WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
CAMPAIGN

AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Women Against Rape
Women Against Rape (Britain) takes as its starting point women's poverty and financial dependence on men, which leaves us vulnerable to violence of all kinds: rape/battering in the family, racist sexual assault, women in arrestment, and rape/sexual assault by doctors, teachers, police and others in authority who can take advantage of individual rapists but the State, its starting point women's poverty and financial dependence on men, which leaves us vulnerable to violence of all kinds: rape/battering in the family, racist sexual assault, women in arrestment, and rape/sexual assault by doctors, teachers, police and others in authority who can take advantage of individual rapists but the State...

TIME OFF FOR WOMEN

At the 1985 UN Decade for Women Conference, the International Wages for Housework Campaign issued the call for the first TIME OFF FOR WOMEN on October 24th (UN Day and the anniversary of the 1975 Iceland women’s ‘day off!’) and have been holding it every year since to get governments to implement the UN decision to count all women’s work, waged and unwaged, in every country’s GNP.

TIME OFF is the first internationally-coordinated action by grassroots women and men in at least 24 countries have participated by organizing women’s fairs, peace camps, speakouts and social events, petitioning with the ‘Women Count - Count Women’s Work’ petition, or just by insisting on having a break. TIME OFF has won paid time off for women employees from some local governments, schools and universities. It is the spearhead of the growing women’s movement to get women’s work counted. In the spring of 1989, we won a bill in the British Parliament to count women’s work. In Britain women have also visited Yellow Gate Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp to exchange experiences and to make visible their work of 24-hour-a-day resistance to nuclear madness.

TIME OFF FOR WOMEN is jointly co-ordinated by the autonomous organizations in the International Wages for Housework Campaign, and is always a high point in all our efforts to make all our work visible at last. This unseen work is inseparable from, and increases with, the crises of our time, from apartheid and imperialism to the nuclear power/weapons cycle and ecological devastation. The experience of Black women — from the unwaged work of slavery and empire to the crisis of Third World debt, famine and the four hours a day spent fetching water and fuel — helps shape all TIME OFF actions.

ADDRESS

 Britain:
London Wages for Housework Committee,
International Black Women for Wages for Housework,
English Collective of Prostitutes,
Wages Due Lesbians,
WinVisible, and
Women Against Rape
c/o King’s Cross Women’s Centre
71 Tornbridge St., London WCI
Mail to:
PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU England
01/387-7509 or 335-4817

United States:
International Black Women for Wages for Housework, and
Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee
PO Box 86681
Los Angeles, California 90086-0681
213/771-1668

Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee,
and Wages Due Lesbians
PO Box 11795
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101
215/668-9866

San Francisco Wages for Housework Committee,
Wages Due Lesbians, and
U.S. PROSisters Collective (US PROS)
PO Box 14512
San Francisco, California 94114
415/358-9628

Tulsa Wages for Housework Committee, and
No Bad Women Just Bad Laws Coalition
PO Box 33133
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74153
918/299-1070

Trinidad and Tobago:
International Black Women for Wages for Housework, and
Wages for Housework Campaign
c/o Clotil Walcott
Mount Pleasant Road
Arima, Trinidad

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Enclosed is my donation to cover costs.

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Since 1972, the International Wages for Housework Campaign (IWFWHC), a network of Third World and metropolitan women, has been organizing to get recognition and compensation by governments for the unwaged work women do in the home, on the land and in the community, to be paid by dismantling the military-industrial complex.

In 1985, at the UN Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, we succeeded in getting the governments of the world to agree to Para. 120, calling on governments to count all women's waged and unwaged work -- in the home, on the land and in the community -- in every country's GDP. We are working on getting implementation of that UN decision. We recently got a bill to count women's unwaged work introduced in the British Parliament. Within the Wages for Housework Campaign are autonomous organizations of Black/Third World women, lesbian women, prostitute women and women with visible and invisible disabilities.

Women do the work of producing and reproducing the entire workforce at home, on the land and in the community, in churches, schools and community groups, through voluntary labor and unwaged subsistence farming. Most health care worldwide is provided by women without a wage.

In making the case that women's contribution is the basic ingredient of all industry and all profit, we establish our entitlement to benefits, higher wages, social services, childcare, grants, unpolluted land, information, technology. Welfare and child benefit are not charities but wages we are owed.

Since 1984, we have been circulating the 'Women Count - Count Women's Work' petition, available in 22 languages and English braille/tape. We have succeeded in getting the governments of the world to agree to Para. 120, calling on governments to count all women's waged and unwaged work -- in the home, on the land and in the community -- in every country's GDP. We are working on getting implementation of that UN decision. We recently got a bill to count women's unwaged work introduced in the British Parliament. Within the Wages for Housework Campaign are autonomous organizations of Black/Third World women, lesbian women, prostitute women and women with visible and invisible disabilities. Women with the least economic and social power organize autonomously within the Campaign to keep it focussed, the best protection that all the issues of everyone's survival will emerge.

WinVisible

We are Black and white women with visible and invisible disabilities campaigning for economic independence, autonomy and mobility, housing and other resources for independent living, and against cuts in welfare and services, racism, rape and military-industrial pollution.

We define disability as an unnecessary physical and emotional workload, and campaign to make governments count all the work of disability and health women with disabilities do looking after ourselves and others; to demonstrate our entitlement to the money and resources we want and need; to strengthen all our demands for an accessible and safe environment; to end our poverty and powerlessness and thereby undermine and end disability racism in every sphere.

English Collective of Prostitutes & US PROStitutes Collective

The English Collective of Prostitutes (ECP) and the U.S. PROStitutes Collective (US PROS) together form the International Prostitutes Collective.

We are a network of Black and white women working in different levels of the sex industry. We campaign for abolition of the prostitution laws; for human, legal and civil rights for prostitute women; and for higher benefits, student grants, wages and other resources so that no woman is forced by poverty into sex with anyone.

By attacking the sexism which dooms most women to poverty and a 24-hour work day, wages for housework strengthens us against the prostitution laws, which punish women for refusing to be poor, and lays the basis for prostitution and non-prostitute women to act together. We oppose police/government control of prostitution -- we, not the State, must control our bodies and our money. In 1982 the ECP occupied a church in King's Cross, London, taking sanctuary from police illegality and racism -- the first modern sanctuary in Britain. US PROS began in New York as the New York Prostitutes Collective, a group of Black women who worked in different aspects of the sex industry and their supporters; in 1980 NYP grew to become US PROS, a national multi-racial network. In 1982, at their organizing, the ECP and US PROS initiated Legal Action for Women, LAW, a free legal service for all women based in London and San Francisco.