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PRESS RELEASE . . . CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL . . .

MOTHER'S DAY AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS demanding
CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL

The 5th of March is Mother's Day. Mothers are given a card and some daffodils for all the unpaid housework we do every day (work recently valued at £115 a week by Liberty Life Insurance Co.).

Yet from the 5th April, when the child tax allowance is phased out and most mothers will get a rise in Child Benefits, immigrants from Africa, Asia, Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal, Turkey and the West Indies whose children are not in this country will not be eligible for any Child Benefit. Unlike every other taxpayer, we will lose the child tax allowance and Child Benefit as well. WE WILL BE CHARGED £70m. FOR BEING DEPRIVED OF OUR CHILDREN.

In neither the debate on race or sex discrimination are Black and immigrant women mentioned. We refuse to be invisible any longer. That is why we are meeting at the House of Commons on 6th March, the first Monday after Mother's Day and two days before International Women's Day. Women - immigrant and native, of all races - will speak about our lives and how this new discrimination will affect ALL IMMIGRANTS AND ALL WOMEN.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, another meeting will be held in Bristol, at St. Barnabas school where 50 per cent of the parents withdrew their children last November to protest the National Front meeting at another school. The St. Barnabas parents and children were part of a Bristol-wide boycott called by Black Women for Wages for Housework.

*We women are working for Britain not only in Britain and not only when we go out to paid jobs here. We have always worked for Britain in the Third World too, where we produced, first, wealth and workers for the British Empire, and now wealth and workers for Britain.

*The aid which the British government promises is denied by taking away Child Benefit - the money that goes directly into the hands of mothers, not governments; money that buys food, not tanks.

*The plan of the U.S. government to sterilise 100 million Third World women is in line with removal of Child Benefits for us - you don't have children you can't feed. By denying us subsistence, we are denied the right to have or not to have children.

*Mrs. Thatcher's proposal for a further waiting list (the wait now is as much as two years) for children and their mothers to join fathers in this country makes it even more crucial that we get Child Benefit. WE ARE DENIED OUR CHILDREN AND THE UNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME DENIED SURVIVAL BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNITED.

So far our sacrifices as mothers have been glorified and praised. But praise does not pay the bills. We want Child Benefit, not discrimination by race and sex - with daffodils!

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 6th MARCH, 1978, ROOM 10 7 p.m. MS. MAUREEN COLQUHOUN MP
IN THE CHAIR

MEETING CALLED BY: Bangladesh Women's Assn. in Great Britain, Black Women for Wages for Housework (Britain), and Union of Turkish Women in Britain
CO-ORDINATING ADDRESS: UJWB, 129 Newington Green Rd. London, N.1 - Tel: 459-1150

WE HAVE ASKED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR CRECHE FACILITIES AND WERE REFUSED AS MANY WOMEN M.P.s HAVE BEEN REFUSED IN THE PAST. IT SEEMS FOR PARLIAMENT A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME, NOT IN THE HOUSE!