

peals to fight this move. They collected signatures and held a meeting attended by about 600 people. Another urgent meeting was sponsored by the Center for Christian Response to Asian Issues and the Feminism Religion Peace Association.

More than 200 participants attended the meeting, with several sharing their own experiences and opinions. In addition, teachers and historians have also started holding their own discussions and meetings.

When the war ended in 1945, Japan did not take clear responsibility for the harm it inflicted on other Asian countries. The next 40 years were spent focusing on economic development and material affluence. As a result, Japanese people failed to really consider the need for their government to apologize and compensate women and people in other Asian countries for causing them harm during the war.

Japan will have to change drastically if it wishes to take the road which leads to peace and life together with other Asian countries. We welcome comments and opinions on this matter from people of other countries.

Source: *Resource Materials on Women Labor in Japan*, 19 March 1997

WOMEN AGAINST OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING

Israel Women's Network (IWN) has joined Emunah, Na'amat and other women's organizations to create a new Women's Forum whose aim is to combat offensive advertising on Israeli TV. The forum aims to encourage new standards and ethics in advertising in order to prevent the exploitation of women and women's bodies in sales campaigns.

Forum delegates met with representatives of Tempo Soft-Drink Company to protest against offensive material in their current TV advertisements. The company promised to change its advertisement policy within six months and committed itself to bringing together other soft-drink companies in order to define new norms and standards in advertising.

Source: *Networking for Women*, July 1997

IMMUNIZE, OR LOSE CASH

Australian parents who fail to immunize their children will be punished by loss of childcare assistance and a new cut in maternity allowance under a new carrot-and-stick plan to boost the country's alarmingly low immunization rates.

Under the plan which begins on 1 January 1998, maternity allowance will be increased from a one-off payment of \$A882 to two payments totaling \$A950. The first \$A750 will be paid after the birth of a child but the final \$A200 will be available only when the child is 18 months old and immunized.

Families will also be refused child-care payments, including the child cash rebate, if they cannot prove their children have been immunized.

Source: *The Age*, 26 February 1997

PROMOTING EDUCATION CHANGES IN ZIMBABWE

In the last few years the Ministry of Education and Culture of Zimbabwe has developed and applied various strategies in order to promote education among girls and young women. The following are worth noting:

- ◆ establishing flexible conditions and admission criteria for women

at certain levels of education;

- ◆ continuing to offer opportunities for scholarships, educational subsidies and favorable conditions to girls, especially those who have the academic aptitude but are economically disadvantaged;

- ◆ creating public awareness through publicity campaigns highlighting women who have triumphed in life, with the purpose of promoting role models that can be imitated;

- ◆ giving women preference in professional job promotions even in cases where they may not possess all the merits that their male counterparts may have, in order to establish more women in positions that will be imitated as role models and to infuse hope in women;

- ◆ promoting a proposed plan to eliminate gender-based school activities between boys and girls (boys would no longer be sent to carpentry workshops while girls are sent to do needlepoint);

- ◆ adopting a criteria of impartiality for both genders in the elaboration, selection and use of academic materials, in language, use of language, in the selection of role-models and in the means of instruction;

- ◆ the creation of a scholarship fund reserved for women who are interested in obtaining their high school degree.

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THREE U.S. ARMY INSTRUCTORS IN GERMANY ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The United States Army acknowledged on 15 February that three male training instructors had been suspended from duties and two of them detained after 11 women soldiers complained of sexual mistreatment at a base in Germany. The accusations