

WORKING WOMENS CHARTER.

This charter was initially proposed at a meeting called by the London Trades Council. We should generalise this initiative and attempt to get local Trades Councils and trades union branches to both adopt the charter and organise activity to gain publicity and support for it. E.G;

- 1). To get Trades Councils or Union Branches to hold a series of public and shop floor meetings with invited speakers who have been involved in Equal Pay strikes, Equal Opportunity struggles.
- 2). To initiate investigations of the situation of women workers in local factories, shops, schools and offices, and where there is no recognised union, to notify the affiliated trade unions and assist in any recognition struggles that may break out.

We should follow the example of the London Trades Council in demanding that any meeting organised to discuss or adopt the charter should not only involve trade union delegates but representatives from any other interested parties including Womens' Liberation and Left Groups.

We pledge ourselves to agitate and organise to achieve the following aims;

- 1). The rate for the job, regardless of sex, at rates negotiated by the trade unions, with a national minimum wage below which no wages should fall.
- 2). Equal opportunity of entry into occupations and in promotion, regardless of sex and marital state.
- 3). Equal education and training for all occupations and compulsory day release for all 16-19 year-olds in employment.
- 4). Working conditions to be, without deterioration of previous conditions, the same for women as for men.
- 5). The removal of all legal and bureaucratic impediments to equality e.g. with regard to tenancies, mortgages, pension schemes, taxation, passports, control over children, social security payments, higher purchase agreements.
- 6). Improved provisions of local authority day nurseries, free of charge, with extended hours to suit working mothers. Provision of nursery classes in day nurseries. More nursery schools.
- 7). 18 weeks maternity leave with full net pay before and after a live child; 7 weeks after birth if the child is still born. No dismissal during pregnancy or maternity leave. No loss of security, pension or promotion prospects.
- 8). Family planning clinics supplying free contraception to be extended to cover every locality. Free abortion to be readily available.
- 9). Family allowances to be increased to £2.50p per child, including the first child.
- 10). To campaign amongst women to take an active part in the trade unions and in political life so that they may exercise influence commensurate with their numbers and to campaign amongst trade union men that they may work to achieve this aim.