

AGENDA

1. Discussion of report backs plus recent developments.
2. Conference report. Role of WC report at Conf. Role in Nat. Org
3. General womens meeting at or before conf.
4. Struggle notes
5. Coord of WC.

1975

Present 2 Liv. 1 WL, EL, B. Unfortunately no one from Man. was here and the EL delegate had to leave early which made the discussion less extensive than it could have been.

WL. WC is not being taken seriously. Its important that ALL groups attend. Its key function is to analyse class struggle of women as the essential background to our work. the womens struggle notes which are also not being worked on enough by groups are part of this process of info. gathering and analysis. All BF women must participate in this, and feed back our ideas in to the whole of BF. Its important that the Lesneys, Peoples Coop, and the 2 WL education documents on women are fully discussed. A general criticism of the report backs (including ours) is that they should have dealt more specifically with the state of womens struggle and perspectives for organising as BF women.. and the conf. report should also deal with those things. We felt too that the reports came far too late, partic. the 2 from EL so there was no way of discussing them.

Liv. We agree with the points about the report backs and the reason why ours wasn't analytical but descriptive was mainly because of time and the assumption that another doc. which is in the process of being written on our polit. perspectives in Eside would have been written by now. The attitude to the Commission, its report and the conference are set out in the minutes of our last meeting which have been circulated to all groups. We did not get the EL docs. in time to discuss them, and still havent received one of them. EL. Our reports were an attempt to work out a collective position on our politics and perspectives for organising with women, which partly explained why they werent done as quickly as the others. We havent had a womens meeting prior to this so Im not delegated. The way the other commissions have gone is both due to demoralisation and not taking them seriously enough. Its not so much that we dont think that they are important but the ? of finding the time and space for the nec. political discussions which need to take place. And then the confusion of people being away and the other conference on this weekend. Theres the wider problem of developing confidence in ourselves and our ideas to make more impact as women on the politics of BF.

Liv. The question of getting it together to have meetings to sort out these issues relate to how much of a priority is attached to them and its a political choice and one which affects the whole of BF. Also coming from the report from EL is the question what use/importance is it to be in BF and its disturbing that this is an issue. How do womens meetings generally fit into other BF priorities and what ways are there for the discussions to be generalised, both locally and nationally.

WL. the structure of households means that the discuss. are generalised and that all issues/docs. get talked about if only informally. When new people come in we will have to change this informality to stop exclusive and private processes developing.

EL. Written discussions have been very useful.

WL. Suggest all groups have meetings on all 3 docs. - 2EL and 1WL and the reports to the conference. Then minute these discussions and send them round.

EL. Shouldn't be too demoralised as have produced docs. which is a breakthrough.

WL. NB Move away from seeing importance of wking with women in BF.

EL. We feel BF isn't taking wking in communities as important. Find this depressing. Liverpool seem to be conc. on wkplaces.

Liv. True and its a general tendency to consciously work around women's work places. Important partly to find analysis and practice. Difficult to start struggles off in the community without ending up servicing - like peoples copp. While working round wkplaces we are keeping the comm. in mind all the time, women's position as housewives and mothers etc...

WL. Fall back on Italian experience, yet fail to make connections. Not working with housewives.

EL. Question of what struggle is. Day to day issues and struggle tho' of a different kind. Childminders and homeworkers organising - it is poss to organise with women at home.

WL. Women's intervention group tried to wk in comm r and these issues - very difficult in practice.

EL. In food coop been forced to question our own idea of struggle. We'll be in a good position to work round rents after March having built up the relationships in the food coop, also good for intervention round Summer House.

Liv. Is East London going to be hit by redundancies, close downs etc.?

EL. Shortage of unskilled wkrs anyway and backlog of work in Fords so they're recruiting - so its a very different situation.

WL. Report before Conf: 2 proposals 1) Hard to find a unified statement. If ther's a national woman's meeting - each group should write about why they're wking where they are, as well as response to other docs. as soon as poss. National meeting should then draw things out. Meet on Sat and write report on Sun. clarifying common ground. Part of report could be section on charter - drawing things out of the folloing things that have already been written: Report back from W&S conf in Leeds; minutes of Liv. meeting; minutes of meeting between EL and WL; commission discussion.

2) if ther's not a national meeting - Report backs should be brought to next Women's commission meeting - which will then be drawn together at properly delegated women's comm. meeting. Don't think its poss to write what Liv wants.

Liv. Liverpool want something written altogether as begin groups writing their own positions. Emphasis on why we're in BF.

WL. Want to emphasise why we're wking the way we are and how etc. Wkplace V's community and what that means.

EL. Thats important for the whole of BF. Also need arise for evaluation of what all the women have been doing in the last 6 months. How to relate to women and kids. Playgroups etc.

Liv. Problem of putting emphasis on what we're doing and why means that women in BF and others never have to confront basic agreements. Like importance of separate women's meetings etc. - which was raised by a man in WL.

EL. We also need to talk about working as women in BF and our relationship to the Womens movement. As well as how BF ought to be, but per haps at the moment isnt.

Liv. we think its vital to dr w out the reasons that were in BF and why we wk the way we do, and while agree that all the other things need to be done its a ? of prioritising for the conf. as well as sorting out the basics so that we know that we have a minimal agreement. Its also an essential part of making ourselves more accessible to other women, and a more public and worked out political organisation with an identifiable position on women. In the past its been difficult to get anything done for the Comm. and if its possible to do both the things proposed all well and good, but we have to do one thing properly.

Therefore suggest the report to cover these three areas.

1. Why women are in BF, what it offers to women organisationally and theoretically, and ways in which it should change to further accommodate this.

2. Why we work the way we do with women and perspectives for intervention.. including comm.v. wkplace discussion.

3. Relationship to womens movement and our position on the need for autonomous womens organisation/separate meetings/base groups.

THESE REPORTS ARE TO BE WRITTEN AND CIRCULATED BY 1st FEB. SO THEY CAN BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THE NEXT W. COMMISS. ON FEB 22-23. disagreements in groups on any issue should be indicated wherever possible so as not to produce superficial unity

WL What about the Charter? formulating group position is important in our relations to WLM.

Liv. we are having another meeting on the charter as we feel our position may have been oversimplistic. We made a decision to talk to women in other groups in Lpool which we have done nothing about yet.

Agreed that WL and EL will write a report before the next Commis, for the Conf on Charter.

EL its important that whatever is written by us doesnt become defensive, but is an assertion of what we think.

Liv. Thats why we see the import. of making the statement aboyt women organising autonomously...(didnt follow my notes here...)

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE 2 WL ED. PROGRAMMES BE READ AND REPORTED ON.Th This wont form part of the conf report except as part of the issues which we hope to be dealing with in the future and which we see as important points for clarification and agreement. There should be a general womens meeting aft the conf. to assess the conf. and to deal with other issues.

We then had a brief discussion on the Peoples Coop before EL left. The comments were no more than those of the individs present, not the groups positions.

Liv. The worrying thing is the ? posed at the end which seems to lay doubt on the validity of doing PC work and being in BF. and whether being in BF helps or hinders this pol. activity. This is related to the issue of why the group is concentrating on the 15 women rather than continuing the initial more public org. of the coop. And why there are so many BF women involved as a priority with what isnt that broad based an activity. Where it says that you've tried to take other initiatives or get other issues raised in the group, you say nothing about whether this will continue not to develop out into other areas i.e. there is no indication of future perspectives and how much of a long term priority it is.

EL agrees that there are a lot of these areas which we didnt deal with. We now have a greater emphasis on work round Summer House and the Housing action group. We had to stop having public sellings as we were hassled by the police so relied on the 15. Other women are now wanting to start their own COOP.. the ideas have been generalised. We are showing films and having socials to bring in others. There is a local news bulletin which involves us and the CU etc. One thing was that none of the women from the coop wrote the article with us and wonder how T.Hill coped with this.

Liv. the journal article came out of group discussions and practice and when? we raised in what we wrote we would refer this back to be talked through. This was more true of other things written as the Journal article was based on former disc. and after the activity.

WL We would like more info on how the Coop will develop in the future.

EL left.

WL Since the report back we have been involved in the Hoover and AM strikes and have made some good contacts, partic. with a GEC SS who will let us know what happens at the GEC national SS conf. If theyd occupied which was a poss. we could have got the hospital union to talk about it and generalise it that way. A woman is possibly getting a job in GEC in Shep. Bush and there is a likelihood of more flare ups there in the summer. One of the reasons why the M lockout wasnt disastrous for the workers was that a lot of them got part time jobs.. they went back after a week of successful picketing and won the threshold but not the London weighting which they had been demanding. We are also thinking about getting involved in some squatting in a GEC estate in some empty flats and weve thought of shoving a stall in the market with womens lit on it.

Liv. The shopwork leaflet went down well before Christmas. We also finally did a leaflet round the bakers after I had been sacked for refusing to work with non union labour and had taken over a building while on night shift, being ousted by a bunch of security heavies. We have criticised ourselves for not moving sooner on the bakers and missing a lot of opp. to generalise their struggle partic. trying to make links between consumers in bread queues and the demands of the workers. Also round rising prices, subsidised industries etc. More details of this will be in strike notes.

B. there will be another woman getting involved in BF soon.

We had a brief discussion of the film group but noone knew anything concrete about it so we couldnt say how we might use it. Also decided that each group will have a coordinator for WC to save million of phone calls. C at HH for Liv. D at AC for M. E for M. F at HH for M. G at HH for M. H at HH for M. I at HH for M. J at HH for M. K at HH for M. L at HH for M. M at HH for M. N at HH for M. O at HH for M. P at HH for M. Q at HH for M. R at HH for M. S at HH for M. T at HH for M. U at HH for M. V at HH for M. W at HH for M. X at HH for M. Y at HH for M. Z at HH for M. AA at HH for M. AB at HH for M. AC at HH for M. AD at HH for M. AE at HH for M. AF at HH for M. AG at HH for M. AH at HH for M. AI at HH for M. AJ at HH for M. AK at HH for M. AL at HH for M. AM at HH for M. AN at HH for M. AO at HH for M. AP at HH for M. AQ at HH for M. AR at HH for M. AS at HH for M. AT at HH for M. AU at HH for M. AV at HH for M. AW at HH for M. AX at HH for M. AY at HH for M. AZ at HH for M. BA at HH for M. BB at HH for M. BC at HH for M. BD at HH for M. BE at HH for M. BF at HH for M. BG at HH for M. BH at HH for M. BI at HH for M. BJ at HH for M. BK at HH for M. BL at HH for M. BM at HH for M. BN at HH for M. BO at HH for M. BP at HH for M. BQ at HH for M. BR at HH for M. BS at HH for M. BT at HH for M. BU at HH for M. BV at HH for M. BW at HH for M. BX at HH for M. BY at HH for M. BZ at HH for M. CA at HH for M. CB at HH for M. CC at HH for M. CD at HH for M. CE at HH for M. CF at HH for M. CG at HH for M. CH at HH for M. CI at HH for M. CJ at HH for M. CK at HH for M. CL at HH for M. CM at HH for M. CN at HH for M. CO at HH for M. CP at HH for M. CQ at HH for M. CR at HH for M. CS at HH for M. CT at HH for M. CU at HH for M. CV at HH for M. CW at HH for M. CX at HH for M. CY at HH for M. CZ at HH for M. DA at HH for M. DB at HH for M. DC at HH for M. DD at HH for M. DE at HH for M. DF at HH for M. DG at HH for M. DH at HH for M. DI at HH for M. DJ at HH for M. DK at HH for M. DL at HH for M. DM at HH for M. DN at HH for M. DO at HH for M. DP at HH for M. DQ at HH for M. DR at HH for M. DS at HH for M. DT at HH for M. DU at HH for M. DV at HH for M. DW at HH for M. DX at HH for M. DY at HH for M. DZ at HH for M. EA at HH for M. EB at HH for M. EC at HH for M. ED at HH for M. EE at HH for M. EF at HH for M. EG at HH for M. EH at HH for M. EI at HH for M. EJ at HH for M. EK at HH for M. EL at HH for M. EM at HH for M. EN at HH for M. EO at HH for M. EP at HH for M. EQ at HH for M. ER at HH for M. ES at HH for M. ET at HH for M. EU at HH for M. EV at HH for M. EW at HH for M. EX at HH for M. EY at HH for M. EZ at HH for M. FA at HH for M. FB at HH for M. FC at HH for M. FD at HH for M. FE at HH for M. FF at HH for M. FG at HH for M. FH at HH for M. FI at HH for M. FJ at HH for M. FK at HH for M. FL at HH for M. FM at HH for M. FN at HH for M. FO at HH for M. FP at HH for M. FQ at HH for M. FR at HH for M. FS at HH for M. FT at HH for M. FU at HH for M. FV at HH for M. FW at HH for M. FX at HH for M. FY at HH for M. FZ at HH for M. GA at HH for M. GB at HH for M. GC at HH for M. GD at HH for M. GE at HH for M. GF at HH for M. GG at HH for M. GH at HH for M. GI at HH for M. GJ at HH for M. GK at HH for M. GL at HH for M. GM at HH for M. GN at HH for M. GO at HH for M. GP at HH for M. GQ at HH for M. GR at HH for M. GS at HH for M. GT at HH for M. GU at HH for M. GV at HH for M. GW at HH for M. GX at HH for M. GY at HH for M. GZ at HH for M. HA at HH for M. HB at HH for M. HC at HH for M. HD at HH for M. HE at HH for M. HF at HH for M. HG at HH for M. HH at HH for M. HI at HH for M. HJ at HH for M. HK at HH for M. HL at HH for M. HM at HH for M. HN at HH for M. HO at HH for M. HP at HH for M. HQ at HH for M. HR at HH for M. HS at HH for M. HT at HH for M. HU at HH for M. HV at HH for M. HW at HH for M. HX at HH for M. HY at HH for M. HZ at HH for M. IA at HH for M. IB at HH for M. IC at HH for M. ID at HH for M. IE at HH for M. IF at HH for M. IG at HH for M. IH at HH for M. II at HH for M. IJ at HH for M. IK at HH for M. IL at HH for M. IM at HH for M. IN at HH for M. IO at HH for M. IP at HH for M. IQ at HH for M. IR at HH for M. IS at HH for M. IT at HH for M. IU at HH for M. IV at HH for M. IW at HH for M. IX at HH for M. IY at HH for M. IZ at HH for M. JA at HH for M. JB at HH for M. JC at HH for M. JD at HH for M. JE at HH for M. JF at HH for M. JG at HH for M. JH at HH for M. JI at HH for M. JJ at HH for M. JK at HH for M. JL at HH for M. JM at HH for M. JN at HH for M. JO at HH for M. JP at HH for M. JQ at HH for M. JR at HH for M. JS at HH for M. JT at HH for M. JU at HH for M. JV at HH for M. JW at HH for M. JX at HH for M. JY at HH for M. JZ at HH for M. KA at HH for M. KB at HH for M. KC at HH for M. KD at HH for M. KE at HH for M. KF at HH for M. KG at HH for M. KH at HH for M. KI at HH for M. KJ at HH for M. KK at HH for M. KL at HH for M. KM at HH for M. KN at HH for M. KO at HH for M. KP at HH for M. KQ at HH for M. KR at HH for M. KS at HH for M. KT at HH for M. KU at HH for M. KV at HH for M. KW at HH for M. KX at HH for M. KY at HH for M. KZ at HH for M. LA at HH for M. LB at HH for M. LC at HH for M. LD at HH for M. LE at HH for M. LF at HH for M. LG at HH for M. LH at HH for M. LI at HH for M. LJ at HH for M. LK at HH for M. LL at HH for M. LM at HH for M. LN at HH for M. LO at HH for M. LP at HH for M. LQ at HH for M. LR at HH for M. LS at HH for M. LT at HH for M. LU at HH for M. LV at HH for M. LW at HH for M. LX at HH for M. LY at HH for M. LZ at HH for M. MA at HH for M. MB at HH for M. MC at HH for M. MD at HH for M. ME at HH for M. MF at HH for M. MG at HH for M. MH at HH for M. MI at HH for M. MJ at HH for M. MK at HH for M. ML at HH for M. MN at HH for M. MO at HH for M. MP at HH for M. MQ at HH for M. MR at HH for M. MS at HH for M. MT at HH for M. MU at HH for M. MV at HH for M. MW at HH for M. MX at HH for M. MY at HH for M. MZ at HH for M. NA at HH for M. NB at HH for M. NC at HH for M. ND at HH for M. NE at HH for M. NF at HH for M. NG at HH for M. NH at HH for M. NI at HH for M. NJ at HH for M. NK at HH for M. NL at HH for M. NM at HH for M. NN at HH for M. NO at HH for M. NP at HH for M. NQ at HH for M. NR at HH for M. NS at HH for M. NT at HH for M. NU at HH for M. NV at HH for M. NW at HH for M. NX at HH for M. NY at HH for M. NZ at HH for M. OA at HH for M. OB at HH for M. OC at HH for M. OD at HH for M. OE at HH for M. OF at HH for M. OG at HH for M. OH at HH for M. OI at HH for M. OJ at HH for M. OK at HH for M. OL at HH for M. OM at HH for M. ON at HH for M. OO at HH for M. OP at HH for M. OQ at HH for M. OR at HH for M. OS at HH for M. OT at HH for M. OU at HH for M. OV at HH for M. OW at HH for M. OX at HH for M. OY at HH for M. OZ at HH for M. PA at HH for M. PB at HH for M. PC at HH for M. PD at HH for M. PE at HH for M. PF at HH for M. PG at HH for M. PH at HH for M. PI at HH for M. PJ at HH for M. PK at HH for M. PL at HH for M. PM at HH for M. PN at HH for M. PO at HH for M. PP at HH for M. PQ at HH for M. PR at HH for M. PS at HH for M. PT at HH for M. PU at HH for M. PV at HH for M. PW at HH for M. PX at HH for M. PY at HH for M. PZ at HH for M. QA at HH for M. QB at HH for M. QC at HH for M. QD at HH for M. QE at HH for M. QF at HH for M. QG at HH for M. QH at HH for M. QI at HH for M. QJ at HH for M. QK at HH for M. QL at HH for M. QM at HH for M. QN at HH for M. QO at HH for M. QP at HH for M. QQ at HH for M. QR at HH for M. QS at HH for M. QT at HH for M. QU at HH for M. QV at HH for M. QW at HH for M. QX at HH for M. QY at HH for M. QZ at HH for M. RA at HH for M. RB at HH for M. RC at HH for M. RD at HH for M. RE at HH for M. RF at HH for M. RG at HH for M. RH at HH for M. RI at HH for M. RJ at HH for M. RK at HH for M. RL at HH for M. RM at HH for M. RN at HH for M. RO at HH for M. RP at HH for M. RQ at HH for M. RR at HH for M. RS at HH for M. RT at HH for M. RU at HH for M. RV at HH for M. RW at HH for M. RX at HH for M. RY at HH for M. RZ at HH for M. SA at HH for M. SB at HH for M. SC at HH for M. SD at HH for M. SE at HH for M. SF at HH for M. SG at HH for M. SH at HH for M. SI at HH for M. SJ at HH for M. SK at HH for M. SL at HH for M. SM at HH for M. SN at HH for M. SO at HH for M. SP at HH for M. SQ at HH for M. SR at HH for M. SS at HH for M. ST at HH for M. SU at HH for M. SV at HH for M. SW at HH for M. SX at HH for M. SY at HH for M. SZ at HH for M. TA at HH for M. TB at HH for M. TC at HH for M. TD at HH for M. TE at HH for M. TF at HH for M. TG at HH for M. TH at HH for M. TI at HH for M. TJ at HH for M. TK at HH for M. TL at HH for M. TM at HH for M. TN at HH for M. TO at HH for M. TP at HH for M. TQ at HH for M. TR at HH for M. TS at HH for M. TT at HH for M. TU at HH for M. TV at HH for M. TW at HH for M. TX at HH for M. TY at HH for M. TZ at HH for M. UA at HH for M. UB at HH for M. UC at HH for M. UD at HH for M. UE at HH for M. UF at HH for M. UG at HH for M. UH at HH for M. UI at HH for M. UJ at HH for M. UK at HH for M. UL at HH for M. UM at HH for M. UN at HH for M. UO at HH for M. UP at HH for M. UQ at HH for M. UR at HH for M. US at HH for M. UT at HH for M. UV at HH for M. UW at HH for M. UX at HH for M. UY at HH for M. UZ at HH for M. VA at HH for M. VB at HH for M. VC at HH for M. VD at HH for M. VE at HH for M. VF at HH for M. VG at HH for M. VH at HH for M. VI at HH for M. VJ at HH for M. VK at HH for M. VL at HH for M. VM at HH for M. VN at HH for M. VO at HH for M. VP at HH for M. VQ at HH for M. VR at HH for M. VS at HH for M. VT at HH for M. VU at HH for M. VV at HH for M. VW at HH for M. VX at HH for M. VY at HH for M. VZ at HH for M. WA at HH for M. WB at HH for M. WC at HH for M. WD at HH for M. WE at HH for M. WF at HH for M. WG at HH for M. WH at HH for M. WI at HH for M. WJ at HH for M. WK at HH for M. WL at HH for M. WM at HH for M. WN at HH for M. WO at HH for M. WP at HH for M. WQ at HH for M. WR at HH for M. WS at HH for M. WT at HH for M. WU at HH for M. WV at HH for M. WW at HH for M. WX at HH for M. WY at HH for M. WZ at HH for M. XA at HH for M. XB at HH for M. XC at HH for M. XD at HH for M. XE at HH for M. XF at HH for M. XG at HH for M. XH at HH for M. XI at HH for M. XJ at HH for M. XK at HH for M. XL at HH for M. XM at HH for M. XN at HH for M. XO at HH for M. XP at HH for M. XQ at HH for M. XR at HH for M. XS at HH for M. XT at HH for M. XU at HH for M. XV at HH for M. XW at HH for M. XX at HH for M. XY at HH for M. XZ at HH for M. YA at HH for M. YB at HH for M. YC at HH for M. YD at HH for M. YE at HH for M. YF at HH for M. YG at HH for M. YH at HH for M. YI at HH for M. YJ at HH for M. YK at HH for M. YL at HH for M. YM at HH for M. YN at HH for M. YO at HH for M. YP at HH for M. YQ at HH for M. YR at HH for M. YS at HH for M. YT at HH for M. YU at HH for M. YV at HH for M. YW at HH for M. YX at HH for M. YY at HH for M. YZ at HH for M. ZA at HH for M. ZB at HH for M. ZC at HH for M. ZD at HH for M. ZE at HH for M. ZF at HH for M. ZG at HH for M. ZH at HH for M. ZI at HH for M. ZJ at HH for M. ZK at HH for M. ZL at HH for M. ZM at HH for M. ZN at HH for M. ZO at HH for M. ZP at HH for M. ZQ at HH for M. ZR at HH for M. ZS at HH for M. ZT at HH for M. ZU at HH for M. ZV at HH for M. ZW at HH for M. ZX at HH for M. ZY at HH for M. ZZ at HH for M.