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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON
(53, VICTORIA STREET)

Wartime Address:
CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU,
ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone: TEMPLE BAR 6343

ANNUAL REPORT
1939-40

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Pamphlet

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF
GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON

President :

The LADY EMMOTT, J.P.

Vice-Presidents :

The COUNTESS OF IVEAGH

Mrs. C. R. ATTLEE.

The VISCOUNT ASTOR

Chairman :

Dame MERIEL TALBOT, D.B.E.

Vice-Chairman :

The Rev. Prebendary AUSTIN THOMPSON, M.A.

Hon. Treasurer :

Mr. F. W. CAPE.

Executive Committee :

the Hon. Officers *ex-officio* :

Miss BROMHEAD.

The Right Rev. MONSIGNOR PROVOST BROWN,
Bishop of Pella.

Colonel WINIFREDE CASE.

Mr. S. COHEN.

Miss EASTON.

Colonel HARRISON, D.S.O., M.B.

Miss HEARN.

Miss HORNBY.

Mrs. OWEN HUGH SMITH.

Mrs. MARK KERR, O.B.E.

Mrs. KENNETH LYON.

Mrs. MONINS.

Miss ROSLING.

Sister THORPE.

Miss K. M. WALLS.

Secretary :

to whom all communications should be addressed :

Miss BROOKE.

Hon. Auditors :

Messrs. BARTON, MAYHEW & Co.

Bankers :

MIDLAND BANK,
22, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON

TO ALL GIRLS WHO MAY
COME TO WORK IN LONDON

THE CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU

53, VICTORIA STREET, S.W 1.

is closed during the war and the Central Council
are co-operating with the:—

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

AT

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

Tel. Temple Bar 6343

(where Miss Brooke and Mrs. Relyea are working)

OPEN

On week days 9-30 to 6 p. m.

(Saturdays 9-30 to 12-30 p. m.)

Girls and women needing advice and information
should apply there.

3800187637

362-83060421 CEN

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON

WOMEN'S WORK IN LONDON

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

11, VICTORIA STREET

LONDON, W.1

1939-40

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

1939-40

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

This and women's work in London

3800187637

362-83060421 CEN

AIMS OF THE COUNCIL.

To bring together in helpful co-operation the various statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with the welfare of girls in the metropolitan area.

To keep themselves acquainted with the current provision in London for women and girls in moral danger, to consider the sufficiency of such provision, and to take steps to promote its extension where the need is manifest.

To ensure that the girls of London have the fullest opportunities of developing their spiritual, mental and physical capacities under healthy conditions, so that the influences which work for evil may be effectively defeated.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1939-40.

The shadow of war under which we are living has affected the work of the Council, as indeed it has affected the life and work of every citizen. It is only by the munificence of the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities and the generosity of our subscribers and donors that the Council has been able to pursue its activities thus far during these harassing months. For this invaluable assistance we are most grateful.

WARTIME WORK.

Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The Committee's first anxiety during 1939 was that in the event of war the information in their possession and the experience of their staff should be used to the fullest extent. An opportunity soon offered itself. In order to be ready for the inevitable changes war would bring to all social work, plans had been prepared as far back as the Spring of 1939; and the National Council of Social Service and Charity Organisation Society had arranged, with the cordial support of the Government, for the establishment of Citizens' Advice Bureaux. This meant the co-operation of those experienced in the manifold sides of social work and ensured that their experience should be easily available to the general public. All the expenses of the premises, staffing and equipment of the Bureaux have to be met from the funds of voluntary societies. In the Metropolitan Boroughs, where the arrangements were entrusted to the Charity Organisation Society, the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields offered to open a Bureau and the Central Council was asked to help in staffing it. This invitation was at once accepted; the office in Victoria Street was shut (notices on the door directing callers to the new address) and Miss Brooke and the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Relyea, moved to St. Martin's on September 4th, where they co-operate with Miss Whitmore, the Secretary in Charge of St. Martin's social work.

Variety of Questions.

The experience of years at the Central Information Bureau had accustomed the Secretaries to miscellaneous enquiries, but the new problems were almost overwhelming in their variety.

Immediately on the outbreak of war the familiar difficulties of women and girls were intensified by the dislocation of work. Women of all conditions found themselves in serious difficulties; even domestic work failed, and the Secretaries' special knowledge of cheap lodgings, free shelters and all provisions for women was taxed to the uttermost.

In the early days questions about evacuation predominated in the general enquiries. Many children, for instance, were either away from London or ill when the schools were evacuated:—what could be done? Men who had been on a distant job returned to find wife and baby evacuated, and asked for advice. Other enquirers were concerned with an old person or invalid whom they knew to be left alone:—who should be communicated with? A very deaf man feared he would sleep through air raid warnings, and so on. Later came other difficulties. Businesses failed and rent could not be paid:—could the family be turned into the street? Many had bought their home through a Building Society and furnished it by hire purchase, but their employers had evacuated their business to the country, and employees had to follow:—what about the house and furniture? Professional people were suddenly left with no means; they were unaccustomed to Labour Exchanges and they did not know of the Unemployment Assistance Board; much explanation and encouragement was needed. Every new development of wartime organisation—registration, rationing, the calling-up of men of military age—brought new questions.

International Red Cross Letters.

Before Christmas the International Red Cross completed arrangements for sending messages to relatives in enemy countries. The Citizens' Advice Bureaux undertook both to transcribe the messages in compliance with the regulations and to dispatch them. The gratitude that this service has called forth has been most moving. Nothing could bring home more poignantly the tragedies of the war.

Need for the Future.

The experience of eight months has convinced the Committee of the great value of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. They have been of incalculable service to people unaccustomed to official notices and announcements and bewildered by the suddenly changed conditions in which they are living. The opportunity to discuss personal troubles and to hear how the same or very similar trouble affects other people has a steadying effect on the nerves.

It is to be hoped that some such Centres for information and advice may become a permanent feature of our Social Services after the war. The Central Council has long advocated the provision of this Service, for throughout the ten years during which their Central Information Bureau for girls has been open the need has been constantly revealed.

CENTRAL COUNCIL'S SPECIAL WORK.

Enquiries from Girls.

Alongside of this new wartime responsibility the normal work of the Central Council has been maintained. The members of the Executive Committee have met and conferred at regular intervals, and the needs of girls in wartime have been kept constantly under review. These needs are always changing. While some clubs have been closed, others, sometimes on new and more progressive lines, are being opened. Residential Hostels, too, have been closed or their prices and conditions of admission have been altered; even emergency shelters, so needed at present, may be obliged to shut temporarily. In all these matters the Council recognises the vital importance of keeping the records up-to-date, though to do so calls for much expenditure of time and money.

Clubs in Wartime.

In the first months of the war few girls came to London to seek work and enquiries were mainly from those already living here. When war was declared and immediate air raids were expected, many clubs were shut down. At the same time girls were constantly asking the Council's Secretaries where they could find light and companionship in the black-out of the evenings. It was a great relief, therefore, when clubs began to reopen. One girl expressed the longing of countless others when she wrote: "It is very hard to know what to do in the black-out, and it is so dull."

Since those early days last September, there has been some development of clubs to meet the present needs. The Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., Youth Organisations and the Churches have been active in organising mixed clubs for the troops and for young people of all kinds.

Hostels.

In spite of the heavy demands made by what may be called the "Citizen" enquiries the normal work of the Council has gone forward, and at the time of going to press is increasing considerably.

In the New Year, questions about lodgings began to come in, and by March these had greatly increased.

War has brought its own lodging problems ; for example, a request came from the Director General of the A.T.S. for a list of Hostels in London suitable for A.T.S. members when on leave. A short list was prepared (after each individual Hostel had been consulted) in which the price of bed and breakfast was given, with information about other meals, and also the names of the nearest station and bus route. Commandants of the A.T.S. have already ordered 800 copies.

Emergency Accommodation.

Representatives on the Central Council of the Societies working for the welfare of girls in London are keenly aware of the growing need for helping girls who for any reason are stranded in London and are in need of shelter and advice. Owing to the unsettled conditions in wartime these provisions are more necessary than ever. At the Shelters of the chief voluntary societies engaged in Social Work, not only is a lodging provided, but a trained worker is there to give advice and after-care to any who ask for it.

Letter from Commissioner of Metropolitan Police.

The Shelters are of great assistance to the Police who, in the course of their duties, meet with many girls needing care and skilled help. The Police can make small payments for lodging given in individual cases, but in the main the cost of upkeep and of any subsequent care which the girls may receive falls upon the funds of the Voluntary Societies.

Such Societies have, indeed, inevitable difficulty in raising funds, for it is not easy to bring home to the general public the importance of work which must, of necessity, be carried on quietly and without advertisement. The Central Council realised that an expression of opinion on the value of Shelters from the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police would carry great weight, and a letter was sent to Sir Philip Game over the Chairman's signature, to which the following reply has been received :—

“ Dear Madam,

“ I am completely in agreement with what you say in your letter of March 6th as to the necessity of keeping existing Shelters in London for young women and girls open and fully staffed.

“ The work which devolves on the Police in connection with the welfare of young women and girls would be severely handicapped by the closing of any more of these Shelters and the loss of skilled advice and trained after-care which they provide.

“ Should you wish to do so, I have no objection to your quoting this letter.

“ Yours faithfully,
(signed) PHILIP GAME.”

This cordial recognition of the value of the work done is a great encouragement, and will, the Council feels sure, greatly assist the Committees of Shelters in securing further financial support.

FINANCE.

This year the Annual Report has been shortened considerably ; but enough is revealed of the day-by-day work of the Council to show its special value at present, when life for the young is more disturbed and difficult than in times of peace.

By reason of its widely representative character the Council is in a unique position, both for interchange of information between social workers and for bringing the united opinion of those engaged in Preventive and Moral Welfare Work to the notice of the authorities.

The Central Council is confident that its supporters and a yet wider public will feel that every opportunity must be taken to help the girls of to-day to meet difficulties and temptations that face them now if the future is to be safeguarded.

Work of this kind requires whole-time attention, and that too from people who by years of training and experience are best qualified to undertake the responsibility.

Every possible economy in administration has been made. The Victoria Street office has been reduced to one small room ; and while the Secretaries are working mainly at St. Martin's they have undertaken the Clerk's duties so as to save the salary of that officer.

The benefits of the Council's services are, we would urge, very appreciable in themselves and quite out of proportion to the moderate cost involved.

A sum of £400, over and above the income estimated as certain, is needed not only to meet present requirements but to facilitate the continuance of the Council's work.

This, in view of the obvious urgency, is a very modest sum to ask for. The Central Council appeals, therefore, with confidence to the readers of this Report to come to their assistance by subscriptions and by donations, by the signing of covenants for their subscriptions and by bequeathing legacies.

We feel we can safely leave the matter to the generosity of our readers.

[P.T.O.]

*For reasons of economy, and to save paper, the list of donors is not printed
this year—the list may be seen in the office.*

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON.

Dr.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 1940.

Cr.

| RECEIPTS. | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| To Subscriptions and Donations :— | | | | | | |
| London Parochial Charities ... | 300 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| General—Subscriptions... | 80 | 8 | 0 | | | |
| Donations ... | 31 | 13 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | 412 | 1 | 6 |
| „ Sale of Handbooks of Hostels ... | | | | 19 | 4 | 10 |
| „ Interest on Post Office Deposit ... | | | | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| „ Rebate on Insurance (1938-1939) ... | | | | 7 | 5 | |
| | | | | 438 | 15 | 1 |
| „ Cash at Bankers and in Hand at 1st April, 1939 :— | | | | | | |
| At Bankers— | | | | | | |
| On Current Account ... | 81 | 8 | 6 | | | |
| Post Office Savings Bank ... | 311 | 17 | 9 | | | |
| In Hand ... | 15 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | 408 | 6 | 3 |
| | | | | £847 | 1 | 4 |
| F. W. CAPE (<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>). | | | | | | |

| PAYMENTS. | | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|----|------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| By Salaries and National Insurance ... | 542 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| „ Rent, including Heating and Cleaning (to 24th June, 1940) ... | 97 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| „ Printing, Stationery and Office Requisites ... | 64 | 16 | 2 | | | |
| „ Postage ... | 18 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| „ Telephone ... | 13 | 0 | 9 | | | |
| „ Purchase of Typewriter, less allow- ance on old machine ... | 9 | 13 | 0 | | | |
| „ General Expenses, including Light- ing, Travelling, Press Cutting Agency, Conference Fees, Insur- ance, Cheque Books, etc. ... | 12 | 3 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 758 | 1 | 6 |
| „ Cash at Bankers and in Hand at 31st March, 1940 :— | | | | | | |
| At Bankers— | | | | | | |
| On Current Account ... | 64 | 13 | 4 | | | |
| Post Office Savings Bank ... | 8 | 19 | 1 | | | |
| In Hand ... | 15 | 7 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | 88 | 19 | 10 |
| | | | | £847 | 1 | 4 |

We have audited the above Receipts and Payments Account with the books and vouchers of the Council and certify it to be correctly drawn up in accordance therewith.

BARTON, MAYHEW & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, *Hon. Auditors*.

Alderman's House, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.2.
17th May, 1940.

TO THE SECRETARY,
CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN
IN LONDON,
53, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

I enclose..... as

(a) Annual Subscription.

(b) Donation.

Name

Address

BANK ORDER FORM.

To Messrs. (Banker)

Branch Address

Please pay to the account of THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE
SOCIAL WELFARE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON, at Midland
Bank Ltd., 22, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, the sum of £ : : ,
my subscription for the present year, and continue to pay the same on
January 1st, in every succeeding year until further notice, charging the
same to my account.

Signature.....

Address

£ : :

.....19.....

[P.T.O.]

INCOME TAX ON ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Without any additional cost to themselves, annual subscribers, by filling up the following form of agreement for seven years, enable the charity to recover income tax on their subscriptions, and may deduct the gross amount from their payment of surtax.

At the present rate of Income Tax (i.e. 7/6 in the £) the scheme provides a gain to the Council of 12/- on each £1 subscribed, without any additional cost to the donor.

I.....of.....

HEREBY COVENANT with the Treasurers for the time being of the Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London that for a period of seven years from the.....day of19..... or during my life, whichever period shall be shorter, I will pay annually to the said Charity such a sum as will after the deduction of Income Tax leave in the hands of the Charity a net sum of £.....such sum to be paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum of £.....or any part thereof.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this

.....day of.....19.....
(sign here)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said

In the presence of

Signature.....

Address

Occupation

Copies of the certificate of deduction of Income Tax can be had from the Secretary, The Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Present Constitution of the Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London.

REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Ministry of Health | ... | ... | ... | ... | Colonel Harrison, D.S.O. Miss Montagnon. |
| Home Office | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. S. W. Harris, C.B., C.V.O. |
| Board of Education | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Bastable, H.M.I. |
| Ministry of Labour | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss K. M. Walls. |
| Charity Commission | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. L. Talman Ford. |
| London County Council | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Fulford. The Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, D.D. Mrs. A. M. Mathew, J.P. |
| Corporation of the City of London | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. C. Stanley Crosse. |

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| Society of Medical Officers of Health (Metropolitan Branch) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Dr. Porter. |
| National Association of Probation Officers (Metropolitan Branch) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Hamilton Hunter. |

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| Advisory Council of London Youth Organisations Committees | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss M. de M. Leathes. |
| Association for Jewish Youth | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss M. Moses, J.P. |
| British Association of Residential Settlements | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss H. C. Escreet. |
| Catholic Girls' Society | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Gilbert. |
| Catholic Women's League | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Butt. |
| Central Association for Mental Welfare | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Evelyn Fox. |
| Chelmsford Diocesan Association for Girls' Aid | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Dowle. |
| Children's Aid Society | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. Herbert H. Glanfield. |
| Church Army | ... | ... | ... | ... | Sister Thorpe. |
| Church of England Moral Welfare Council | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Retallack. |
| Dr. Barnardo's Homes | ... | ... | ... | ... | The Hon. Anne Macnaghten. |
| Girls' Friendly Society | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mrs. Monins. |
| Girl Guide Association | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mrs. Mark Kerr, O.B.E. |
| Girls' Guildry | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss G. M. Atkins. |
| Girls' Life Brigade... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mrs. Mary S. Cant. |
| Institute of Hospital Almoners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss C. Morris. |
| Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls, Women and Children | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. S. Cohen. |
| London Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare Work | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Mylne. |
| London Diocesan Council for Youth | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Barton. |
| London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Pengelly. |
| London Welsh Friendly Aid Society for Girls | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mrs. Wilfred Rowlands. |
| Mabys | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss Easton. |
| Mothers' Union | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child | ... | ... | ... | ... | Miss S. Musson. |

Present Constitution of Central Council—continued.

| | |
|---|--|
| National Vigilance Association | Mr. F. Sempkins. |
| National Council of Girls' Clubs | Lady Eleanor Keane. |
| Over Thirty Association | Mrs. W. T. Stiff. |
| Police Court Mission | The Rev. Harry Pearson. |
| St. Alban's Diocesan Association for Girls' Aid ... | Miss Hilda Caldecott. |
| St. Anne's Catholic Settlement | The Right Rev. the Bishop of Pella. |
| Salvation Army | Colonel Winifrede Case. |
| Society of Hope | Miss Colman. |
| Sodality of the Children of Mary | Mr. C. H. Walker |
| Southwark Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare | The Right Rev. the Bishop of Kingston. |
| Toc H League of Women Helpers | Miss Wolfe. |
| Wayfarers' Sunday Association | Mrs. Maurice Bear. |
| Women's Council of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches | Mrs. Barson. |
| West London Mission | The Rev. W. R. Rice. |
| Young Women's Christian Association | Mrs. Kenneth Lyon. |

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

The Lady Emmott.
 Mr. F. W. Cape.
 Commissioner Adelaide Cox, C.B.E.
 Mrs. Owen Hugh Smith.
 Sir Frederick Menzies, K.B.E., M.D.
 Mrs. Starey.
 The Rev. Prebendary Austin Thompson, M.A.
 Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E.