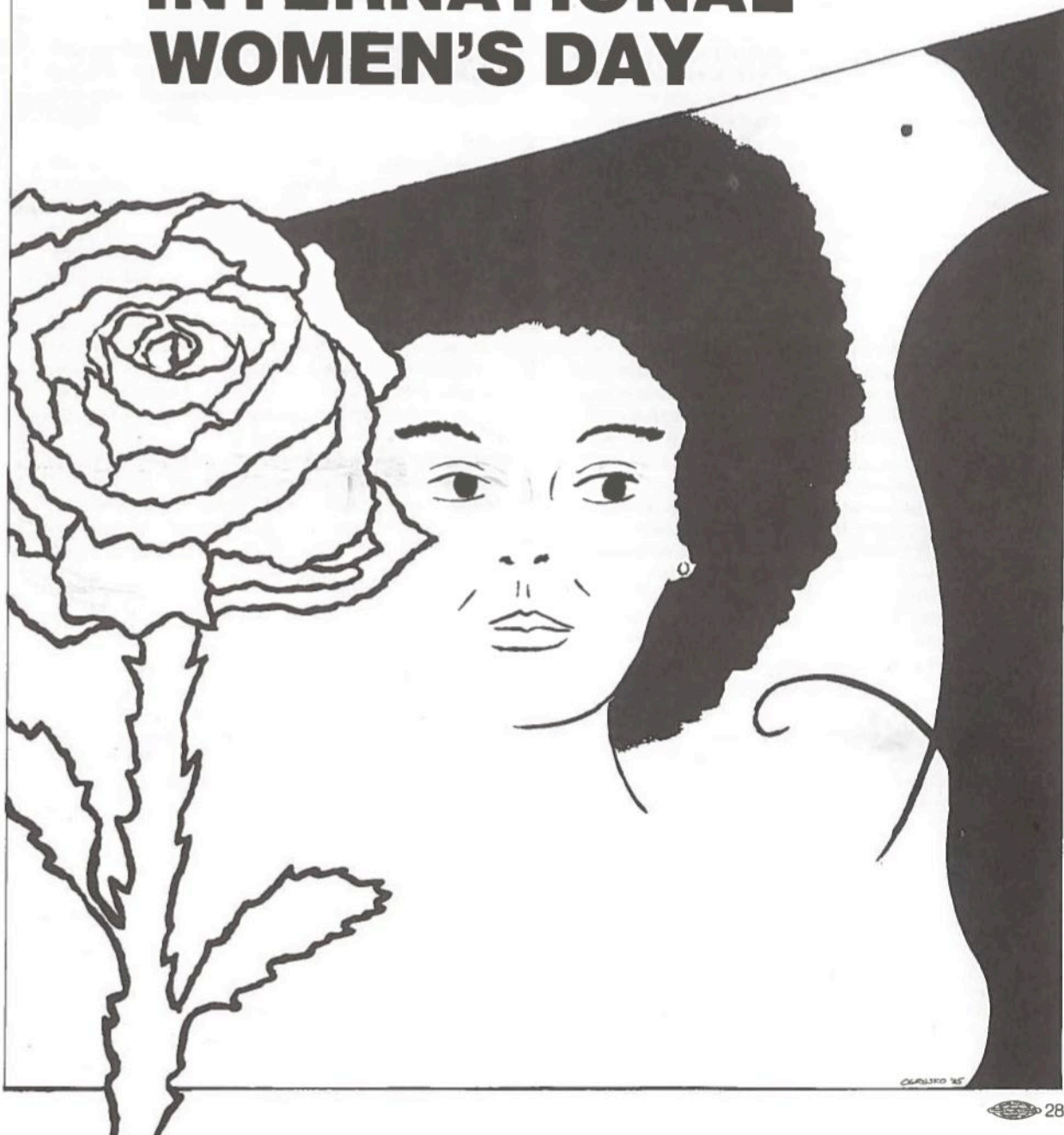


ANGELA DAVIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Angela Davis

Angela Yvonne Davis was born in 1944 — during the Second World War and the fight against fascism. Her parents were civil rights activists during the Great Depression.

She was raised in a neighbourhood of Birmingham, Alabama, known as “Dynamite Hill” . . . and her “radicalization” is rooted in a community where Black families lived in fear of racist reprisals. In 1963, the bombing of a Black church killed 4 young girls — all friends of Angela’s.

Her adolescence coincided with the repressive McCarthy Era. But, she was a brilliant scholar. At 14 years of age, Angela won a Quaker scholarship and went to school in New York City — and from there, a full scholarship to Brandeis University.

In the mid-sixties, she received grants to study in Europe. By 1967 Angela was at the University of California in San Diego, where she became involved in struggles against police brutality, and in activities surrounding students’ rights, and judicial and prison reform.

In 1968 she joined the Communist Party USA.

At that time, Ronald Reagan was Governor of California. Angela was hired as an associate professor of philosophy at UCLA. Reagan, through the University Regents, attempted to have her fired. A mass movement was organized to defend her right to teach, regardless of her political affiliations.

In 1970, a tragic incident at a California courthouse prompted one of the most famous trials in American history — the attempted frame-up of Angela Davis on charges of murder, conspiracy, and kidnapping. She was put on the FBI’s “Ten Most Wanted” list. Angela spent 18 months in jail. She was “tried” through media hysteria. Reagan, FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, and President Richard Nixon wanted to place her in the gas chamber as an “example” to the nation. Following mass national and international protests, she was acquitted of all charges.

After her acquittal, she worked to consolidate the movement to “free Angela” into an organization to fight racism and repression. And the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression was born. Since that time, the NAARPR — a broad-based coalition of women and men of colour, students’ and political organizations, trade unionists, and church & community activists — has held conferences, rallies, and meetings. It has exposed to the United Nations over 700 human rights violations across the United States, and has worked to curb, and in some cases, outlaw, Ku Klux Klan paramilitary training camps. In 1983, the NAARPR won the release of Tchula, Mississippi mayor Eddie Carthan, who was being held on trumped-up murder charges.

Angela Davis teaches philosophy, aesthetics, and women’s studies (particularly the historical contributions of Black women) at San Francisco State University and San Francisco Art Institute.

Agenda

Performance

Faith Nolan

Opening Remarks

Costanza Allevato
Congress of Canadian Women

Guest Speaker

Angela Davis
National Alliance Against
Racial and Political
Repression

Financial Appeal

Donna Johansen
R.W.D.S.U.

Question Period

Angela Davis

Greetings

The Toronto Working Group for the 12th World Festival of Youths and Students send fraternal greetings for Anti-Imperialist solidarity. Peace and Friendship in celebration and in unity with International Women's Day and the U.N. Decade of Women.

**Toronto Working Group for the
12th World Festival of Youths and
Students**

The Women's Section of the Association of Concerned Guyanese salute International Women's Day. We salute our sisters living in freedom under socialism and our sisters in the developing countries struggling to free themselves from the yoke of bondage. We pledge to intensify our efforts with our sisters in Canada to achieve equality and peace.

**Association of Concerned
Guyanese**

Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa (Toronto) salutes the women of the world who have taken a leading role in the struggle for peace, equality and freedom. We particularly salute our courageous sisters in the African National Congress (S.A.) and the South West Africa People's Organization (Namibia) who are fighting daily for the creation of a world free from racism, economic and social injustice.

**Canadians Concerned about
Southern Africa (Toronto)**

Racism and sexism are powerful weapons wielded against the people to cause disunity. Non-white women, suffering from both racism and sexism are doubly penalized in the struggle for jobs, decent wages, education and housing. The Committee for Racial Equality extends their full support to the aims of International Women's Day — an end to oppression and exploitation.

Committee for Racial Equality

The fight for women's equality is a necessary part of the struggle for a truly democratic society. We support all efforts which advance the cause of women's equality and recognize the important role women play in the struggle for peace, progress and socialism.

**Metro Toronto Committee,
Communist Party of Canada.**

The Toronto Chapter of the Congress of Canadian Women pays tribute to the contribution of women in Canada and around the world for Peace, Development and Equality. As women arise in support of peace and progress, all humanity benefits.

Congress of Canadian Women

The Portuguese Canadian Democratic Association conveys to you the expression of its full solidarity and of its most cordial wishes on the 75th anniversary of International Women's Day.

**Portuguese Canadian Democratic
Association**

The Organization of the Iranian People's Fedaian (Majority) congratulate all progressive women of Canada and the world on March 8, which commemorates the struggle of working women in New York 77 years ago. We ask all progressive people to protest against the crimes committed by the Islamic regime in Iran, especially regarding women's rights. Long Live March 8, International Women's Day.

**The Organization of Iranian
People's Fedaian (Majority)**

On behalf of Iranian women, who are struggling against the savage repression and medieval discrimination policies of the Islamic Republic, we send our warmest greetings and best wishes to the participants of this meeting on this historic day.

**Supporters of Democratic
Organization
of Iranian Women, in Canada**

Women Working With Immigrant Women extends greetings to this meeting celebrating the 75th anniversary of International Women's Day. We pay tribute to all women around the world working for racial and economic equality.

Women Working with Immigrant Women

The African & Caribbean Student Assn. extends greetings to this celebration of I.W.D. We appreciate your contribution to the struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people.

African & Caribbean Student Assn.

We greet the I.W.D. gathering today. We pledge solidarity in the struggle for equality and peace with the women of the world.

Committee of Progressive Pakistani Canadians

Statement of Political Agreement

In joining together to celebrate the end of the UN Decade for Women and the 75th anniversary of International Women's Day, the Women's Committee for March 8, 1985 agrees that the following issues are the central and most crucial questions which confront women in Canada today.

PEACE We are living in dangerous times. A nuclear war could end our struggle, our aspirations, our lives. For us, no other issue is more crucial to our future and our equality. The very threat of war denies us our rights, diverting funds for arms purchase; funds which governments could otherwise use to provide jobs, child care, social services, education and health facilities.

The creation of new types of weapons increases our danger and initiates yet another spiral in arms spending. Canadians should not allow the Cruise Missile to be tested on our soil or in any way participate in nuclear armament.

Greetings to all our Sisters present in this celebration, as well as all women around the world. We are in solidarity with you in the struggle for racial and economic equality, peace, and justice.

Students for Democratic Action

Greetings and Congratulations to the Committee for March 8 from the T.D.N., a coalition of 70 groups and individuals working for Peace.

Toronto Disarmament Network

The Coalition thanks Angela for coming to Toronto to share her experiences in the USA with women in Canada. In the past minority women have not been full participants in I.W.D. But that is changing and we hope that together we can celebrate our achievements over past years and map the direction for the future.

Visible Minority Women's Coalition

Davis

1985 marks the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism; we must prevent the unleashing of another world war and stop the U.S. Star Wars program.

Women, young and old, are joining the struggle for peace. Every day our numbers increase. There is a world to win . . . for ourselves, our sisters and brothers, our parents and children. With them, we will win it.

EQUALITY Central to the equality of women is the right to a job and economic security. Women continue to earn much less than men and are concentrated in low paying jobs. The Mulroney Conservative government is attacking our living standards by eroding social programs and maintaining high unemployment. The right to join a union and have a decent collective agreement sparked militant strikes by workers at the First Canadian Place, Certified Brakes and Eatons, many of whom were women.

To be complete, the equality of women must encompass the right to education, health care and housing, the right to have or not to have a child, the right to develop as individuals in directions decided by our own will. In our midst, Native and immigrant women, particularly those from visible minorities, suffer the greatest denial of these rights. While advances have been made, our struggle is not over. Full equality for all has yet to be won.

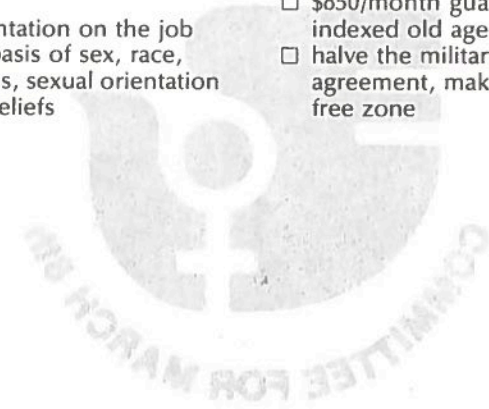
UNITY Women around the world have the same aspirations as women in Canada-economic security, health, education and housing. Millions suffer the denial of these rights daily, many others still fight and die to achieve them. We, women in Canada know that we will not completely achieve our own equality while women elsewhere are denied theirs.

We condemn the U.S. interventionist policies, especially in the internal affairs of Grenada and Nicaragua. We applaud the courage and strength of the Chilean, South African, Salvadorean, Palestinian, Iranian and Irish women. We support the women of all countries where the struggle to end national oppression encompasses the promise of the advancement of women.

Our rights can only be realized if the following demands are met:

- the right to a job, institute verifiable, mandatory affirmative action programs
- equal pay for work of equal value; raise the minimum wage
- the right to union representation on the job
- no discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation or political and religious beliefs

- ensure universal access to childcare services, family benefits and support services funded by government
- 17 weeks full paid maternity leave with the option of a year's absence without loss of seniority or benefits
- equal access to education and technical training; provide special courses for immigrant women
- free post secondary education
- access to information on birth control and pregnancy termination in our own languages; remove abortion from the Criminal Code and establish free standing abortion clinics covered by OHIP; end forced sterilization
- grant farm wives the right to receive wages for farm work
- provide affordable housing; implement rent controls and raise the ceiling on rents to be controlled; no evictions or foreclosures due to unemployment
- control food prices and corporate profits; remove sales tax on contraceptives, personal hygiene products and restaurant food under \$7
- the right to a safe and healthy environment at work and in the community
- controlled introduction of new technology with job and retraining guarantees; a 30 hr. work week with no reduction in pay
- full coverage of domestic and farm workers under the Employment Standards Act, the Labour Relations Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- \$850/month guaranteed; non-contributory, indexed old age pension per person
- halve the military budget; annul Cruise testing agreement, make Canada a nuclear weapons free zone



Endorsements

Endorsations for this event were received from:

Africa/Ethiopia Anti-Hunger Fund
African-Caribbean Students Association
African National Congress
AMPES
Arab Canadian Women's Network
Association of Concerned Guyanese
Association of United Ukrainians of Canada
Black Feminist Collective
Black Theatre Canada
Bookworld
Canadian Abortion Rights Action League
Canadians Concerned About Southern Africa
Canadian Peace Congress
Cayenne
Chilean Women's Front
Coalition for Responsible Choice, U of T
Committee for Racial Equality
Committee of Progressive Pakistani Canadians
Communication Workers of Canada, Local 50
Communist Party of Canada
Congress of Canadian Women
Development Education Centre
Divestment Committee, U of T
Fireweed

Graduate Students Union, U of T
Greek Canadian Democratic Organization
International Women's Day Committee
March 8 Coalition
New Democratic Party, U of T
Portuguese Canadian Democratic Association
S.A.C., U of T
Silvia Platoon
Student Christian Movement
Students for Democratic Action
Supporters of Iranian Women's Organization
Supporters of the Organization of Iranian
People's Fedaian (Majority) in Canada
Supporters of Tudeh Party
Toronto Association for Peace
Toronto Disarmament Network
Toronto Working Group for the 12th World
Festival of Youths & Students
United Electrical Workers Union
United Jewish People's Order
Visible Minority Women's Coalition
Women Working with Immigrant Women
Young Communist League
*and many individuals

