

RESOLUTION

The women present at the First European Conference of the Feminist International Network of Resistance against the New Reproductive Technologies and Genetic Engineering (FINRRAGE) from Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Holland, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and West-Germany declare the following:

We believe that the New Reproductive Technologies and Genetic Engineering violate the autonomy and integrity of all life on earth now and will do so even more so in the future. Both the technologies and the ideology behind them are based on the idea that human life - and in the case of the New Reproductive, Technologies specifically women's bodies - can be and should be dissected, manipulated and controlled as raw material for the production of human beings and other life forms to exact specification.

The Genetic Engineering of plants, animals and microorganisms is being pro-pagated by scientists, industry and the state as a new way of constructing man-made life-forms which are more efficient than what has evolved in nature. This genetic reconstruction of nature is oriented around profit motives and military aims - motives which are merely being glossed over with promises of alleviating pain and suffering when these technologies are applied to human beings.

We reject the elimination and destruction of life forms through the use of genetic engineering not only in humans, but also in plants, animals and microorganisms.

With specific reference to women we reject the attempts of scientists and doctors to interfere with women's reproductive capacities. We oppose the New Reproductive Technologies - in particular in vitro fertilisation (IVF) in all its forms and plans for 'gene therapy' and disagree with the claim of their makers that they are beneficial for infertile women and contribute to alleviate human pain. We are opposed to any attempt to use the new genetic techniques including forms of pre- and postnatal screening, in particular in connection with IVF and other reproductive technologies for the purpose of determining and for modifying individuals' genetic identity and developing new forms of eugenics. For us there are no technological solutions to the ecological and social destruction already caused by industrialisation.

Our point is that women do not need to transform our bodies for patriarchal use, for industrial profit-making, population control, medical experimentation and woman-hating science. We believe that enforced sterilisation and the distribution of harmful contraceptives around the globe under the guise of population policies is a violation of women's human dignity as is the prohibition of abortion and the practice of not informing women of dangers and the low success rate of IVF procedures under the guise of doing it all for women's 'own good'.

We also reject the classification of women into "worthy" and 'unworthy' bearers of children on the basis of our race, class, language, sexuality, disability and marital status. This holds true for women from so-called first world and third world countries, as well as poor women from within all our countries.

We also reject state control with respect to women's pro-creativity. We do not want laws that focus on the fetus rather than putting women's needs and interests first. We believe that at their core these technologies and their makers act against women's human dignity and we have serious doubts and negative historical precedents about whether women's interests will be met through state regulations.

We call for a halt to the research and application of reproductive and genetic engineering in all its forms: in human beings, specifically women, in all animal and plant life and in its use in the construction of devastating biological weapons.

With regard to women we demand the setting of priorities for women's health programmes according to the expressed concerns of women. This includes programmes for the prevention of infertility and alternatives for infertile women.

With regard to the international development of medicine and science we propose to use decision-making models which enable genuine participation of people on the basis of concern for the survival of life on earth and a better future. In sum, we call for a different science which specifically takes into account women's realities and uses the method of impassioned-curiosity to fulfill people's desire to know about the complexity of life on earth.