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Dec 71

# SOCIALIST WOMAN BULLETIN

## The Purpose of the Bulletin

This bulletin is designed to provide co-ordination between the groups, to let them know what is going on at the centre, to pass on queries and to reflect the problems and triumphs of the groups. Its contents and success depend on you. It is proposed initially to produce it monthly.

## How You Can Help

1. All groups should regularly send in reports of their meetings and activities, also regional activities. We cannot print every report every time, of course, but it will enable us to see where groups are doing similar work and put them in touch with each other, via this bulletin. e.g. Bristol, Glasgow and Nottingham are all doing work with tobacco workers - any advance on that?
2. Whenever groups produce material, e.g. strike leaflets, they should do them if possible on quarto paper and send us 100 copies, to be distributed with this bulletin. This will keep the cost down and reduce the amount of work needed to produce the bulletin. The more important leaflets will be re-produced in the next issue of 'Women in Industry' (see below)
3. Let us have details of all industrial work in particular, what union and firm is concerned, names of militants who could be contacted by other groups as speakers, etc.
4. Cost: Local groups should sell the bulletin for a penny a time and send the money in or raise it in some other way. At the National Conference we will be making specific suggestions on money-raising to off-set costs of the bulletin, etc, but till then, please help us out.

## Now Available From Centre

We shall regularly keep you informed of the present state of literature available. We have back copies of SW (although we are running short of the present issue) and still have a small number of the book-list and the two 'Cleaners' pamphlets (Lancaster and London). 'Women in Industry, No. 1' is available, price 5p. and sells well (it is duplicated). Coming soon - a handbook on women workers in Britain, covering almost every aspect. This will not be cheap - between 30p and 50p, depending on production costs - but will be vital equipment in the coming months. A literature form will be sent out soon, to simplify ordering and record-keeping. Don't forget the poster, which costs £1.50 for ten, and sells at £2.50 - a good money raiser.

## Speaking Tour.

Leonora Lloyd and maybe May Hobbs, plus others if we can find them, will be making a speaking tour after the conference, to get the proposed Equal-Pay-Against Low Pay campaign off to a flying start. We are asking groups to plan their meeting now, so as to utilise our speakers time to the full and prevent clashes. Also, we may be able to take advantage of the cheap fares available by booking a month ahead to some destinations. Each day should be as full as possible. For LL, try to arrange a day-time meeting with Soc-socs (to off-set cost of fares), a meeting with the SWG members and an evening Public meeting. Best days - second and fourth Tuesdays in the month

and Thursdays. The occasional Friday could be managed, particularly where it would be difficult to get back the same night (by last train or sleeper) and something useful can also be arranged for Saturday. Pre-meeting publicity material should be discussed with us - we will probably be doing something for the campaign at the centre that could be used - and it may help to know that LL is now an assistant secretary of her TGWU branch. Local militants should be asked to take part in these meetings as the other speakers. Send your dates in now (give a choice, please) and we will ratify them quickly.

### LONDON REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This was mainly attended by Workshop, specifically north London workshop. It was agreed to propose at Bristol that we ask for three London and SE regions, and meantime four delegates (which actually came to five, due to a tie in the voting!) One is a SW delegate - please let us know if any other SW are going to Bristol. It was agreed to report back in the three proposed areas after Bristol and to try and organise some activities perhaps schools in those regions. Meanwhile, back at the WNCC, six women attended the Union for Women's Liberation meeting on 19th. December - all UWL members.

PLEASE LET US KNOW..... what you want in the bulletin; how many you want for your group. Keep us up to date with addresses for literature to be sent to, and for the list in the paper of SWGs and contacts.

For the Paper, we want constant reports of industrial actions, in particular; try to send photos (often available from your local paper) with the story.

The Brannon strike is still on and money is still required. Bristol sent out appeals to local trade-unionists.

Your should have been circulated about the fund-drive. We should emphasise that this is not to replace the payment of all debts owing on the paper by the groups, which will enable us to meet our printer's bill; rather, it is to enable us to expand the paper in the future (towards the monthly paper!) and to help launch the campaign after the conference.

THE WOMEN'S TUC CONFERENCE comrades in unions should try to get delegated to this conference, and encourage union contacts to go. Inform us 1) how the various unions appoint/elect delegates, 2) of anyone going. As well as making our voice heard inside the conference, we hope to organise a meeting. The TGWU sends delegates from regional committees - names from branch secretaries.

Attached to this bulletin is the conference agenda and a covering letter. Also a copy of a leaflet put out by Bristol during the Rolls Royce strike.

Omitted from the conference arrangement's information: we are arranging for meals to be served in the IC student canteen.

Reports From the Groups

Bolton held a meeting with Margaret as the speaker; group is going towards adopting an industrial orientation for its work. They want information on women in textiles.

Sheffield, whose groups is a mixture of working, unemployed and students has been doing research into working conditions in the area, and have made contact with university cleaners. A further meeting with May Hobbs in conjunction with the Trades Council is planned.

Birmingham wants to do a survey and would like to hear how other groups to theirs. (perhaps we can publish sample questionnaires and other aids to surveys in future bulletins). They will be having a joint Soc. Soc meeting in January.

MIDLANDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Most of the ten groups taking part reported a decline in membership and activity; the two SW groups (Nottingham & Birmingham) were able to report increasing support. Before joint action could take place on any one issue (abortion was suggested) it was felt necessary to have more knowledge so three schools are being organised (people from outside the area can attend)

- 22nd. Jan 1972 Nurseries (Organised by Leamington Spa WIG)
- 5th. Feb. Industrial ( " " Nottingham SWG)
- 29th. Feb. Abortion & Con. ( " " B'ham & Nott, WIG)

STOP PRESS Would groups affiliated to the now defunct WNCC please fill up the forms they received from Bristol and return one copy at least to Bristol as soon as possible.

Bristol Socialist Women Group - we meet every Monday, at 8.00 p.m., at the Bell Inn, Newgate St. (next to the Co-op Hall), Bristol. (Central St. Mary Redcliffe) 100 Church & Tavenswood Road, Redcliffe, Bristol, G. Tel. 1200

Bristol Socialist Women Group, one of the many Socialist Women Groups up and down the country, is a group of women concerned with the struggles and oppression of working women, and how we can organize to overcome this oppression. The Socialist Women Groups nationally produce a journal "Socialist Woman", covering many of the problems of working women. Obtainable from the address listed above.

WOMEN! ITS OUR STRUGGLE TOO!

An open letter to the wives of Rolls Royce Strikers

Rising prices hit all workers on a fixed wage. The wage-earner has to make his money go further. We wives have to struggle round the shops trying to feed and clothe the family on an ever more useless amount. What can we do about this?

First of all, rising prices mean a profit for somebody - whatever the bosses say about having to keep up with rising costs. They never willingly let the workers have the true details of their profits. So what the wage-earner must demand is a greater share of these profits which are produced by his labour.

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Of course, the bosses don't listen to demands. They only take notice of action. All the gains made by workers in the past fifty years have been by militant union action. That is why the Bristol Socialist Woman Group calls upon the wives and families of Rolls Royce workers to support the Rolls Royce strike, and to refuse to accept payment with strings attached. We must stop the bosses taking away with one hand more than they give with the other. We must expose their lie that strikes are ruining the country - in 1968, 4,700,000 days were lost through strikes. Compare this with the 146,000,000 days lost through unemployment (in 1968) and the 324,000,000 days lost through illness and injury (in 1967)!! Let's put the blame where it belongs - on the bosses.

We know it's a struggle to make do on what can be squeezed out of the Social Security - far more than the normal weekly wage - but we must continue the strike to show the bosses our strength, to keep wages in line with rising prices and get what is rightfully ours.

VICTORY TO THE ROLL'S STRIKERS

p&p Bristol Socialist Woman Group - we meet every Monday, at 8.00 p.m., at the Bell Inn, Prewett St. (next to the Co-op Hall), Bristol 1. (behind St. Mary Redcliff) Or contct: 7 Ravenswood Road, Redland, Bristol 6. Tel. 34804

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MANIFESTO OF THE YORK SOCIALIST WOMAN GROUP

The existence of the women's movement is a result of the oppression of women, the root cause of which is the whole structure of society -- NOT merely male chauvinism, which is only a reflection of that society.

The oppression of women is most clear in the class oppression of women, where the contradictions are most obvious. Therefore the Socialist Woman Group aims to help organise working and working-class women in order to focus on the central place where women are oppressed -- doubly oppressed -- not just as workers, but as women; not just as women, but as workers.

We don't want equality with oppressed men; we demand liberation for everyone, and we recognise that this end can only be achieved through a Socialist Revolution. Women and men can never be free under the present social structure; capitalism cannot, by its very nature, allow for true equality. However, there is a need for women to organise & as women -- and the Socialist Woman Group is the first step in that direction.

The Socialist Woman Group demands equal pay for work of equal value, equal educational and job opportunities, and free 24-hour child-care centres under community control. We organise around the bi-monthly publication Socialist Woman and all our members sell this magazine.

SOCIALIST WOMAN CONFERENCE, 29 - 30 January 1972

In the three years since the paper SOCIALIST WOMAN was started, the Socialist Woman Groups set up in support of its general political position have developed in number and in practice to the extent that the Editorial Board feels it is high time a stronger basis is established for coordination of activities and exchange of ideas. The Editorial Board are therefore calling a national conference of the Socialist Woman Groups for the purpose of jointly assessing the experience of the groups so far and to plan effective coordination of information, activities and ideas for the future.

- The conference is intended primarily for the Socialist Woman Groups and it is hoped that as many members of SWGs as possible will be able to attend. In addition to this, attendance will be open to subscribers and sympathisers of SOCIALIST WOMAN by invitation of their local SWG or where there is no local group by invitation of the editorial board.

- To ensure fair representation of all groups, voting will be on a delegate basis, with 1 delegate per 3 active members of a SWG, to be elected from each SWG.

- Priority in speaking will be given to delegates, then to SWG members and finally to observers.

- It is hoped that many SWG members will want to write papers for the conference in addition to the papers already commissioned, which will be circulated as soon as possible. SWGs should take responsibility for the production of papers by their members.

Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda (attached) arose out of the SW meeting at the Skegness Conference and will be voted on at the SW Conference. The following amendments should be made:

Sat. 2.15 - 3.30: add paper on Rent Campaigns.

Sat. 4.00 - 4.30: "Women & capitalism" & "Proposal for a Campaign for Equal Pay & Equal Work against Low Pay" - Margaret Coulson.

Sun. 10.30 - 11.00: "Strategy for an Equal Pay/Low Pay Campaign"  
- Leonora Lloyd.

## SOCIALIST WOMAN FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Conference will be held on Sat/Sun January 29th/30th, 1971 at Imperial College Student Union. The proposed agenda is attached and will be voted on at the start of the Conference. Groups proposing amendments should send them in. Papers will be circulated as they are produced. The 25p attendance fee will off-set the production of the papers already allocated from the Editorial Board and the meeting of SWGs at Skegness, and these papers will be free to members. Other papers should be produced by groups and the cost recovered out of a small extra charge we will be making for that purpose (such charge depending on the number of papers produced). Groups without facilities to produce papers should contact us.

### Attendance

We hope that all groups will bring the maximum number of people to the conference. To help them achieve this, we make the following suggestions: they investigate the possibilities of a group fare (for ten or more) or hire a small van (like the one LSWG bumps its way to WNCC meetings in!) To help those coming long distances, we propose to hold a social on the evening of the Conference, all profits to be used for off-setting fares. Children - there will be a creche, but we hope that where children cannot be brought (perhaps because of the cost of fares) then local groups will discuss the problem collectively. We for our part will be calling upon local IMG branches to assist in any way possible, by offering to baby-sit, etc. Let us know of difficulties.

### The Trade-Union Panel

Groups should now contact women militants whom they have been working with and invite them to the conference. The question of their fares should be discussed locally and difficulties referred to us. (Why not hold a special pre-conference social to raise money for everyone's fares?) We need too many names, as from previous experience some are bound to fail to materialise.

### University Groups

Because of the 'Day of Action' coming only a week before our conference, groups based in universities may feel dubious of being able to mobilise their full membership. We propose to help such groups by coming to meetings in the week after the day of action, and before the conference. If your group needs such a meeting, contact us.

### The Form-filling Bit

We are sending you several copies of this so that you can send in more forms as attendance from your branch goes up. Please send in the 25p as soon as possible, to enable us to meet costs as we go along.

Group's Name & Address

Names of delegates

Number of others attending

Children

Money enclosed

Total requiring accomodation Friday

Saturday night

SOCIALIST WOMAN CONFERENCE, Jan. 1972 - PROPOSED AGENDA

Saturday

Voting on chairmen for all sessions.

- 10.45 - 11.15: "The women's liberation movement in Britain, the WNCC and the regional structure (including a historical analysis of women's organisations)" - Linda Smith
- 11.15 - 11.45: "The relationship between women's liberation & revolutionary socialism" - Judith White
- 11.45 - 1.00: Workshop discussions.
- 1.00 - 2.00: Lunch
- 2.00 - 2.15: Paper on economic background to women's movement - Joanna Griffiths.
- 2.15 - 3.30: Workshop discussions on Family, Nurseries, T.U.s, & other papers received.
- 3.30 - 4.00: Break.
- 4.00 - 4.30: "Women & capitalism" & "Proposal for a Low Pay Campaign" - Margaret Coulson.
- 4.30 - 6.00: Discussion.
- Evening: Social.

Sunday

- 10.30 - 11.00: "Equal Pay" - Leonora Lloyd.
- 11.00 - 1.00: T.U. Panel & discussion.
- 1.00 - 2.00: Lunch
- 2.00 - 2.30: "The structure of the Socialist Woman Groups & the paper" - Felicity Trodd.
- 2.30 - 3.00: Discussion.
- 3.00 - 3.30: Business report on SW - Pat Masters.  
Election of editorial board.
- 3.30: Conclusion of conference.



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IMG PUBLICATIONS

SPRING 1972 LIST

THE CREDIBILITY GAP - The Politics of the SLL	Tony Whelan	25p
THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL: A Declaration of War	Peter Hampton	5p
THE POST OFFICE: WORKERS v THE STATE	John Weal	8p
THEORIES OF WORKERS CONTROL	R. Davis	8p
MARTYRS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL, KARL LEEBKNECHT, RCSA LUXEMBOURG	Leon Trotsky	8p
STATUTES OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL & The TWENTY-ONE CONDITIONS	Lenin	10p
THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE PARTY & PARTY ORGANISATION AND PARTY LITERATURE	Lenin	10p
THE LENINIST THEORY OF ORGANISATION	Ernest Mandel	15p
CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE LENINIST PARTY	Ernest Mandel	6p
LESSONS OF MAY, 1968 & THE COMMUNE LIVES!	Ernest Mandel	15p
THE MYSTIFICATIONS OF STATE CAPITALISM	Ernest Mandel	10p
THE IRREGULAR MOVEMENT OF HISTORY: The Marxist Law of the Combined & Uneven Development of Society	Warde	12p
STATUTES OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL		10p
THE STRUGGLE IN BENGAL & THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL	Tariq Ali	10p
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as full as possible. For LL, try to arrange a day-time meeting with SWG (to off-set cost of fares), a meeting with the SWG members and an evening Public meeting. Best days - second and fourth Tuesdays in the month

**SOCIALIST WOMAN PUBLICATIONS**

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**BOOKLIST FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION**

Leonora Lloyd 10p

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