WOMEN’S ROLE IN THE PURSUIT OF WORLD PEACE

By Hannah Sen

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For the first time in fifteen years throughout most of the world are women marching with men bearing the burdens of war.

The twentieth century ushered in an era of change and development of new attitudes and new values. To date, it has witnessed two major wars and the birth of many revolutionary movements. At the height of the anti-war upsurge, the role of women was still unclear. The role of women in the pursuit of world peace is a matter of increasing concern.

In the political annals of the world, the proud achievements of the early suffragists constitute a brilliant and poignant chapter. The names of the American leader and lawyer Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1947), the English leader Emmeline Pankhurst (1858–1928) and her daughter Christabel (1880–1960), and the Indian leader Kamala Nehru (1879–1964), have been prominent in the struggle for women's equality. But there are millions of women whose names are not remembered but whose work and co-operative effort made possible the ultimate victory.

Outstanding as the results of the women's movement have been, one should not overlook the dynamic significance of the long years of struggle to attain national independence or to achieve a decent society which characterizes some of the countries in which the women lived. New governments and new nations were born in Europe and in other parts of the world. These changes have added to the social justice and in elevating the status of women. It was not just a

natural that women, having shared in the battle of war, should share in the triumphs of peace. Women's equality with men in every field of human endeavor, by giving increased recognition to the achievement of a true democracy.

By the time the twentieth century dawned, the principle of women's equality had become an accepted fact in large areas of the world. In India, Pakistan, and elsewhere, it was incorporated in newly drafted constitutions. With new opportunities came new responsibilities, and women began to emerge from the seclusion of their homes to take up positions in government and in public offices. If the role of peace was not always acknowledged, it was not always legislation that stood in the way of the forces of custom and tradition. The background condition restrained women from helping women to complete their emancipation was greatly reduced.

Despite the fact that in the enfranchised countries women were taking up administrative positions at all government levels, there are millions of women who have to be educated in the desire to be eligible for the elective positions that should be theirs by right. The condition of women, and the condition of men, is improving gradually. It was women's organizations which were the driving power behind the reforms of old concepts and of education. The solution to the problem of the world's women's condition in the years ahead is to be found in the future leadership of women in the world's affairs.

The work initiated by the International Labour Organization in the field of women's employment and the advancement of women is a more potent weapon should be employed. The present day world can stand for the declaration of a more equitable world with the condition of women in the different countries revealed. There are millions of women every year in the different parts of the world who have enjoyment of the right to vote. In the United States, which have signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there are millions of women who are not under the influence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Women, however, cannot be lasting peace and stability. Among the more important rights accruing to women, freedom, from class and the eligibility to hold public office and to exercise all the social and political functions are regarded as fundamental.

In the recognition of the importance of women's role in post-war development, the years following the signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945 seem to the most fruitful. An analysis of the statistics show that before World War I (1914), millions of women throughout the world were not only not utilized in the labor force, but they were deprived of the opportunity to be a part of the world's economic development.

The Commission has served as a very effective instrument for collecting and distributing data and for outlining its functions in many instances of discrimination and backwardness. What has added considerable value to its de

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