

LESBIAN WOMEN SAY

NO TO THE WELFARE CUTS

YES TO WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

It is seldom recognized that many welfare mothers are lesbian women, who without a man's income are totally dependent on welfare for them and their children to survive.

"Lesbian" or "straight", this little money we get from the government for raising our children means more power for all of us. We don't have to starve if we get pregnant and he walks out on us (or we walk out on him); we don't have to beg a father or a husband for a few dollars to get through the week. And we can "come out of the closet" without being afraid that we'll be stranded because we won't be able to make ends meet.

This is why welfare women, lesbians or not, are under government fire now. They are afraid that with the little money they give us we have become too independent, and can't be controlled as well any longer.

AS LESBIAN WOMEN ON WELFARE WE ARE SUBJECT TO A DOUBLE ATTACK, BECAUSE IN THE EYES OF THE GOVERNMENT WE ARE GUILTY OF A DOUBLE "CRIME" : REFUSING TO WORK FOR NOTHING, AND REFUSING TO SERVE A MAN AS OUR ONLY "NATURAL" DESTINY.

Not accidentally, "being a lesbian" and "being on welfare" have become the symbol of the worst possible crimes a woman can commit. Every time we women make a struggle to get some money of our own, or refuse the discipline which is enforced on us, they label us as the scum of the earth TO DIVIDE US FROM OTHER WOMEN AND KEEP US ALL IN LINE.

THE STIGMA ON LESBIAN WOMEN AND WELFARE WOMEN IS A DISCIPLINE ON ALL WOMEN TO KEEP US WORKING FOR NOTHING AT HOME AND FOR ALMOST NOTHING OUTSIDE THE HOME : TO KEEP US DEPENDENT ON A MAN'S WAGE AND CONTROLLED BY THIS DEPENDENCY EVERY MOMENT OF OUR LIVES.

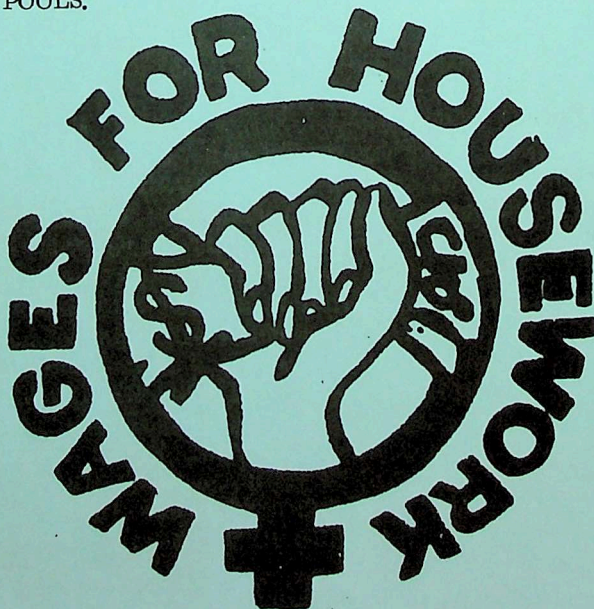
As lesbian mothers, the threat of seeing our children taken away from us is always hanging over our heads, which makes it difficult for us to fight publicly for what we need.

As soon as we are on welfare this threat escalates because now husbands and courts claim that not only are we not "good mothers", "proper models" for our kids, but we can't even provide adequate means to support them.

But even if we are not lesbians, or on welfare, we women are always in danger of losing our children : both the children we have and the children we couldn't afford to have because we don't have the money to support them.

AS LONG AS WE DON'T HAVE OUR OWN MONEY---AS LONG AS OUR WORK AT HOME IS UNPAID---WE ARE ALL THREATENED WITH STARVATION, STERILIZATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION IN MENTAL HOSPITALS, JAILS, AND MILLIONS OF HOMES, SWEAT SHOPS AND TYPING POOLS.

New York Wages
For Housework
Committee



LESBIANS OR NOT, ON WELFARE OR NOT, WE WOMEN MUST UNITE TO RESIST
THE WELFARE CUTS AND DEMAND:

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL WOMEN

We have to resist the welfare cuts because, as little as it is, we can't afford to lose what we have won. IF THE CUTS GO THROUGH THE STRUGGLES ALL WOMEN HAVE MADE WILL BE UNDERMINED.

Some of us will be forced to hide in the closet because we can't afford to lose access to a man's wage. Others will have to remain with men who boss them around and beat them up because, again, their pockets are empty.

And all of us will be forced to work harder, accept lousier and lower paid jobs, make ends meet on an ever-diminishing budget, sell our bodies in all kinds of ways, and face more isolation because with no money we have no possibility to leave the home except for more work.

But welfare isn't enough!

Only when we ALL demand to be paid for ALL the work we ALL do ALL of our lives, will we gain real power, because among other things, they won't be able to pit us against each other any longer.

IT'S TIME WE WOMEN COME OUT AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT

WORKING FOR NOTHING IS "NATURAL"
DEPENDING ON A MAN IS "NATURAL"
HAVING OUR WOMBS AND OUR SEXUALITY CONTROLLED BY
THE GOVERNMENT IS "NATURAL"

WE WANT WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK---WAGES FOR THE WORK WE DO---BECAUSE MONEY OF OUR OWN IS THE ONLY GUARANTEE THAT WE CAN CHOOSE:

WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO LIVE WITH A MAN---AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE
NEED HIS MONEY

WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO HAVE CHILDREN---INSTEAD OF BEING STERILIZED
OR FORCED TO BEAR CHILDREN ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT
NEEDS.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK MEANS THE POWER TO CHOOSE

WHAT KIND OF SEXUALITY WE WANT TO HAVE

... INSTEAD OF BEING CONFINED TO A SEXUALITY THAT IS A "CONJUGAL DUTY", A WORK-DUTY, DEFINED AND IMPOSED BY THE STATE.

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Speakers, films, video tapes, pamphlets, books,
posters, available.

