

gram was established to promote social and economic opportunities for immigrant women, with one focus being the establishment of a co-operative enterprise. In 1982, three groups of immigrant women expressed an interest in developing the project and opened the Centre with assistance from the City of Ottawa.

**Services:** The Centre maintains its relationships with OCISO, expects to be self-sufficient in the near future and offers services such as:

- The Multicultural Women's Market, which produces and sells crafts from their cultures;
- Many Hands Catering Service, which caters international food for groups of 10-500;
- Esperia Seamstresses, which offers exclusive dressmaking and alteration services.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Governments should continue to fund community efforts which assist visible minority and immigrant women to become self-sufficient participants in the economic and social life of the community.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**7**



**SUPPORT MAJORITY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

**Lifetime:** It is unfortunate, but even among the young there are feelings of dislike and hatred toward others who are viewed as different. These feelings occur on the part of those from majority cultures toward those who represent the minority. Misunderstanding or lack of understanding can lead to such attitudes and they may potentially last a lifetime.

**Similar:** The Committee believes that majority youth organizations (Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., etc.) should be encouraged to interact with all youth groups. Opportunities should be provided for sharing experiences and hopes for the future. Activities and interests are generally similar for that age group and cross-cultural contact to achieve goals such as participation in sport or community literacy programs can integrate minority youth and change the attitudes of majority youth.

**Montreal:** The Sun Youth Program in Montreal is a multiethnic, multiracial program which provides meaningful activities for youth. The youth are trained and given responsibilities in fire and crime prevention. Government programs such as Open House Canada and Katimavik should be alerted to the need to have project participants representative of the community they share.

**Problems Compounded:** It is frequently the case that many of the problems characteristic of all teenagers are compounded when they are a visible minority immigrant youth. It would be most helpful if they could take their problem, in confidence, to someone who is familiar with their culture. Dr. Anthony Alcindor, president of l'Association des médecins haïtiens à l'étranger, has proposed a program called SOS Adolescents. Teenagers are able to phone any time between 6:00