

The Seventies

by Andrea Wagner-Staritz

CEDAW –

agreement about the removal of any form of
discrimination of women

- accompanies the 1970s internationally
- **1967** announced by the General Assembly of the UN
- 1979 accepted 1980 signed by Austria

The first female minister

- **1966 - 1970:** Austrian People's Party government. For the first time there is a female minister in Austria
- the labor union member Grete Rehor is Minister for Social Administration and builds up a women's section for social affairs

Education and Marriage

1969: the number of marriages decreases,
the number of divorces increases.

- there are not only less marriages but also - because of better qualifications - the tendency to marry later. The age of getting married increases

Cabinet Kreisky

- **March 1, 1970:** the Socialist Party gets the relative majority of votes at the legislative election and forms a minority government with the tolerance of the Austrian Freedom Party.

Hertha Firnberg is the Minister for Science and Research and keeps this post until 1983. Gertrude Wondrak is State Secretary in the Ministry of Social Administration



The first female tram driver

- **July 1970:** for the first time a woman is allowed to steer a tram

Kreisky's „harem“ grows

1971: Ingrid Leodolter is announced Minister for Health and Environment, Elfriede Elfriede Karl is announced the State Secretary for Family Policy and Women's Issues in the Federal Chancellery

Abortion on demand

June 1971: the German journalist

Alice Schwarzer launches a self-incrimination campaign. 350 women, including Romy Schneider, declare in the magazine “Stern” **“I aborted!”**

- **September 1971:** the “action committee for the abolition of §144” is formed in Vienna, an initiative of women from the Young Generation of the Social Democratic Party of Austria who campaign for provisions permitting abortion within the first three months of pregnancy
- **April 1972:** the women within the Social Democratic Party succeed and cause a swing of opinion. At the Federal Party Conference of the Social Democratic Party the party admits provisions permitting abortion within the first three months of pregnancy
- **November 1973:** abortion on demand is decided only with the votes of the Social Democratic Party of Austria. **The law comes into effect at the beginning of the year 1975**

1973

1973: the duration of the maternity leave is taken into account of the retirement insurance as compensation time



1973: the individual taxation takes the place of household taxation, that means that women no longer count as part of the household in the tax law but as independent persons

1974

- introduction of the Mother-Child-Pass and payment of a higher maternity benefit, if all examinations of the child are verifiably accomplished (effect: distinct reduction of infant mortality)
- extension of the protection period according to the Maternity Protection Law from 12 to 16 weeks (prohibition notice before and after birth at continued payment of wages)
- increase of childcare benefits and payment not depending on the income of the husband

1975 Year of the Womenahr

The year 1975 is declared to the
“International Year of the Woman” by
the United Nations. In Mexico City
the first International Women’s Conference
of the United Nations takes place.

The years 1975 until 1985 are declared
“ **Decade of the Woman”** by the United Nations.

The Austrian government publishes the first comprehensive
scientific report about the situation of women in Austria.

Introduction of **coeducation** at schools and **40 hours work week.**

1975 – 1978 Family Law Reform

- the new family law finishes the supremacy of the man. It proceeds from the policy that man and woman have the same rights and duties in the family.
- the man is no longer the “head of the family” and can not forbid his wife to be employed
- the surname of the man is not automatically the surname of the woman in case of marriage
- regarding the children the fathers and mothers have the same rights and duties from now on
- personal assets that are acquired during marriage are divided in case of divorce. Up to now there obtained the presumption that it “belongs to the man”

1979

1979: The non-discrimination law becomes effective. The distinction between the salaries of women and men is removed by wage agreements.

Introduction of joint handicrafts classes for girls and boys at primary schools

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**If you are a man, you sit in the bosses arm
chair. If you are a woman, you stay a typist-
madam. It's not all the same if you are a
fellow or not!**

Refrain translated from a Viennese poem