

IN SOUTH AFRICA

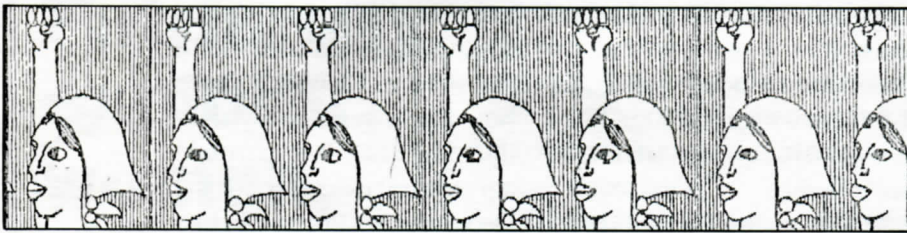
**UMLAZI
WOMEN
ARE
WAKING
UP**

African law sees women. Slowly we will learn other things which affect women." Workshops are held every third Sunday of each month.

The lawyer who talked about women and the law gave the Umlazi women a shock. They found out that the law does little to protect the interests of married women. The husband is given the right to make important decisions for his wife.

One woman said, "I cannot believe how unfair the law is towards women. What are we going to do about this?"

Another said, "There is much to do about a new South Africa. It is up to us to make sure that these unjust laws go so that South



A group of women from the township of Umlazi outside Durban formed a group called Phaphama Club. "Phaphama" means "wake up." The members are neighbors who meet monthly to discuss their problems and how to solve them. They also share their personal joys and griefs with one another. Since these meetings started, two women have had babies. They collected money to buy baby clothes. The occasion gave them time to talk.

A club member said, "Coming together has given us a chance to learn different things. We have organized workshops. One was on child abuse. We called a social worker to tell us about this. Another workshop was on women and the law. A lawyer told us how the South

Africa will be new for women as well."

The women felt strongly that it is they who have the responsibility to ensure that a future South Africa has new, non-sexist laws.

"How are we going to make sure this happens?" one woman asked.

Another answered, "Let us come together, bring in more women. We must share ideas. If we do not, we will be left behind."

The Phaphama Club members have realized that women are always being left behind, locked in their houses by housework and child care. Knowledge of their rights gives them the confidence to challenge unfair laws.

— from *Sister*

**CASH
FROM
CHILI
FUELS
CHANGE**

IN A
PAPUA
NEW
GUINEA
VILLAGE

When Monica Otto was born, her father rejected her. He was a chief. He needed sons to protect the clan land. A daughter was nothing. What he didn't expect was for his spirited wife to bundle the baby and take her back to her family village. It was no simple thing getting his wife back. She was the daughter of a chief. Monica's father had to pay double bride price before his wife returned, hugging the baby she wouldn't give up.

But being back in the village didn't improve Monica's status. She was expected to respond to every whim of her brothers and her father. That she could cope with. Her father's refusal to pay school fees was something else. In his mind, only men needed education. Again, Monica's mother came to the rescue. She planted extra gardens. For every kilo of *kaukau* or greens Monica lugged to school, the mission sisters gave her 10-*toea* credit to cover her fees. After years of her and her