

A basic problem for women is that of involvement in the struggle. Working class women are potentially more revolutionary than men and are certainly more militant. Ours is a problem of feeding large families, of making ends meet, of keeping a home together against incredible odds.

liberation

Women's position in society will not change automatically after the revolution, as can be seen in countries which have had revolutions already. In fact, the liberation of women is a fundamental necessity of the revolution and not an issue that should be pushed to the sidelines because of the mistaken belief that it will deflect from the main purpose of national liberation or radical social transformation.

If we are committed to changing the society we live in, we must start with our own lives - where oppressive laws do not have to determine the quality of our relationships ; where there is nothing to dictate our actions. Revolutionary ideas must become a part of our thinking and commitment to life and other people. Paying lip - service to non - sexism is not enough, nor is tokenism in selected areas.

Revolution means change at the deepest level. A commitment is needed from both men and women to rectify the position of women in society at a grassroots level - in the realm of private lives first, then of society in general.

changing society

The present organisation of the family holds women in bondage both physically and psychologically. Her actions are dictated since childhood.

The legal structure of society must be altered as well as our ideas on sexuality. The nature of work for the accumulation of profit (of which women are the worst victims either directly or indirectly) must be changed radically to benefit all human beings. This means changing society at its most fundamental level and which would go much deeper than the elimination of exploitation at the workplace. People's consciousness has to be changed so that they not only identify exploitation at the workplace, but cease to be exploiters and oppressors of women.

As an organising idea, women's liberation has to be seen as a revolution within a revolution. As stated before, even a socialist revolution does not by necessity change women's status as it could change control of the means of production, for example.

Attitudes of men towards women and the acceptance of a subservient role by women is a result of psychological conditioning of a lifetime and of many generations. This conditioning has to be eroded not only in theory but also in PRACTICE.

organisation

The question now arises as to whether women have to organise independently - so that in an organised form they can guarantee that freedom for women is not neglected - or whether they have to fight alongside men - where in the process of struggle they can change both themselves and their male comrades. Divisions have obvious and not-so-obvious dangers, but the ideals of the new society must be promoted and advanced in the form of practical struggles. If this is accepted as a practical precondition, then the struggle for the freedom of women will not be subsumed in the general struggle.

We have to guard against the situation where after liberation, women, some of whom were actively engaged in the liberation movement , are forced back into subservient roles as housewives, mothers, etc. We can obtain countless examples of this from revolutions that have taken place.

Women's liberation should encompass a revolution for women's equality, participatory democracy and an assurance that the interests of the working class remain paramount , in or-



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der to end all forms of exploitation.

personal and political

Whether we decide to organise ourselves separately or not, we should incorporate into our actions and organisational planning ways and means to end the subjugation of women. Fighting oppression should extend to all levels of our lives, be it personal or political. We have to learn to express a sense of self-confidence in our abilities as essential political experiences of the oppressed and doubly exploited.

"When women massively become political the revolution has moved to a new stage"

Let us, both men and women, thus liberate ourselves in the process of liberating society. After all, a society is only as free as its women are!



The emancipation of women is not an act of charity, the result of humanitarian or compassionate attitude. The liberation of women is a fundamental necessity of the revolution, the guarantee of its continuity and the precondition of its victory. The main objective of the revolution is to destroy the system of exploitation and build a new society which releases the potentiality of human beings, reconciling them with labour and with nature. This is the context within which the question of women's liberation arises.

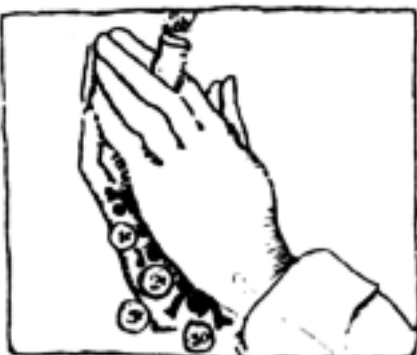


The Popular Democrats have finally taken up the workers' cause



They'll press and pray for social harmony!

One day, in alliance with big business and money...



Fahmida Isaacs 18yrs, a student at Nivana High who lived in Riverlea died tragically with her father in a car accident on the 26th of October. Fahmida was a close friend of some Action Youth members and active in the Inter High School Coordinating Committee in 1984. We will remember her. The struggle continues.