

United Nations

Nations Unies

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AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

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ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL

UNRESTRICTED

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3 April 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

In accordance with the decision of the Economic and Social Council at its ad hoc meeting on 10 December 1946, the following biographical details of the Members of the Commission on the Status of Women have been received from the delegations concerned and are hereby circulated.

RECEIVED

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UNITED NATIONS  
ARCHIVES

/AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

Mrs. JESSIE STREET

Born in Ranchi, India, 18 April 1889.

Education and Degrees Received

Bachelor of Arts of the University of Sydney, Australia -  
English Literature, Philosophy, History.

Chronological Sketch of Career

First President of United Associations of Women - 1928;  
First Secretary of Sydney University Women's Sports Association;  
Chairman of Australian Women's Charter Conference in 1943;  
Proprietor of the Australian Women's Digest - 1946.

Participation in International Conferences and Organizations

Member of Australian Delegation to United Nations Conference in  
San Francisco in 1945;

From 1911 to 1946 attended Women's Conferences and Social Workers'  
Conferences in Geneva, England, United States of America, Zurich, Paris,  
and India;

Represented various Women's Organizations in Australia.

Other Biographical Information

Member of Australian Labour Party and nominated and endorsed by the  
Labour Party as their candidate in the elections for the Federal Parliament  
in 1943 and in 1946.

Since 1920, member of the Women's College Council of University of  
Sydney.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Mrs. EVDOKIA URALOVA

Member of Byelorussian Delegation and member of Social, Humanitarian  
and Cultural Committee at first part of first session of General Assembly  
in London;

Taught history and literature in a high school and is now Minister of  
Education and a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics.

CHINA

Mrs. WAY SUNG NEW, nee YUE-TSUNG ZEE

Place of Birth

Soo-chow, Kiangsu, China.

Date of Birth

1894

Academic Preparation

1919 B.A. Ginling College, Nanking, China

1923 M.A. Teachers College, Columbia University, United States of America

/1944

Academic Preparation (Continued)

- 1944 Professional Diploma for Dean of Women  
Member of the New York Association of Deans  
Honor Societies: Phi Tau Phi, China  
Pi Lambda Theta, America  
1943-1946 Special academic studies and field observation on Personnel  
Administration and Youth Guidance work.  
Counselling Service in Higher Education  
Teaching Experience: 16 years; in administration: 14 years

Career and Service in Public Affairs - Pre-War Period

- 1920 Dean of Women, The First Co-educational experiment of National  
Southeastern University, Nanking, China.  
Teaching: History and Ethics  
1921-1923 Teacher, National Teachers' College For Women, Peiping, China.  
1927-1937 Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ginling College.  
Member of the Executive Committee.  
President of the Alumnae Association.  
1933-1937 Chairman of the Board of Methodist Girls' Schools  
Chairman of Educational Problems, Shanghai Women's Club  
Chairman of the National Child Welfare Homes, Executive  
Member of the National Child Welfare Association.  
1928-1937 Assistant Superintendent and Social Director of the  
Orthopedic Hospital of Shanghai, China.  
Assistant Superintendent and instructor of Orthopedic  
Nurses' Training School.

War Service

- 1937-1943 Chairman of Clothing Relief under International Red Cross  
for 149 refugee camps in Shanghai.  
Assistant in administration of Convalescent Homes for  
bombed civilians. Organizer of Voluntary Aids.  
1941 Representative of Ginling College Board to Smith College, America.  
1942-1943 Speaker in Church Societies and Conventions  
Lecturer in American Colleges under the auspices of  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China.  
Lecturer of the Student Christian Movement in New York State.  
1945 Assistant to Miss Yi-fang Wu, the Chinese Woman Delegate to the  
San Francisco Conference of the United Nations.  
1943-1946 Faculty Adviser to Personnel Training for Chinese Child  
Welfare Workers in China at Euthenic Institute of Vassar  
College. (summer)  
1943-1947 Adviser to the Chinese Students Christian Movement in  
North America.  
1946 May, Member of the Nuclear Sub-Commission on Status of Women  
of the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations  
October-December, Expert and Adviser to the Chinese Delegation  
at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

COSTA RICA

Dona GRACIELA MORALES F. de ECHEVERRIA

Licenciada in social studies.

Had courses in various branches of jurisprudence, and worked in  
social service institutions.

Currently occupies the position of chief of a department of the  
Costa Rica Social Security Office (Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social).

/DENMARK

DENMARK

Mrs. BODIL BEGTRUP

Chief Censor of Films.

In 1939 became chairman of the Commission for Children's Health and in 1941 member of the Council for Maternal Health and member of the Danish Board for Cultural Films.

Was a member of the Danish Delegation to the League of Nations Assembly in 1938, and, on the proposal of the Danish Women's Organization, was appointed as a Danish Delegate to the First General Assembly of the United Nations.

Chairman of the Nuclear Sub-Commission on the Status of Women.

FRANCE

Mme. MARIE HELENE LEFAUCHEUX

Devoted herself to welfare work as a member of the Resistance Movement during the German occupation and became one of its delegates to the French Consultative Assembly.

Has been elected from the Aisne Department to the Constituent Assembly as a member of the Mouvement Républicain Populaire.

Alternate delegate of France to the First General Assembly.

Vice President of the Municipal Council of Paris.

Member of the Nuclear Sub-Commission on the Status of Women.

GUATEMALA

Miss SARA BASTERRECHEA RAMIREZ

Biographical information has not yet been received.

INDIA

Begum Mrs. SHAREEF AH HANID ALI

(NOTE: Begum is a title of aristocratic married Muslim women of India)

Born

December 1883

Education

In India and privately

Married

In 1908

Chronological Sketch of Life

Before marriage keenly interested in the Indian handicraft exhibitions and Indian Independence Movement.

Also organized classes for Art, St. John's Ambulance and Nursing.

Taught in schools.

/1908-1925

Chronological Sketch of Life (Continued)

1908-1925 - Worked for women's welfare (educational, social and medical) in the various districts in the Province of Sind. Started Social and Literary Clubs for women, organized schools and Indian Industries' exhibitions.

1925-1932 - Helped to organize Muslim Women's Educational Conference in Poona. Also started hospitals for women and classes for midwifery. Worked as member and sometime Chairman of the Education Committee of the District Local Board.

In 1926 organized all India Women's Conference and in 1928 was appointed Chairman of its Standing Committee. In 1928 organized various branches of the All India Women's Conference and Girl Guides. During 1929-1932 served as Organizing Secretary and Treasurer to the All India Women's Conference.

In 1933 went to England as one of the three representatives of Indian Women to the Round Table Conference to discuss Indian political advancement. Was invited to speak in Geneva on the status of women in India.

1934-1936 - Continued medical and social work among women. Organized village uplift work and training classes for rural workers, men and women. Started a branch of the All India Women's Conference. In 1935 went as the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the World Conference of Women in Istanbul. From there went to England to help in furthering the cause of Indian women.

1937 - Travelled widely in Europe, Asia and Africa - Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Roumania, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Estonia, France, etc. Attended the World Peace and Freedom Conference of Women at Lunacovice in Czechoslovakia on behalf of All India Women's Conference. Addressed many meetings all over Europe and the Middle East explaining the problems of India and Indian Women in particular. Made many new contacts for All India Women's Conference. After 1937 continued work on the All India Women's Conference Committee. Member of the National Planning Committee Women's section. Member on Adult Education Committee and Text Book Committee of Government of Bombay.

1940-1941 - President of the All India Women's Conference. Thereafter for reasons of health, restricted public activities. Continued to work for girls education and social reform, art, and gardening in Mussoorie where she is a member of the School Committee of Workers Movement which is concerned with shelters, dispensaries and night schools for workers and of Art Circle. She is also the President of the Ladies Club - Mussoorie.

MEXICO

Mrs. AMALIA C. de CASTILLO LEDON

Vice President of Inter-American Commission of Women, Washington.

SYRIA

Mrs. ALICE KANDALEFT COSMA

Place of Birth

Damascus, Syria

Education

B.S., Columbia University, New York City, 1926  
M.A., Columbia University, New York City, 1927

Chronological Sketch of Career

1927-1933, Principal, Girls Normal School, Baghdad  
1934-1936, Principal, Moslem College for Girls, Beirut

/1937-1939

Chronological Sketch of Career (Continued)

1937-1939, Principal, National School for Girls, Damascus  
1940-1943, Principal, Government School of Arts and Crafts, Damascus  
1944-1947, Professor of Education, Teachers College, Damascus  
1947- , Principal, Secondary School, Damascus

Participation in International Conferences

Delegate to International Women's Congress, Chicago, 1933

Publications

Numerous articles on educational and social problems of Arab countries which appeared in Arabic newspapers and periodicals.

Other Activities

Organizer and General Secretary of Arab Women's National League  
Organizer and Director, Child Welfare Association, Damascus

TURKEY

Miss MIHRI PEKTAS

Biographical data has not yet been received.

UNITED KINGDOM

Miss MARY SUTHERLAND

Educated Aberdeen University.

Secondary school teacher for few months, then assistant secretary to a departmental committee on women in agriculture in Scotland.

Organizer Scottish Farm Servants' Union and member of Agricultural Wages Committees and of Milk Distributive Trade Board.

1924 found Labour Party staff as woman organizer for Scotland and 1932 appointed Chief Woman Officer of Labour Party and Editor of "The Labour Woman".

Member of Fabian Society and Workers' Educational Association.

Member of Interned Enemy Aliens Tribunal 1940-1942 of Ministry of Labour Women's Consultative Committee since 1941 and of General Purposes Committee, WVS 1940-1943.

Director of National Institute of House-Workers (established by Ministry of Labour in 1946).

Member Womens' Adviser Committee, Labour and Socialist International 1932-1939.

Elected Secretary of Joint Committee of Working Women's Organizations 1932 and re-elected every year since. (This committee which represents 2-1/2 million women is concerned with representing views of organized working women to Ministers and official bodies).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DOROTHY KENYON

Smith College, A.B. 1908;

New York University Law School, D. J. (Doctor Juris) 1917;

Hon. LL.D Keuka College, 1939;

Phi Beta Kappa.

/Judge,

Judge, Municipal Court, City of New York, 1939.

Senator, United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa Societies, 1940.

Member New York Bar, admitted 1917.

General Practice of Law, New York City, 1919 to January 1939; January 1940 to date.

Former partner in law firm, Straus and Kenyon, 1930 to January 1939.

Member New York City Bar Association, Committee on Medical Jurisprudence, former member Committee on Bill of Rights.

New York County Lawyers Association, Committee on Courts and Courthouses, former member Committee on Legal Education.

New York State Bar Association.

American Bar Association.

American Society of International Law.

American Branch of the International Law Association.

American Delegate to Commission on Status of Women of United Nations.

Former Member, Committee of Jurists Appointed by League of Nations to Study Legal Status of Women Throughout World.

Vice-President, International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Member, National Board of Directors of American Civil Liberties Union.

Director, officer and legal adviser of many consumer co-operative corporations; legal adviser and former chairman Legislative Committee, Co-operative League of the United States of America; director, Metropolitan Co-operative Federation.

Member, Executive Committee and former member Legislative Committee Citizens Union of New York.

Member, Advisory Committees and legal adviser New York State and City Leagues of Women Voters; former chairman Legislative and Legal Status of Women Committees.

Director, Women's City Club of New York, former Treasurer.

Director, Women's University Club.

Director, Association for Aid of Crippled Children.

Director, Pioneer Youth of America.

Director, Tenth Precinct Co-ordinating Council to Curb Juvenile Delinquency.

Member, Law and Family Relations Committee, National Conference on Family Relations.

Director, Women's Action Committee for Victory and Lasting Peace.

Director, Women's Council for Post-War Europe.

Member, Committee of Women in World Affairs.

Member, Canadian-American Committee on International Relations.

First Deputy Commissioner of Licenses, New York City, 1936-1938.

Former Chairman Women's Council and Member Business Council of the Greater New York Fund.

Chairman, Committee to Draft Model State Law Regulating Employment Agencies Appointed by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, October 1935.

Member, Committee on Minimum Wage Legislation and on Clarifying the Constitution by Amendment, appointed by Elmer F. Andrews, Industrial Commissioner of New York State Department of Labor, October 1936.

Member, Committee to Draft Model State Law on Consumer Co-operative Corporations, appointed by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, February 1937.

Member, Committee to Study the Application of the Labor Law to Truck Owners in Moving Van Industry, appointed by Frieda S. Miller, Industrial Commissioner of New York State Department of Labor, 1938.

Member, Commission of Women appointed by Frieda S. Miller, State Industrial Commissioner of New York State, to advise Commissioner on problems growing out of war time employment of women, 1942.

Member, Comptroller's Advisory Council on Taxes for the Relief of the Unemployed, City of New York, 1934.

/Former

Former Chairman, Women's Court Committee, Welfare Council of New York.  
Former President, Consumers' League of New York City.  
Former President, Civic Club of New York.  
Former Treasurer, City Affairs Committee.  
Former Treasurer, Director, Cosmopolitan Club.  
Former Vice-President, Smith College Alumnae Association.  
Former Air Raid Warden.

Honorary Member American Medical Women's Association and New York State and New York City Women's Medical Associations.

#### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Miss ELIZAVIETA ALEKSIEVNA POPOVA

Born 1902 in Kursk.

Studied law. Practiced law for twelve years.

Active in women's movement for fifteen years.

Recently, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Workers in the legal field.

#### VENEZUELA

Mrs. ISABEL URDANETA

Born in Venezuela, Mrs. Isabel Sanchez de Urdaneta, was educated there and received the degree of Normal School Teacher in 1918, the highest University Degree that a woman could receive in that country at that time.

She taught school until 1921 when she began to work at the Bank of Holland, Caracas, Venezuela, where she advanced to be Head of the Credit Department, a position she held until 1928.

During 1935 and 1936 she received a scholarship to study in Europe the Kindergartens of Spain, England, France, Belgium and Holland. Upon her return to Venezuela she founded the first kindergarten in Caracas.

In 1939 she became the first woman of Venezuela to hold public office and served as Chief Clerk in the Venezuelan Consulate in New York from 1939 to 1943. In 1944 she held the same position in New Orleans, Louisiana and in 1946 she took charge of her country's Consulate in Baltimore, Maryland.

Among the conferences she attended at the Montessoriano Educational Congress at Oxford, England and in 1945 she attended the San Francisco Conference on International Organization where she served in the capacity of Legation Counselor to the Venezuelan Delegation.

Mrs. Urdaneta has been serving for the last six years as Delegate of Venezuela to the Inter-American Commission of Women, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C. and recently she has been appointed by her country as Representative of Venezuela in the Committee of the Status of Women at the United Nations. She is honorary member of many women associations in Venezuela.