

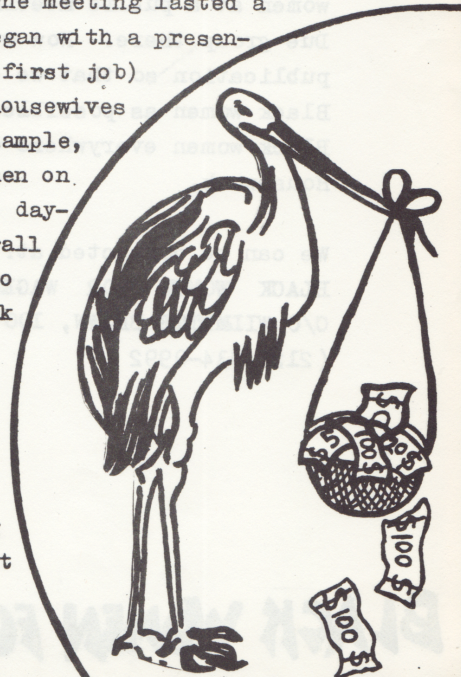
# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce our presence as an autonomous group of Black Women for Wages for Housework within the international Wages for Housework campaign. We came together for the first time at a conference sponsored by the New York Wages for Housework Committee on Wages for Housework and Welfare which was held in Brooklyn on April 24, 1976. We've been meeting every week since then.

Our group is a rainbow of Black women: some of us are married, some are single; some of us have children, some don't; some of us are straight, some are lesbian; some of us have second jobs, some are on welfare; some of us are older, some younger. ALL OF US WANT WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK.

Our activities have included study of Wages for Housework literature and the struggles of Black women in the community and on the second job against housework and for the wage. We've rapped with women in our neighborhoods and distributed our own leaflets at welfare offices, daycare centers, shopping areas, and wherever women meet, including a Black women's conference held at Hunter College of the City University of New York. We participated with the New York Wages for Housework Committee in planning a Day of Action against welfare cuts and for Wages for Housework, and we held our own public meeting both to establish further contact with other Black women and to mobilize for the Day of Action and demonstration.

Our public meeting at the end of June was a tremendous success in bringing together Black women to share our experiences of struggle in the community against all the ways in which the budget crisis affects women's lives. The meeting lasted a full day starting with a panel which began with a presentation about our work in the home (our first job) and how much all of the jobs we do as housewives would be worth if we were paid: for example, doctor, bookkeeper, teacher. Other women on the panel spoke on cutbacks in welfare, daycare, the city university, and the overall crisis in New York city. There was also a presentation on the struggles of Black women, particularly Black welfare mothers, against forced sterilization. The panel ended with a report on the victories of women internationally—from prostitute women in France to factory workers in Italy—in struggling for the wage. There was also a speakout



in which Black women spoke about our need for Wages for Housework and how we can plan our struggle to get it. In addition to the panel and speakout we had songs, dancing, a dramatic skit, disco and food.

The public meeting was followed by a Day of Action where Black Women for Wages for Housework participated with the New York Wages for Housework Committee in a rally across from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in downtown Manhattan, and then picketed HEW using posters, songs, mops, brooms, pots, spoons, and a speakout with bullhorns.

July was also a busy and exciting month highlighted by our participation in a conference for all women called "Toward A Strategy for the Lesbian Movement" which was sponsored by Wages Due Lesbians, the autonomous group of lesbian women in the Toronto Wages for Housework Committee. While in Toronto we had our first newspaper and videotaped interviews for a Black newspaper and a cable TV station.

In August we had a chance to rap with Selma James of the London Wages for Housework Committee, an international mover in the Wages for Housework campaign.

Early in September we had our first fundraiser, a sale of delicious dinners at prices designed to beat the budget crisis. Later in the month we set up a table of literature, buttons, potholders, and dishtowels at the Atlantic Antic, the annual street fair in downtown Brooklyn. Through both events we were able to talk with many Black women from all walks of life about our common problems, swapping tips on how to struggle.

In October we travelled to Philadelphia and met many more Black women at a public meeting for all women sponsored by the Wages Due group there. Now we are preparing our own documents for publication so that we can increase our contact with as many Black women as possible. We are looking forward to hearing from Black women everywhere who want more information about Wages for Housework.

We can be contacted at:

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**BLACK WOMEN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK**