

FB, cortella 2, 72

TO THE READERS OF THE POWER OF WOMEN JOURNAL

We must draw your attention to a serious error in the address list on page two of our Journal Number Three. The address of the group at via dei Tadi, Padua, Italy, on page two should not be there. This group is not a Wages for Housework group.

In the past it has refused to participate in or support the campaign for Wages for Housework publicly launched in Italy on International Women's Day, 1974, by the then Lotta Femminista Group no. 2 and other L.F. groups.

In the present explosion of feminist activity and power on the abortion question in Italy, the via dei Tadi group have now said it is divisive to carry the Wages for Housework banner on abortion demonstrations.

These two positions are connected. Wages for Housework is not only an analysis of all of women's work beginning with our work in the home. It also makes political struggle against "women's work" in and out of the home an imperative. The right to abortion is an integral part of the power to determine the size of our family and therefore the power to control the quantity of our work. The abortion struggle is part of the total struggle against "our" work which is the only road to greater power for women, since it unites women on the basis of our common exploitation.

It is not surprising then that the via dei Tadi group have found themselves in political alliance with male left groups, separating themselves from the struggle for the wage and against our work, and from feminist autonomy.

The growing strength of the feminist movement against church, State and (on the so-called left) Communist Party who all opposed free abortion on demand, brought this issue to the stage of mass struggle it has reached today. Male groups now wish to cash in on this consistent feminist activity for their own political advancement, which can never result in the growth of power for women. The Triveneto Wages for Housework group in Padua have fought hard to keep the management of this struggle in the hands of the feminist movement. The via dei Tadi group not only joined with the male groups and signed leaflets with them, but in Padua used them to intimidate physically the Triveneto Wages for Housework group.

Actions and lack of them speak louder and plainer than words. Increasingly as Wages for Housework is seen to be the focus of struggle of women working in the home and out of it, it will be taken as a slogan by those who want to use it for their own political purposes. We are already experiencing this in other parts of the world. Wages for Housework is not three little words but a revolutionary perspective for action to build women's autonomous power against the State in all its forms on an international level. The via dei Tadi group's actions have made their politics clear. Therefore we ask you please to cross out their address in the copies of the journal that you have and to circulate copies of this letter to all who may have got the journal through you. The address of our sister organisation in Padua is:- Comitato Triveneto per il Salario al Lavoro Domestico, Centro delle Donne, Piazza Eromitani 9 bis, Padua, Italy.

GENERAL ADDRESS:
64 Larch Road
London, N W 2 England
Tel. 452-1338

The Power of Women Collective
JOURNAL ADDRESS:
Flat 4
5 River Terrace
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, England