

FOR THE WOMENS EDUCATIONAL.

Because of the nature of this group, we feel that it is necessary to reaffirm what womens liberation ~~MEANS~~ means to us , i.e. the women in the group, in order that it doesn't merely become categorised as political work or political intervention.

Just as the middleclass has grown prosperous on the backs of the working class so men have attained a certain amount of power on the backs of women - this goes for workingclass men as well as middle class men - a fact that can be easily ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ be proved by working in a working class job or going into a working class family and observing who does the most work. Women's labour is doubly exploited not only by capitalist, but also by the men of her own class. For instance I've never once seen a man get up and make the tea during general meetings, or any meeting, I've seen political men in this group scatter like flies when children have appeared unexpectedly on the scene.

For this reason our political activity cannot merely be seen in a professional or careerist sense as political work or intervention, but also as a constant struggle for our own liberation in whatever areas we are involved in, and therefore as doubly difficult. For us it is not merely a question of having enough confidence to assert ourselves as political activists to be equal with men, to assert ourselves at meeting and the needs of women, it is also a question of being able to organise our own material conditions, children, housework, and to struggle against our past conditioning in the ideological and material role of women under capitalism to be able to assert ourselves at all. This is a constant struggle that won't end until capitalism ends, and it persists in whatever area we operate in, whether amongst comrades or in other situations.

of course it is possible for some women to take on a political career in the same way as men, but in doing this, the woman is losing out, because she is not only denying her own identity as a woman and just shoving it under the carpet , her own oppression but is also betraying the rest of her class.

because of this double struggle, women can bring a new consciousness to the class struggle as a whole and therefore new values, which are constantly resisted by the male left,; that also includes Big Flame. A lot of what women bring to the struggle in terms of values are what are categorised as "social values" or the social struggle. We have made an analysis consistently that capitalism affects every area of our everyday lives, that capitalism is not just an economic system, ~~xxxx~~ or rather because it is an economic system it is also a social system, and it therefore affects and determines our social relationships and our social lives, which exist everywhere and need I say it even in the factory.

To overthrow capitalism we cannot merely see this in terms of economic power but also of social power, which is also the power of the state. It is women who have constantly to universalise the struggle,; to fight around health and the health of their children, , childcare not in terms of merely getting rid of the children for a few hours, but that children exist at all that they are human beings and ~~XX~~ social and sexual relationships to name but a few areas. It is also these areas that tend to be dismissed in the aims of any struggle. For instance where there is a rent strike there often has to be some collective arrangement about childcare in order to get things on at all , but when the rent strike ends it is not seen as important that this should continue, or be an aim in itself the same with organising about food - during the miners strike women came together to organise cheap food for themselves, but this was never seen as an important aim of the struggle or something ^{as well} that could be continued, yet in away having to organise around these things begins to present real socialist alternatives and gets away from the pure economism of british left politics.

womens struggle against their material conditions can include a struggle against men where it means fighting to get the men to do babysitting in order that the women can meet together, fighting to get recognition of certain values to be taken seriously to get themselves heard. In a way in working in the factory we ~~XXXX~~ at the same time have to confront the social realtions that exist, the things that isolate us and keep us apart, which includes the power relationships, even to the point of being able to get ourselves heard, and recognised as having something valid to say.

WE also recognise the positive things that come from womens socialisation, like its just as valid to strike for a longer tea break so that we can chat for longer its just as valid to do something thats enjoyable together, but these things are often put down as not important, after all women don't chat they gossip, whats the perspective in having a social evening out together, but how many women get the time or the chance to go off to the pub with their mates or out to the pictures. To quote from the food coop report to emphasise this point " The need for freindship and a collective identity seems to be one we all share The core of the food coop (for me) is the women who enjoy it. This is where feminism puts a new perspective on what it means to be active. The wife of a militant may have survived through constant self-negation and putting other priorities before herself, other women, less overtly ~~pin~~ political, may be quicker to grasp the food coop as a blow against boring routinised labour and part of the process of making a life of their own. "

This paper has been very descriptive the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ historical analysis of this position has been included in the food coop report and elsewhere, and has been wwritten to emphasise important aspects of our struggle. To sum up 1. We have to struggle against our material conditions as women constantly 2. ~~KE~~ In doing this we see the importance of how woman can ~~XXXX~~ universalise and bring in important social aspects to the struggle against capitalism and see how these are integrally linked to the economic system, 3. In doing this we need to be able to work autonomously, also becuae in some aspects our struggle is as much ~~against~~ in confrontation with men, as with them.