Minutes of Advisory Meeting 1.2.89.
at 52-54, FEATHERSTONE STREET, EC1.

Present:  Namita Chakrabarty; Shabnam Grewel;
          Jacqui Duckworth; Eileen McNulty;
          Penny Ashbrook; Celia Hinds;
          Jenny Wallace (Chair);
          Jeanne Wilding (minutes)

Apologies: Jenneba Sie Jalloh; Kim Clancy;
           Claire Keeting; Lorna Allsop (away);
           June Giovanni.

1. Introductions

   (i) Eileen McNulty (existing director) introduced
       the meeting and invited women attending to say
       who they were and which organisations they were
       from.

   (ii) Eileen then went on to describe the staff
        changes at COW, the move to Glenbuck, and the
        pressure from B.F.I. to merge with Circles etc.

   (iii) Questions were raised about the idea of a
         merger, and views were expressed on the need
         to come up with our own strategy.

   (iv) Eileen went on to explain the proposed format
        for the rest of the meeting.

(i) Jenny described the existing structure and outlined our proposals for the future. There was a lively and useful discussion (Chair by Jenny).

(ii) Approximately 10 women had already indicated an interest in being on the Advisory Committee and screening sub group. Several hadn't attended the meeting however, or sent apologies (possible confusion over venue?).

(iii) The proposed structure was agreed in principle but as there weren't many volunteers for the other sub-groups it was felt that we should concentrate on building up a larger advisory committee, which would then elect a Board of Directors with legal/financial and employment responsibilities. We should seek a combination of experienced and energetic women, and those at the meeting would come back to the workers with names of other women to invite.

3. Constitution.

(i) As we were planning to revise our constitution (Memorandum and Articles) to fit/reflect the new structure, the point was made that we should consider a wording that either protected us from an enforced merger with another group, or facilitated such a merger depending upon what was eventually decided.

4. Future Meeting.

(i) The urgency of recruitment was stressed and it was agreed that we needed to call a second advisory meeting in the next few weeks to:

a) elect a board of Directors who would stand until the next AGM (in autumn)

b) hear a report back on recruitment - job descriptions, adverts etc

Jenny

c) agree a shortlisting/interviewing group
(ii) It was agreed that Eileen and Penny would continue as Directors and meet in the interim to agree and authorise the recruitment process, placement of adverts etc.

(iii) Workers would mail all those women who'd expressed an interest, enclosing minutes and agenda. If women present had suggestions as to other women to invite they would contact Jeanne by Wednesday 8th February.

5. **Next Meeting**

Thursday 2nd March 6.30 pm. at 52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1.