

1) What is the women's movement?

- the women's movement consists of all those women who fight back against women's oppression and who struggle for women's rights. This includes not only those women who are involved in groups which are clearly part of the women's movement like the Women's Health Collective and SORWUC ; but as well women who are involved in many other struggles like trade unions, anti-rascism etc.

-women's groups tend to be organized around specific issues or areas of concern. The groups are generally small enough so that there is accountability amongst members. Through these groups we are exploring new organizational forms and developing methods of work which are necessary if we are to work together in the long term revolutionary struggle

-we have a rich experience as a movement. We have taken up many different issues, frequently redefining them as political questions for the first time (the ways in which people conduct their "personal" lives, the role of reproduction in the economic and social structure) We have worked in many different areas. Over the last ten years the women's movement has had an effect on the way women think.

- as well as the ongoing organizing we have done, the women's movement has been characterized by "ad hocness". This has meant, amongst other things, that we have learned to validate our experiences enough so that if we want to organize around something we can go ahead and do it, and we have reasonably effective communication networks amongst ourselves.

2) Objectives

- We need to develop more effective communication within the women's movement and particularly with the "world out there"

We have to increase our ability to develop tactics; to mobilize for individual events as well as to develop more long term strategies for where we work and how. One example of such a strategic question would be how we should deal with the question of nuclear energy. Do we work within existing anti-nuke groups and if so, how, or do we organize on our own? We need to organize so that we can combat the attack from the right We have to be able to prioritize where we place our energies.

3) Questions to be dealt with

a) How do we, within the women's movement, ⁵establish our points of unity? How do we struggle over differences? What forms will leadership take? In what ways are we accountable to each other?

b) What is the relationship of the women's movement to women who are open to the ideas of the women's movement? How do we integrate new women? How are we to relate to women who are involved in the struggles of the women's movement but with whom the "women's movement" is not in contact? (Women in trade unions, caucuses etc.) What is the relationship of the women's movement to the left?