

THE AT100 WOMEN'S LIBRARY



CELEBRATING
A CENTURY OF
COLLECTIONS

Fawcett Library Folio
Fawcett Library Ledger?
Fawcett Library....?



International
anarchy
means
W A R

A
MEETING

SHEBA

Will be held



WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE
35/37 MARSHAM STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

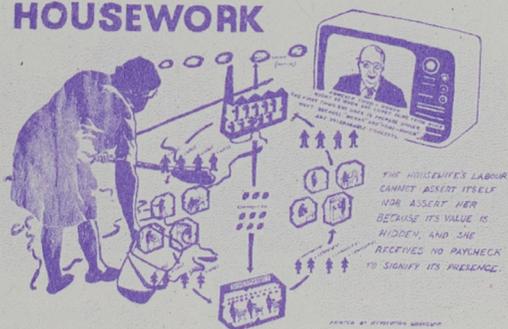


L.S.E. Women's
Liberation
Group



The Women's Library, the UK's oldest and largest collection on the history of feminism, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. This pamphlet tells its history (briefly) and highlights some of the women who feature in the exhibition, *The Women's Library at 100: Celebrating a Century of Collections*. The exhibition looks at the broad themes of international relations, women's equality campaigning, political representation, child protection, and feminist publishing but we must remember it represents just a fraction of the extensive history preserved in The Women's Library—stories of activism, resilience, and progress that continue to inspire today.

HOUSEWORK



Exhibition curated by:

Kelly Bosomworth, Claire Cunnington, Angele David-Guillou, Caroline Derry, Grace Heaton, Nazmia Jamal, Lyndsey Jenkins, Gillian Murphy and Patricia Owens.

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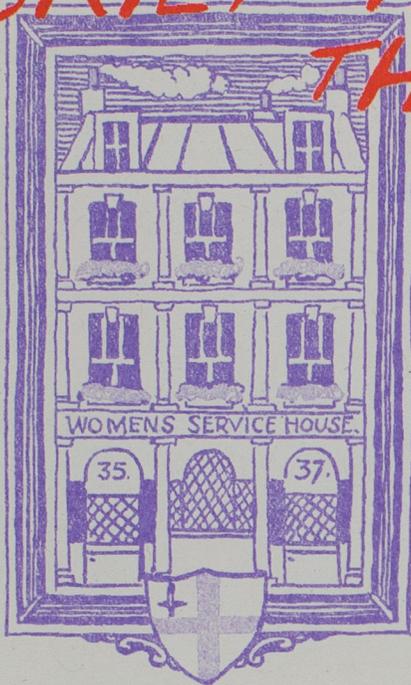
Cover image:

Cockburn/12/2 'New Year 1996' in Medica, Bosnia

Handwritten type throughout from:

1970-1979 TWL.2009.04.02 (above)

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S



35/37 MARSHAM STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

In 1926, the London Society for Women's Service (a non-militant organisation led by Millicent Fawcett to campaign for gender equality and equal rights) established a library called the Women's Service Library. Here is a quote from their announcement to its members in 1926:

"The Library will contain a historical record of the women's movement, but a special feature will be the classification of modern articles, pamphlets, and statistics dealing with women at work. Enquiries will be heartily welcomed, and the Committee hope that members will thus be saved both time and trouble, and will be able to equip themselves for their own work, and for co-operation with other women workers, and so be ready at all times ready to uphold the cause for which the Society exists."

1929

Millicent Garrett Fawcett laid the foundation stone for a new building at 29 Marsham Street. The library moved here in 1931.

1926

The London Society for Women's Service established a library called the Women's Service Library. Location: Women's Service House at 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. On 1 January 1926, Vera Douie began there as its first librarian, and remained in the role for 41 years.



4 WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE 35/37 MARSHAM STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

LIBRARY

1938

The library was renamed Millicent Fawcett Library, after its former president.

1940

Bombing of Women's Service House, the Library moved to Oxford, only returning to London in the late 1940s.

1953

The London Society was renamed the Fawcett Society, which is still going today. The Society moved to 27 Wilfred Street, Westminster (below).



BRIEF HISTORY CONT...

1956

The Fawcett Society brought the library back together, renaming it the Fawcett Library in the following year (below).

1977

The Fawcett Library moved to the basement of Calcutta House, City of London Polytechnic (now London Metropolitan University) in Old Castle Street.





2002

After suffering from flooding and cramped accommodation, the Library successfully received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to build new premises. This became The Women's Library.

2012

Finances were again a problem, and a new home was sought.

1983

The first professional archivist was hired (on a 2-year contract) (above).

2013

LSE became custodians and the Library entered a new phase in its history.

The collection was primarily built up through donations. Letters were written to members and to authors, inviting them to donate their books. The Library attracted many prominent feminists as members, such as Virginia Woolf and Vera Brittain.

The Women's Library collection still heartily welcomes enquiries and equips researchers, activists, academics, and artists with materials to uphold equal suffrage, equal opportunities and economic equality for women, the original aim of The London Society for Women's Service.



The League of Nations

President: VISCOUNT GREY OF FALLODON K.G.

A British Organisation founded to promote the formation
League of Nations
mutual confidence, and permanent peace
KINGSTON GATE

INTERNATIONAL

WOMAN'S PART LEAGUE OF NATIONS RELAT

BY A GROUP OF WOMEN.

Sylvia Pankhurst was a key figure in international relations in the 1920s advancing a radical form of women's internationalism that linked feminism to socialism, anti-war politics and opposition to empire. After breaking with the mainstream suffrage movement, she used journalism, pamphlets and campaigning to educate about international affairs, arguing that women's emancipation could not be separated from struggles against militarism and economic injustice.

During this period, Pankhurst was also critical of emerging international institutions such as the League of Nations, which she believed failed to address imperial power and racial inequality. Her activism and writing foregrounded anti-imperialist perspectives and solidarity with colonised peoples, anticipating contemporary debates about the limits of international governance and the ongoing need for feminist and decolonial approaches to global politics.



Photograph of anti-fascist, anti-colonial and feminist activist Sylvia Pankhurst, 1920s.

SYLVIA PANKHURST
(1882-1960)

THE SIX

EX
THE
by kind permission

LADY RHONDDA

on T...
(1882-1958)

GRO

Lady Rhondda, born Margaret Haig Thomas, was a Welsh suffragette, feminist leader, and businesswoman who survived the sinking of the *Lusitania* in 1915.

CHAIR
(Miss Archdale came late)

PRESENT

In 1917, Lady Rhondda said in an interview:

'I think the war, awful as it has been, did a wonderful thing for women. It brought about a revolution for them, which one may well imagine centuries might have otherwise been needed to encompass. But now women have seen what they can do; they have learned to have confidence in themselves to undertake the most amazing and difficult tasks.'

During and after the First World War, she campaigned for women's political and economic equality and founded the feminist weekly *Time and Tide* in 1920, and the women's equality campaigning organisation, the Six Point Group, in 1921. Although she inherited her title from her father, she could not sit in the House of Lords because she was a woman. Lady Rhondda campaigned to change this, but died just before the passing of the Life Peerages Act 1958, which created life peers.



Photograph of Lady Rhondda outside the offices of *Time and Tide*, 1949.

POINT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE SIX POINT GROUP

ion of Miss Graham, at 12, Malvern Court, S.W.4.,

7, with Mr. ... of ... p.m.

GROUP

CLAIRE MADDEN

(1905-1998)

- Flora Drummond
- Gertrude Leber
- Elsie Clifford Jones
- M. Graham
- Claire Madden.
- Charlie
- E.M. Hay
- Avaba
- Dorothy
- Rose

The Six Point Group welcomed younger members such as Claire Madden, who championed mothers' rights. Madden was an Irish nationalist and Sinn Féin sympathiser from the 1920s and wrote widely on this topic. In the 1930s, she also became a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB). She was active within the Six Point Group, serving as Secretary and publishing pamphlets. She was the Librarian at the *Daily Worker* (now *The Morning Star*) until the 1960s. Her archive is held at The Women's Library!

Daily Worker

75 FARRINGTON RD. LONDON, E.C.1



Signature of Holder.

Claire Madden

This card is valid until

Signed H. Allott
NEWS EDITOR

Date 6.6.1968

RENEWAL

This card has been renewed
until

Signed _____
NEWS EDITOR

Date _____

Claire Madden's Daily Worker ID card, 1968.

Dr Una Kroll writes

Dear Elector,

I am a housewife and a family doctor. Our Family came to live in Sutton four years ago, and two of our four children go to local state schools. As they have grown up I have seen all my daughters suffer from the education uncertainties which still exist in Sutton. I have worked in the constituency and know its problems at first hand.

I am standing as a candidate for election to Parliament because I am deeply concerned about the difficulties which confront women in our society now, and the future which faces my own and other people's daughters as they grow into women. I am equally concerned about the quality of life which men and women have in Sutton and in our nation.

I am convinced that:

- women should be as well educated as men
- women should get equal pay for equal work
- women should have equal opportunities with men
- women should be able to pay the same social security as men and draw the same benefits
- women should have a far greater say in the life of Sutton and in the life of the nation

I think that society needs to give top priority to:

- the needs of single parent families
- the needs of disabled people
- the needs of homeless people
- the needs of pensioners

I aim to speak on behalf of all those whose voice is lost in the complexities of our national life. In all previous elections I have refused to commit myself to one political party, but have felt free to vote for the person who I think will represent the best interests of the Borough and this country. In voting for me you will not be wasting your vote.

I believe that I have sufficient experience as a working mother and a doctor to be able to represent the people of the constituency of Sutton and Cheam in Parliament. I have campaigned widely in both Church and society for women's rights, and have experience of public life. I believe that women should play a full part in the economic, political and social life of this country, and that we need independent members in Parliament to give a voice to the voiceless.

I ask for your vote with confidence.
Yours sincerely,
Una M. Kroll

What the Women's Rights Campaign stands for:

STOP THE BRAIN DRAIN *Girls deserve as good an education as boys. They need better careers' advice and an end to sex discrimination in further education.*

EQUAL PAY ALL THE WAY *Real equality at work means equal pay and equal opportunities.*

DON'T BAR MA *Mothers need more nursery places - with hours to suit local needs. When they want to return to work they should have a chance to retrain and to get jobs with suitable hours. Mothers must have paid maternity leave.*

HP FOR YOU AND ME *Men and women should be given H.P., loans, mortgages and credit facilities on the same basis. They should get social security according to their needs, not their personal relationships.*

EQUAL SUMS FOR MUMS AND DADS *Husbands and wives should have equal rights in the family home. Single and unsupported parents should get a guaranteed maintenance allowance. Discrimination in the tax system must stop.*

IT'S YOUR BIRTHRIGHT TO CHOOSE *Contraception or pregnancy should be a woman's choice. We need free family planning, available from our doctor or local clinic.*

END PENSION PINCHING *We should all get the same pension, regardless of marital status, and be able to choose our own retirement age between sixty and sixty-five. Everyone over seventy needs an increased pension.*

BAN THE BIAS *Sex discrimination should be against the law. We need an Equal Opportunities Commission with powers of investigation, legal aid and local tribunals to which any woman can take her case.*

*Women need to be freed from the sole responsibility of caring for the Family -
Men need to be freed from the sole responsibility of supporting the Family*

RIGHTS FOR WOMEN ARE THE RIGHT FOR MEN

LENDA JACKSON

R

DR UNA KROLL

L INDEPENDENT SPECIFIC PARTY

CANDIDATE

for

SUTTON & CHEAM

DR UNA KROLL'S ADOPTION

TONIGHT AT 6PM

(14th SEPTEMBER 1997)

AT BENHILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BENHILTON GARDENS

(OFF ROSEHILL)

SUTTON

unite
with
una

Una Kroll was a doctor, a nun, and a feminist campaigner. After qualifying as a GP in 1951, Kroll believed she had a call for the priesthood and became a missionary nun in Liberia, West Africa, where she met her future husband, a monk, Father Leo Kroll. On returning to the UK, she trained as a deaconess and in 1972 founded the Christian Parity Group. In the 1974 General Election, Kroll stood as the parliamentary candidate on a women's rights platform. Although unsuccessful, her campaign did help to bring about the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. Three years later, she once again made newspaper headlines, declaring 'we asked you for bread and you gave us a stone' from the gallery of Church House after the Church of England voted against legislation to allow women to be ordained priests.

After her husband's death and with her four children now grown up, Kroll was ordained in the Church of Wales in 1997. However, unhappy with the Church's treatment of the LGBT+ community, she returned her licence to officiate. In 2008, Kroll converted to Catholicism to stand in solidarity with her Catholic sisters, who still cannot be ordained as priests.



• IN action at her adoption meeting is Dr Una Kroll, candidate for Women's Rights in Sutton and Cheam.

And with her on the platform was award winning actress Glenda Jackson.

Throughout the day volunteers tramped the district, dressed in mauve and green, handing out leaflets advertising Saturday's meeting.

The hall at Benhillon Primary School was packed long before the meeting started at 6 pm.

"Guardian" writer Mary Stott set the meeting in motion by saying it was a great day for women.

She said: "All is very far from right for women in

today's society. Women are grossly unrepresented in Parliament and we believe that Dr Kroll is the best possible MP that Sutton and Cheam could have."

"Capital Radio" broadcaster Joan Shenton told how she had pledged her help after she had listened to Dr Kroll on radio.

Dr Kroll, wearing a mauve pinafore dress, spoke about general policy and emphasised the need for sorting out Sutton's education system and housing plans.

Glenda Jackson, dressed in a black and white spotted suit, referred to Dr Kroll as an intelligent caring adult and saw the campaign as an important and refreshing one.

13

UNITE WITH UNA

HEAR

1885!

S. MORLEY,
8, Wood Street, E.C.
Treasurer:
PRING,
II, Square, Lincoln's Inn.

The Protection of Girls

HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, August 22nd, at 5 p.m.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, August 21st.

STRAND, CHARING CROSS

August

& THE CONS

Spare Rib (1972-1993) was a feminist magazine in the United Kingdom. It was founded out of the emerging 1970s women's liberation movement by Rosie Boycott, Marsha Rowe and others. Its first edition was published in June 1972 and sold around 20,000 copies per month, even sold at WH Smith! It was circulated widely through women's groups and networks. Copies of Spare Rib can be found in The Women's Library.

*The wave of
we will be able
in order
to obtain the
of the acts. So
write & ask you
be ready. Com
with other friends please
I think the p*

14

The current Sexual offences debates that were raging over the Contagious Diseases Act. *Sebestyen* unearths the experience of Josephine Butler and Rebecca at the forefront of women's protest against prostitution.

TWO WOMEN FROM

I bring two words from the mouth of a woman, speaking in the name of all women, and those two words are -
We Rebel!

Forty years before Emmeline Pankhurst, the woman who flung this challenge from a platform was Josephine Butler; to my mind the founder of radical feminism. The rebellion she was talking about combined women of every class against a rule of sexual terror.

Quarantine

In 1864 the Contagious Diseases Act was hustled through Parliament under cover of a measure for quarantining foot-and-mouth disease, the cattle in



The young Josephine G...

girls.
RATIO
ENCE,
CROSS,

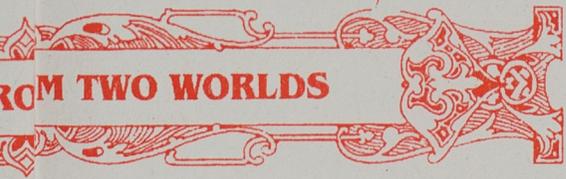
SCANDAL AGE OF ENT

*Jpa B. P. in the
10/11/1885*

Dear Friend

*I have been for
10 days in London
helping several friends
in a most terrible
investigation concerning
the crimes (vice is to
name a word) of the*

offences Bill raises some
from the 1860s onwards
Diseases Act. Amanda
experiences of two women –
becca Jarrett – who were at
massive resistance to



ney, by her mother.
ne Gey,
Josephine Butler

means me to rise in revolt and rebellion
(for that it must be) against men, even
against our rulers, then I would do it
with zeal.' Her mind made up, she
entered the fight: 'What have I to do
with peace? It is war to the knife.' She
lobbied, she wrote superb pamphlets,
she travelled end to end of the country
to hold mass meetings among the newly
organised but still voteless working-
men. She faced crowds who smashed
windows and set fire to the places she
stayed in, or threatened to beat her up
while policemen stood by and watched.
Above all, she and the fieldworkers of
the new Ladies National Association for
the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases
Acts were going into the garrison towns
and meeting up with other women:
telling them their legal rights at the
doors of the inspection centres, hiring
lawyers to defend them when they
refused examination, affirming their
own sense that living with a man – or
having an infection – or going on the

In the Spare Rib article by Amanda Sebestyen
(seen on this page), we can read about the
press campaign around the crimes of the
aristocracy, which led to the raising of the
age of consent from 13 to 16 in 1885 through
a second-wave feminist perspective. It tells
the story of Josephine Butler, best known
for her campaigns against state regulation
and criminalisation of prostitution and pro-
tecting girls from sexual exploitation.

The article gives thanks to the librarians of
the Fawcett Library (The Women's Library
today).

SHEBA PUBLI

● CIRCUIT

CITY LIMITS

POETRY

Danger zones



● Black women have always been storytellers, in our kitchens together...

Sheba Feminist Publishers (1980-94) was a women-run publishing co-operative rooted in Britain's Women's Liberation Movement. Initially all white, the collective soon recruited Black women and women of colour, who became the majority. Sheba foregrounded underrepresented voices, including working-class and lesbian writers, and was Audre Lorde's first UK publisher.

Sheba Feminist Publishers were responsible for the landmark 1985 publication of *A Dangerous Knowing*, where the four contributors to this volume reflect on the breadth and depth of their experiences as Black women in Britain. Their poetry bursts with anger and humour, expresses hope and fear, and comes to a reaffirmation of racial identity and cultural roots, and of love between women.

Flier for 'A Dangerous Knowing' event in 1985 featuring all four poets plus Elaine Okoro, hosted by the Manchester black women's collective Abasindi and Grass Roots Books.

A DANGEROUS KNOWING

four black women poets



AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH
barbara burford jackie kay
grace nichols gabriela pearse
elaine okoro

at *ABASINDI*
st marys st
moss side

on *SAT., APRIL 6th 1985*

at *7.30 pm*

ADMISSION *£1.50 (waged)*
£1.00 (unwaged)



ALL WOMEN WELCOME

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS, SIGNER
 ORIGINAL DESIGN: SHAHEEN HAO

CONTACT **GRASS
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 of Manchester Limited
 1 newton street
 piccadilly, manchester
 m1 1hw tel 061 236 3112

GRASS ROOTS BOOKS/ABASINDI CO-OPERATIVE/SHEBA FEMINIST PUBLISHERS



FEMINIST PUBLISHERS

SHEBA FEMINIST PUBLISHERS
is pleased to invite you to the launch of
AUDRE LORDE'S
new book of poetry

Our Dead Behind Us

Reading from the work: JACKIE KAY
with
A critical appreciation by: DOROTHEA SMARTT
and

First-time showing of videotaped interviews
with the author by: LATE START PRODUCTIONS

30 JUNE 1987, 7:30 PM
at Wesley House, #4 Wild Court, London WC1
Holborn Underground

Refreshments..All Women Welcome..Full Wheelchair access

Sheba 10A Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN Tel. 01-254 1590

Audre Lorde, born in New York City, was a self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." Sheba Feminist Publishers made Lorde's work more accessible to a UK audience when they published the book *Our Dead Behind Us*.

Excerpt from 'To the Poet Who Happens to Be Black and the Black Poet Who Happens to Be a Woman', *Our Dead Behind Us*:

I cannot recall the words of my first poem
but I remember a promise
I made my pen
never to leave it
lying
in somebody else's blood.

Flier paste-up for 'Our Dead Behind Us' event in 1987 featuring Jackie Kay and Dorothea Smartt alongside a film by Late Start collective (Viv Bietz, Shaheen Haq, Pratibha Parmar and Ingrid Pollard)

1. The Library is open to all members of the London Society

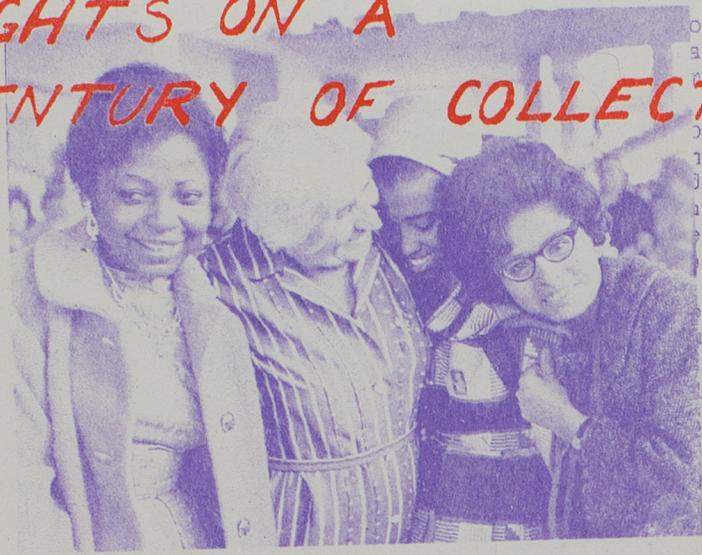
2. House Members pay a subscription of 10/- per year for use of the Library

on-House Members pay for use of the Library 10/- per week for books may be borrowed for fortnight, after a day will be lent. Extension shall have been given of time. Members may be removed if they do not return books in good time. All Members who have been in the Library before March 1924 are Annual Subscribers and all others are House Members

books may be removed if it has been found that the member is not a member and all books should be returned to the Librarian

All Members who have been in the Library before March 1924 are Annual Subscribers and all others are House Members

THOUGHTS ON A CENTURY OF COLLECTIONS



SUGGESTIONS are invited

We've covered just a small selection of The Women's Library treasures through the history of its establishment to current-day research topics. But what do you think?

Use these prompts to continue thinking, discussing or writing about the exhibition.



World Congress of Women: Moscow: a group portrait of four delegates June 1963

What topics would you research in The Women's Library?

If you could ask Vera Douie anything about her 41 years (1926-1967) as a librarian in London, what would you ask?

Why do you think print culture (pamphlets, newspapers, magazines) mattered so much to feminist movements?

Which campaigns or ideas feel most relevant to the present moment? What has changed – and what feels unfinished?

What kinds of stories do you think The Women's Library should focus on preserving for the future?

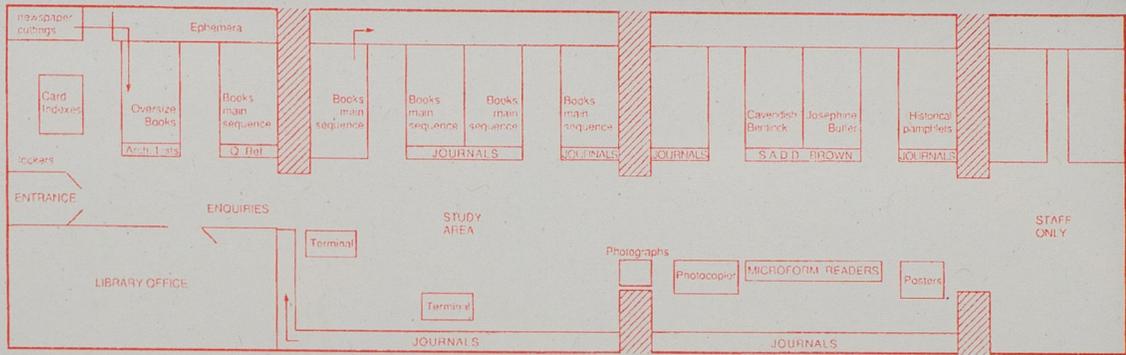
London Society for Women's Service.

Secretary: MISS P. STRACHEY
Telephone: VICTORIA 9542.

35/37 ST. MARTIN'S STREET,
LONDON W.C.2.

Women's Service Library.

18



ARMED WOMEN BESIEGE THE KING

The Globe

SPECIAL EDITION 21.5.14



IWD-80



URANIA

RECLAIM THE NIGHT!



WOMENS PEACE CAMP COLMISTO

The Women's Library Exhibitions / Events
Spring / Summer 2012



Continue learning and join
an event:



Join an LSE Library event to
celebrate the centenary:



To contact us, email
Library.enquiries@lse.ac.uk



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■