

TO ALL WOMEN

We are a group of women, and we are all housewives because we are women. Whether we have children or not, whether we are married or not, whether we go out to work or not, we all cook, clean, wash, sew, shop, pay bills, and work to keep our homes as reasonable places in which to live. Those of us who have husbands know that if we didn't do this work, our men would be unable to work as hard as they do in factories, offices, on whatever shop floor—they probably wouldn't be able to work at all after a time. Those of us who go out to work ourselves know that we are doing two full-time jobs—one paid, the other unpaid.

If women refused to labour in the home, what would happen? Industry would collapse overnight. We are saying that we, as women, demand that our work be recognised for what it is—hard, necessary labour—necessary to other workers, to children, and to the boss. And the only way to be recognised as workers is to be paid as workers. The only way to struggle against housework is to recognise that it *is* work.

Many women are forced to take on a second, paid job outside the home. A man's wage is no longer a wage for the family. We desperately need money to feed the kids, we're lonely and cut off, stuck in our homes all day. We're forced to do another dreary job, in a factory, or more cleaning, washing, 'women's work', because our husband's wage isn't enough for the family to survive on, and it's the only way for some of us to make our own friends and have a bit of company.

We are saying that we're fed up with having to work twice as hard as anyone else—if we go out to work all day, we need to put up our feet as well when we come home. But we can't because someone has to get the dinner, wash up, wash the clothes, tidy up, get the kids to bed, etc., etc.

We are saying **PAY US** for the work we already do and have done all our lives, ever since we were old enough to hold a broom. *Then*

we'd be able to choose whether we wanted to take on another job as well. *Then* we'd be able to meet each other and do things together without being under constant pressure from the clock and the boss. *Then* we might have a chance to get the other things we want.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK – ALL WOMEN ARE WORKERS

Power of Women Collective

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You can contact us at:

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