

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST. CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL.

On the 19th January at Islington Town Hall, there will be the first mass meeting to protest the Child Benefit discrimination against immigrant parents built into the Finance Act No. 25 1977.

According to this Act, from 5th April, 1978, Child Tax Allowance will be withdrawn from all parents. But immigrant parents whose children are not in this country will also be deprived of Child Benefit. Immigrants will pay £ 70 millions to the government for being deprived of their children. Immigrants affected are all of us from Asia, Africa and West Indies, plus those of us from Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal and Turkey.

While Judge McKinnon's racist remarks are widely condemned, the government acts on his words, and lifts £70 millions from the people he called "niggers, wogs, and coons". Money talks - louder even than judges.

Why are our children left behind in the first place? Because those of us who came here to improve our standard of living and have had to work at the lowest paying jobs to do so, want to build a home and financial stability before we bring them to another climate, another way of life and a society where they will have to face racial antagonism.

Second, even when we have done all this work of getting together the money, the housing, the language, etc., when our families apply for entry visas to Britain, especially in the Sub-Continent, British officials refuse those visas.

So who will suffer? Those of us here who will lose the money. But also the mothers and grandmothers whose job it is to take care of these children left behind, children kept from us by oppressive officials and lack of money.

Again it is mothers and children who have to foot the bill. Again it is mothers and children who are put last. And again it is immigrant parents and children who pay the most.

The denial of Child Benefit to immigrant parents is clearly against what the Race Relations and Sex Discrimination Acts are supposed to do. But the anger against this blatant discrimination against immigrant parents is growing. We are gathering support from members of both Houses of Parliament in demanding Child Benefit for every mother regardless of race, wherever their children live.

7 pm. Islington Town Hall, Thursday 19th January. Speakers from immigrant and women's organisations.

Meeting sponsored by Commonwealth Taxpayers Association, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Pay Day, Union of Turkish Women, Wages For Housework Campaign.

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