

## LET'S GO, 86 IS OURS

### A Report to Women For Life

They are truly convinced that the work done last year combined with the two years before it will give them important results. From there the slogan "Women, let's go! 86 is ours".

Without a determined structure, Women For Life is from the Chilean opposition, the women's alianze the strongest movement of convocation. While many individuals joined them by own iniciative, others through organizations. All of them with the same goal: To finish with the represive regime of Pinochet.

Women For Life appears before the public opinion as a seed of unity that could flourish as a big movement of similar characteristics to those who had fememine power in other periods under different circumstances. However, the 13 women who form the permanent committee are aware that, in order, to keep unity, every plan or program must be discussed exhaustively, respecting every agreement during a critical evaluation after each meeting.

There are ar~~ound~~ 30 different organization participating in Women For Life. From the fememine branch of the Democrat Party to the Left Wing feminist movement; La Morada, an organization that collect food in the local markets to prepare meals for children of unemployed parents. (ollas comunes); as well as college students and the National Leage of Union Workers.

The diversity comes from the movement's Genesis. It was October 1983, remember Patricia Verdugo, one of the leaders we were living a very special moment with the first rallies which had had unity without differences of class or origins, when we realized the division between political parties. Men, who had the history on power appear in blind self-ish positions.. We started to call friends to convoke them to a big meeting of women who represented different groups, says Fanny Pollarolo ( she had been tortured and confined to isolated place in a far-away Province). The committee called to a Press Conference where they declared the firm proposit and compromise: TO DEFEND LIFE.

Next, we called to a masive act in a coliseum. There we realized how many people participate with real enthusiasm and support. The last year, after a pacific rally through Providencia Av. they finished in the Cathedral in the center of the City. Six of them were arrested by police officers, while many others were chased away by water shots from police trucks. This represion was never experienced before when feminist groups demanded President Allende's resignation, they had free access to press and public communications. Also they never confronted Fear. A condition that has been institutionalized by the dictatorship. Another problems is that because our meeting are not authorized, it's very difficul to send the message to more women.



The sociologist Teresa Valdes, one of the leaders declared. Another difficult that women should confront is their husband and their respective families. They are afraid that she participate because of repression. We must add the concrete role of women, like prepare dinner, clean the house and take care of children. Paradoxically those domestic roles had bring together many poor women from shanty towns around the city. Hand-craft workshops and children's nutrition centers. To all of them 1986 means a challenge. Challenge to awake those who still unactive and indifferent; to struggle against fear as Fanny Pollarolo, the psychiatrist said: Fear is just a vicious circle that must be defeated. But with logical we can't convince. We are studying different alternatives of participation in the houses around our own neighborhood. For example, said Maria Silva, (from Women For Socialism) if we are thinking of a National Strike, it's important that women make plans to buy food before.

The first activity during this year will be the celebration of the International Day of Women on March 8. We will try to get Government permission to reach the public through media. The history does not stop here, added Mariluz Silva, when Democracy arrives women should never go back to the feminine branch only. They must be the social actor who demand his own necessities. Graciela Borquez finished saying: After the dictatorship we cannot go back and lose our voice.