

PRESS RELEASE
from the International Feminist Collective
for the Campaign for Wages for Housework

On Friday October 24 the women of Iceland went on strike against the work they do in the home and outside the home. By that strike they were able to paralyse the entire country. On Wednesday October 29 NOW is calling women across this country to go on strike by refusing to work and refusing to spend money. We, the International Feminist Collective for the Campaign for Wages for Housework, support these strikes which are the culmination of the massive though invisible struggles women have been waging in the home and every other place where they work. We do not share, however, the position of NOW and of the political parties of Iceland who have called these strikes to only demonstrate that women's work is crucial to the economy. NOW also blatantly ignores that "spending money" is work for us, which is even harder because we women have never enough money to spend.

The problem for us is not to demonstrate that our work is "useful". We know that even too well and so does the government and business who have grown rich through our work and are continuously asking us for more sacrifices. Our problem is to increase our power as women by immediately attacking what has been our main condition of weakness and exploitation. This is why we have opened internationally a campaign for Wages for Housework.

We demand Wages for Housework for ALL women from the government. We want to be paid for the work we do. Once we have money of our own we will decide whether or not we want to take a second job, instead of being used as a pool of cheap labor to be forced in and out of a second job as the economy needs it, whether or not we want to have children, instead of being forced to procreate or submit to sterilization, whether or not we want to live with a man, instead of having to depend on a man for our economic survival.

We want the power to make choices and for us women this means more money and less work.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
International Feminist Collective for
the Campaign for Wages for Housework

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