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TO

Amend the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and the Street Offences Act 1959; to provide for the better protection of prostitutes from exploitation and victimisation; and for connected purposes. A.D. 1979

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 5 1. For section 1(1) of the Street Offences Act 1959 there shall be substituted the following: Amendment of section 1(1) of the Street Offences Act 1959.
- 10 “(1A) It shall be an offence for any person in a street or public place (whether on foot or in a vehicle) persistently to accost, solicit or importune any other person or persons so as to cause annoyance to those persons or a nuisance to any other person who resides in or uses the said street or public place. 1959 c. 57.
- 15 (1B) No one shall be convicted of an offence under subsection (1A) of this section without evidence having been heard from a person to whom annoyance or nuisance has been caused.”
2. For section 1(2) of the Street Offences Act 1959 there shall be substituted the following: Amendment of section 1(2) of the Street Offences Act 1959.
- 20 “(2A) A person guilty under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £25 on a first offence and to a fine not exceeding £100 on each subsequent offence.”

Repeal of
section 2 of
the Street
Offences Act
1959.
1959 c. 57.

Meaning of
"brothel" in
Sexual
Offences Act
1956.
1956 c. 69.

Short title
and extent.

3. Section 2 of the Street Offences Act 1959 is hereby repealed.

4. Premises shall not be deemed a "brothel" for the purposes of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 by reason only of the fact that they are inhabited by more than one prostitute, unless it is proved that the inhabitants are practising prostitution under a system of common direction or control. 5

5.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Protection of Prostitutes Act 1979.

(2) This Act shall not extend to Scotland or to Northern Ireland. 10

Protection of Prostitutes

B I L L

A

To amend the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and the Street Offences Act 1959; to provide for the better protection of prostitutes from exploitation and victimisation; and for connected purposes.

Ordered to be brought in by
Ms. Maureen Coghlan, Mr. Ian Aiken, Miss Jo Richardson, Mr. Martin Flanagan, Mr. Christopher Price, Mr. John Gower, Mr. Sydney Edwells, Mr. Arthur Latham, Mr. Tom Litherick, Miss Joan Lester, Mr. Stan Thorne and Mr. George Rodgers

*Ordered by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6 March 1979*

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PROSTITUTES OUR LIFE

edited by Claude Jaget, with an Introduction by the English Collective of Prostitutes

We are women from all walks of life, single mothers, full-time housewives, career girls, students, secretaries, nurses. You've seen us in the street, at the baker's shop, in restaurants, at discos. We may be your next door neighbour, your daughter, your sister, your mother. Maybe you never knew that some of your best friends are pros.

What makes a woman a prostitute? Does she go on the game for the money or the sex? How does she get started? Who sets the prices? Do pros like the job? Is it dangerous? Who are the clients? Who are the pimps? How does being on the game affect a woman's relationships with men, with other women, with her family, with her children? What does she tell them about her job? Is it true she can lose custody of her children? Is it true most prostitutes are mothers? What do prostitutes think of legalised brothels? What do they want done about the laws?

In this book six prostitutes tell their stories and, through the personal accounts of their lives, answer the questions on prostitution that everybody asks. The women are French but their experience is as international as their profession. In 1975 they helped organise a national protest and occupied churches all over the country. Following their example, prostitutes in Britain have organised, right into the House of Commons, led by the English Collective of Prostitutes who asked Falling Wall Press to publish this book "because it speaks for us. This is 'the Life' as we live it."

A courageous book which really spells out what's happening here and in the rest of the world. Le Soleil

Everything you've always wanted to know about prostitution. The English Collective of Prostitutes

The truth about prostitution as told by prostitutes themselves.

Serial rights available—for more information contact Falling Wall Press.

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WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

P.O. Box 26325

LOS ANGELES, CA. 90026

(213) 680-1767

January 25, 1977

Dear Sisters and Friends,

The San Francisco Police and District Attorney have recently begun a campaign of harassment against street prostitutes (see article enclosed). Using the cover of "morality" and insinuating a connection between "violent crime" and prostitution, they are in fact depriving thousands of women of their only access to money, threatening them with imprisonment and heavy fines. At the same time, the government is leaving untouched the big hotels and other establishments which make a fortune by pimping off prostitutes.

The enclosed statement explains how the attack on prostitutes is an attack on all women. It calls for an end to the harassment of prostitutes and the abolition of all laws against prostitution.

We are asking your organization to support the San Francisco prostitutes against the police attack by endorsing this statement. Prepared by Wages for Housework-San Francisco and the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee, this statement has already been endorsed by COYOTE, the San Francisco-based organization of prostitutes, the English Collective of Prostitutes, California's Association for Trollops, and a number of other organizations.

We are circulating the statement in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas, as well as in other parts of North America and Europe. Similar attacks are being made on prostitutes in other parts of the country and internationally, and focusing attention on the San Francisco situation should lend power to women everywhere who are facing the same kind of harassment.

Because of the urgency of the situation, we are asking for quick action on your part. We are aiming to publicly release the statement and the list of endorsing organizations to the Los Angeles and San Francisco press early in the week of January 24.

We are planning to continue collecting endorsements after the week of January 24, however, and will reissue the statement at a later date, listing all endorsing organizations. Therefore, even if you cannot get your endorsement to us by January 24, do not hesitate to submit it to us. Your endorsement can still be an important source of support to the San Francisco women.

We would also appreciate your sending us the names and addresses of groups you feel should be contacted. The statement and cover letter are also available in Spanish.

If you would like more information or copies of the statement to distribute to other groups for their endorsement or information, or to post in various places, do contact us. In the Los Angeles area, call (213) 680-1767 (leave message if I am not at home). Or write to the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee, P.O. Box 26325, Los Angeles, California, 90026.

Please try to contact us as soon as possible. Because of the intensity of the repression against the San Francisco prostitutes, we must try to act quickly.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Ingber

Beth Ingber for the Los Angeles
Wages for Housework Committee

P.S. We are also enclosing supporting statements by Black Women for Wages for Housework, Wages Due Lesbians--London and Toronto-- and the English Collective of Prostitutes. If you have a publication and do a story using any of the enclosed statements, we hope you will send us a copy.

We are continuing to mobilize support for the S.F. prostitute women and are gathering endorsements internationally. In order to continue this work, we need money. We would greatly appreciate any donation you feel you can make.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT BY THE ENGLISH COLLECTIVE OF PROSTITUTES

The Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee in connection with the London Wages for Housework Committee has informed us about the proposals of the San Francisco supervisors to the California legislature to increase penalties for soliciting to \$1000 or one year in prison and we have also heard about the increase of arrests of prostitute women. In England and France, as in other countries, governments are trying to increase fines and jail sentences for soliciting, or already have, making it more difficult for prostitute women to get money. The governments are punishing us because we refuse to be dependent on the little money the boyfriends, husbands, brothers, lovers and families give us in exchange for the housework of looking after them. They are punishing us because when we go into hooking, we are refusing the low standard of living that employers offer us and our children when we do "respectable" work -- as secretaries, waitresses, nurses, factory workers, farm workers, teachers, domestic workers and so on. And when they punish us, they are also punishing our children.

All women are, in one way or another, fighting for financial independence and prostitution is the way that prostitute women have found to get the same thing. By attacking prostitute women the governments are telling all women that if we are not good girls, if we do not continue to be the servants of the world, and if we ask for anything for ourselves, we will be punished. But in the past few years an incredible number of women have gone into prostitution and many struggles of prostitute women have exploded and become public.

More and more, they will not be able to confront us in isolation. They will have to deal with us all together -- women who work on the street, call girls, women who work in massage parlors, in hotels, in brothels, in nightclubs, in casinos, in holiday resorts, in escort agencies, in bars; women who work in the countryside and small towns, women who work in big cities, young women, older women, mothers, non-mothers, lesbian women, straight women, part-time prostitutes, full-time prostitutes, married women, single women, immigrant and non-immigrant women, and women of all different races and nationalities.

Like all women, we prostitutes have always fought to get something for ourselves and it has never been easy. But when we look back, we can see that in the end we have always won something. And -- we are afraid for the governments -- that nothing is going to kill our struggle and nothing will stop us from winning. Power to prostitute women all over the world -- power to all women.

E.C.P.
English Collective of Prostitutes

MONEY FOR PROSTITUTES IS MONEY FOR BLACK WOMEN

The Black Women for Wages for Housework group fully endorses the statement of Wages for Housework-San Francisco and the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee that AN ATTACK AGAINST PROSTITUTES IS AN ATTACK ON ALL WOMEN. We make this endorsement because the struggles of prostitute women against police harassment on the streets, against beatings, against fines and jails, against being declared "unfit mothers" in the courts and having our children taken away, against being treated like animals and outcasts, against pimps, racketeers, and businesses that profit from our misery, and, what is key to all these attacks, against not having any money to call our own, are struggles that we as Black women are all forced to make.

Prostitution is not a game, it is WORK--the work of serving men sexually to get the means to live. It is the work of being at the disposal of men's sexual needs and their fantasies of what a woman is supposed to look like, supposed to do, supposed to be. Prostitution is work that Black women were forced to do on the plantations and that we are forced to do today. It is our work that some men "make their living" on--we don't play at prostitution. We are forced to sell our sexual services on the streets, in hotels and massage parlours, or in our apartments--to take on the second job of prostitution--because we are not paid for the first job we all do as women, housework, the job of producing and taking care of everybody so that we all can work and make profits for the Man. Prostitution is one way that Black women are using increasingly to refuse our poverty and dependency on men which is brought about by not getting paid for our first job.

To turn back the rising tide of our refusal to be penniless, the Man makes sure that part of the job of being a prostitute is to be used as a sign to other women of where the bottom is--to be labeled a whore and an unfit mother, a Negress (which they used to call us), a loose woman. So that part of the work of being a prostitute is to be made an example of what it costs us to refuse the poverty the Man forces us to live in, to be a whip against other women to make sure that they strive always to be "respectable" though poor. And this means that part of the work of being a prostitute must also be living with not only the contempt but the envy of other women for having the little bit of money, the little bit of independence, that they don't have.

Who among us, as Black women, is above prostitution? Racism--our being forced as Black women always to have the least money, the least possibility of getting a job, the least access to school, the worst housing, and the first "opportunity" to be fired, fined, or jailed--already means that all Black women are suspected of being or expected to be prostitutes anyway! In a sweep arrest--when women who are just walking down the street can be arrested as prostitutes--who gets swept up first? It's always open season on Black women.

The terrorism that is practiced by the Man and by individual men against prostitute women is a terror we all know, a terror in the Black community that always falls first and heaviest on Black women. Whether it is the terror of being beaten in the bedroom or in a parked car, on the street or in the jail, or the terror of not being able to find a decent place to live where the police don't feel free to break down the door, it is terror rooted in our having to be at everyone's disposal because we don't have the money to be able to say NO, to be able to choose where and how we want to live and whom we want to sleep with.

A ghetto is built around prostitutes like the ghetto in which all Black women, in one way or another, are forced to live. It is a ghetto where we are branded, denied our legal rights, and isolated from other women. If we are on welfare, doing the work of taking care of our

children and ourselves that all women do, we are branded as cheats, as if we are getting something for nothing. If we are lesbians, refusing to sleep with men as a way to have some independence in our lives, we are branded as freaks. It is a ghetto where if we are not dependent on an individual man to protect us--whether it's a husband, a boyfriend, or a pimp--we are considered fair game. It is a ghetto where even if we don't work the streets as prostitutes, we are often forced to sell our sexual services in exchange for rent, for food, for gas and lights, and in exchange for being "left alone" by the police.

For us the ghetto has always been a place of few choices and no security, the place we are all trying to get the money to get out of. It means being at the mercy of butchers who pass themselves off as doctors and deny us any real health care. So that as black women--especially if we're on welfare--we're likely to be sterilized, as if we are prostitutes somehow "guilty" of polluting the environment with our children and our sex. The ghetto is the place where black teenage women, who have the highest unemployment rate of any group in the USA (as high as 60%), are unable to find any other kind of job but prostitution, and where they are being arrested and booked daily in droves as so-called "juvenile offenders." It is the place where increasingly Black women who are struggling against tuition and cutbacks in the colleges and universities are forced to supplement their income by prostitution in order to stay in school. It is the place where Black women who are not US citizens, who came to this country because they had no money back home and who are increasingly being fired from their low-paying jobs here, are forced to be on the run, to make a living by prostitution, or be deported. The ghetto is the place where we are forced to be anonymous, whether we take names to use "in the game" or not, because being Black women we're not supposed to have any past, present, or future, any struggle or victory we can call our own.

The ghetto is where Black women are divided against each other according to how we get our money, how much work we can refuse to do and still get by, and according to the money and power the men we're attached to have--just as prostitutes are divided according to whether they work on the street, in the massage parlour, or in a private apt., whether they service a dozen small customers or only one big one per night. The ghetto means that our "options" as Black women in the labor market run most often from the toilet, to the kitchen, to the sweatshop, to the switchboard, to the typing pool, and that to be a prostitute at this point in time might just seem to be a better deal. And whether we work as prostitutes or not, to get and keep any of these jobs always means keeping up appearances of what--as women in this society--we're supposed to be. Above all, the ghetto is wherever Black women are living from hand to mouth in constant crisis--and that is everywhere, whether we work as prostitutes or not.

And it is because all Black women, including prostitutes, are refusing to accept the Man's crisis as they way we are supposed to live that the attack on prostitute women is being stepped up right now. They are looking for ways to turn all of us around, to make us go back, to give up what we've won. Because all of us are using the money, the power, that we have already won to refuse to settle for any less and demand more. Just as Black women who get welfare--which is the first wage women have won in this country for the work we do in our homes--are resisting the welfare cuts and demanding more money, everywhere we are refusing to take only what the Man dictates we should have. We are refusing to settle for the sweatshop just because the Man tells us it's a "respectable" job: "respectable" or not, we demand cash money. We are refusing all the cuts, refusing to be pushed out of school, refusing to live only on welfare or

unemployment, refusing the closing of daycare centers and hospitals, refusing to force our children to eat less and go without. More and more we are refusing to be at the disposal of men--whether as lesbians by refusing sex with men altogether, or as straight women by demanding satisfaction for ourselves in our relationships, or as prostitutes by demanding to be paid for our sexual services. More and more we are refusing to be isolated and divided from other women as if there is something wrong with us for refusing to be poor--as demanding money for our work becomes the rule, not the exception.

The welfare struggle organized by Black women in the sixties and continuing today, like all the struggles by Black women against the Man in whatever form He takes--whether it's the telephone company, the gas company, the health care industry, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the landlord, the transit authority, or the jip-joint businesses--are a tremendous source of power for prostitutes, for all women. Prostitutes are organizing a massive struggle around the world to demand their money: in Ethiopia in 1974, prostitutes began organizing a union to demand a basic rate of pay. In Australia, prostitutes demonstrated in front of the Anglican cathedral. And in June of '75, prostitutes went on strike all throughout France, occupying churches, rejecting the moral hypocrisy of the church just as Black women in this country have rejected its racist hypocrisy. By organizing themselves, by being public in their organizations whenever they can, prostitutes, like Black women, are saying by our actions that we have a story to tell, a story about the struggle we are making to be independent. In their statement in Lyons, the French prostitutes said: "We are women like all women."

The struggle of prostitutes is the same struggle Black women are making. It is the struggle to have the money--which is the power to be independent:

- to determine all the conditions of our lives;
- to determine whom we want to sleep with;
- to determine whether we have children or not and to be able to keep our children;
- to satisfy our own needs and to build a life for ourselves.

It is the struggle to be paid for all the work we do as women, including sexual work.

The Black Women for Wages for Housework group joins women throughout the world in saying:

- NO to the attack on prostitutes in San Francisco.
- NO to the attack on prostitutes in New York.
- NO to the attack on prostitutes everywhere.

When prostitutes win, all women win. MONEY FOR PROSTITUTES IS MONEY FOR BLACK WOMEN.

Black Women for Wages for Housework
c/o Brown
100 Boerum Place
Brooklyn, New York 11201

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SUPPORTING STATEMENT BY THE ENGLISH COLLECTIVE OF PROSTITUTES

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More and more, they will not be able to confront us in isolation. They will have to deal with us all together -- women who work on the street, call girls, women who work in massage parlors, in hotels, in brothels, in nightclubs, in casinos, in holiday resorts, in escort agencies, in bars; women who work in the countryside and small towns, women who work in big cities, young women, older women, mothers, non-mothers, lesbian women, straight women, part-time prostitutes, full-time prostitutes, married women, single women, immigrant and non-immigrant women, and women of all different races and nationalities.

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E.C.P.
English Collective of Prostitutes

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS BY WAGES DUE LESBIANS

We fully endorse the statement in support of the San Francisco prostitutes, and urge all other organisations to do the same.

The attack which governments are organising against prostitute women everywhere in the world is an attack on every woman's right to determine whether, and on what terms, she will have sexual relations with men. As lesbian women we, like prostitute women, refuse to accept that it is women's "nature" to sleep with men and to sleep with them "for love" -- i.e. for free. And like prostitute women we face continual harassment by police, employers, schools, individual men, and all those in authority for the crime of shaping our sexual life according to our own needs, of taking something for ourselves.

Many lesbian women have totally refused to do the work of meeting men's sexual demands, and all the other housework that goes along with sexual relations with men. Others of us have been forced by lack of money to marry or to stay in a marriage, at the expense of the relationships we would like, in order to maintain ourselves or ourselves and our children. Others of us have become hookers in order to get the money we need and are entitled to.

Women, lesbian or "straight", prostitute or not, are everywhere houseworkers, the servants of the world. We are all entitled to money for this work, and entitled to obtain it in any way open to us as women. Wherever women succeed in winning some of the wages due us, it is a strength to all of us and proof that women's services cannot be taken for granted.

Wages Due Lesbians, London
Wages for Housework Campaign
59 Wrottesley Rd.
London NW10, England

Here in Canada, we have recently seen a media campaign against the numbers of women "turning to prostitution" in this time of economic crisis. The push has come from the same quarters as in the U.S. -- from the police, politicians, and businessmen, all of whom have something to gain from women working for nothing or only low pay.

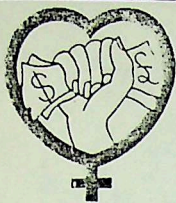
Lesbian women are also harassed for the same reason as prostitute women. We are intimidated and isolated from other women for refusing to be sexually available for free to husbands, bosses, and any man on the street. Any woman who steps out of line gets the same treatment. And we're fighting all the time against this, whether we are married, single prostitute or lesbian.

Many women who work as prostitutes are also lesbians. They are making the same fight against free sex on command when they refuse heterosexuality "off the job". The only choices women now have are to "give it" for free for our daily survival, to demand some money for it in exchange, or to try to refuse it altogether -- and we pay a high price for all three. We refuse to keep footing the bill.

Whether gay or straight, we all need our own money to determine our lives and what our sexuality will be. We all need Wages for Housework. We urge all lesbian groups and individuals to support the struggle of prostitute women against these crackdowns.

WAGES DUE LESBIANS
TORONTO, CANADA

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English Collective of Prostitutes

Women's Centre, P.O. Box 287, London N.11.6.5QW
01 837 7509/459 1150

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PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

PROSTITUTES TAKE THE LEAD FROM THE POPE

Following the Pope's visit to Ireland and his message for love and justice, 70 prostitutes in Dublin have started a campaign to end "discrimination and injustice".

It is not the first time that prostitutes organise publicly. In France in 1975 prostitutes went on strike and occupied churches all over the country to protest against police harassment. In Peru, 200 women picketing a brothel demanding more money and better working conditions.

Today Irish prostitutes are also demanding the right to join the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. Unions have always ignored women; to them being full-time housewives and mothers doesn't qualify us as workers. As prostitutes we are the only workers who are prevented by the laws from organising and from associations in order to improve our working conditions.

In demanding the right to join the Union, prostitutes in Ireland are challenging the laws which treat us as criminals and which force us to work underground dependent on pimps and ponces.

If the Pope's message is for us too, we demand justice, the civil rights which are presumed for others and the abolition of all the laws against prostitutes.

E.C.P.

Hampstead & Highgate EXPRESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1980

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10—Ham & High, January 25, 1980

Prostitutes' champion demands: Change law

ABOUT two million women in Britain are engaged in full-time, part-time or occasional prostitution, Ms Carolina Begue, a spokeswoman for the English Collective of Prostitutes, claimed at a meeting in Hampstead on Monday.

And the primary reason for this huge number was, she said, that many women — particularly single mothers—could not live on inadequate social security payments or on the wages paid in many secretarial jobs.

"More and more women are going on the game because they are fed up with being poor," Ms Begue, a community worker, told the North London branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform at the Friends' Meeting House, Heath Street.

"If social security payments were better there wouldn't be any prostitution around. Or if you want a job why earn £40 a week as a typist when you

could get that for a half-hour trick.

"When we say there are two million prostitutes, we don't mean two million professionals. Most are part-timers—people like housewives who come up to London before Christmas for a bit of extra money.

"I am sure that a lot of you have met prostitutes without knowing it. I'm sure that some of your neighbours are prostitutes — there is nothing special about them. They are just normal looking."

In a wide-ranging speech she was bitterly critical of laws that branded prostitutes as "second class citizens" and which removed many of their civil liberties.

Soliciting laws were unfair, restrictive and archaic, said Ms Begue. A woman could be convicted on the evidence of just one policeman, and the system of cautioning a prostitute before arrest was often abused by police, she claimed.

Legally, police had to caution a prostitute twice in the same year before arresting her for soliciting. With many cases that came to court, however, cautions were more than a year old. This meant that many convictions were technically wrong, said Ms Begue.

She added that the laws prevent two prostitutes from living together—

because they could be accused of operating a brothel—and prevented a prostitute living with a man as he could be accused of pimping.

"Prostitutes are completely isolated by the law," she said, pointing out that any prostitute fined for soliciting generally had to go out soliciting again to pay off the fines.

Prostitutes sometimes needed pimps to protect them from the law and once a woman had a pimp she was unable to go to the police and complain about him because of the law. Thus, she argued, the abolition of laws governing soliciting and the running of brothels would free prostitutes to operate as they wished, in the "spirit of free enterprise".

They did not like soliciting in the streets and if the law was changed they would be able to advertise freely in newspapers or magazines and operate from their homes.

A beneficial side-effect of this, she argued, would be the disappearance of "seedy red light areas" in towns. If prostitutes operated from their homes it would not be necessary to establish themselves in particular areas where clients could be sure of finding them.

The branch decided to back the campaign for the reform of soliciting laws and to write to Camden's three MPs to try to enlist their support.

Thursday November 8 1979

OPEN
SPACE**Chaining down mothers**

FAR FROM "encouraging" mothers to stay at home with young children (Nora Blackwell, Open Space, October 25), Mrs Thatcher seems intent on chaining some of us to the home if we are married and forcing us out to work if we're single. Social Service and education cuts are cuts in women's paid employment and an increase in women's unpaid domestic employment. That's not encouragement, it's a sentence.

Like the 300,000 other single mothers on supplementary benefit, my payment is so low that all I can look forward to is getting a second job.

Cutting out the married man's tax allowance, as Mrs. Blackwell proposes, to pay for an increase in child benefit is no way to help us. First of all, we're not married and if we were, does money in a man's hand give women choices? Not on your nelly. It can reinforce our dependence. Second, an increase in child benefit is meaningless to single parents on supplementary benefit (and that's most single parents) because

child benefit is deducted from our weekly money. But doubling child benefit can help the single mother if it's paid to us on top of supplementary benefit and can help the married mother too because it's money in her own right and in her own hand. This is "short of actually paying wages for housework," but it's a step in the right direction.

Mrs Blackwell should re-think her proposal for any woman to sign away her right to get out of the house. Supplementary benefit has already locked a third of a million of us into that prison, by the £6 maximum earning rule. We want out. Being a mother is a 24-hour a day job. We're not better mothers for being imprisoned and we're not worse mothers if we choose to do paid work as well.

We all need "the right to choose," not the right to chains, in or out of the home. And that means money and childcare for all mothers.

Ruth Chimowitz,
74 Princess Rd
London NW6

DAILY

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

EXPRESS

No. 24,783

Wednesday March 12 1980

10p (15p in Eire)

**Red light outcry
over Ripper hunt**

By PEGGIE ROBINSON

POLICE were accused yesterday of not trying hard enough to catch the Yorkshire Ripper.

The allegation came in a hard-hitting letter to West Yorkshire police and Scotland Yard by an organisation calling itself The English Collective of Prostitutes.

Most of the Ripper's 12 victims have been prostitutes.

The letter hit out: "It is absolutely criminal that six months after the last killing the police are no closer to catching the Yorkshire Ripper than they were four years ago.

"The Ripper has killed and mutilated at least 12 women in the snug certainty he would go unpunished and uncaught.

"How can any man be so self-assured even to the point of sending hand-written letters and a tape to the police?"

The letter says massive drug hauls have been successfully carried out in the past year in infinitely less time than it has taken police to begin a nationwide appeal for help in catching the Ripper.

Priorities

"Cannabis, not the lives of women, was placed first on the list of priorities," say the women.

A police spokesman said last night 600 officers from three forces were still hunting the Ripper.

CUTBACK ON RIGHTS - PASSPORT TO RAPE

The new immigration proposals attack every woman. The racism that Black and immigrant women (Black or white) already face stems directly from one government after another saying: 'You are not welcome, don't expect any rights.' AND THEY MEAN IT

Mrs. X a 55 year old West Indian woman, who has been a home help for seven years, was picked up by the police when her son was arrested.

10 plain clothes flying squad police officers went to her home. They harrassed her 14 year old daughter and abused her 16 year old physically and mentally handicapped son, who was obviously distressed to see his mother being taken away by a number of strange men.

She was taken to a London police station where she was stripped and searched between her legs while continually being verbally mocked and insulted. She asked the police woman who was examining her 'Haven't you got a mother?'

W.A.R. are fighting the case.

Miss X a 14 year old British woman with West Indian parents was raped while in the 'care' of a Local London council. As a result she now has a 6 year old child. The council first tried to ignore the situation, then they tried to cover up, and are now trying to get out of their obligation to give compensation to this young mother.

W.A.R. are fighting the case.

THE GOVERNMENT cuts WOMEN'S rights when it cuts our paid jobs, nursery provisions, SS Benefits, pensions, hospitals and schools.

WOMEN ARE THE ONES who are forced back into the home to do for free the nursing, teaching, social work and childcare we used to get paid for.

THIS NEW CONTROL FURTHER ATTACKING WOMEN is one more cutback, this time on our right to marry whom we want and live where we want.

EVERY IMMIGRATION CONTROL ATTACKS THOSE ALREADY HERE. It makes us an easy target. When we are attacked by government, then police, employers, local officials, immigration officers and individual men get the message.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THEM A PASSPORT TO RAPE

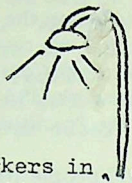
WOMEN AT WAR- WOMEN AGAINST RAPE
WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE PO BOX 287 Lon. NW 6 5QU tel 837 7509/221 5754
WAGES FOR
WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN: THE WOMEN'S CENTRE 71 Tonbridge St. WC 1
tel 837 7509/459 1150

WARPATH

7

Women Against Rape Newsheet Winter 1979/80



School For Rapists

Rape of women students and workers in universities and colleges is widespread throughout the country: it's just one aspect of rape that WAR has been fighting in recent months.

Last summer at Brunel University in Middlesex, at least three separate attacks were suffered by women within campus boundaries. A campaign was launched by the women at Brunel to improve security: their demands, which included improved lighting, transport and security patrols, were fully supported by WAR in an urgent letter to the University's Vice-Chancellor:

"We know that student women are particularly vulnerable to rape because their incomes often don't allow them to own cars, because they often work at college late at night, either studying, or in waged jobs to help supplement their grants. Women employed at universities, at low pay, face identical problems. Walking, cycling and hitch-hiking - the forms of transport most commonly associated with students - leave women notoriously open to rape.

We refuse to restrict our activities to so-called 'safe' times or places in order to avoid rape and go about our work. We refuse to be forced to depend on individual men for protection - many women become students precisely to make a more independent life, and, anyway, we know that a male companion is not always a guarantee of safety."

College authorities must accept full responsibility for the vulnerable position of the women under their care. They must be prepared to invest whatever money is necessary to provide the best possible protection. This was the message which WAR put across strongly when invited by the Vice-Chancellor to Brunel in June to meet the Bursar and other university representatives. With the Students'

Union backing and undeterred by large quantities of wine and sandwiches we told the Bursar that this would include:

- *mini-bus services on and off campus
- *improved alarm system
- *increased security patrols

We will continue to monitor developments at Brunel - and at other colleges - in the coming months. Please let us know about the situation at colleges you know.

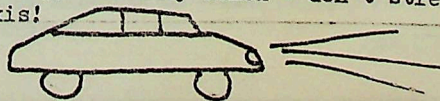
Sue Matthias

→ AT SUSSEX UNIVERSITY - after a history of attacks on the campus, a woman was raped and murdered there last November. The university has refused to spend the £1000 needed to help tighten security - £1000 has been found however, to provide an improved security system for Sussex University library.

→ AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON - after two attempted rapes last year by men armed with knives, a third succeeded when a woman was raped as she entered the university building at 8.15 am. The Students' Union at University College has pressed for increased security, but has had to pay for its own alarm bells and set up its own security patrols.

We won't be forced to walk alone All night workers need a free ride home

After one South London woman was assaulted on her way home from work at 10.30 pm, Care Assistants in Old People's Homes have been negotiating with Wandsworth Council, their employer. They want the council to provide transport home. You can wait an hour for a bus they say, and then it doesn't go where you have to get to. The bus stops are dark and the service ends too early. Many social service workers work evenings and nights, and the new pay awards - 3% for many women - don't stretch to taxis!





No, No, becoming a wife Doesn't mean YES for the Rest of your life

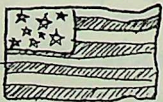
Many married women in Great Britain are unaware that such a thing as 'rape in marriage' is quite legal. We know, of course, that to many wives it physically does exist. But, however brutal the rape by the husband, in British Law he cannot be prosecuted for rape. A question we should ask ourselves is: what is a wife to do when she has actually been medically forbidden to have intercourse on various occasions, yet her husband demands his 'rights'? The law at present is hardly sufficient to protect her in such a situation, or in many others. Once a woman marries she no longer has complete rights over her body — it is assumed that by being married she is 'always available'

★ WAR are campaigning so that a wife has the right to charge her husband with rape and, if he is found guilty, he pay the penalty as other convicted rapists have to do.

★ In November 1977 a deputation from WAR went to the Home Office and presented a brief concerning Rape in Marriage. In a written reply from the Home Office was the following: 'We do recognise that these common law rules should be reviewed, and have arranged for this aspect of the law of rape to be brought to the attention of the Criminal Law Revision Committee.'

Another important factor is that wives should have the financial independence to leave their husbands if they wish to do so, but at the moment many wives with rapist husbands are forced to stay with them, because of lack of money of their own.

Mary Karger



USA 1st husband convicted

On 24 September 1979 for the first time in the USA a man was convicted and sent to jail for raping his wife. James Chretien will serve 3-5 years. The conviction was in the state of Massachusetts, where women had just recently succeeded in getting rape in marriage made illegal.

One of the key organisations responsible for the change was the Rape Action Project in Boston, a

sister organisation of WAR in Britain. They'd been consistently campaigning on the issue, and lobbying politicians, and in the end they helped legislators to draw up the new laws.

Street trial

The chain of events leading up to the Action project's present position of strength began last July when they held a public rape trial in front of the State House, modelled on the trial WAR held in London in 1977. The trial was co-sponsored by the Boston Wages for Housework Committee, Black Women for Wages for Housework USA, Boston Area Rape Crisis Centre, and the Prostitutes Union of Massachusetts.

200 people attended, and many testified about their own experience of rape, bringing to light all kinds of sexual coercion, and ways they'd been taken advantage of as women.

The Governor of the State was charged and convicted of rape and placing women in situations where they were vulnerable to rape, for instance by cutting back on welfare payments. The women demanded he meet them and give his endorsement to their position — for rape in marriage to be fully recognised as a crime, for immediate welfare relief to women raped or battered, and for repeal of a law under which any woman on the street unaccompanied by a man can be arrested.

They had no sooner finished demanding the meeting than a message arrived from the Governor's office — could they please send a deputation over to meet with them straight away? Discussions on the rest of the women's demands are still in progress at top level.

URGENT

Each issue of this news sheet costs 15p to produce and post. Please send your contribution to the PO Box address. A £1 or £2 subscription would also help towards future news sheets and other WAR mailings. Larger donations are most welcome — in fact badly needed! We have no other source of funding.

If you do *not* want to continue receiving WAR mailings please also let us know so costs can be saved.

No, No, becoming a pro
Doesn't mean 'yes'
Wherever you go



As you may have already seen in the press, WAR has been active in the campaign to abolish all the laws on prostitution. We've worked closely with the English Collective of Prostitutes and spoken in support of 'decriminalisation' in the debate at the House of Commons. When Guardian writer Mary Stott tried to protect us from our own 'innocent foolishness' in aligning ourselves with such women, we wrote back to state our case:

before rapists, police and courts, we all are." "

Judit Kertesz

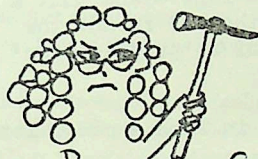
License to Rape

Last July, Ronald Evans, 'the Clifton Rapist' was caught by a WP decoy and convicted of six attacks on Bristol women.

For two years he'd terrorised the city, and the police had the nerve to tell women, 'never go out alone'. Meanwhile Evans was 'on licence', let out before the end of his term in jail, where he'd been serving a life sentence for another attack on a woman - rape and murder.

On local TV and radio, WAR Bristol asked: why in all that time had the police not checked the licence cases in the area, and identified a man already jailed for a similar crime?

Caroline Barker, Bristol



Race Rape in Court

A woman's past sexual history is officially irrelevant in a rape case. It can only be brought up in special circumstances, and at the judge's discretion. But what are these circumstances, and how discreet are these judges?

A judge in a recent Old Bailey case let two rapists' defence counsels bring in a woman's private history, to show that in the past she had had a Black boyfriend, and her child was Black, while she was white. The 'relevance'? In the judge's words, it showed she had a 'predilection to have sexual relations with coloured people'. In other words, if the father of your child is Black, you don't have much right to complain about rape if the rapist also happens to be a Black man.

Where does that leave Black women? And where does it leave the many white women who have Black husbands or boyfriends, or are mothers of Black children?

Black women for Wages for Housework:
'There is this prevailing myth that Black women are sexually available to men - that we are preoccupied with sex. Well let me make it quite clear that we are not available to men. We pick and choose who we want to sleep with - and enjoy it too - sometimes'.

cont'd.--

THE GUARDIAN Thursday 21st Dec '78

"As the 'brave girls' Ms Stott refers to we'd like to say we have no way of knowing how many members and supporters of Women Against Rape are prostitutes. Because of the law they can't say just how brave they are.

But when in a rape case a woman was accused of being a prostitute and her name and address released by the judge, WAR, The English Collective of Prostitutes, Prostitution Laws Are Nonsense and other Women's groups picketed the Old Bailey. Does Ms Stott disapprove of our organising in this way?

We know that many women go on the game to get the financial independence we need in order to leave marriages where we or our children are being raped and battered.

We know too that the laws on prostitution are an attack on all women. In rape cases we are often asked, 'why were you out at that time of night?' Or 'why were you out alone, without a man?', the implication being that we are pros, in which case it isn't rape.

We know that the police and courts use our money to harass prostitute women. Why don't they use the money instead to catch rapists?

Ms Stott should rest assured that contrary to being 'conned', WAR and the millions of women in this country and abroad who are campaigning against rape and who support prostitute women know exactly what we are doing. We are against rape of all women, whores and housewives. Supporting prostitute women is supporting ourselves. If one woman is vulnerable

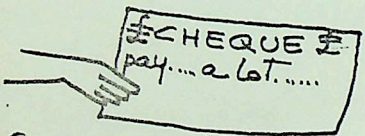


Despite all, the men in the Old Bailey case were convicted. But the judge and lawyers in this case aren't the only ones prepared to use such an argument. The House of Commons which makes the laws is equally racist. In 1976 they were considering possible reasons for letting lawyers drag our personal lives through the courts, and it was put forward that '... if the woman had on previous occasions had sexual intercourse with coloured men ... those factors were directly relevant ... they would not have been relevant if she had had affairs with white men ...'

In practice, courts let a woman's private life slip in to rape trials all the time, without permission from the judge. Women are asked, 'Is it true that you've had an abortion?' 'How many times a week do you have sexual relations with your boyfriend?' 'Do you like it'? When are they going to learn that, for women, there is a difference between sex and rape - and that a 'predilection' for the one is not the slightest evidence of a 'predilection' for the other.

If you are involved in such a case, let us know.

Ruth Hall

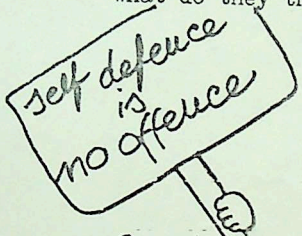


In consultation with WAR, Karen Parker (whose story is in the booklet 'Women at WAR') claimed compensation for all the effects of her rape, including the ones women are expected to just put up with. Like having to carry on alone with the housework, looking after her young baby and a toddler, while still in a state of shock.

Karen was awarded £1,300 two years ago. Carol Maggs, who courageously came out of anonymity when her rapist, Guardsman Tom Holdsworth, was given a suspended six month sentence, was initially offered only £150. Carol had spent four months in hospital recovering from her injuries.

Compensation of a couple of thousand is peanuts in the face of the immediate emotional upheaval and the life sentence imposed on a rape victim. One cannot help comparing these meagre amounts to the over £30,000 awarded to a man in a car accident on account of the loss of his sexual drive. What do they think happens to our sex drive after a rape? What do they think a woman is worth?

Tessa Squires



Courts and rapists turn around! We won't take lying down

In June 1975 Dessie Woods, a Black American woman and mother of 2 children, was hitch hiking when the driver, a white man, turned a gun on her and her friend, intending to rape them. She took the gun and killed him. For acting in her own defence, she was sentenced to 22 years jail by the courts of Georgia, a state where no white man has ever been convicted of rape. An international protest has been raised, and 20th Sept '79 WAR joined a picket outside the U.S. embassy to press for her release.

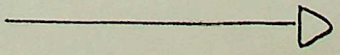
Now in Britain, June Greig has been sentenced to 6 years prison for killing her husband in self defence after 9 years of battering. The Judge was Lord Dunpark, in Edinburgh. If you want to take action on this, please get in touch and we'll send you more details and suggestions.

Compensation - Overdue!

For years we were told it was 'not practical' for the state to pay compensation to victims of the violence that goes on behind closed doors - inside families.

Now the government has decided that it is possible after all, and the scheme will start ('on trial!') October 1st. It's a landmark for the thousands of women who've been leaving battering husbands and getting together in Women's Aid refuges. High time now to extend it to rape inside the family!

For some time now WAR has been pressing for realistic compensation to be awarded to rape victims, for the financial means to be easily available for all those endangered by rape or sexual attacks to leave that situation. The compensation must adequately cover not only the obvious physical and mental injuries but all the victim's costs, which can be enormous, eg moving house, changing job, or buying a car to be safer from further attacks.



Stigma of Bastardy Revived

suggestions become law it will be far easier for the DHSS *not* to pay single mothers. They could be forced to depend on the father for support, like a married woman. For many it will mean putting up with rape 'in return'. And for many it will mean never getting the money at all.

While appearing to have the intention of eradicating the injustices and stigma of being born out of wedlock, the Commission's proposals will produce another class of stigmatised children. For the first time children who don't *know* who their father is will be singled out as a special category: 'Father Unknowns' perhaps (suggestions to the Law Commission please!). So what of the children in cases where the mother has been raped, or has slept with more than one man at that time, or is a prostitute? What about lesbian women who may have had their children by artificial insemination (AID)?

Doesn't the Law Commission know that the only way to remove the stigma of illegitimacy is to remove the economic disadvantages of such children? Money for the mother is the only answer.

These are the suggestions (called 'evidence') of the Working Party. They could become even more drastic during Committee stage. Meanwhile, comments and suggestions are invited from the public. The address to send them is: Mr T L Rees, Law Commission, Conquest House, 37-38 John Street, Theobalds Road, London WC1. If you do write, please send us a copy.

Kate Waters, London



The Law Commission, which gives the government advice on legal changes, has come up with new proposals about illegitimate children.

In February WAR will take part in a women's deputation, led by Wages Due Lesbians, which will go to the Law Commission to argue against these proposals.

The Commission's 'Working Paper' was produced by a party mainly composed of men: there are only three women out of a total of 20 involved (one, inevitably, a secretary). Predictably, its main concern has been with discrimination against the *fathers* of illegitimate children.

If its proposals become law, then the father of an illegitimate child will have the same rights as if he was actually married to the mother. He could appear at any time and interfere in how the mother was bringing the child up. He would even have the right to claim custody. The Commission suggests that no exceptions should be provided for.

The case of a rapist father immediately springs to mind. He could claim rights over a *child resulting from the rape*. The Commission says that any decision about whether a father's rights should be removed would be one for the *courts* to make. So a raped mother, who perhaps has already endured one traumatic encounter with the courts, will have to go through yet another. The assumption is that the courts know better than the mother what's good for the child. But, as WAR knows all too well, courts are biased against women anyway.

The Working Party say they have taken rape into account, but in fact they've only considered the tip of the iceberg. No mention is made of what would happen in the vast majority of rape cases, which are not reported, or where there is no conviction; nor of what happens if the rapist is a 'friend' or relative. We fear that there will even be cases where a man may rape *in order* to force a woman to have his child and have a hold over her. (If the new Abortion Bill goes through this all ties in very nicely...)

Three of the Working Party are from the Supplementary Benefits Commission. If these

Reclaiming Bournemouth

After a series of attacks on local women, the Women Against Rape campaign has started up in Bournemouth, with a *Reclaiming the Night* march organised by Bournemouth and Poole Women's Group. WAR members from London, Bristol and Cambridge were invited to take part and speak at the rally. The event got a lot of local support, and press and radio coverage.

Remember 'Justice' Roskill...

from the Guardsman case? He's been up to his old tricks again, letting off the rapist of a *six-year old Lancs boy* with a 21-month sentence. *WAR, Bury, Lancs, protested to the Lord Chancellor.*

Cardiff Street Festival

On 28 July Cardiff saw another 'Charles Street Festival'. A Women Against Rape/Wages for Housework stall was set up by myself and other Cardiff women, plus Caroline Barker and friends from Bristol. People were very eager to sign WAR's petition, we sold lots of badges, generally a very successful stall despite weather, dull and drizzly afternoon. WAR/WFH stall mingled very well with street theatre, rock bands, sideshows, puppets and punks.

ADDRESSES

WAR London have moved – to the new women's centre near Kings Cross: 71 Tonbridge Street, WC1, Tel 837 7509. The postal address is still as below.

WAR Bristol
150 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6
Tel 422810

WAR Bury, Lancs
21 New George Street, Elton, Bury, Lancs

Bournemouth and Poole Women's Group
24 Purbeck Road, Bournemouth

Bournemouth and Poole Women's Voice
16 Evering Avenue, Alderney, Poole, Dorset

WAR Cambridge
19 City Road, Cambridge
Tel 357142

WAR Cardiff
c/o 1 Soberton Avenue, Heath, Cardiff
Tel 40394

WAR London
PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU
Tel 837 7509 or 221 5754

Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved in any way at all!



WAR on last November's march against immigration controls. Judit Kertesz of WAR London was later dragged off by police and arrested, for trying to take her place on the plinth as an invited speaker. Judit was planning to say how the controls have the effect of singling out Blacks and immigrants as easy targets of violence, making women still more vulnerable to rape. She was planning to cite cases of assault by the police – but they didn't give her a chance to! WAR welcome messages of support and contributions to the defence fund.