

THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL & SOCIAL HYGIENE

Founded by JOSEPHINE BUTLER, 1870.

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Please Note:—It is necessary to include the Association's name in the address when writing.

26th November, 1928.

Dear Secretary,

Traffic in Women: Dame Rachel Crowdy's work.

Your society is no doubt aware that Dame Rachel Crowdy, who has done such extraordinary and admirable work as head of the "Traffic in Opium and Social Questions Section" of the League of Nations, has had her contract extended for only one year, and will give up her work in some eighteen months from now, while her men colleagues who are Chiefs of Sections have had their contracts extended for seven years. We believe that all societies interested in the abolition of State regulation of prostitution and the traffic in women will agree that it would be a real disaster if at this juncture there is a change of personnel in the work of the League of Nations on the subject of the traffic in women and the "maisons tolérées". Dame Rachel Crowdy apparently regards the termination of her contract as settled and suggests that we should base our work on that fact, but my Executive Committee has instructed me to write to every society concerned to urge them to ask that Dame Rachel Crowdy's contract shall be extended for several years instead of only one year.

This Association, founded by Josephine Butler for the special purpose of abolishing State regulation of prostitution, has watched with the deepest appreciation Dame Rachel's work on this question. We believe that in a few more years, under continuity of personnel in the secretariat of the League of Nations, the "maisons tolérées" would be abolished throughout Europe, if not throughout the world. However good and however efficient Dame Rachel Crowdy's successor may be, we feel that to change the personnel of the Chief of the Social Questions Section at this time must, at least temporarily, hinder progress. Seven years may not be altogether necessary, but at least four or five years will surely be necessary to finish the work against the "maisons tolérées".

My Committee, therefore, earnestly begs all societies interested in this matter to send in resolutions or letters to Sir Eric Drummond (Secretary General to the League of Nations) urging that at least for a few more years, and preferably for seven years, Dame Rachel Crowdy shall remain Chief of the Traffic in Opium and Social Questions Section.

Will you bring this before your Committee as soon as possible urging that a letter be written to Sir Eric Drummond and to the Government pressing the matter as strongly as possible.

Yours faithfully,

ALISON NEILANS.

Secretary.