

Nissa, A New Women's Journal

Nissa is a feminist, bilingual journal issued by a group of women who decided they would like to contribute to the shaping of women's image different from that portrayed by the traditional media or by sexist discourse.

Nissa aims to give all women the opportunity to express themselves within its pages and testify freely about their everyday lives. It also welcomes contributions by men interested in women's questions.

Nissa informs women about their rights and gives them information that would enable them to help themselves. It also tries to analyze the reasons behind women's oppression and to pinpoint the beliefs, prejudices and stereotypes that contribute to it.

Nissa will fight against all forms of discrimination experienced by women in Tunisia and around the world. It also wishes to develop an opinion movement which will promote a more equitable relationship

between the two sexes.

Among the remarkable women behind the production of **Nissa** is **Amel Ben Aba**, journalist, teacher, militant feminist, and syndicalist; **Rashida Enneifer**, President of the Arab Journalist Association and journalist for the Tunisian daily **La Presse**; **Hayet Gribaa**, poet, writer, journalist, and teacher; **Siham Ben Sidrin**, journalist and militant; **Souad Rjeb**, researcher at the CERES on women-the family and sexuality; **Noura Borsali**, teacher, student of literature, journalist, and militant; **Hafidha Chakir**, professor of law at the University of Tunis and militant in syndicate and feminist movements; **Dora Mahfoudh**, researcher at the CERES; and other women who prefer to remain anonymous.

The first issue of **Nissa** came out in April 1985. It dealt with rape, the death sentence, International



Siham Ben Sidrin,
another active
journalist in the
review *Nissa*



Amel Ben Aba
one
of the leading
women behind
the journal *Nissa*

Women's Day, women and suicide, everyday sexism, and health, economic, and cultural concerns.

The second issue (May 85) included articles on syndicalist women in the South, women's rights, the 7th International Festival of Women's Films, the right

of children to life, the first Tunisian Women's Organization and an epitaph for Sana Mhaydli, the 17-year-old Lebanese resistance fighter who blew herself up with a car bomb near an Israeli checkpoint in the Israeli-occupied zone of Lebanon.

The National Union of Tunisian Women*

The National Union of Tunisian Women or U.N.F.T., as it is called, is a women's organization which aims at «improving the cultural, educational, social, economic, and political levels of Tunisian women to enable them to acquire their full rights and to accomplish their national, social and familial duties in an atmosphere of authenticity and respect».

The U.N.F.T. coordinates women's activities in different parts of the country and works towards a harmonious division of labor between men and women in the workplace and at home. It includes different working groups or «commissions», each specializing in a subject related to woman as a wife, mother, wage earner, and citizen.

The Union encourages institutions responsible for the protection and education of children, social ser-

vices and all legislation pertaining to women and children.

It encourages and instigates dialogue on women's questions and problems and publishes a monthly journal on its various activities, projects and policy. It organizes special leader-training sessions and orientation programs for members and cooperates with state institutions in promoting the ideals and aims of the Tunisian Socialist Destourian Party.

The U.N.F.T. aims at developing friendly relations with women's unions in other countries and with international women's organizations, in addition to exchanging experiences and working towards achieving international cooperation and world peace.

☆ This is a translated excerpt of the U.N.F.T.'s Constitution, written originally in French.