**CROSS CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CCA), Athens, Greece**

The Multinational Women's Liberation Group (MNWLG), which began meeting in 1975, generated many smaller working groups over its ten years of existence. Some of these became independent while always maintaining a close connection with the 'Mother Group'.

The Cross-Cultural Study Group was brought into being by MNWLG members who were in relationships with Greek men. The group wanted to ensure that their children, who were being raised in a bi-cultural environment, would reap the benefits of this potentially rich and creative experience. The group began meeting in the spring of 1978, as a subgroup of the MNWLG, holding its own meetings, usually away from the MNWLG centre so that men who were interested in the topic could also attend.

The Cross-Cultural Study Group contributed to the chapter, 'Cross-Cultural Children', in the MNWLG publication, 'Foreign Women in Greece", the first edition of which came out in April 1978. Early on, the group embarked on a study of parents in cross-cultural relationships in Greece, bringing up children who were, or would be, attending Greek schools. About 100 families were interviewed and the preliminary findings presented at a Symposium held in Athens in July 1978, 'The Child in the World of Tomorrow'. The group was encouraged by other participants at the symposium in its goal of creating a community where parents could be assisted in their adjustment to cross-cultural living, such that their children could benefit from both - or all - their heritages.

By spring the following year, the Cross-Cultural Association - as it was now to be named - was in the process of becoming an independent legal body, the rationale for separating from the MNWLG being outlined in the March 1979 issue of its newsletter, 'OUT'. While we were feminists, seeking rights for women, we also believed in the importance of ensuring the well-being of every member of our cross-cultural families here in Greece: we wanted to work together with the men in our lives to bring this about.

In April 1980, the first Board Meeting was held and in June that year, the first issue of CCA Newsletter appeared. At this stage, two CCA members on travels abroad, were each disappointed to discover that there was almost no research being done on the issue of biculturalism within the one family but realised with pride that the CCA was on the 'frontiers of a brand new field'.

From this point on, well attended public meetings were held on various topics related to cross-cultural living: bilingualism, cultural identity, migration, adjustment, bringing up cross-cultural children, dealing with the Greek school system and so on. The newsletter continued to come out regularly, with reports on meetings and with articles submitted by members or others who had something valuable to share with the association. Letters and articles also began arriving from people (mostly women) living in the regions or on the islands, sharing their experiences and asking for information. Others who had grown up in a cross-cultural environment shared their experiences, too, giving us important insights into the hazards and joys of cross-cultural living.

By 1985 interest began moving away from cross-cultural issues per se towards providing situations where people could work and grow together, drawing on their unique situation in Greece. Workshops, talks and activities were planned to meet these needs. By the late 80s some soul-searching was going on to determine what direction the association should take. Links had been opened up with other bodies in Greece and efforts were made to find ways of working more closely with them.

Around this time, a working group was set up to prepare a book, tentatively named, 'Working in Greece', by supplementing the existing material in the newsletters on people's experiences living and working in Greece. The members began collecting people's experiences, through interviews and questionnaires, or by encouraging people to write their own accounts. Material came in from all over Greece and new areas of interest inevitably opened up, all of them relevant.

The final newsletter of Fall 1990, reported that 'we came to see that much depended on us, who we were, where we came from, what ideas and feelings we had about work, while much depended on our environment - the strictly Greek side of things. We also saw that the work of crossing cultural barriers - learning a language, learning social behaviour and so forth - plays a very decisive role in the quality of our work lives. "Work" was much much more than "jobs". To complete our book, we should be able to say what "work" means to us in our cross-cultural context - another very difficult task.' Regret was expressed that, with the book not coming to fruition, 'many accounts have not reached readers. Some accounts were beautiful, others moving or enlightening, and some were distressing. All together, they make a vivid, intricate tapestry of our combined cross-cultural lives...'