

FC, sentella 2, 65

Wages for Housework Women's Centre
129 Drummond Street
London N W 1, ENGLAND
25 January 1966

Lydia Horton
International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women
165 Boulevard General Jacques
1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Dear Lydia Horton,

We have tried to get you by telephone this weekend (at 640-1883) but did not succeed. We were anxious that the following letter and its sentiments be conveyed to the sisters meeting there. We should be much obliged if you would convey to all the women who attended or who were to attend the following:

We in the international network of Wages for Housework organisations regret not being able to send a representative to this Brussels meeting, and will make every effort to be at the Tribunal itself. We hope that more than one organisation from our network (that is, more than one country) will be represented, and in any case will bring evidence from other countries to support our claim that the State and employers internationally have planned and perpetrated many crimes against women, and have ~~used~~ commonly used men as the instruments of these crimes.

It is impossible for us to separate ourselves off by country since one of the greatest crimes against women is the way we have been divided, by the status and income of men we marry, by whether or not we work full-time in the home, by whether or not we are with men, by whether or not we have children, by whether we are native or immigrant, and by language, race, ~~and~~ nation, and the technology of our exploitation.

~~Thus~~ In our view, the crime against us internationally from which all other crimes against us flow is our life sentence of housework at home and outside, serving men, children and other women, in order to produce and reproduce the working class. For this work we are never paid a wage.

This crime of work and wagelessness brands us for life as the weaker sex and delivers us powerless to employers, government planners and legislators, doctors, the police, prisons and mental institutions as well as to individual men, for a lifetime of servitude and imprisonment. Our campaign for wages is our demand for power to refuse the social and sexual assaults on our minds, our bodies and our relations - in a word, our demand for power to refuse this destiny of work which we carry in every country, wherever we find ourselves.

We want to give testimony on this crime from a number of countries. But of course we shall be in close touch with the delegations from our particular countries.

Power to the sisters and therefore to
all the exploited,

Power of Women Collective - Wages for
Housework Campaign, London.