

RESOLUTION FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

In June 1973, 800 women at the Feminist Symposium in Montreal, Quebec, passed a resolution demanding wages for housework from the State. (Since that time, the economic crisis has deepened, and we women have had less money and more work as a result. We, the undersigned, demand wages for housework for all women to reverse that--because we refuse to keep absorbing the crises in the system.) As it is we are always putting ourselves last, and everyone around us expects us to work without wages in the home and for the lowest wages outside. No other workers in this society do so much for so little! More and more lip service is paid to the "double handicap" of women but we are not interested in mere descriptions and denunciations of our condition: we are organizing to change it. Because for too long it has deprived us of the power to control our own lives and ~~has~~ effected us all regardless of whether we are full-time housewives or not:

- ① we have worked without end in our homes serving fathers, brothers, husbands, children (always at the disposal of others)
- * ② - we have ended up in low-paid "female" job ghettos outside the home because, even for those of us with training and skills, a woman's "place" is in the home - as long as our only alternative is unwaged work it will haunt us wherever we go
- * ③ - we have been denied the right to our own bodies: we have had children we didn't want and couldn't afford and, at the same time, deprived ourselves of the children we wanted
- ④ - many of us have passed through mental hospitals, courts, and prisons for refusing to accept our role - when we fight back we're called "sick" or "deviant" and treated accordingly
- ⑤ - in great numbers we have had to depend on the State for "charity" as if raising, disciplining, and socializing future workers for this society wasn't a job like any other
- ⑥ we have been denied desperately needed child-care facilities and had precious little to say about how (to run) those that are available *are run.*
- ⑦ we have had to live in inadequate housing, paying prices we can't afford for a bit of privacy and green space
- ⑧ - we have had to pay exorbitant prices for food and transportation while the quality keeps going down hill
- we have had to depend on others like "parasites" because we have ^{had} no money of our own for our housework - the work that, as women, we are all forced to do, whatever else we may do besides

We ~~we~~ need wages for housework because, as women, it has marked us all "slave labour" in the home and "cheap labour" outside. It has effected every area of our lives, depriving us of choices and opportunities. In the present crisis it has meant we are going backwards instead of forwards.

By organizing to get wages for housework we serve notice that we are through subordinating our needs to everyone else's. We need the money and the power to refuse more work and conditions of life that sap our strength and deny us our autonomy as human beings.

Women Unite For Wages For Housework !

NAME

ADDRESS

WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME