

Introduction

The strongest message that comes out of the following interview with a male philosopher is that the Soviet education system needs to be revamped in order to promote more thorough changes in psychology. While important legal and economic achievements have occurred since 1917, broader moral and psychological changes are now necessary, including attention to sexuality.

Ivan introduces the notion of 'psychological equality' between the sexes and suggests that a raising of women's consciousness would be one step towards attaining it. This echoes the remark made earlier by Oleg about the desirability of female collectives. Ivan goes further by arguing that equality requires women and men to be 'full partners' which entails initiative being taken by each. He recognises, but plays down, differences between the sexes, and views the resolution of the contradiction between the principles of Soviet law and current psychological relations between the sexes, as the way forward. He is the only interviewee in this collection who maintains that Kollontai's writings are more relevant today than they were in the past.