher courses for scholars and teachers who need facilities to study their special subjects and make good the gaps in their mental equipment.
- (4) Scholarships for those who have been deprived of the chance of systemically pursuing their proper studies.

The proposals outlined here do not represent the full reconstruction programme of the British Federation of University Women. They are first aid measures, and their value to our friends and comrades who have lived and worked through the years of Nazi domination depends on the speed with which they can be realised. Contributions to the £25,000 Fund are urgently needed. Will you help us to relight the lamps in the devastated and occupied countries? If our help is to be effective it must be prompt.

# British Federation of University Women,

LTD.

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THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, represents women graduates in Great Britain, and is the Association through which they contribute to the welfare of the community as a whole, encourage learning and research, and promote friendship between University Women of all nations.

THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES FUND has been founded by the British Federation of University Women to promote the welfare and re-habilitation of University women of occupied and liberated countries who have suffered by reason of the war.

The Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad, of which the British Federation of University Women, Ltd., is a member, is the officially recognised British body for the co-ordination of voluntary relief effort and has approved this appeal.