

DRAFT OF A BASIS OF UNITY STATEMENT

Note: This statement would be intended for internal use only. It would not be used on leaflets that would be handed out to a larger audience.

Our Goal

We stand for the complete economic, social, sexual political, psychological and cultural liberation of women. We stand opposed to the oppression of women in all its manifestations.

Our Enemy

We see our oppression coming from the dual but mutually reinforcing systems of capitalism and patriarchy. The system of patriarchy is rooted in the sexual division of labour and in the patriarchal family of class society. These structures together with male privilege and patriarchal attitudes have been incorporated into capitalism forming a particular oppression for women. Under capitalism, our labour, and our sexuality is privatized within the domestic sphere. In the paid labour force, our labour functions either in job ghettos or as a reserve army of labour. Because these two systems of patriarchy and capitalism reinforce and legitimize each other there is within our society both a class based and gender based oppression and working class women have a double oppression. Thus the liberation of women in the long run must involve not only an attack on patriarchal ideas but also profound and radical changes in the very structure of our society.

Our Goal

In order to end the oppression of women we seek to build a genuinely democratic, socialist and feminist society. Such a society would be organized to meet the need of the vast majority of people rather than to create profits for the few. Such a society would put an end to the domestic servitude of women and a sexual division of labour. As women we would have economic independence, control of our bodies and of our sexuality.

The only effective way to defend what limited gains we have made in the last decade and to advance our goals is to rely on our own mass mobilization rather than upon governmental lobbying. To advance our goals in the present and to build a new society over the long run, we need to build a strong autonomous women's movement. We also want to ally ourselves with all those who challenge the economic, social and governmental forces which promote our oppression. We see the trade union movement, movements against the right and racism, anti-imperialist

movements and the gay and lesbian liberation movements as important allies and potential forces for the liberation of women