



## MORE MONEY FOR WOMEN WORKERS!

We are going through with the struggle in spite of parliamentary enquiries and in spite of the RCN. In spite of the fact that because most of us are women, the government never thought we would do anything except complain to each other.

As nurses we are constantly reminded that we must behave in a professional way. But conducting ourselves in a professional way hasn't got us anywhere in the past. What's professional about low pay?

To be a professional nurse is to be a professional mother. That's why we don't get paid anything. They expect mothers and nurses to do it all for love. The only way we'll ever get anything is to recognise that all of us - nurses, ancillaries, domestics and mothers - are WORKERS. We have to organise to fight for what we need, like every other worker.

They have used the blackmail against us that patients will suffer if we strike. But patients are suffering BECAUSE WE GET LOW WAGES. Because of low wages we are understaffed and overworked. Many of us have to go home and do another job for our families after a day's work or a 12-hour nightshift on the wards. And in that job at home, we face the same blackmail: don't let anyone else suffer, suffer yourself, in silence.

We are trained as women to accept hardship and to take orders. We are trained as nurses to fit into the hospital system, not to question anything. We are trained to accept no pay as housewives and low pay when we work out of the home. We are trained to let all decisions be taken by the person one step above. But now we are not prepared to leave decisions about our pay and conditions to anybody. We are the only ones QUALIFIED to decide.

In the past we have been divided against each other and against ourselves. They use race and nationality to divide us. They use rank and status to divide us. They

use uniforms to divide us. And they use wages to divide us. Those who get a pittance more are afraid of losing it by joining with those who get less. But we have nothing to lose by joining together and everything to gain.

We refuse to be divided any longer, by the administration of hospitals or unions or so-called professional bodies. All of us need more money, less work and more time for ourselves. No hospital can run without all its workers. If the kitchen stops, everything stops. Therefore we are all entitled to equal pay. Those of us with the lowest wages must get the biggest rise.

And all of us must get a big rise! No one counts the work that women do, in our homes, in travelling to work, especially for weekend duty, as well as the hours we spend in hospitals, factories offices, schools ... Whether we are serving people or serving machines, it's not so different, it's a job. WE NEED TO BE PAID FOR ALL THE WORK WE DO. WE NEED THE MONEY AND THE TIME TO DO MORE THAN JUST KEEP OURSELVES ALIVE TO WORK ANOTHER DAY.

No hospital worker must be threatened with loss of job, loss of training, or with deportation - as is happening with hospital workers from other countries. Black nurses face this threat as well as the extra degradation and insults they normally are forced to undergo. THERE MUST BE NO VICTIMISATION FOR STRUGGLING FOR WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

Although we have been forbidden to use our voice and our power, now that we have begun to act, every day more becomes possible. WE WANT WAGES FOR ALL THE WORK WE WOMEN DO, FREE TIME AWAY FROM THAT WORK. The days of blackmail and "professional" submission are over. We're going to look after our own health now!

Nurses from the POWER OF WOMEN COLLECTIVE -

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

Telephone: :