

Netherlands Association for Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship

The Netherlands Association for Women's Interests started in 1894 as the Association for Women's Suffrage. It is not linked to any political party. Its members form a cross-section of political and non-political women from different social sectors, all involved in placing women's issues on the political agenda. It is affiliated with the International Alliance of Women (IAW). The IAW's aim is Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities. Equal political participation is one of its most important prerequisites. IAW has an NGO-consultative status with various UN and other official international bodies.

The Action Men/Women 50/50 of the Netherlands Association for Women's Interests started in 1985 and aims at achieving equal representation of women and men - 50/50 - in political functions - by the year 2000! The Action M/W 50/50 wants to realize the democratic principle that representative bodies should reflect the composition of the population.

The Association for Women's Interests uses four strategies:

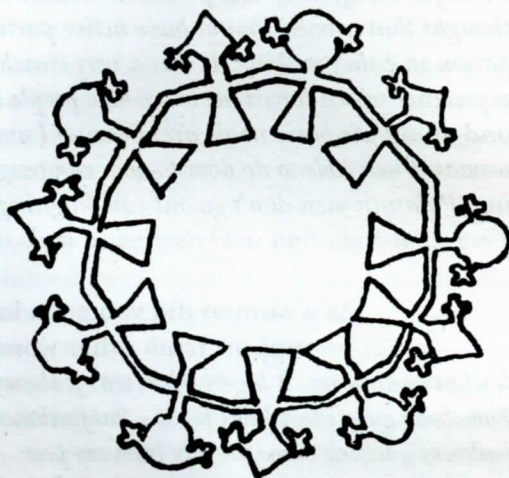
- ★ to broaden public support through consultation and cooperation with women's organizations and national machineries;
- ★ to emphasize the tremendous disadvantage women have in politics compared to men and seek ways to improve the situation;
- ★ to influence the attitudes and behavior by stimulating discussion on positive action and by propagating measures why and how the

number of women in politics can and should be increased; and

- ★ to issue press releases and letters to both print and broadcast media.

For more information contact:

Netherlands Association for Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship
Oudegracht 139bis
3511 AJ Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel: (+31-30) 367415
Fax: Joke Huisman-Vaal (+31-35) 891305



Liberal Women's Brain Pool in Mongolia

Liberal Women's Brain Pool (LEOS) is a voluntary non-governmental organization uniting the women supporting democratic views and processes. Its aim is to study the possibility of promoting talented professional women to serve the state and government 's economic and political decision-making positions.

It was founded on October 20, 1992 on the basis of a historical tradition admiring Mongolian women's wisdom, knowledge and ability; Mongolia's present social demand and con-

sumption where highly qualified women in different professions are active in political and public life even though the percentage being elected to decision-making positions of the state, government, party, and public organizations is still very low; and world trends promoting women to economic and political decision-making positions and increase their influence and role in the society.

LEOS projects and activities include an information fund related to women problems which was conceptualized to facilitate its overall program. On this regard, a study is being conducted:

- ★ to identify a pool of talented professional women;
- ★ to popularize these women through radio, television and press; and
- ★ to arrange work for indirectly influencing persons in decision-making positions of the state, government, party, and public organizations.

For more information contact:

Budragchaagiin Uranchimeg
 General Council of Mongolian Women's
 Federation
 Ulaanbaatar
 Mongolia
 Tel: 328060

P. Altantsetseg
 Women's Council, Ulaanbaatar City
 Ulaanbaatar
 Mongolia
 Tel: 22913

Jambalorjiin Erdenechimeg
 Khural of Citizen Representatives of the
 Capital City
 Sukhbaatar Square, 11
 Ulaanbaatar
 Mongolia
 Tel: 22007



And now for the bad news...

Dutch Party to Exclude Women

The Dutch right-wing protestant party SGP, have decided to ban women from party membership. This decision was based on their interpretation of the bible that women should not be politically active. The conspicuous vote came from the men, though women have a total two-thirds voting membership.

The motion was met with aversion by most other political parties and the women's movement. Upon the request of the women's groups, the Dutch Prosecution Office will start an investigation on the legitimacy of the SGP decision.

The motion also contradicts the policies of the state as the Dutch government favors the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Source: *Women Envision*, No. 8, December 1993