

FOR WOMEN WHO WOKE UP THIS MORNING THINKING "HERE WE GO AGAIN"

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (WAVAW) FIND IT PAINFULLY IRONIC THAT WE HAVE A FEELING OF DEJA VU ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. BUT IT IS NO WONDER THAT WE FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. THE ALL TOO FAMILIAR CONTINGENTS, SLOGANS AND BANNERS GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE MALE PRESENCE BOTH HERE ON THE DEMONSTRATION AND, ALL TOO OFTEN, IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF WOMEN. THIS IS MILITARY EXERCISE IS THE ACCEPTED STANDARD FOR PUBLIC SHOWS OF STRENGTH. BUT IT IS A MALE STANDARD AND IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUIT OUR PURPOSES. WOMEN WANT A NEW DIRECTION. THE STRENGTH OF THE AUTONOMOUS WOMEN'S MOVEMENT HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE. IN CHOOSING TO ORGANIZE INITIALLY THROUGH CLOSED COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOR A LEFTIST-STYLED DEMONSTRATION THAT INCLUDES MEN, THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HAS SACRIFICED THE FEMINIST PROCESS THAT COULD HAVE CREATED AN ACTION THAT BELONGED TO WOMEN. WHAT WE HAVE HERE TODAY IS THE BARE MINIMUM--WOMEN'S ISSUES MADE TO MEASURE WITH NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICS OF WOMEN'S AUTONOMY.

THE WOMEN OF WAVAW