

AGREED DEFINITIONS AND DIRECTIVES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WOMEN'S PLACE

A. The Women's Place in the Co-op

1. Women in the Co-op have taken a separate place for ourselves and other women to use and to develop our own identity, to work on women's issues from a feminist perspective, and, for those of us who are lesbian, to take space for ourselves to work on lesbian politics, and provide a supportive atmosphere and environment for our sexuality to emerge.
2. From the women's view, it presents us with a very definite challenge to articulate and focus on women's perspectives at all levels and as they relate to all aspects of this society; to link up/work with other women's groups/organisations operating outside of the Women's Place; and to support/work with other groupings struggling for social change, where women's needs and interests are a primary focus in that struggle for change.
3. The co-ordinator/s, (and other women) involved in the Women's Place who are also members of the co-op, will work to ensure that women's influences permeate all the operations of the co-op.
4. 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-op. From the co-op's view, participation/involvement in the Women's Place is taken as participation in the overall co-op.

B. Internal Structures in Women's Place

1. Bearing in mind the action orientation of the Women's Place, action groups based on tasks and structured on a collective basis, will replace the usual committee structures, that can foster cliques, elitism, and non-participation.
2. Tasks undertaken by the Women's Place are decided at meetings of the Women's Place Group. (A Women's Library and easy accessibility to women's literature and information is an on-going and long-term project of the Women's Place).
3. The Women's Place Group is the overall co-ordinating body of the Women's Place, with responsibility for the practical implementation of the agreed directives and aspirations outlined here, and for the maintenance and administration of the Women's Place. Decision making powers within the Women's Place Group rest with regular attenders and contributors to the work of the Women's Place.

Co-ordinator/s

4. The Women's Place Group decides by consensus on the co-ordinator/s of the Women's Place, who carry out the following functions, based on decisions taken by the Women's Place Group:
 - To liaise between individuals and co-ordinators of groups using space.
 - To keep an account of the finances, and regularly report on these.
 - * To liaise between the Women's Place and the overall co-op on:
 - (i) decisions taken/intended that have a bearing on the whole co-op;
 - (ii) on forthcoming events.
 - * To present all space applications for approval, to meetings of the WPG.
 - To be committed to, and work for, the realisation of the aims and aspirations of the W. Place, as set out in A1, A2 above.

5. The position of co-ordinator/s will be reviewed after 6 months.

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

C. Finances

- to open discussion*
1. In the case of 'outside' autonomous groups using The Women's Place, wage earners pay 50p per person per meeting and non-wage earners pay 25p.
 2. Where funds are raised by the Women's Place, 10% of the weekly income go to the overall Co-op, and 90% towards developing and maintaining the Women's Place.
 3. Of women-organised events taking place in the Co-op, 5% of takings, (after expenses), go to the Co-op and 5% go to the Women's Place.
 4. Coffee and tea may be available in the Women's Place, for payments equivalent to those operating in the cafe.

D. Some Agreed Directives for the operation of the Women's Place

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 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 women using it. No activity should be encouraged within the place which would conflict with another already going on.
3. Women-organised events in the co-op should not be such as to exclude unemployed women.
4. 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. + Co-op membership.
 - (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 women using it.