

Cork Q's Place. Article for Round Up.

The Cork Q's place is a centre for Q's activities, based in the Quay Co-op. It consists of 2 rooms, both of which are used for meetings, one of which is a library. The Q's place is organised and run on a feminist collective basis by the Q's place group, which meets on Friday nights. The centre is used by various Q's groups working on issues affecting our lives eg. Cork Q's Health Group, Lesbian Group, Lesbian Line Collective, Tai Chi, UCC Q's group, Library Development Collective & others.

Over the last few months, the Q's place has organised many different events, the biggest one being the Munster Q's Conference on the 8th & 9th December. It was organised to get some perspective on the Q's movement in Munster; to build up contacts between different Q's groups; to discuss Q's issues & campaigns; and to share common difficulties with regard to group structures & funding. The conference was well attended and 14 groups participated. It was a very successful weekend and open, positive discussion took place. An essential network between the groups was initiated at the conference and this will be maintained by a regular (newsletter) munster Q's newsletter and all the Q's groups will contribute. The current newsletter is being compiled by the Q's place and is due out in Feb but future editions will be produced on rotation by the different Q's groups.

② Other activities have included organising social events such as book parties at which Q donated books for the library. The evenings also provided a forum for reading Q's poetry & stories.

③ On 24th Jan Cork women travelled to Tralee to support Joanne Hayes and to highlight the degrading and unnecessary way she, and many other women, are treated by the authorities.

④ Recently the Q's place was informed that a conference organised by W.U.S with support from Coun. Stat. Q was being held in Cork. Q's groups had not been contacted before this to help with the organising & our group

objected strongly to this. Another objection voiced was the fact that ♀ could attend the conference by invitation only and at a high price, this obviously excludes the majority of women. The conference is now being held in Dublin and we urge ♀'s groups there to check out details to see if it is discriminative and elitist.

That more or less covers recent events but the work goes on. We're in the process of planning future events:

- 1) A number of Conic ♀'s groups are to hold meetings with Coun. Stat ♀ to organise a ♀'s conference in Cork in the near future.
- 2) We have invited ♀'s from Sheffield Film Co-op to show their films "Red Skirts on Clydeside" and "Jobs for the Girls" on Feb 15th. Films are always well attended in Conic so we're looking forward to a good night.
- 3) To celebrate International ♀'s Day we're planning a big demonstration of Munster woman power to be held in Cork on March 9th. Groups from Tralee, Waterford, Clonmel, Castleisobere etc will attend. We assemble outside Connolly Hall at 3pm march through Conic city with banners assemble at Daunts Square and members from ♀'s groups will make speeches, giving their reasons for being there & explaining their groups activities. We feel it is important that a demonstration of this nature be held in Conic as it allows Munster ♀ to show support & solidarity for each other; the need for which was expressed at the Munster ♀'s conference. Also throughout the day in the Cafe & library at the Co-op we are having an exhibition of work by ♀ artists. Also we are going to have a Social that night in the Co-op to end the day on a festive note.

- 4) Another big event being planned is a w's fun Weekend in May. There will be lots of films, videos, card games, soccer games, music, food, poetry reading, exhibitions & fun, fun fun. We would like to invite all w to this weekend, Details of dates & accomodation will be worked out shortly so everyone interested please contact the w's place.
- 5) On the issue of the new family planning bill the w's place group is going to work with the Cork w's Health Group to publicly support the bill and to lobby local politicians to get it passed.
- 6) Plans are being initiated to organize a Feminist Book fortnight in Cork in the summer when a large selection of w's books will be made available to w in Cork. Also a number of authors & women's writing groups will come here to do some reading of their works.

As you can see from the above there are many & varied activities planned for the coming months, and we would like to invite you to participate in any or all of these. For more information please write to us at w's place, 24 Sullivans Quay, Cork or phone us at (021) 967660.
Looking forward to hearing from you.
w's place group.