

IWDC BASIS OF UNITY STATEMENT

Our Goal

The International Women's Day Committee stands for the complete social, political, economic, sexual, psychological and cultural liberation of women. We stand opposed to the oppression of women in all its manifestations.

Our Enemy

We find the oppression of women rooted in the patriarchal capitalist system. Our oppression is determined by the mutual interdependence of the capitalist relations of production and the relations of patriarchal domination, particularly the institution of the family and the sexual division of labour. Male privilege and patriarchal ideas have been incorporated into the structure of capitalism and act to support it and legitimize its practices. Thus, the liberation of women in the long run must involve not only an attack on these ideas, but also profound and radical changes in the very structure of our society.

Furthermore, we cannot see the Canadian government as a neutral bystander in our struggle. Government structures at all levels are component parts of the capitalist system charged with the task of defending and maintaining this system and the values and practices that are central to it. Government must be seen as part of the problem - not part of the solution.

Our Task

It is clear from this that we have little to gain by lobbying the government. Rather, we must put our energies into building mass actions and a mass, united movement of women which can begin to challenge the system in a more direct and serious way. We will need allies for this battle. Our primary allies are to be found in the various groups which presently form the women's movement. We also want to work with all those who challenge the economic, social and governmental forces which promote our oppression. In particular, the trade union movement can become an important and powerful force for the liberation of women.