

TORONTO BLACK WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE

Pro-Choice

We, the members of the Black Women's Collective, wish to share our position on the issue of 'choice' with you on this national day of action for women's rights.

We have been witnessing the slow but sure erosion of all of women's rights in recent years with great concern. It is important to us how this new concerted effort against women has been taking place not only in Canada but also in the United States, Britain, and in fact, across the so-called developed capitalist world. We do not think that this development is occurring by chance, but is in fact an intense effort by the right wing governments of these countries to assist the flourishing of the extreme right, which is influencing all social and economic policies in these countries.

The movement of the extreme right is evident in the attempts to crush labour through the roll back of all the hard won union gains; the Canada-U.S. free trade pact continues to displace many, many workers; increased taxation is driving the poor over the edge; increasing racist policies by governments are making 'peoples of colour' in these countries scapegoats for most of the social and economic problems, thereby creating further divisions in society which work to take attention away from governments' despicable actions against the working class.

This is the larger picture in which women find themselves being further victimized. Denying women the right to reproductive choice is more than an attempt by the reactionary capitalist regimes, particularly those of the Mulroney, Bush-Reagan administrations, to put women back in the home where they will again be dependent controlled.

The Black Women's Collective is committed to fighting for women's right to free choice. As Black women, we experience race and class oppression daily and recognize that if our right to reproductive choice is taken away, our already marginalized position will surely get worse. Further we feel it may be choice today, and perhaps jobs, housing, and our very womanhood tomorrow. The right must be stopped! The only choice these reactionaries wish to give us is the choice between a coat hanger and an unwanted pregnancy.

Women all over the world, eg. Mexico, Argentina, Brazil are fighting for the same social and economic rights. We are all fighting for control over our physical beings. We **must** therefore unite to smash the right!!