

lem for the working mother who has nowhere to leave her child during the first years of his/her life unless it's with a grandparent or a paid baby sitter. There is no justification for the children of civil servants having privileges not available to the children of factory workers. The Ministry agrees: the system is slated for extension so that *all* children of *all* working mothers can receive the same quality of care.

The "Marisabel" Ready-Made Clothes Factory, N. Kiou, Pelyponneses

The factory called "Marisabel" is new. The floors are marble, the working spaces large and well-lit. Of its ninety employees, only six are male – they are in supervisory positions. It is the women who are cutting, sewing, stacking and folding. They all claim that they are satisfied with their jobs, which are varied in the sense that the factory makes a variety of clothes, so every day they are working on different items. Factory owner Angelos Theofsiadis gets credit from his employees for being "human." He has put in a company cafeteria for the work break where the

employees can get free coffee and simple foods like bread and cheese at cost. There are showers where the women can freshen up before they go home and a factory bus which takes them to the nearby town of Nauplion.

Some of the women belong to unions; others don't. The usual excuse for the low percentage of female membership is that they have no time or that their husbands object. The unionization of women and the inclusion of unions excluded from the General Confederation of Labour under previous governments are two primary goals of the reformation of the whole trade union movement in Greece. It is often claimed that the communist unions were the ones excluded, but the truth is that any union the Confederation thought it couldn't control was left out.

The only woman on the Executive Council, Lilika Vasilakos from the Nurses Union, has traveled throughout Greece studying women's issues – which are also receiving academic attention from the Research and Training Branch of the Confederation. The Confederation supports equal pay for equal work; the protection of motherhood; increased opportunities for

the advancement of women workers; no sex requirements for any job; and more programs to train skilled women workers. President of the Executive Committee Yannis Papamichael says, "For a long time women were considered 'poor' members of the work force, and this belief kept them out of the trade unions. Also employers encouraged them not to join. We believe that with the new organization of the trade union movement, the number of women involved will double." Because women make up thirty-one percent of the work force and only two to three percent of them are in trade unions, even this figure cannot be considered optimum.

*This article is a condensation by the editors of CWS/cf of a three-part series "Feminist Gains" Haris Livas originally wrote for the Athens News Agency (ANA). We are grateful to both the author and ANA for their permission to use this material.

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SONG OF THE MOSS

I sing the miracle
girlchild awakening
fiddlehead under rock fall
all future furred away
in a green medallion
only the moss can wear

Look now
rapidly unfolding
head shape and cheek curve
delicate toughness of shoulder
ribcage of balalaika or guitar
arms air strumming
legs rhythmical, feet drumming
and all the body lightly furred
the innocent bruise
at elbow, knee and thigh

How cold the left of me
heart sinking and shrinking
arms open, the child already far
and I sorrowing, knowing
her journey from mossbank
never unfurls of its own
but answers to the world's
irrevocable metronome

She will learn soft
and brutal dances
before she is carried home

Frances Davis
Montreal, Quebec