

Women's Place in the Co-Op.

①

A

Women in the Co-Op have taken a separate place for ourselves *and to work on ♀ issues from a feminist perspective* * see p.3 of notes and other women to use and to develop our own identity. From the Co-ops point of view this development is seen as a definite and distinctive *factor* of the overall venture, giving practical expression to the theory of positive discrimination in favour of oppressed groupings.

B

From the women's view, it presents us with a very definite challenge to articulate and focus on women's ~~perspectives~~ *society* at all levels and as they relate to all aspects of the ~~Co-op~~ *society* and ~~to~~ link up with other groupings struggling for social change.

C

Accordingly *WOMENS* influences should permeate all the operations of the Co-op.

D

The women's right to nominate the female administrator should also be seen in this light.

E

While the women's place is in this structural relationship with the Co-op, individual women or groups of women in the W. Place will wish to pursue their feminist perspectives in a way which does not include specific involvement in other facets of the Co-ops ~~involvement in other facets of the Co-ops~~. From the Co-ops view, participation/involvement in the Women's Place is taken as participation in the overall Co-op.

F

Some Agreed Directives for the operation of the Women's Place. (1-5)

- 1 There is an uneven distribution of resources, as between people, groupings, and classes in Cork. Accordingly the needs of the applicants (to use the space) should be considered and the *space* building reserved for those who are in most need of it.
- 2 The work/activities/projects should be consonant with the current activities of the Women's Place and the ~~people~~ *♀* using it. No activity should be encouraged within the place which would conflict with another already going on.
- 3 Where women intend to make money for themselves through using the Women's Place, their fees/prices should not be *SUCH AS* TO EXCLUDE UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

(2)

4 Finances

- (a) In the case of 'outside' autonomous groups using 'The Women's Place', wage earners pay 50p per person per night and non - wage earners 25p.
- (b) Where funds are raised by the Womes's Place, ^{10%} 40% of the ~~profits~~ ^{weekly income} go to the overall Co-op, and ~~60%~~ ^{90%} towards developing the Women's Place.
- (c) A kettle & Coffee & Cups etc will ^{may} be available for use in the Women's Place, for payments equivalent to those operating in the cafe.
- (d) The decoration of 2nd back room in Women's Place is seen as the responsibility of the overall Co-op.

5 A Co-ordinator has been agreed by the Women, for a given period.

- i to liase between individuals and co-ordinators of groups, using space.
- ii To liase between Women's Place and the ~~committee/~~ ^{overall co-op structure} administrators on;
 - (a) ^a decisions taken/intended that have a bearing on the whole Co-op.
 - (b) ^b on forthcoming events.

G It is understood by the Co-Op and the Women's Place, that the co-ordinator is a member of the overall Co-op.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS NEED TO BE
AGREED ON.....

6 One of the Aims of the Women's Place is to encourage different approaches, relationships and structures which challenge existing power arrangements.

- (i) Accordingly all women using the place are invited to share responsibility for its running, thus beginning the process of gaining more control over our own lives.
- (ii) Likewise applicants wishing to use the space for projects, should work in such a way as to promote the transfer and development of skills and greater self awareness among the participants.

7 Bearing in mind Women's exploited role in the world of work, and the high rates of unemployment, projects with a job 'creation element' for unemployed women will be given priority, in the allocation of space.

8 Internal Structure, in Women's Place.

structured
Bearing in mind the action orientation of the Women's Place (as well as of the whole Co-op) action groups based on tasks, *organised on a collective basis,* will replace the usual committee structures, that can foster cliques, elitism, and non participation. X
Some of the tasks that currently need to be undertaken by work groups include:

- Day to day administration;
- A plan of Action for future work/Programmes;
- Development of Resources/Library ---

Regular meetings open to all women developing the place, take place regularly; some, of a 'closed' administrative nature- others of an open educational nature.