

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Third session

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM 17 JUNE TO 10 JULY 1948

Memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General

The International Labour Conference held its thirty-first session in San Francisco from 17 June to 10 July 1948. According to the agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, representatives of the United Nations attended the Conference.

The present memorandum which has been prepared by the Secretary-General for the information of the Commission deals only with those points on the agenda of the Conference which concern the status of women, or which are otherwise of interest to the Commission on the Status of Women.

1. Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize

The Conference adopted the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948, Article 2 of which reads as follows:

"Workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization."

The full text of the Convention is reproduced in document E/863.

2. Equal Remuneration for Work of Equal Value for Men and Women Workers

The Conference passed a resolution which has been reproduced in document E/881/Rev.1.

3. Partial Revision of the Conventions concerning Employment of Women during the Night

The Conference adopted on 9 July 1948 a partial revision of the Convention concerning Night Work of Women employed in Industry.

The main object of the revision was to lay down a more flexible definition of the word "night", so that it would meet the requirements of the double day shift system, which is increasingly used since the war. The revised text maintains the length of the night rest at eleven hours

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and the barred period of seven hours but allows more flexibility in the arrangement of the latter. Provision is made for exceptional suspension of the prohibition in case of national emergency. Exception is also made for women in responsible positions of a managerial or technical character and women engaged in health and welfare services not ordinarily engaged in manual work.

The Conference also adopted a resolution referring the problem of night work of women employed in transport to the Governing Body for examination with a view to appropriate action.
