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Selma James was born in Brooklyn, US, in 1938 and has been active in the working class movement since 1945. Since leaving the States in 1955, she spent five years in the West Indies, in the struggle for West Indian Federation and independence from Britain, and the rest of the time in England. She has been writing and speaking about women since 1949. Recently published are "Women, the Unions and Work, or What is no to be done" (1972), and "Sex, Race and Working Class Power" (1973).

The Marxist feminist analysis of the relation between the wage and the wageless has developed a new tendency in a the black and as well as the feminist movements in Britain and in other countries. The first organisational expression of this tendency in Britain has been the Power of Women Collective of which she is a founder member. Its political perspective is Wages for Housework.