

WOMEN STOOD UNITED, WOMEN STAND UNITED...

OUR POWER WILL FREE US

International Women's Day occupies a special place in the history of women's struggles. On March 8, 1908, 30,000 women textile workers in New York went on strike with the slogan "Bread and Roses", which symbolized their plea for economic security and a better quality of life. When the strike began every shirtwaist factory in New York City was an open shop. When it ended, 13 weeks later, 312 shops had a full contract. Two years later, the German socialist Clara Zetkin proposed that March 8 be set aside each year as International Women's Day, a day to celebrate our on-going struggle for bread and roses.

Since that time, and particularly with the rebirth of the women's movement in the 1960s, women around the world have claimed March 8 as a day of protest, solidarity, and celebration. From our various areas of struggle, we come together each year to celebrate our victories in the battle for women's liberation. We also demonstrate our intention to keep fighting for rights such as childcare, employment at decent wages, the freedom to choose our sexuality, abortion rights and an end to violence against women. On International Women's Day 1981 we will stand together in solidarity with women in other countries struggling for equality and liberation. And also with people, who, in countries such as El Salvador, are fighting for their liberation and self-determination.

ENDORSEMENTS

Action DayCare; Birth Control and VD Centre; CUPE Metro Council; GLARE (Gays and Lesbians Against the Right Everywhere); Immigrant Women's Centre; In Struggle; International Women's Day Committee; International Socialists; Lesbians at Large; Lesbian Perspectives; National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Ontario Division of CUPE; OISE Lesbian Caucus; Ontario Federation of Labour; Ontario NDP; OFL Women's Committee; OPSEU Region 5 Women's Caucus; OPSEU 525; Oxfam Canada; Parkdale Legal Aid; Revolutionary Workers' League; Riverdale Action Committee Against Racism (RACAR); Sean O'Flynn, President, OPSEU; SORWOC, Local 3; Times Change; United Auto Workers; U of T Women's Studies Student Union; Voice of Women; Women on Watch (WOW); Women Working with Immigrant Women; Congress of Canadian Women; The Toronto Clarion; Toronto Rape Crisis Centre; Women's Anti-Nuclear Action Committee; Queen's Women's Centre, Kingston; Student Christian Movement of Canada; Lesbian and Gay History Group, Toronto; The Committee for Racial Equality; Ontario Federation of Students; Teachers for Tomorrow; Women Against Rising Prices; Women In Trades; Interval House; Ontario Association for Women and Education; Glendon College Student Union; Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW), and Locals 3 & 7; CUPE Locals 1582 & 1806; CARAL National and Toronto chapters; YWCA Metro Toronto; U of T Status of Women Committee; Canadian Farmworkers Union, Ontario; Latin American Working Group; WCREC (Women's Counselling, Referral and Education Centre); SSWA (Support Services for Assaulted Women); Workers' Communist Party; Seven News; Organized Working Women; Coalition of Grass Roots Women; Dovercourt NDP Riding Association; York University Staff Association; Feminist Party of Canada; Mamonova Tour Committee; Bread and Roses Credit Union; UAW Local 1967; The Committee of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; The Committee Against Racism; Equal Pay Coalition; Lesbian Mothers Defense Fund; Cultural Workers' Alliance; Wood Tree Co-operative; Spruce Court Co-operative; Metro Toronto Labour Council;

For more information call: 789-4541

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**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 7TH, 1981**

**We Want
Childcare,
Economic Independence,
an End to Violence Against Women,
and to Stop the Rise of the Right**

**RALLY/DEMONSTRATION
11AM SHARP, CITY HALL ROTUNDA
IWD FAIR 1-4 pm
HARBORD COLLEGIATE
286 HARBORD STREET**

**ALL WOMEN'S EVENING CELEBRATION
AND DANCE
519 CHURCH STREET 8pm - 1am**

**WOMEN STOOD UNITED,
WOMEN STAND UNITED
OUR POWER WILL FREE US**

NOT SERVANTS...

In the constitutional wrangling over which government gets which spoils, our political leaders have shown little concern for how the division of powers will affect women. Constitutional committee co-chairman Hays exemplified the attitude of "our" representatives: he responded to a women's brief on the Charter of Rights by asking who would look after the children while all the "girls" were out working.

Yes, who will look after the children? And the elderly? and the abandoned or battered women? The government's attitude is that it is not a priority to fund childcare so that we can work outside the home — or for that matter to provide sufficient family and unemployment benefits when we aren't employed. They will not fund these services at a level which would make it easier for us to challenge our servant role in the family and workplace.

Childcare remains a key issue. Childcare is not a form of welfare to be grudgingly given to special groups. Universal quality childcare is **our right and our children's right.**

Support for this demand is growing. Last fall, both the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress overwhelmingly passed resolutions demanding daycare. And in October, hundreds of adults and children demonstrated at Queen's Park to protest the Tory failure to maintain current levels of daycare funding. We will not settle for less, or even the same; we want a government supported system of childcare, available to all who want it, and more funding for social services.

NOT MACHINES...

More and more women work outside the home. It is a necessity and it is our right. But few women workers are unionized, only 27%, and many — including most immigrant and native women — are trapped in low-paying job ghettos. Most women work as clerical, service or domestic workers. Wages are low and hours are long. Conditions are often poor. We are highly vulnerable to the whims of bosses and of the economy. And when we go home, we're still responsible for the work involved in sustaining our families — our double day of labour.



We deserve better. We've begun to make progress in the unions. Women have gone out on strike for a first contract at Fleck, Blue Cross and Radio Shack. We've fought for better wages for clerical work through the PSAC strike. We are beating down the doors of the traditionally male jobs. Women are fighting for contract clauses such as no discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual orientation, maternity leave and equal pay for work of equal value. We demand **economic independence**; we demand **equal pay for work of equal value.**

We deserve better and we are organizing to see that we get it.

IF ALL WE DID WAS SIT AT HOME AND WEEP...

Violence is a part of every woman's life. Sexual abuse and harassment in the street and on the job, domestic beatings, rape — these forms of violence are common in our city. Lesbians are the victims of verbal and physical attacks. Immigrant and native women know the additional sting of racism.

But we refuse to be silent. We will not resign our jobs to avoid "unpleasantness"; we will not hide our shame by covering our bruises; we will not retreat to the closet; we will not sit at home alone weeping. We are learning we can fight back. **We are organizing to stop violence against women.** Many of us are learning self-defense. We are realizing our own strength. Last summer, a brutal rape-murder in the Beaches united us in our rage against the violence we all experience. We felt our power as we took back the night together.

WE WILL NOT BE PUSHED BACK

The issues of women's liberation are many and far-reaching. We have come a long way in a difficult and hard-fought struggle; we have a long way to go.

But even the gains we have made are under attack. Times are hard. The current economic crisis has brought massive layoffs and serious cutbacks in social services and social security programmes. The Right in this country is responding by trying to consolidate a social and political majority by scapegoating racial and ethnic minorities, women, lesbians and gays. Right extremist groups such as Renaissance, the Ku Klux Klan, the League Against Homosexuals are playing on people's fears for the future as they try to push "uppity" women and racial and ethnic minorities back into a past when all was right in the world — a romanticized past that never was.

Abortion rights, the freedom to be open lesbians, the freedom to live and work without violence or discrimination — these are some of the freedoms these groups are trying to deny us. But we are fighting back. Women are refusing to be forced out of the workplace and back into the home to be economically dependent. Women are organizing to fight racism and discrimination. We are continuing to demand our rights. **The struggle against conservative, racist, and anti-woman groups is the struggle of us all.**

The economic and political crisis we face here in Canada is not isolated; it is a reflection of the international situation. Today the threat of a world war is greater than it's been for the last 30 years. The superpowers of the world are escalating their arms build up. We are acutely aware of the threat to all our lives and to our future from the increasing danger of nuclear war. On International Women's Day we cannot be silent on this issue. We oppose the use of our human and natural resources for nuclear and military technology.

WE ARE NOT SERVANTS, WE ARE NOT MACHINES,
WE ARE NOT THE WEAKER SEX
WOMEN ARE UNITED AND STRONG. OUR
STRUGGLE CONTINUES

I would like to endorse International Women's Day, 1981

I am sending a contribution of _____

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