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For Immediate Release

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WOMEN RALLY IN DEFENSE OF SAN FRANCISCO PROSTITUTES

LOS ANGELES--In response to the recent campaign of harassment against San Francisco street prostitutes by the police department and district attorney's office, over 36 organizations internationally have endorsed a statement demanding:

AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF PROSTITUTES

THE ABOLITION OF ALL LAWS AGAINST PROSTITUTION

Among the endorsers are COYOTE, the San Francisco-based prostitutes organization; the English Collective of Prostitutes; and many others including lesbian and Third World women's groups.

The statement, prepared by the LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE and WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK--SAN FRANCISCO, asserts that an attack on prostitute women is an attack on all women. It is one more attempt by the government to deny women access to money of our own.

Governments internationally are harassing prostitute women because prostitution exposes our sexuality as work that should be paid. In order to survive, we are forced to sell our bodies -- in the street, in marriage, in typing pools and factories. All women are fighting for money for all the work we do so that WE WILL HAVE THE POWER TO REFUSE PROSTITUTION in any of its forms.

Wages for Housework welcomes the press to reprint the statement (enclosed) or quote from it. The statement is available in English and Spanish. We are also enclosing declarations of support from the English Collective of Prostitutes; Wages Due Lesbians, London and Toronto; and Black Women for Wages for Housework, New York. Endorsement of the statement DOES NOT necessarily imply endorsement of the supporting documents.

BETH INGBER, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee, will be available for interviews anytime except Friday, January 28, between 8:00 a.m. and noon.