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The Women of the World are serving notice

TO ALL GOVERNMENTS

The women of the world are serving notice. We clean your homes and factories. We raise the next generation of workers for you. We service our men so that they are able to work for you. Whatever else we may do, we are the housewives of the world. In return for our work, you have only asked us to work harder.

We are serving notice to you that we intend to be paid for the work we do. We want wages for every dirty toilet, every painful childbirth, every indecent assault, every cup of coffee and every smile. And if we don't get what we want, then we will simply refuse to work any longer.

We have brought up our children to be good citizens and to respect your laws and you have put them in factories, in prisons, in kitchens, in high rise flats and in typing pools. Our children deserve more than you can offer and now we will bring them up to EXPECT more.

We have borne babies for you when you needed more workers, and you have sterilised us when you didn't. Our wombs are not government property any longer.

We have scrubbed and polished and oiled and waxed and scoured until our arms and backs ached, and you have only created more dirt. Now you will rot in your own rubbish.

We have worked in the isolation of our homes when you needed us to and we have taken on a second job too when you needed that. Now we want to decide WHEN we work, HOW we work, and WHO we work for. We even want to be able to decide NOT TO WORK AT ALL—like you.

We are teachers and nurses and mothers and secretaries and prostitutes and actresses and child care workers and hostesses and waitresses and cooks and cleaning ladies and workers of every variety. We have sweated while you have grown rich. Now we want back the wealth we have produced.

We want it in cash, backdated and immediately. And we want ALL OF IT.

We demand Wages for Housework from the Government for all Women

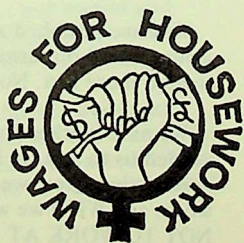
- To cut down on housework—to eat out, get machines to do some of the work and refuse to be slaves to the house.
- To be able to decide working conditions and wages on jobs outside the home, and if we want them in the first place.
- To stand up to men when we work WITH them and when we work FOR them—money is independence.
- To decide what our sex lives should be like.
- To decide if, when and under what conditions to have children.
- To give our children what we want them to have.
- To demand and WIN decent housing.
- To demand and WIN paid holidays away from ALL work.

Power of Women—Wages for Housework Campaign

Wages for Housework Women's Centre
129 Drummond Street, London N.W.1.
(phone: 387 3550 or 459 1150)

Bristol: 79 Richmond Road, Bristol 6
(phone: 422116)

Cambridge: 19 City Road, Cambridge
(phone: 57142)



W.C. Dickinson ^{with} Conference del 28.2.76 alla marcia lesbica -
la 1ª marcia lesbica in Gran Bretagna e fu l'unica volontaria
durante quella marcia (notiziario della Priscilla Allen)

We exist...

Queen Victoria didn't believe that lesbians could exist. Maybe she didn't know because we have always been forced to hide, to keep quiet about our lesbianism for fear of losing our jobs, our homes, our children, our friends, for fear of being cut dead as though we were some sort of freak of nature.

Today we are ready to tell the world that we exist: we live, love, have families, keep house, go out to work, go out for a drink or a dance, struggle with prices, bosses, finding a place to live. Like all women we are fighting for money to make ends meet and keep our independence, time for ourselves, and the kind of relationships and sex we want.

Like all women, whenever we refuse to do what's expected of us, we are labelled as unnatural.

It's not just sleeping with men that's supposed to be natural to women. It's scrubbing floors, and making the boss's coffee. Women are always expected to be working and caring for other people. We're always supposed to put others first and put our own needs last. We're supposed to be housewives wherever we go. But more and more, women—all women—are refusing to be always on call.

This work and sacrifice is not *any* woman's 'nature'. It is work and we want wages for it. Like many other women we lesbians want WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK. Like other women we are always short of money. If we have children we may be forced to stay with a man. If we go out to work we are forced to accept low 'women's wages'. Living without men means

small bedsits and small change. Every woman is entitled to more.

Every woman should have enough time and money to be able to decide for herself what kind of love life she wants. And no woman should have to lie to her friends. We are not content to keep our lives hidden away as though they were something dirty. The struggle for independence from men, and for satisfaction, that we are making by being lesbian, is part of every woman's experience.

It is considered 'natural for women' to find a man to support us—and to do his housework and take orders from him in return. When we break away from this we come under attack from men, governments, and employers. They know this refusal of 'women's work' is catching. They see that more and more of us, lesbians and other women, are refusing to let others tell us what our place is, and are coming together to demand the wages due.

Wages Due Lesbians—Wages for Housework Campaign
Wages for Housework Women's Centre
129 Drummond Street
London NW1

... and we want our wages