

THE NEW WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Legislation:

- 1949 *Grundgesetz* decrees male-female equality to be binding in all aspects of the law
Article 3, Paragraph 2: "Männer und Frauen sind gleichberechtigt."
- 1955 *Frauenlohngruppen* (special wage-rate groups for female labour) made illegal by the Federal Labour Court
- 1957 *Gleichberechtigungsgesetz* passed by the Bundestag
- 1974 Bundestag passes law allowing abortion up to the third month of pregnancy, the so-called *Fristenlösung* (time-limited abortion)
- 1975 this legislation declared unconstitutional by the Bundesverfassungsgericht (Federal Constitutional Court)
- 1976 new legislation passed by parliament making a legal abortion possible on medical, eugenic, criminological, or social grounds
- 1993 following a legal amendment adopting the former GDR abortion law (June 1992) for the whole of Germany, the *Fristenlösung* is again declared unconstitutional but not a punishable offence

Statistics:

- 1970/1 31.8 million women in West Germany
- 50% of women of working age in employment
 - 75% of women in employment perform unskilled or semi-unskilled labour
 - average pay of women working in industry 30% less than that of men
 - only 30% of 14-year-old girls go on to secondary modern (*Realschule*) or grammar school (*Gymnasium*)
 - only 6.6% of members of the Bundestag are women
 - women membership of political parties: CDU, 13.6%; CSU, 10%; FDP, 15%
SPD, 17.3%

Cultural Developments:

- 1968 Aktionsrat zur Befreiung der Frau founded in West Berlin (January)
- 1971 374 women publicly announce in *Stern* that they have had illegal abortions (June)
- 1973 first German women's film festival and workshop in Berlin
- 1974 *Frauen und Film*, a feminist film journal, founded by Helke Sander
- 1975 publication of Alice Schwarzer's *Der 'kleine Unterschied' und die großen Folgen*
founding of Frauenoffensive publishing house
publication of Verena Stefan's *Häutungen*
- 1976 first shelter for battered women founded in West Berlin
founding of *Courage* (September)
- 1977 founding of *Emma* (January)
- 1979 formation of Association of Women Film-Makers