

FB, contella 1, 75

Padova 7-2-75

Dear Sisters,

we just received the P.O.W. Journal n.3 jenuary, 1975 and we have been letterally shocked by the confusion you have made between our group and the feminist group of via dei Tadi I4 (that is the previous group of L.F.n.I)

It is unbelievable that after all the political mess that exactly the refusal of the political line of Wage for Housework by this and others groups ^{made} inside of Lotta Femminista, and ~~that~~ that compelled us to dissolve L.F. because ^{it} at national ^{and} local level had no more sense, you put in the newspaper as International reference (we think as political reference, that is reference of people that has the same political perspective) the address of a group that is a group against which we have to struggle, and to struggle today no less than yesterday.

You must know and you will receive also an article on this matter for the 4 number of the newspaper that when the police made an irruption in a clinic accused to make abortions in Florence during last jenuary we, Comitato per il Salario al Lavoro Domestico di Padova, went immediately there and it has been really through the effort of discussions for three days that we succeeded in keeping fixed some fundamental points for all the demonstrations that that we, as feminist movement, would have had to organize from that day for the future during all this abortions campaign that will keep us busy in Italy for a certainly long time.

These points were:

1) During the demonstrations only the feminist groups, that is the feminist autonomous group, had the right to ~~keep~~ raise and to carry on their flags with their names and slogans. Of course for us it was a crucial point to be able to raise and to show to all people during the march the name of our group, that is a clear request in itself, and the slogan of wage for housework.

Instead the women's commissions of all the parties and ^{male} groups have been prevented from coming with banners with written "women's commission of...etc.". That is these women could come only personally as women. It was out of question that the male group could not come with ~~their~~ banners with their name but the comrades could come personally.

The group of via dei Tadi was not there when we, with the others feminists decided all that, and ~~they~~ they were not also at the demonstration in Florence that has been the first reply of the movement to the irruption of the police. But that first demonstration, exactly by our effort, started immediately not only for "liberalisation of abortion", as all the parties and male groups want, but at the same time for Wage for housework. We will send to your newspaper some pictures on that. And we must say that a lot of other women also helped in obtaining that but not at all the group of via dei Tadi that was not there.

Maybe that the effort that we made during those days in Florence does not seem so great to you: but you must know that the "abortion problem" it is something very liked from all the political male forces, because it is very easy to grow on that and not to pay anything.

Our effort at this moment it is also in keeping the women's movement and its requests very distinguished from those of the parties and male groups. But the difficult is especially in respect of the Radical Party: infact they had always, they only in the political parties, a clear position on that. They always asked - through their women, the Movimento di Liberazione della Donna -, for an immediate depenalisation of abortion. But they are not involved at all, and not at all the M.L.D. for wage for housework, also if Mario Pannella that before was the leader of Partito Radicale (and now is in the P.S.I.) was in favor of wage for housework.

The crucial point is that, having the Partito Radicale organized in Italy some abortions clinics, as they directly also said to the press, with a more convenient price (that is lire 100.000 or 150.000) now want to be

the great victims of the repression and the great protagonist of the struggle for abortion. Certainly they have much more means and instruments and money than we have (especially because they are helped by other leftist parties) that mean that for us the effort to make them to help us and not us to help them is very great, also because of the ~~naive~~ naivete of a large parte of the feminist movement.

Adele Faccio, the most famous woman of the Partito Radicale, could be confused, as the press like to confond, with a feminist ~~leader~~ leader.

I hope, also if I am shocked for the reason I wrote you above, to be able in some way to give you an idea of how much must be responsible in ~~the~~ its behavior a feminist group, especially now in Italy. Because, all this is connected with the terrible mistake you have made.

2) The second point was that the men had no right to speak. And it was the only way ~~to~~ to save the feminist movement from been overcome by the fluent speaking of all the men and leaders of the political groups and parties. And we obtained that. Of course they can organize their demonstrations and whatever they want but the point was that they could not use the demonstrations and meetings of the feminist movement for them.

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3) The third point was that every feminist group could distribute its leaflets and materials. And of course also this one has been a big instrument not to die on abortion itself.

May be, again, that all that seem also obvious to you. But in Florence the feminist movement was very weak and the Women's commissions very strong. And it was fundamental to find a way to permit to the women's movement to find and to raise its force. But it needed really a lot our help.

Also the demonstration that ~~had~~ had been organized some days later in Rome kept these points.

Some days ago, in a feminist national meeting in Florence, where we again went, but where we did not see the group of via dei Tadi, it has been decided, among others things, to keep those conditions also in the big feminist demonstration of Trento the 15 and 16 of February and wherever it is possible

At ~~the~~ this point I can only say that when it has been the case to organize the demonstration in Padova that will happen the 11 of February the other group said that we could not come with our banner because to show a group asking for Wage for housework would have meant to cut ~~it~~ out the movement, and they also decided, for joining the great ~~purpose~~ purpose of the unity not to speak at all as always since 2 years for wage for housework but for an "economic independency".

They also said that they would have been very hard against us if we would have come with our banner and the rest.

The meaning of "being very hard" was clear.

So yesterday we decided (before we had really the problem to show to the public in the street a great masterpiece of craziness, women being other women) to say to them that we will go to this common demonstration, organized exactly as we want, with our banner, and leaflets and all the songs and the rest and they had only to decide if they wanted to beat us because the risk to appear crazy would have not stop us ~~from~~ from replying. And we will go and we will see. And you will receive a report and documentation about everything.

It is out of a question that they, instead found a very easy accord with the women of Avanguardia operaia, FEUP Manifesto and others as you can see from the leaflet that I can immediately enclose to you. The common signature they found with other women for this occasion is 'comitato femminista autonomo per l'aborto libero e gratuito'.

I have also no doubt that these women, going around the world are able to empty their mouth sometimes with the word "Wage for housework" making a lot of confusion and damage to the movement. But they are really our

enemy in the movement and they are really movimeng at any occasion against wage for housework.

Now we have paid already to much for having had people like that in L.F..And you cannot giving us other damage from abroad.We are very serious on that.If you have other newspaper to send you must immediately cross out that adress.And for all the copies you have, already sent, to all people that you have sent it you must sent a ~~written~~ ^{printed} correction saying that the printing of that adress has been a mistake and taht that group is not at all a reference for group working in the prespecti of wage for wousework.

I am very sorry, but if you have some doubt, after that our group started in Padova in june 71, it passed enough time and you must choose ~~whixx~~ who you believe and with whom you want to be connected; because it is a very very different road. And you must repeat the damage you have done. I excuse myself because, not knowing ~~xxxxxxx~~ in a good way your language I cannot use a polite form for saying such a things.

But this letter that I would have never thought to write took from me some hours in a moment in which we have a lot of work, and that may be wa are going to face a fight with the other grop in the street.

I want to add something else. The ~~gxwx~~ group of Padova had and has a lot of prestige and as a consequence it happen that for a lot of women in the movement it became a bery interesting gaem to play with "wage for hosework" because in Italy it is a perspective indoubtoudely related with the group of Padova. But on the same time there is a lot of morbid curiosity in following what it is doing, and no scruple in trying to beat it in all possible ways. It is out of quesitons also that this is something coming especially from middle intellectuality -middle bourgeoisie women that have nothing else w by which to amuse themselves. And it is difficult in a country like Italy to find something more "à la page" w by which to amuse yourself.

So, that mean that it will be very easy to faind a lot of people, women, saying to be in a group fro wafe for housework but...

So we think that not to go in a continuous mess you must relate to people for what they are really doing. And if you cannot see directly because you are in another country I hope that after some years of activ you will be able to find the good chance to be informed. That is the same choice we have made for Great Britain. We trust you as a reference, not because you have written wage for housewrok or because some of you told us to be in favor, but because during these years, also if we do not know all of us each other, it seem that we have done a lot of work together not only in Italy abd Britain.

Hoping to hear as soon as possible from you

Marirosa Dalâa Costa and the entire
Comitato per il Salario al Lavoro Domestico di Padova

P.S. As you know the Comitato Triveneto is formed by 4 Commettees. I will write to you in a following time the address of the other commettees.

Padova 8 febbraio '75

Last night we sent to you by special delivery a letter explaining the position of the group of via dei Tadi and, consequently the necessity of crossing out their address from the newspaper and to correct those copies that you have already sent.

Reading again the letter this morning we saw to have made a mistake of writing, because evidently we were really upset. At pag. 2 line 29 we wrote: "but where we did not see the group..." Instead we had to write "but where we saw this time..." Also for this reason, of being there and knowing the principle that were set for the feminist demonstrations and that in any case are elementary, the request of this group that we have not to bring in the demonstration our banner of "comitato per il salario" are crazy, antifeminist.

P.S. We would like to receive a telegram from you from the demonstration of Padova and Trento. We will be very grateful if you will send it one immediately from the demonstration of II-2 in Padova and I5-I6 in Trento

Power to all of you
Mariarosa and all the women of the Comitato