

# WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK



WHEN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT EXPLODED, INTERNATIONALLY, WE ALL LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER'S STRUGGLES THAT, WHATEVER OUR NATIONALITY AND CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR ROLE AS WOMEN DEPRIVED US OF POWER.

We have fought against that role on many fronts, by demanding equal pay, abortion rights, safe contraception, universal daycare etc. But to the degree that we have made isolated demands which did not express the need of ALL women everywhere, our struggles have been fragmented:

- Does the demand for abortion rights express the need of native Indian women in Canada or black women in the US who are facing genocide in our hospitals? And for the rest of us, is it really the "right to choose" when most of us can't have the children we WANT because we don't have the time or money?

- Does "equal pay" legislation deal with the fact that there is a separate job market for women, or that we all perform vast amounts of unwaged labour in the home? When we shed the powerlessness we carry along with us from the home, which makes us cheap labour in job ghettos outside, we will have "double pay" because we work TWO jobs.

- And does "universal daycare" free our time so we don't have to hand our children over to the state while we work in their factories and offices? What about the men and the elderly- will it win them any time away from work or imposed isolation to be with the children?

To the degree that we lack real choices we have not fought against the root of our powerlessness which is our role as unwaged workers in the home. And if this is the common condition of all women, everywhere, then our common struggle for more power is a struggle for more money, more time, and less work.

ALL WOMEN ARE HOUSEWIVES! WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK!