

STATEMENT  
BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST COLLECTIVE  
FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

On Wednesday October 29 across this country thousands of women working both in the home and outside the home will go on strike to demonstrate our power and our refusal of the work which has been imposed on all of us. On Friday October 24 the women of Iceland went on strike against the work they do in the home and outside the home and by that strike they were able to paralyze the entire country.

The International Feminist Collective for the Campaign for Wages for Housework not only supports these strikes but also supports and recognizes the continuous struggle millions of women all over the world carry on day after day against our common work and our common exploitation. It is clear in fact that the reason why women respond to the call by NOW and by the political parties of Iceland for a women's strike is not because NOW and the political parties of Iceland have ever recognized and expressed what our needs as women are. It is because we all women see in this day the possibility of making visible and unified the struggles we are continuously waging wherever we are and whatever we do. Precisely because the level of our struggle is so high we must be sure that these strikes are not just demonstrations of our strength but means TO INCREASE OUR POWER and TO GUARANTEE THAT WE DON'T GO BACK HOME WITHOUT SOMETHING IN OUR HANDS. We don't want just to demonstrate our strength but to use it and increase it to get what we want. It is precisely for this reason that all over the world more and more women are organizing around the Campaign for Wages for Housework. On March 8, 1974 women in Italy marched to demand wages for housework from the State and rallies to demand wages for housework spread in many countries of the world on May Day 1975.

WE DEMAND **WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK**

form the Government for **ALL WOMEN** Married or not  
young or old

with or without children      lesbian or      with or without  
native or immigrant      straight      a second job

we women spend most of our life working in the home and it is all work that we are not paid for. As the strike of women in Iceland demonstrated, without our work nobody could go out to work. Factories, offices, schools, hospitals, restaurants, telephones ... they would be all shut down, and the economy would come to a halt.



Yet this work is not even considered as work. We get

no vacations,  
on holidays we work twice as much,  
we are expected to service everybody  
and put our needs last.

We sweat our life away while business and the government have  
grown rich through our work. Business and Government profit  
from our work **THEY SHOULD PAY FOR IT**

The fact that we are not paid for the work we do in the  
home is our common exploitation and the ground of our weakness  
in every situation. But increasingly we are saying NO.

**NO MORE WORK FOR FREE**

We are tired of having to depend on a man or on welfare for our  
survival. We are tired of the second job that leaves us no time  
of our own. We are tired of not being able to have the children  
we want and have to pay such a high price of work and misery for  
those we bear. We are tired of our work and of not having any time  
of our own.

**WE ARE NEVER UNEMPLOYED BUT SIMPLY  
UNPAID**

**WE NEVER RETIRE BUT JUST TIRE**

**WE ALL WANT MORE MONE AND LESS WORK**

The NOW perspective and objective on the women's strike day  
completely fail to understand that this is what we women want.  
NOW for example is asking us not to spend money on our strike day.  
To that we say that our real problem is that we have never had  
enough money to spend. Shopping is work and it is even harder when  
we don't have enough money. This is our crisis and our struggle is  
not to increase our level of poverty and deprivation, to increase  
our work and gain equal exploitation but to destroy our work and  
take back the wealth we have created.

**WOMEN** **STRIKE EVERY DAY  
FOR OUR WAGES DUE**

International Feminist Collective for the Campaign for Wages for  
Housework

Contact New York Wages for Housework Collective  
288 B Eighth St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215 625 0780

Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee  
c/o Beth Ingber 440 3/4 N. Lake St.  
Los Angeles 90026, Calif. 484 1167

Power of Women Collective - England  
64 Larch Road, London NW2 C1 452 1338

Comitato Triveneto Per il Salario al  
Lavoro Domestico - Italy  
Piazza Eremitani 26, Padua 65 30 16