

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

WOMEN'S SERVICE

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),  
55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

Vol. XXXVI. No. 11.

15th November, 1950.

Price Fourpence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,  
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;  
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,  
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

Francis Thompson.

## Mère Jahouvey—Apostle to the Blacks\*

By BARBARA BARCLAY CARTER

It is with the above title that Georges Goyau, the famous French Catholic writer, presents the life of the Venerable Mother Jahouvey, the Burgundian village girl who, by her sanctity and administrative genius, became at once a pioneer of missionary work and an outstanding figure in French colonial history.

Her girlhood passed among the persecutions of the Terror, which found her already to the fore in hiding fugitive priests, in preparing for secret celebrations of Mass at her father's farm, in teaching catechism in field or barn so that the Faith might be kept alive in the absence of its ministers. The dispersed religious orders had not reformed themselves when in 1798 she took the vows of a religious; two years later a community of Sisters of Charity at Besançon received her as a novice. Then, on the eve of her clothing, she drew back. After a day of heart-searchings had come a dream in which St. Teresa presented to her an assembly of negroes and mulattoes, all bearing agricultural tools in their hands, with the words "These are the children God gives you." As yet she knew nothing of other races than the white.

Three years of teaching, with the faithful aid of her three younger sisters; then the Trappist order allured her. Again at the moment of her clothing she was dissuaded, this time by her confessor Dom Lestrangé, who discerned that her mission was to found a Congregation of her own. Of this Congregation she and her sisters formed the nucleus; in 1805 when Pius VII passed Chalon, returning from the coronation of Napoleon, they besought him to give it authorisation. Two years more, and the Order of St. Joseph was solemnly recognised; by that time, transferred to Chalon, it had given birth to a big school in which over two hundred children learned besides their ordinary lessons spinning and carding on the newest methods. From Chalon the new Order spread; Cluny became its mother-house. Then Mère Jahouvey was in Paris, founding a school on the then suspiciously modern Lancaster system, proving so successful as to attract the attention of the Government. This attention showed itself

finally in a request for her co-operation in forming schools and hospitals in the tropical colonies; the way had opened for the fulfilment of her dream.

It was to West Africa that the first contingents of Sisters went, and there, in 1822, after five years spent in consolidation, Mère Jahouvey joined them. Spiritually and economically the African colonies were in a state of crisis. The missionary impulse had run dry, while the suppression of the slave trade by the Treaty of Vienna had deprived Senegal of its chief trade. Mère Jahouvey, supported by the Government of the Restoration, sought to make of these trading posts an agricultural colony. Wherever she went, schools and hospitals were formed, till even the Governor of English Gambia sought her aid. ("The English," she wrote, "have no idea of a decently equipped hospital!") From the first she took the negroes to her heart, envisaging native priests and native nuns; with this aim she founded a special seminary in France; and though only three of her Senegalese students reached the priesthood, her attitude has now become the official attitude of the Church.

Her competence as a colonist led the Government in 1828 to send her to French Guiana in tropical America at the head of a band of emigrants. At Mana under her direction plantations were made and roads built, she herself tracing the road to Cayenne, going on foot through 125 miles of forest. Only the jealousy of the slave-owning planters of Cayenne, spreading discouragement among her colonists, withheld from the enterprise the success it deserved.

On her return to France, where Louis Philippe had supplanted Charles X as King, she found a Government anxious to make an end of slavery and ready to enlist the co-operation of her Congregation, now scattered through every colony, in preparing the slaves for future freedom. "Mère Jahouvey is a *great man*," cried Louis Philippe after hearing her plans. And in 1838, as an experiment, the Government agreed to make over to her 500 liberated slaves for a settlement at Mana.

\* Reprinted from the "Catholic Citizen," 15th April, 1930.

In her hands Mana now became a model colony, producing sugar, tapioca, rice, bananas, timber, stock, and rum. Her powers were absolute; she would allow no interference and no whites beyond the Sisters of her congregation. Under her firm and maternal rule her negroes awoke to an understanding of civilisation and Christianity. Meanwhile jealousies pursued her. In France, the Bishop of Autun, loth to see a woman head of a potent Congregation, claimed that office for himself, and, meeting with refusal, with the support of the Archbishop of Paris sought to dissolve the Order. In Guiana, the slave-owners, seeing in her a forerunner of emancipation, sought and won the alliance of the Apostolic Prefect; but for the encyclical of Gregory XVI in favour of emancipation, he would have ordered her departure; as it was he deprived her of the Sacraments. To-day her Congregation numbers 4,000, and her cause of canonisation is in process.

She had returned to France when the Republic of 1848, influenced by Lamartine, for long her friend and supporter, proclaimed the emancipation of the slaves. Admitted to the franchise, the negroes of Mana cried with one voice, "We vote for our Mother General," and could not understand when it was told them that this could not be.

#### " St. Joan's Australia."

From New South Wales comes the first number of "St. Joan's Australia," an attractive production with a drawing of St. Joan on the cover. The magazine is intended to weld together the different Sections of the Alliance in Australia, both in spirit and activity. It is at present edited by Mrs. Jean Daly, President of the New South Wales Section. This number contains an account of the formation of the N.S.W. Section, a report of its work, and reports from the South Australia and West Australia Sections.

A personal note pays tribute to Miss Margaret Flynn, "the founder of St. Joan's in Australia, to which cause she has given herself unstintingly for the past fourteen years," and records the farewell party given to her in Melbourne before she left to attend St. Joan's International Conference.

New South Wales is greatly to be congratulated on its enterprise in producing this new publication.

From the Catholic Action Girls' Organisation, 22, Bramham Gardens, S.W.5, we have received a sample of charming Christian Christmas cards, priced very reasonably. For the past ten years this organisation has published its own cards, not only as a means of financial support, but still more with the object of encouraging everyone to send only Christian cards—an object in which we heartily concur.

#### BACKGROUND TO ST. JOAN'S.

On Friday, December 8th, there will be a party to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the day when Gabrielle Jeffery and May Kendall decided to found the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. Early members of the Society will give an account of the foundation and beginnings of the Alliance. Among the speakers will be Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., Miss Gadsby (an original member of the C.W.S.S.), Miss Annie Christitch and Miss Eleanor FitzGerald.

The party will be at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1 (near Sloane Square) at 6.30 p.m. Come and bring your friends. Please apply at the office for tickets, 2/6 (which include refreshments) not later than December 5th.

On October 30th, a meeting was held at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, by kind permission of the Rev. Mother. Miss Challoner presided and Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, Dr. Shattock, Miss Monica Munro and Miss Margaret Vaile gave graphic accounts of the Rome pilgrimage and conference of St. Joan's International Alliance.

The meeting was well attended and those members who had not been privileged to be in Rome, were enthusiastic in their reception of the speakers.

#### Only Ten Days More.

The Christmas Sale is upon us once more. The date—Saturday, November 25th; the place—St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Send your gift to the office at once, priced if possible. We are hoping for a record attendance this year, so do come along yourself between noon and 5.30 with your friends and buy. Have lunch and tea at the Sale and go home with your Christmas presents and a happy heart knowing that you have done something worthwhile. Is £200 too much to ask? Surely not when it is for our own St. Joan's.

On October 3rd a letter reached the office addressed to Miss Carr, Hon. Treasurer of the Alliance. Owing to an unfortunate accident the letter disappeared before being opened and is unrecoverable. Will the member who has not received an acknowledgement of her letter kindly notify the office of its contents.

NOREEN K. CARR, Hon. Treasurer.

A great debt of gratitude is also due to Miss Jameson who took charge of the office during the absence in Rome of the chairman and secretary.

#### Notes and Comments

With the whole Catholic world, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance rejoices in the definition of the dogma of the Assumption on November 1st.

"May our benign Mother assumed to the glory of heaven . . . obtain from her Divine Son that peace which is based, as on a most solid foundation, on the tranquillity of order, on the just treatment of citizens and peoples, and on the liberty and dignity due to all." (Allocution of His Holiness Pope Pius XII at the semi-private Consistory in the *Aula delle Benediziones*, at which 35 Cardinals and 485 Bishops gave their formal approval to the Holy Father's decision to proceed with the definition of the dogma).

Miss Margaret Flynn and Mrs. Lalor from Melbourne were privileged to be present in St. Peter's during the Pontifical Mass on November 1st and represented St. Joan's International Alliance.

In view of the beatification of Blessed Anne Marie Jahouvey, we thought it would interest our readers if we reproduced the article by Miss Barbara Barclay Carter, which appears on the front page of this issue. The Alliance was represented by Dr. Grace Monro at the beatification in St. Peter's on October 15th, 1950.

The *Catholic Citizen* stall at the "Garden Party" at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, during the Restoration of the Hierarchy Centenary Celebrations, was decked out attractively in the colours of St. Joan's Alliance with the beautiful banner of St. Joan on horseback as a background.

In spite of the incessant rain, many visitors were attracted to the stall and there was a brisk sale of papers and much interest shown in the work of the Alliance. The collecting-box for subscriptions to the *Catholic Citizen* to be sent to missionaries was well patronised.

The Alliance is grateful to Miss Carr and Miss Jameson who so ably prepared and manned the stall.

A warm invitation to hold the Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance in 1951 in Cologne was received from the German Section of the Alliance, and was gratefully accepted.

It was cheering to find again our young friends, Margaret O'Connor and Paula O'Brien, both now working in Rome. All owe them a debt of gratitude for the immense amount of clerical help they gave so willingly and efficiently.

We congratulate Miss Mary Birtwistle on her marriage to Mr. Patrick J. Pritchard and Madame Leroy-Boy on the birth of her fourth son.

We associate ourselves wholeheartedly with the following protest:

The National Union of Women Teachers has learned with profound indignation of the recommendations of the Burnham Committee by which the present differentiation in rates of pay for men and women teachers will not merely be retained but increased.

In agreeing to an increase in the maximum basic salary for a woman at four-fifths of that for a man, in perpetuating the £3 difference in the increment rate for men and women, and in increasing the difference between the graduates' allowances for men and women from £6 to £12, the Teachers' Panel of the Burnham Committee has lost a golden opportunity of making a first move towards the establishment of equal pay for men and women teachers. We believe that, at this time, when there is a grave shortage of women teachers, it is nothing short of disastrous to put forward recommendations for a scale of salaries so weighted against women. It is useless to say that the country cannot afford equal pay, for it has been shown over and over again that the country can find the means to pay for what it regards as essential. We would, too, criticise the proposal to base a scheme of additional allowances for special posts on the "unit" total of children in the schools. Once again, the women will suffer since the younger children, who are almost always taught by women, have the lowest "unit" value.

We record with regret the death of Mrs. Barbara Bodichon Ayrton Gould on October 14th. She and her mother, the scientist, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, were prominent workers in the Woman Suffrage Campaign—she herself being the secretary of the United Suffragists. For many years she was a member of the Standing Joint Committee of Working Women's Organisations. From 1945 to 1950 she sat in Parliament as Labour Member for Hendon North.

When the British Nationality Bill, 1948, was before Parliament, Mrs. Ayrton Gould was of great service, and was successful in ensuring that alien women desirous of acquiring British citizenship on marriage should be obliged to take the oath of allegiance like other citizens. She was one of the speakers at the victory dinner to celebrate the passing of this Bill.

The Alliance mourns the death of George Bernard Shaw on November 2nd. We honour him as an ardent champion of woman suffrage and we hope to publish a tribute to him in the next issue of the *Catholic Citizen* by Miss Christopher St. John.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor,*  
"Catholic Citizen."

## St. Joan's International Conference in Rome

On the beautiful sunny morning of the 2nd of October, I rang the bell of the Convent Istituto Ravasco. The villa, situated in one of the residential parts of Rome—filled with pilgrims and students—shone in the splendid sunshine of the Italian autumn. Through its iron gate pink and white oleanders peeped out. A sister wearing a black lace veil opened the gate.

The Conference of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance was to begin that day. But although the delegates had already arrived some days before from many parts of the world, nobody was to be seen in the hall. They were assisting at holy Mass celebrated by the Rev. Father Doyle, for the success of the Conference.

While the noise of the Roman traffic was heard through the open windows of the conference room, work went on for two days.

Those present at the Conference were the President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., Vice-Presidents Madame Pesson Depret (France) and Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany).

Delegates and members were present from Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, New South Wales, Victoria and the West Indies. It was sad that National Sections from Brazil, Holland, Malta, South Australia, the Transvaal, and West Australia were unable to send delegates.

Among apologies and greetings received was a letter from Don Luigi Sturzo, founder of the Partito Popolare and a member of the Alliance for many years (see page 79); from Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E.; Mrs. Tenison Woods, O.B.E.; Mademoiselle Lenoël; Madame Russo; Madame Leroy-Boy; Dr. Marga Klompé; Dr. Eileen Hickey, M.P.; Mrs. Anna Lenah Elgstrom, and the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations. Cables were received from the Treasurer, Madame Marthe Gouffé, Dr. Isabel Heath and from St. Joan's in Melbourne.

In opening the Conference, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews spoke of the privilege of meeting in Rome during the Holy Year. She

welcomed the delegates, particularly mentioning Miss Margaret Flynn, who had founded St. Joan's Alliance in Australia more than fifteen years ago, and had made the special journey from Melbourne to attend the Conference.

Dame Vera outlined the objects of the Alliance and said that the first object and *raison d'être* of the Alliance was to promote the equality of the sexes. Considering what the status of women was in some countries, she felt that this must remain the first aim of the Alliance for many years.

The morning session began with the formal admission of the new Section of South Australia, which was warmly welcomed. News was given of the progress in several other countries where members hoped to form National Sections.

The Secretary, Miss F. Barry, then reported on the work done in collaboration with the National Sections with the United Nations, particularly regarding Human Rights, the Slavery Committee and the International Labour Conference. Resolutions dealing with these subjects will be found on page 78.

In reply to the Questionnaire of the Slavery Committee, a Memorandum was sent in by the Alliance. This contained much first-hand valuable evidence largely collected by l' Alliance Jeanne d'Arc in France and by St. Joan's Alliance in Great Britain.

The Conference was gratified that its work on the Draft Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, was successful in regard to Article 6, which was included in the Convention in the form desired by the Alliance. The Conference was also gratified that arising out of the Petition of the Alliance to the Trusteeship Council concerning compulsory marriage and child marriage, the Visiting Mission to the British Cameroons had made valuable recommendations. (These were printed in the *Catholic Citizen* of May, 1950).

Copies of the Questionnaire issued by the Status of Women Commission on Family Law and the

Property Rights of Women were distributed to delegates.

Resolutions embodying the basic policy of the Alliance were re-affirmed (see page 78).

The President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews; Treasurer, Madame Marthe Gouffé, and Secretary, Miss F. Barry, were invited to continue in office for another year and were re-elected. The existing Vice-Presidents were also re-elected and Miss Margaret Flynn was elected a Vice-President on the nomination of Great Britain.

It was unanimously agreed to have one simple constitution for adoption by all National Sections.

The reports from National Sections were then given showing valuable political work in many fields.

The President spoke of the value to the movement of the *Catholic Citizen* and regretted the unavoidable absence of the Editor, Miss Christine Spender. She stressed the importance of each Section having a News Sheet however short, that could be inserted in the *Catholic Citizen*, and congratulated the New South Wales Section on having had the enterprise to produce a paper of their own.

During the morning session of October 3rd, the Conference was honoured by the visit of two Catholic women Members of the Italian Parliament, Signora Colini Lombardi and Signora Gotelli, who both addressed the Conference. The President reminded the Conference of the Abolitionist Bill now before the Italian Senate, and said that women in all countries were hoping for its success. Another M.P., Signora Jervolino, called at the convent and discussed the work of the Alliance with the officers.

Two days later, on the 5th of October, our new Italian friends invited the delegates to visit the Chamber of Deputies. In the spacious hall of Monte Citorio, Signora Jervolino and her women colleagues of the Christian Democratic Party met the visitors and entertained them to a sumptuous tea. Delegates then had the honour of being received by the President of the Chamber, Signor Gronchi, in his private reception room furnished with a big oak table and old carved Renaissance chairs. Dame Vera presented Frau Brauksiepe, Member of the Parliament of Western Germany and other leaders of delegations. Women have been our most valuable collaborators ever since being in Parliament, said Signor Gronchi to one of the delegates. Dame Vera spoke of the interest of the Alliance in the Abolitionist Bill before the Italian Parliament. It was pleasant to build up new contacts with the hope that in the near future the Alliance will be able to work together with them on the basis of Catholicism and feminism.

Some days later a special visit was paid to Senator Angelina Merlin, the promoter of the

Abolitionist Bill, in the Senate, where it was a joy to see her sitting beside the President in her capacity as a member of the President's Council.

This charming grey-haired lady spoke of the difficulties she had to surmount, the prejudices of many colleagues, not to speak of the insults of vested interests. "But we shall win," she said. "We shall have at the end of this month the Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation where delegates from many countries will strengthen us in the fight."

The most touching moments of this Holy Year Conference were the Audience with the Holy Father and the Holy Year Pilgrimage exercises.

Driving out to Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of the Pope, the coach passed through the famous and historical Campagna and by the old Roman aqueducts, and as it approached the hills of the Castelli Romani, the Papal Palace and the walls of this small provincial town appeared like a castle of the fairy tales of childhood. The long, narrow, medieval piazza in front of the palace was already crowded many hours before the audience. At the booths, Italian vendors were busy selling pious objects to be blessed by the Pope. The eyes of the pilgrims were directed to the big clock of the facade waiting for the stroke to signal the opening of the gates of the Papal court. The pilgrims were prepared to meet the sovereign of the Church as He is seen at the ceremonies at St. Peter's, carried on His throne and giving His blessing to the faithful. But—on the iron balcony of Castel Gandolfo above our heads—a smiling white-robed Father appeared, with friendly gestures, speaking all languages and radiating such benignity that few eyes remained dry. The spirituality of His personality inspired all the pilgrims. He was heard to say, "We love you all, you are our children," and all felt moved to work with him and for Him.

The Jubilee visit to the four Basilicas was a worthy closing to the Conference. The prayers were led by Christopher Laughton Mathews, student at the Venerable English College and son of the President of St. Joan's International Alliance. The procession, headed by St. Joan's blue and gold banner, carried by an Australian and a West Indian delegate, behind the cross and burning candles, symbols of our faith and ardour, made a lasting impression.

The Convent of Ravasco, with its most kind Reverendissima Madre and her community, said farewell to the delegates. In the homely dining room the interchange of opinions stopped, and members took leave of each other and of Rome, but none will forget the atmosphere of this Conference from which fighting feminists may take home with them not only the feeling of a work well done, but also the blessings of the Holy Year.

MAGDA DE SPUR,

Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Citizen*.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE CONFERENCE OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, ROME, 1950.**

**Draft First International Covenant of Human Rights.**

1. *Sex Discrimination.* St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes Article 17 of the Draft First International Covenant of Human Rights, which states:

"All are equal before the law; all shall be accorded equal protection of the law without any discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, or social origin, property, birth, or other status."

2. St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to press for:

(a) *Right of Petition.* In the measures for implementation of the Covenant, the right, not only of States, but of groups and individuals, to petition the United Nations in respect of violations of human rights.

(b) *Marriage.* The inclusion in the Covenant of an Article on marriage declaring that—

(i) All persons shall have equality before the law in all matrimonial questions; no marriage shall be contracted before the age of 14, and without the free consent of both intending spouses;

(ii) Marriage and the family shall be protected by the State and Society;

(iii) The family deriving from marriage is best protected by a system of monogamy.

(c) *Medical.* The deletion in Article 4 of the words "involving risk, where such is not required by his state of physical or mental health." The Article then to read:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected against his will to medical or scientific experimentation."

(d) *Social Rights.* The inclusion of Articles on economic, social and cultural rights.

**Slavery.**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the appointment of the *ad hoc* Committee on Slavery, and notes with satisfaction that, in its Questionnaire to Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations, the Committee includes such customs analogous to slavery as purchase of wives, inheritance of widows, pledging and pawning of persons for debt, and all forms of prostitution of women and children involving exercise of ownership over them.

St. Joan's International Alliance submits for the consideration of the *ad hoc* Committee the following suggestions as methods of attacking these problems:

1. The free and full consent of both spouses should be indispensable to the validity of a marriage.
2. No marriage contract should be made for any girl under 14 years.
3. The age for legal majority should be fixed at 18 years for men and women, and women over this age should be free to marry without their parents' consent.
4. It should be laid down that payment of dowry is not necessary for a valid marriage and that no cases arising out of payment or non-payment of money or gifts may be brought before the tribunal.
5. Severe penalties should be laid down for those who, through violence, threats or abuse of authority, have compelled, or attempted to compel, a woman to accept or to break a marriage against her will.
6. The right of appeal against coercion in marriage should be publicly proclaimed and effectively enforced.

7. There should be no lending out of wives under any pretext.

8. There should be no inheritance of widows. They should be free to dispose of themselves and their children as they think fit, remain with the husband's family, go back to their own, be independent or remarry.

9. A Christian marriage ordinance should be established and Christian rights and obligations recognised.

**3. International Labour Conference and Equal Pay.**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to instruct their delegates to the International Labour Conference, 1951, to press for the adoption of a Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.

*St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms, with slight amendments, the following Resolutions passed at its Council Meeting in Brussels in 1947:*

**Political Rights.**

St. Joan's Alliance expresses its satisfaction that equal franchise and eligibility for men and women have been granted in so many countries. It calls upon those Governments, which have not already done so, to grant women the same political rights as men.

**Economic Rights.**

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon all Governments to establish equal pay for equal work for men and women throughout their services with equal opportunities for training, employment and promotion. It demands that in all labour legislation, equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease; that all insurance or pension schemes shall be based on a system of equal contributions and equal benefits for men and women.

**Education.**

St. Joan's Alliance believes that it is essential for a peaceful democracy that education should be based on religion and spiritual values.

St. Joan's Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Trust Territories to ensure that in all schemes of education, equal opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

**Marriage.**

St. Joan's Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and without the intention to restrict procreation by artificial means.

It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother shall be rescinded.

(i) A married woman should have the same rights as other citizens—

(a) regarding nationality and domicile;  
(b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.

(ii) A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage.

(iii) There should be no legal bar to a woman undertaking work outside the home.

(iv) The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognised that both are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.

**Equal Moral Standard.**

(a) St. Joan's Alliance reaffirms its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes. It calls upon all Governments to abolish State regulation of prostitution and to make all third party exploitation of vice a legal offence.

(b) St. Joan's Alliance demands that laws to safeguard public order shall apply equally to men and women; and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease shall be free, voluntary and confidential.

**Letter from Don Luigi Sturzo.**

Rome, 2nd October, 1950.

Dear Miss Barry,

As a member since 1925, and as I am unable to attend the Triennial Conference of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance which opens to-day in Rome, I feel it a duty to send this letter.

Here, in this same Rome, in 1920, at an International Feminist Conference, presided over by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, I sent my greetings, being then political secretary of the Partito Popolare Italiano. And it was you and Mrs. Crawford, and Barbara Barclay Carter, and the same Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who were the first to have received me as a friend in London in November, 1924, when I was forced by circumstances to seek foreign hospitality. These memories come back to me to-day when you, the honorary secretary, with constancy and fidelity almost unique, continue to direct an international feminist movement in the name of Christian principles and social ideals strongly felt and ardently put into practice.

To you and to all your colleagues in all parts of the world at a moment when the rights of human personality are openly violated and trampled upon, I send my most fervent good wishes for success. With most cordial greetings to you all.

Yours very devotedly,

LUIGI STURZO.

**Switzerland.**

On Tuesday, September 26th, the Hon Secretary of the Alliance had the pleasure of meeting members of the local group of the Union of Catholic Women for Civil Rights in Basel. Madame Freuler-Bühler hospitably entertained the group under its chairman, Mrs. Cutz-Odermatt, at her charming home. The U.C.W.C.R. is a very live society, working for votes for women and equal civil rights with men. It carries on propaganda fortnightly in the Press. Miss Barry was given a warm welcome and spoke of the work of St. Joan's International Alliance and answered many questions.

The following morning, in Zurich, Miss Barry had the privilege of a talk with the President of the Union, Madame Lehner, who came with Miss Rosa Louis from the group in St. Gall. It was a great pleasure to meet some old friends and to make contact with new ones.

**INTERNATIONAL NOTES.**

**Bosnia-Herzegovina.** On September 27th a law prohibiting the wearing of the veil by Muslim women was passed by the People's Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina amid great enthusiasm. A large group of Muslim women later entered the Assembly Hall without their veils. The menfolk of Bosnia-Herzegovina had thirty days in which to become accustomed to the new decree, after which veiling would be penalised and any attempts to keep women veiled by "misuse of religious feeling" or by force, blackmail or threats would also be punished.

The head of the Muslim Community in Yugoslavia declared against the veil in August, when he said that veils were an obstacle to the equality of the sexes, which was "one of the most precious results of the liberation struggle of our people."

**Germany.** The twenty-seven women M.P.s are serving in an official capacity on sixty-four offices on the thirty-nine Committees of the Bundestag, some of them serving on two or three Committees. The largest representation of women is on the Public Welfare Committee, where there are seven women out of fifteen members, and on the Welfare of Youth Committee, where six out of the fifteen members are women. On the Public Health Committee women constitute a third of the voting power. There is only one woman on the Housing and Reconstruction Committee, none on the committees dealing with Occupation Affairs, E.R.P. Questions, and Building and Ground Laws.

**Haiti.** The Alliance has received a letter from Madame Sylvain Boucherou, President of La Ligue Feminine d' Action Sociale, saying that the First National Conference of Haitian Women held in April had passed a resolution asking the Government to give civil and political rights to women in agreement with the United Nations' Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Members of a Constitutional Assembly have been elected to draft a new Constitution for the country, and the women of Haiti are now conducting an active campaign to obtain equal rights in the new Constitution. The outlook, they say, is fair but they "need very much to be supported by the pressure of international public opinion."

St. Joan's Alliance trusts that the Members of the Constitutional Assembly will give their support to the request of the women of Haiti for equal civil and political rights with men in the new Constitution.

**Malta.** Of the seven women candidates at the recent elections for the Legislative Council, two were members of the Women of Malta Association which is affiliated to St. Joan's International Alliance. They were the Hon. Mabel Strickland,

who was elected, and Mrs. Therese Vassallo; both stood as candidates of the Constitutional Party.

\* \* \*

**Panama.** Senora Maria Santo Dominigo de Miranda, Minister of Labour, Social Welfare and Public Health, is the first woman to be appointed Cabinet Minister in Panama. She is directly responsible for all hospitals, asylums, reformatory schools and the Social Security System; aqueducts also come under her care, as well as the weekly national lottery. Close on one-seventh of this year's budget is under her administration.

Senora de Miranda was formerly a school teacher and was the first woman to become head of a political party. For many years she has been a staunch supporter of the President, Dr. Arnulfo Arias. By him, during his former Presidency, she was appointed Inspector General of the Ministry of Education and she suffered imprisonment when his régime was under investigation. When returned to power, in 1949, Senora de Miranda was given the post of second secretary of the Minister of Labour, Social Welfare and Public Health, and last June was appointed Cabinet Minister.

\* \* \*

**United Nations' Day.** On October 24th the United Nations celebrated its fifth birthday. In his message for that day Mr. Trygve Lie, after saying that we must not fail in patient working for peace and for higher living standards, explained that by "we" he did not mean only the Governments of the member States of the United Nations or the members of its Secretariat. "By 'we' I mean all of us, all men and women of good will. The United Nations is our United Nations, its strength derives in the last analysis from all the peoples of the world who are united in hatred of war and in hope for a better life for everyone, everywhere."

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

*From the "Catholic Citizen," November 15th, 1925.*

At the first Autumn Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, our member, Miss A. M. F. Cole, moved a resolution on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance, against the export of live horses for butchery; the resolution was signed by sixteen societies. We are proud of the splendid work done by Miss Cole in her campaign to save these poor animals from cruel suffering. The Report of the Departmental Committee on the export of horses, to which we shall return next month, will add to the difficulties which Miss Cole and her colleagues are encountering in getting this shameful traffic stopped, but stopped it must be, though the Committee seem to have allowed themselves to be hoodwinked. Evidence given before the Committee of Enquiry into the Conditions of the Export of Horses for Butchery, proves the great cruelty of this traffic; and the fact that horses were—and probably still are—killed with the knife in certain villages. It is unfortunate, in the cause of truth, that this evidence is published at the prohibitive price of 30s.—*Notes and Comments.*

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—55, Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Patron: *Saint Joan of Arc.* Colours: *Blue, White and Gold*

Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 4d. monthly.

### OBJECT

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

### MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 10s. which includes the *Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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