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SUPPORTING STATEMENTS BY WAGES DUE LESBIANS

We fully endorse the statement in support of the San Francisco prostitutes, and urge all other organisations to do the same.

The attack which governments are organising against prostitute women everywhere in the world is an attack on every woman's right to determine whether, and on what terms, she will have sexual relations with men. As lesbian women we, like prostitute women, refuse to accept that it is women's "nature" to sleep with men and to sleep with them "for love" -- i.e. for free. And like prostitute women we face continual harassment by police, employers, schools, individual men, and all those in authority for the crime of shaping our sexual life according to our own needs, of taking something for ourselves.

Many lesbian women have totally refused to do the work of meeting men's sexual demands, and all the other housework that goes along with sexual relations with men. Others of us have been forced by lack of money to marry or to stay in a marriage, at the expense of the relationships we would like, in order to maintain ourselves or ourselves and our children. Others of us have become hookers in order to get the money we need and are entitled to.

Women, lesbian or "straight", prostitute or not, are everywhere houseworkers, the servants of the world. We are all entitled to money for this work, and entitled to obtain it in any way open to us as women. Wherever women succeed in winning some of the wages due us, it is a strength to all of us and proof that women's services cannot be taken for granted.

Wages Due Lesbians, London
Wages for Housework Campaign
59 Wroottesley Rd.
London NW10, England

Here in Canada, we have recently seen a media campaign against the numbers of women "turning to prostitution" in this time of economic crisis. The push has come from the same quarters as in the U.S. -- from the police, politicians, and businessmen, all of whom have something to gain from women working for nothing or only low pay.

Lesbian women are also harassed for the same reason as prostitute women. We are intimidated and isolated from other women for refusing to be sexually available for free to husbands, bosses, and any man on the street. Any woman who steps out of line gets the same treatment. And we're fighting all the time against this, whether we are married, single prostitute or lesbian.

Many women who work as prostitutes are also lesbians. They are making the same fight against free sex on command when they refuse heterosexuality "off the job". The only choices women now have are to "give it" for free for our daily survival, to demand some money for it in exchange, or to try to refuse it altogether -- and we pay a high price for all three. We refuse to keep footing the bill.

Whether gay or straight, we all need our own money to determine our lives and what our sexuality will be. We all need Wages for Housework. We urge all lesbian groups and individuals to support the struggle of prostitute women against these crackdowns.

WAGES DUE LESBIANS
TORONTO, CANADA