

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).  
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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

## St. Joan's International Council Meeting, Treves, 1960

The seventeenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance was held at Treves—a city full of interest and beauty, on June 11th and 12th. The German section had prepared graciously for our entertainment and the first evening delegates and friends met informally for supper in the beautiful cellar of the *Steipe*, a medieval house near the ancient Hauptmarkt.

The Conference opened on June 11th with Dialogue Mass offered for the Alliance in the crypt of the Cathedral. Later, delegates assembled in a lovely hall, part of the Museum of the *Simeonstift*, an ancient foundation for old men, now used as Municipal Offices, placed at our disposal by the city authorities.

In opening the Council Meeting, the new President, Madame Leroy-Boy paid tribute to Dame Vera Laughton Mathews who had presided with such grace and wisdom at the last Council Meeting at Geneva; also to Mademoiselle Lenoël, founder of St. Joan's French Section and pioneer of St. Joan's work for African women, Don Luigi Sturzo whose staunch support had been so valuable and Marie Leblanc, the young and enthusiastic *Auxiliare des Missions* who attended the Council Meeting in Brussels in 1958. A prayer was said for the repose of their souls and those of all deceased members who had died during the year.

Officers present included Vice-Presidents, Madame Pesson-Depret (France), Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Miss P. C. Chaloner (United Kingdom), Madame Gouffé, Hon. Treasurer and President of the French Section, and Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary.

The British delegation was led by Dr. Shattock, the French by Madame Pauline Archambault, Victoria by Mrs. Dora Healy, the German by Dr. Luise Bardenhewer, New South Wales by Mrs. Mary Flynn.

Dr. Gantenberg, a member of the German Federal Parliament, welcomed the Council to Treves and wished it all success and Madame

Leroy thanked her and the German Section for the excellent arrangements they had so kindly made for the smooth running of the Conference and the comfort of the delegates.

A message was read from Mrs. Grinberg Vinaver, United Nations, Chief Section on the Status of Women, sending "best wishes for a successful session." It continued: "The Alliance is indeed of great importance for the promotion of the status of women. The assistance and the support of the Alliance are invaluable for the Commission on the Status of Women and for its Secretariat in the pursuance of its aims which follow the same lines as those of your organisation." Soeur Marie-André du Sacré Coeur also sent her best wishes.

Apologies and messages received included those from National Sections in West Australia, South Australia, Transvaal, Holland, and from Dr. Marga Klompé and the following Vice-Presidents: Miss Margaret Flynn (Australia), the Hon. Mabel Strickland (Malta), Mrs. Grabinska and Professor McEntee (U.S.A.).

The President's inspiring address is given in full on pages 52 and 53. The Hon. Secretary then presented her report. Some discussion took place on the difficulties of founding Sections of the Alliance in certain countries where its work would be invaluable and suggestions for overcoming them were considered. The Secretary then gave a detailed account of work in connection with the United Nations—with the Status of Women Commission, more particularly regarding the Convention on Age of Marriage, Consent to Marriage and Registration of Marriages, and concerning Ritual Mutilations. The work of the Human Rights Commission, Social Commission, the International Labour Organisation, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign was also reported, as well as the work of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

Reports from National Sections followed, extracts from which we hope to publish later in *The Catholic Citizen*.

Madame Gouffé then presented the hon treasurer's report receiving with enthusiasm a suggestion from the floor, that the subscriptions of individual members should be raised.

After the discussion on press and publicity, it was decided that the propaganda leaflet should be amended and brought up to date. Miss Christine Spender, editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, said that articles and notes from members were always welcome especially if sent in a form ready for publication. The president, supporting her plea, asked for more news to be sent from National Sections.

By request of the German Section, a full and useful discussion took place concerning the interpretation of certain aspects of protective legislation for women when the views of the Dutch Section were also reported. The resolution on Equal Opportunities passed at the Council Meeting in Geneva, 1959, was re-affirmed unanimously. (See resolution on page 55.)

After re-affirmation of other relevant resolutions passed at former Council Meetings, the resolutions on Marriage; Ritual Mutilations; Age of Retirement and Right to Pension; and Education were brought up to date and carried unanimously. The text of the resolutions will be found on page 55.

As a Memorial to Dame Vera it was agreed to invite contributions from members and friends of St. Joan's International Alliance to send an African member to represent the Alliance at the United Nations Seminar on the Participation of Women in Public Life to be held in Addis Ababa in December.

A discussion then took place as to how women could best be of service to the Church and various suggestions were made.

The Council expressed its gratitude and appreciation to those members who represented the Alliance at the United Nations; on the Liaison Committee; and at Conferences of various other international organisations.

The officers of the Alliance were then chosen. Madame Magdeleine Leroy-Boy was elected president with acclamation; Madame Marthe Gouffé, hon. treasurer; Miss Florence Barry, hon. secretary. Miss Barry agreed to serve for one more year and National Sections were asked to try and find a younger member to replace her before the next meeting. Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes said that continuity was essential and that never had the work of the Alliance been more necessary.

The following vice-presidents were re-elected: Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E. (Australia); Professor G. McEntee, Ph.D. (U.S.A.); The Hon. Mabel Strickland (Malta); Madame Pesson-Depret (France); Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany); Miss Margaret Flynn (Australia); Mrs. Wanda Grabinska (U.S.A.); Miss P. C. Challoner,

M.A. (U.K.); also three new vice-presidents: Dr. Shattock (United Kingdom), Madame Pauline Archambault (France), Frau Maria Wosnik (Germany) were elected.

The United Kingdom Section invited the Council to London for the next meeting which, it was agreed, should be held on the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the United Kingdom Section, May 30th, 1961.

This brief account of St. Joan's seventeenth Council Meeting would not be complete without some reference to the wonderful hospitality which accompanied it. On the Saturday evening delegates were entertained by the Oberbürgermeister, Dr. Raskin, in the restaurant of the *Simeonstift*, to a characteristic and most delightful *Weinprobe* when six kinds of wine of the district were tasted. On Sunday afternoon delegates were taken for a fascinating tour of the city, arranged by Dr. Mülhause, the Administrator of the city's tourism and the day ended with a most happy gathering at Dr. Gantenberg's lovely house. On Monday the party was taken by coach along the Moselle to the famous town of Bernkastel, where they were shown the treasures in the library of the foundation made in 1450 by Nicholas Cusa as an almshouse for thirty-three old men.

As delegates disembarked from the coach after this wonderful excursion there were many good-byes and *auf wiedersehens*, for all looked forward to meeting again next year, and the delightful visit was officially at an end.

#### INTERNATIONAL NOTES

At the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Munich, St. Joan's Alliance will be represented by Frau Müller.

**Switzerland.** Congratulations to the women of Coire, who have obtained the right to vote in the parish. In an assembly, held on Palm Sunday, the president of this Catholic parish himself spoke in favour of this innovation which was accepted by a two-thirds majority.—*Union féminine des femmes catholiques suisses.*

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## Notes and Comments

On May 30th, during the Committee stage of the Offices Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, in response to a request from St. Joan's Alliance, raised a point, regarding Clause I, sub-section (2)

The Secretary of State may provide by regulations for restricting the employment of women in offices after childbirth.

He pointed out that the effects of childbirth on women differed enormously; some might be incapacitated for months and others recover with extraordinary rapidity.

Other speakers upheld the clause, but Lord Pethick-Lawrence intervened, saying that it was fantastic that a woman who was a secretary and perhaps did not even have to move the keys of a typewriter should have to stay away for something like ten to thirteen weeks. He asserted that it was the woman's right to decide for herself the duration of her absence from work and what was best for the child and it was not a question for the Secretary of State to decide.

The Alliance has noted before the lack of trust shown in widows who receive damages for injury to their husbands, the disposition and investment of the money received being made for them in the courts. In a recent case the Judge, Mr. Justice Glyn-Jones deferred the question of the investment of the money awarded saying "he had never seen why a decent and respectable widow should be deprived of the right to organise her own financial affairs."

We send our congratulations to Miss Ruth Tomlinson on the award of the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours for her work on the Status of Women Commission. She served as United Kingdom delegate on the Commission for the last three years. Her appointment was the result of the consultation of women's organisations by the Government, and those of us who have sought her aid on particular questions have not been disappointed.

Congratulations also to our member Mrs. E. M. Hoare, who was awarded the O.B.E. for political and public services in London. Mrs. Hoare was, for many years, a member of the London County Council.

In view of the publicity given to Père Teilhard de Chardin's book "The Phenomenon of Man," members will be interested to know that a most successful meeting of l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc was addressed by Père Teilhard de Chardin in Paris in 1947. The title of his address was "Christianity and Personality."

A Commemorative Meeting to honour Mrs. Charlotte Despard and "the women and men, known and unknown, who fought for the vote for women" was held at the Overseas Club, on June 13th, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League. Members of St. Joan's Alliance were present to pay their tribute to the pioneers.

Miss Marian Reeves presided over a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Naomi Jacob, Miss Muriel Matters and Mr. Clement Davies all spoke from personal experience of Mrs. Despard's burning zeal for justice and freedom. Miss Matters emphasised also the care and consideration that Mrs. Despard always showed to all those with whom she came in contact.

Mrs. Louise Service spoke of the indebtedness of the younger generation of women for the advantages they had today through their efforts.

Congratulations to our member Miss May Stella Abakah, LL.B., who was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple on July 12th. We wish her all success.

The President of the Victoria Section of St. Joan's Alliance, Miss Anna Brennan, made history when she attended the dinner given annually, at the beginning of the legal year, by His Honour, the Chief Justice, to members of the legal profession. This was the first time in Victoria that a woman has been invited to this function.

The Vice-President, Miss Teresa Wardell has been appointed to the staff of Melbourne University as Administrator in the Department of Social Studies. She attended the 1960 White House Conference on Children held in Washington in April.

**Ghana.** The arrangements for the election of ten women M.P.s by registered female voters in electoral colleges has been superseded by a plan to elect women Members by "other means". Since this new scheme could not be put into effect before the opening of the National Assembly and it was considered essential that there should be women M.P.s without delay, the Women's Representation Act was passed, by which, two or more M.P.s in the six Regions of Ghana nominated amongst them ten women for the Assembly. On June 27th, ten women were thus elected, all members of the Convention People's (Government) Party. The United (Opposition) Party boycotted the election, not approving of women being brought in "by the back door". Though anxious to have women in Parliament, the United Party objected to the procedure which they stated was a travesty of the principle of one man one vote.

The office will be closed in August but correspondence will be attended to as usual.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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## Adresse de la Presidente

A l'ouverture de la réunion du Conseil de l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc à Trèves, le 11 juin, 1960

Les membres du Bureau gardent toutes le souvenir de Dame Vera, debout au volant de commande du canot, lors d'une promenade sur le lac à la fin de la réunion du comité à Genève l'an dernier. C'était trois mois avant sa disparition, alors qu'elle était déjà touchée à mort. N'est-ce pas un symbole de toute sa vie, et aussi un dernier message d'énergie et de confiance que notre regrettée Présidente a voulu nous laisser?

Néanmoins, avant de prendre une succession aussi lourde et une charge qui comporte tant de responsabilités, il est indispensable de se livrer à une double méditation: d'abord sur les raisons personnelles qui vous font adhérer à l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc, puis sur les raisons mêmes de son existence, sur ce qu'elle apporte à la femme à la société, et à l'Eglise.

Sur le premier point, la conclusion est simple: l'Alliance réalise la synthèse de mes convictions concernant le rôle de la femme, la justice sociale et le vrai Christianisme. J'en avais été déjà frappée dans une conversation en 1936 avec Marie Lenoël qui m'avait expliqué qu'elle était féministe parce que catholique: ce fut le début de mes relations avec l'Alliance.

Ces convictions sont partagées par la plus grande majorité des membres de l'Alliance. Beaucoup d'autres les possèdent également, mais par intuition plus que par raisonnement, celui-ci du reste venant souvent par la suite ratifier les premières impressions. Il n'existe heureusement qu'un nombre infime de personnes "flottantes", attirées par les conceptions parfois hardies de l'Alliance, mais qui ont peur, vis-à-vis de l'opinion publique, d'en tirer toutes les conséquences.

Et pourtant n'avons-nous pas lieu d'être fières de l'influence de notre Alliance sur le plan international? Dans l'éventail des organisations qui

ont souci du rôle de la femme dans la société, entre celles qui s'intéressent à toutes les questions dans lesquelles elles estiment que la femme a son mot à dire et celles qui restreignent leurs travaux à l'étude approfondie d'un problème particulier, l'Alliance appartient à la catégorie des associations qui travaillent spécialement à l'amélioration de la condition même de la femme sous tous les aspects. C'est d'ailleurs le programme adopté par la Commission de la Condition de la Femme de l'O.N.U.

Cependant, l'Alliance possède un caractère particulier, du fait que dans le monde international cest la seule association féministe qui ne groupe que des membres catholiques. Certes, maintenant que l'on admet communément que l'influence féminine ne peut être restreinte au cercle de famille, les grandes organisations de femmes catholiques ont beaucoup étendu leur champ d'action et participent de plus en plus aux activités sociales en général mais les objectifs d'action catholique et de spiritualité restent primordiaux.

Ne pourrions-nous justement nous demander comment les milieux traditionnels catholiques sont parvenus à élargir le rôle de la femme. Si nous constatons que l'on présente désormais comme toutes naturelles des positions ou des revendications préconisées il ya de nombreuses années par l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc et qui la rendirent alors suspecte aux "bien-pensants", ne demeurons nous pas dans une rigoureuse objectivité en voyant dans ces faits une autre justification de la mission spécifique de l'Alliance?

Il semble donc qu'en dépit des progrès réalisés généralement dans la condition de la femme d'une part, et de l'évolution du monde catholique dans ce domaine d'autre part, notre groupement

## THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF THE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION

I have already pointed out on several occasions that this is an area *the least* explored and *the most* important in the field of prevention of Prostitution. The deeply entrenched bias of, so-called, "Necessary Evil"—the smiling tolerance of the Double Moral Standard (Boys will be Boys) projecting all the blame on the woman and excusing the man, the indifference of the public on these matters, all these have been and continue to be the stumbling blocks against combating commercialized vice.

It is more than ten years since the United Nations (in its Preamble to the 1949 consolidated convention) declared that: "Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the family and the community." This statement represents a moral victory of the abolitionist principles and is like a beacon showing the right way to right reforms.

Alas, the examination of the practical application of this *CREDO* points once more to the slow pace of social change as compared with the dynamic development in the field of material and technical achievements of the twentieth century. The most striking example of this slow pace is that so far there are only about twenty-five States which have deposited their accessions or ratifications to the so-called "Consolidated Convention of 1949," when total membership of the United Nations has reached eighty-two States. Thus—as you may realize—the Convention, far from being universal, is crippled by this limited adherence, especially by the lack of signatures of these countries, who otherwise are leaders in the world economic social fields.

We do feel strongly that the lack of progress in this area is due, among other factors, to the above-mentioned and notoriously unemphasised fact that one of the basic causes of prostitution of women is its demand on the part of men. A special study of moral, social and educational aspects of this problem is imminent and we suggest, therefore, that the Alliance shall place this subject on the agenda of its future action.

Wanda G. Grabinska,

*Vice-president, St. Joan's International Alliance.*

## BRING AND BUY PARTY

The Bring and Buy Party, held at Golder's Green on July 9th was much enjoyed and raised the sum of £25 towards the office rent. After tea, delegates to the Council Meeting at Trier gave their impressions. It was good to welcome five members from Australia. Our thanks to all who brought and bought.

garde ses raisons d'être. Il apporte une présence et une influence catholique dans des domaines souvent trop strictement neutres ou trop "masculinistes" ou trop politisés. J'ai reçu personnellement des témoignages probants du crédit dont il jouit soit au Comité des Grandes Organisations Féminines Internationales, soit, parmi les organisations non-gouvernementales ou soit encore auprès des Nations Unies ou des Institutions Spécialisées.

Mais de plus, l'Alliance doit demeurer un mouvement d'avant garde dans le monde féminin et catholique—c'est elle qui la première, en 1924. posa devant la Société des Nations le statut de la femme africaine et ainsi annonça le mouvement qui aboutit à la convention sur l'âge du mariage; c'est elle aussi qui souleva la question délicate des mutilations rituelles.

Elle apporta toujours également sa contribution dans les campagnes pour les grandes réformes obtenues ou en voie d'obtention pour l'amélioration de la condition de la femme.

Peut-on dire que l'idéal ait été partout atteint? A monde nouveau, besoins nouveaux—et l'Alliance doit y veiller. Des jeunes états surgissent, et les nouvelles citoyennes devront faire face à des problèmes similaires à ceux que nous avons affrontés. D'autres organisations féminines s'intéressent déjà à elles; n'est-ce pas notre devoir de leur faire connaître l'esprit de l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc? Notre oeuvre pour la femme africaine n'est pas terminée et nous devons travailler pour les femmes de tous les pays qui accèdent maintenant à l'indépendance c'est notre devoir de chrétiennes.

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, je cite encore un exemple d'un nouveau champ d'études pour notre activité: dans ce monde toujours en évolution, ne peut-on affirmer que la femme pourrait rendre à l'Eglise plus de services que la tradition ne lui en permet?—Je crois que l'Alliance peut se pencher utilement sur cette question avec à la fois audace et prudence, sans qu'il y ait contradiction entre ces deux termes! Et sans doute dans quelques années trouvera-t-on pusillanimes ou en tout cas toutes naturelles, des positions que l'on aurait tendance à considérer aujourd'hui comme avancées.

A cause de ses caractères et de ses objectifs, l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc ne peut être un mouvement de masse, mais dans tous les pays, dans tous les milieux, on doit sentir l'influence de femmes bien informées, très compétentes dans leur spécialité et tout à fait déterminées dans leur action et de féministes, et de catholiques. Entièrement engagées, elles n'ont pas le droit d'être "tièdes".

Magdeleine Leroy-Boy

## THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

On June 1st, The Road Traffic Bill passed its third reading. During the debate references were made to the shortage of man-power likely to hamper the recruitment of suitable persons as Traffic Wardens. Mr. Ede expressed the hope that the Commissioner of Police would not persist in his decision to recruit no woman in the first 100 traffic wardens.

"I am sure there is plenty of scope," he said, "for women in this branch of the service . . . if only in dealing with women." Mr. Mellish added, "With one proviso—that they will be paid the rate for the job. Otherwise more women will be employed than men because they can be employed more cheaply."

Mr. Ede replied, "I have spent nearly all my life trying to get the rate for the job for myself and for women, and I still feel aggrieved that women police are not paid the same rate as men, because, it is said, they are not called upon to do the same jobs as men. When I think of a woman making a Rugby tackle on a man and handing him over to a cinema commissionaire while she telephones for the police van, I cannot believe that there are many jobs done by policemen that women cannot do. When they have acted as decoys in trying to rid certain areas of pests that have been molesting the womenfolk of the neighbourhood they have run as great a danger as any man in the force."

Mr. Ede recalled that when he recommended such a woman for the King's Police Medal some of the men objected on the ground that no woman had previously been given the K.P.M. He added, "There should be no distinction between the sexes in these matters."

Miss Margaret Herbison said that those, who in Committee, pressed for the employment of women as traffic wardens were given "a very dusty answer." The Joint Under-Secretary had said, "I should stress, as I said before, that the Commissioner has decided not to appoint women only at the start. He will keep an open mind on the matter, and no doubt will pay regard to what has been said in this committee."

Miss Herbison said that this attitude might have been expected in 1860 but not in 1960 when women police were doing a first-rate job, with duties far more onerous and dangerous than any traffic warden will ever have to face. She wholeheartedly supported Mr. Mellish about the importance of the rate for the job, and declared that as, when she was a teacher, she always objected to being cheap labour, so now she still objects on behalf of all women whatever work they do. She expressed the hope that influence would be brought to bear on the Commissioner to ensure that from the start women will be considered for these jobs equally with men.

On June 2nd Mrs. Eirene White asked the Minister of Education what enquiry he had made into the effect of the aggregation of incomes for taxation on the number of married women prepared to return to teaching in schools or colleges. The Minister replied, "None, Sir."

Later he gave this information: "The head of the School of Social Studies at Sheffield University is now undertaking an examination into the wastage of women teachers. We are giving him all the help we can, and no doubt some interesting information will come out of it."

Before the House adjourned on June 3rd for the Whitsun recess, Mrs. Patricia McLaughlin made an informative speech on the means of recognising the standard of quality of consumer goods. She suggested that the Kite mark of The British Standards Institution should be more eye-catching, and graded to show different levels of quality. She wanted us to have more protection against the costly (to the consumer eventually) high-pressure salesmanship of the press and I.T.V.

To a question from Mr. Swingler about the obligation for a married woman, but not a man, to give details about the spouse on a passport renewal form, Mr. Allan replied, "These particulars are no longer required."

On June 22nd Brigadier Sir Otho Prior-Palmer moved that the following new clause to the Finance Bill be read a second time:—

"The first £250 of a married woman's earned income shall be excluded from the computation of the total joint income for the purposes of income tax."

In support of this motion he said, "The history of this tax arrangement is, that from 1799, when it was first introduced, it was not the fashion for women to work and men had full charge of the family finances. As we all know, the situation now is totally different." He pointed out if a husband is earning a certain amount and his wife earns a reasonable salary, she probably will pay Surtax on the very first penny she earns.

"Large sums of money are spent on training women teachers, scientists, doctors and dentists and then we lose their services because they cannot afford to carry on with their jobs." The motion was withdrawn.

Later, Mr. Gurden asked Mr. Butler if the new legislation he is proposing to introduce respecting registered clubs will include provisions for the control of night clubs for the purpose of presenting nude shows and other undesirable performances. Mr. Butler replied, "In so far as these are not genuine members' clubs they would, under my proposals, require a justices' licence for the supply of intoxicating liquor and would thus become subject to an effective measure of control."

C. M. Cheke

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 17th COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, TREVES, 1960

**Political Rights**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon those Governments which have not yet granted equal franchise and eligibility to women with men to do so without delay.

**Marriage**

St. Joan's International Social and Political 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.

(a) 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 married woman undertaking work outside the home.

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

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Resolution on the Minimum Age of Marriage, Consent to Marriage, and Registration of Marriages, passed by the Status of Women Commission at its fourteenth Session, recommending to the General Assembly the adoption of an International Convention and Recommendation, containing the following substance of Articles:

**Article 1.** No marriage of any person under the age of fifteen shall be valid except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age for serious causes, in the interests of the intending spouses.

**Article 2.** No marriage shall be valid without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, orally, publicly and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnise the marriage.

**Article 3.** All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

The Alliance trusts that the Economic and Social Council will adopt this Resolution.

**Maintenance**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance urges Governments to alter their legal systems where necessary in order to make it possible for them to sign the United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, adopted in June, 1956.

**Ritual Mutilations**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Resolution passed at the fourteenth Session of the Status of Women Commission, expressing concern with the continuance of the practice of ritual operations. The Alliance trusts that the Economic and Social Council will adopt the Resolution of the Commission, inviting—

(1) the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the International Labour Organisation to bear in mind, in the planning of their programmes and activities, the need for a concerted action against the continuance of the practice of ritual operations;

(2) the World Health Organisation to communicate such medical information as it has at its disposal to the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session.

**Equal Moral Standard**

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance deplors the fact that the pernicious system of State regulation of prostitution persists in many countries. It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order should apply equally to men and women and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease should be free, voluntary and confidential.

**Equal Pay and Opportunities**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex.

It further urges National Sections to press for equal opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training for employment and promotion; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialised agencies shall be for women equally with men.

It further urges that in all labour legislation equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease.

**Age of Retirement and Right to Pension**

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance urges its National Sections to redouble their efforts to ensure that the age of retirement and right to pension shall be the same for men and women workers.

**Education**

(1) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance believes that the aim of education is the full development of the individual and reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

(2) The Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Non-Self-Governing or 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.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," July-August 1935

We are glad to quote the following from an interview published in the *Catholic Herald* with Mrs. J. A. Lyons (now Dame Enid Lyons) concerning the upbringing of boys and girls, from her own experience with a large family:

"As regards the actual education of a child I am very definitely against any rigid differentiation between the mentality of boy and girl. This insistence on difference in the two mentalities results in the girl later on developing a sense of inferiority, with the corresponding superiority complex in the boy, which I find utterly insufferable.

"While in no way advocating 'mannish' girls, I do think that a girl should not, just because of her sex, be debarred from any activity for which she has talent. It should not be immediately assumed that the domestic side of life is the only, or even main, sphere, open to her. On the other hand, the girl without any flair for it should not be made to feel that she ought to pursue a career."

### REVIEW

The Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, has produced several valuable Social Surveys—the latest “Demographic Survey of Six Rural Communities” by Kumudini Dandekar, is done at the invitation of the Family Planning Commission. Its interest to St. Joan’s lies in the information contained therein on the age of marriage, which is itself a factor in the population problem.

The survey which took in six centres in the then Bombay and Hyderabad States, including twenty-six villages and nearly 38,000 persons, revealed that in general, marriage still takes place very early. Child marriage within the six districts is very common—in two centres 33.8 and 21.5 per cent, respectively, had married at eight years or less; in another 43.9 per cent were married under nine years; in four communities 75.81 per cent were married before thirteen. At four centres “nearly 80 per cent of all marriages contracted since 1929 were child marriages” and this despite the Sarda Act (1929) which prohibited the marriage of girls under the age of fourteen.

One good effect of contact with education seems to be to raise the marriage age causing fewer young girls to marry men much older than themselves.

Parental consent remains the dominant factor in arranging marriages but the number of boys who are consulted is increasing, though they and the many fewer girls who were consulted, accepted the partner proposed by their parents. “In only fifteen of the total of 459 marriages . . . was (it) reported that the marriages were settled by mutual approval and consent by the bride and bridegroom.”

Ruinous expenditure on marriage celebrations continued to exist—in many cases this expenditure uses up nearly the whole of the family’s annual income and debts are incurred for 60 per cent of marriages.

Though the purpose of the Survey is to obtain data on fertility and mortality and what “progress” has been made concerning family planning, the information contained in it is of value in other ways. Not only does a scientific survey of this nature help to bring about desirable social changes but this particular one reveals that the campaign for artificial contraception is not altogether successful. Many who accept limitation of families resort to sterilisation, and many oppose artificial contraception, though they are unable, not unnaturally, to give a theological explanation of their feeling that it is “wrong.”—*Social Action Indian Social Institute.*

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## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—8B, Dryden Chambers, 119, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

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

Organ—“The Catholic Citizen,” 6d. 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 £1 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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