REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM IN ACTION
THE LABOR MOVEMENT

ANTI-IMPERIALIST WORKING-CLASS FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

1. We must recognize a need for a movement of capital not just labor due to migration that is triggered by excesses of capitalism (i.e., imperialism and extractive industries).
   a. End goal of open borders that will lead to true international solidarity that transcends nation-states

2. We have a duty within the US (the belly of the beast/imperial core) to have an explicit anti-colonial/anti-imperialist stance

Why Is Anti-Imperialism and Feminism Interconnected?

i. "It is economically profitable to exploit and oppress third world women. We represent a surplus labor supply, a cheap labor supply, a free labor supply (in our homes). The third world woman must always be fighting against and exposing her triple exploitation in this society. A third world women's group can potentially be one of the most revolutionary forces confronting the U.S. ruling class." (Taken from Third World Women's Alliance, Women in the Struggle)

ii. There is a spectrum of exploitation beginning domestically but expanding and worsening within the third world. We are all oppressed and exploited but the women of the working class within the Global South are hyper-exploited.
DEMANDS!

1. Mobilize healthcare workers to help the community, support women workers in popular economies, and make sure that they are given proper pay and protective equipment.
2. Equal pay for equal work.

SEX TRADE

- Decriminalize survivors of the sex trade (not allowing sex buyers to be let off the hook) and provide them with the right to exit.
- Support them materially through resources, such as relief, food aid, housing, healthcare (including both mental and physical) services, legal assistance for the non-national/undocumented, etc) that make the economically coercive obstacles that keep sex sellers in the trade as obsolete as possible.
- Centering protection of transgender and queer people.
SEVEN STEPS TO CREATING POWER ON THE JOB

ORGANIZE!

1. Talk to your co-workers

Find times and places to talk where people can feel comfortable expressing their concerns. This is usually away from work areas where there are supervisors or management-friendly workers. It could be outside of the workplace. Talking to co-workers about a union is just as legal as talking to workers about any other non-work issue. However, it is best not to alert the boss about union organizing until you have gathered greater power.

2. Make a list of workers and begin to track what issues are important to whom

As you talk to people, identify which issues motivate the greatest interest among the largest number of workers. Is it respect, lack of power or voice in how things are done, unfair treatment, low wages, lack of benefits, or something else?

3. Set up a committee of co-workers who have said that they want to have a union

Identify leaders among the workers in each area on the job. Leaders are people who are looked up to by their co-workers and whose opinion is important to others. Talk to those leaders who are likely to want change. Talk to them one-on-one and show them that you feel the same way. Then ask if they would join a group of others who feel the same way and want to do something about it. Make sure that the committee is as broadly representative as possible — all shifts, classifications, work areas, men, women, African American, Latina/o, Asian, etc.
4. Contact a union
To win representation at work, it is important to have the experience and resources of a union that is dedicated to organizing. The boss usually has lots of time and resources at their disposal to try to defeat a union drive. It is important to have the organizational strength to effectively deal with the boss. There are lots of unions and if you want to talk to someone about which is the best for your type of work and location, call the AFL-CIO in your area or contact your local PSL chapter. They would be glad to help.

5. Move to create majority support
The organizing committee needs to figure out who is the best person to talk to each worker. Everyone needs to be talked to about the issues that concern them and their support for the union. The bosses’ lies about the union need to be directly answered. This is when everyone will be asked to sign a union authorization card. The best way to demonstrate to everyone that people can act together is by actually taking actions. Actions could include getting petitions signed and carrying them as a group to the boss, or it could be wearing union buttons or t-shirts. Whatever the action is, it helps to build confidence and solidarity as well as testing the commitment of those who have said they support the union.

6. Winning the election
A petition for a union election can be filed with only 30% support in most instances. But filing with less than 75 or 80% is risky because the bosses’ last minute pressure tactics may create enough fear to make some people vote for the employer. If the organizing committee has good relationships with the workers and has identified how they are going to vote, then winning is much more likely. In the course of organizing and mobilizing support for the union, a number of companies have been forced to recognize unions without a long drawn-out formal NLRB election. Instead, based on the pressure of seeing the workers come together, they agree to recognize the union just based on the number of signed cards showing majority support.

7. Getting the first contract
The need for organizing and action does not end with winning the election. Now it is time to create the pressure needed to make the boss sign a contract with rights reflecting the reasons that people fought for a union in the first place. Through disciplined and collective action, it can be done.

All power to the Workers!

Adopted from Liberation School’s ‘Seven Steps Towards Power On The Job’ check out the original article here
My head pounded watching the news. 19 year old Black kid reincarcerated for shooting out of his car at a gas station after previously being released on bond.

“Our community is safer because this criminal is locked away, and we will make sure that this time, he never gets out,” said the local police commissioner on TV.


How can this society be proud of sending their own kids to jail? Could there have been another way?

I recalled a story my dad told me for the first time, earlier today. Where in Santo Domingo, during the early 1970s, a fight broke out in his neighborhood, and my dad, at 11-years old, climbed a brick wall to watch.

When the police arrived, assuming he was playing a role by throwing rocks, they commanded him to jump from the wall. My dad jumped, fell to the ground, and sprained his ankle. And, almost like the 19 year old on the news, my dad was put in a police car.

Now, the man is retired. Almost lost hope when his health was in decline a few months ago as a result of medical neglect, but now that he was reassured that his daughter would help take care of him, what was there to worry about?

I went from looking at the news to watching my dad, confused. Hundreds of thousands of people died due to lack of protections from COVID-19, and many more disabled, and the local news repeatedly showcased a 19 year old Black kid as the root of the problem, and that society was safer by locking him away.

My dad just wanted to play cards. A card game that my family played for years. Tres y Dos.

“Come! Let’s see if you can beat your old man at cards,” he said. “I am getting older, and I just want to live my life. Why worry?”

“Safer, the police commissioner said. What is safe if one does not have their material needs to have agency and consent over their choices?” I asked him. “Despite your improved health now, you still lack basic health coverage. The care work I do is not seen as work and it’s unpaid. We need agency more than protection.”

“You’re right!” my Dad exclaimed. “You are absolutely right. But, that’s enough. There is nothing we can do about it right now about it, so let’s just play cards.”
I haven’t played Tres y Dos in years, but my Dad was shocked by how I played.

“How is it that you beat me three times in a row?” he laughed. We then heard a knock on our door. My dad’s neighbor wanted to say hello while he was passing by trimming bushes.

“Good morning, Jules!” he said.

“Hey, John!” replied Dad.

“How have you been?”

“I’ve been okay. My daughter beat me at cards, and this was the first time she played the game in years.”

“Well, it’s nice you are spending quality time with your daughter, you know? These days, kids just want to be lazy and distracted by their phones and computers.”

I assumed that now was my cue to say hi to John. He was actually quite a helpful neighbor to my Dad. When I couldn’t be present, John often would check in on my Dad to see if he was okay and offer to help with work around the house if he couldn’t get to it.

“Hey, John!” I said. “Did you hear about what happened on the news about the 19 year old who was rearrested?”

“Yeah, I heard about that.”

“Well, let me ask you, let’s just imagine, we lived in a society where we had universal health care, free, safe housing, and free quality education where you didn’t have to be in debt or coerced to join the military to get it, do you think this shootout would have still happened?”

“Probably not. I remember when I was in high school. I was working three jobs.”

“I see, but, why would a kid have to work three jobs, while in school, to have their basic needs met in a country with the largest military budget in the world?”

John paused. Put his hand on his waist and contemplated for a minute.

“True.”

“I feel people are definitely aware, or at least, can sense the systemic over-exploitation they experience. It happens that perhaps, folks still have questions on how to take action.” I added.

John paused again. “Well, it sounds to me like the only answer you are looking for is probably a revolution. It may happen in your lifetime, but I don’t think me or your Dad will be alive to see it. Well, it was nice talking to you, but I know these bushes aren’t going to trim themselves.”

My Dad waved good-bye and closed the front door.

“I understand what you were saying, but sometimes you talk too much when people have work to do.” he chuckled.

“But, John always has something to say about people all the time, and no one calls him out on it.” I said.

“I have been listening to the classes you’ve been taking when you think I don’t pay attention. It’s nice that you talk to people who have ideas. We need people who think like this, so the reality of all of us can be different. I may not live to see it, but it’s comforting to know that you will.”
Demands

Ensure full transparency of information and data about the evolution of the pandemic and about every country’s government measures (broken down by sex, age, income, sexual orientation, gender identity, and place/territory, whenever possible).

Demand essential health interventions to protect the health of all people, with special attention towards marginalised, poor, and transgender people, migrants, people of colour, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Such services include mental health services, HIV/AIDS medications, cancer treatment, etc.

Ensure that marginalised communities — including those without access to official documentation, in particular, the poor and working-class transgender people and migrants — receive aid services; ensure the expedient delivery of emergency relief such as a Universal Basic Income, food distribution, and other services demanded in this list.

Demand that the government protect LGBTQIA+ and all marginalised people from discrimination in the midst of policies aimed at fighting COVID-19, such as policies that only allow for men or women to leave their homes on certain days.

Increase long-term public investment for the public good in areas such as social protection pensions, universal public healthcare, free public childcare, and other actions that affect women directly.

Include women from working-class women’s movements in leadership positions for decision-making processes regarding responses to and recovery from the crises that we face today.

Build networks of solidarity and collective support that respect physical distancing practices to fight against individualism and violence; create women’s rights groups and local information campaigns about emergency plans for women and children suffering from domestic violence; and create teams to care for children in neighbourhoods with greater social vulnerability.

“IF OUR LIVES ARE WORTHLESS, PRODUCE WITHOUT US”

IT’S MARCH 8, 2020, AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FEMINISTS FROM ACROSS ARGENTINA HAVE MOBILIZED IN BUENOS AIRES TO MILITATE AGAINST THE FASCIST AND PATRIARCHAL POLICIES OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THIS QUOTE, “IF OUR LIVES ARE WORTHLESS, PRODUCE WITHOUT US”. WAS A CALL TO ACTION FOR ARGENTINE FEMINIST HIGHLIGHTS THE MISOGyny INHERENT IN AND CENTRAL TO THE CAPITALIST MODE OF PRODUCTION.

CONTRADICTION IS A USEFUL FRAMEWORK TO UNDERSTAND THE OPPRESSION OF NON-MEN UNDER CAPITALISM. CONTRADICTION. TO PUT IT SIMPLY. OCCURS WHEN TWO OR MORE OPPOSING FORCES COME INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. THESE FORCES COMING INTO CONTACT CREATES A DIALECTIC. THERE IS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN IMPERIALISM AND WORLD PEACE: ONE CANNOT EXIST WHILE THE OTHER STILL REMAINS. THE CONTRADICTION IDENTIFIED BY THIS QUOTE IS THE CONTRADICTION OF REPRODUCTIVE LABOUR UNDER CAPITAL.

PATRIARCHY HAS EXISTED SINCE AT LEAST THE DAWN OF CLASS SOCIETY. BUT MODERN CAPITALISM HAS INTENSIFIED AND AMPLIFIED THE MATERIAL EFFECTS OF GENDERED OPPRESSION. WOMEN AND NON-MEN ARE ExpLOited IN THE DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC SPHERES OF LABOUR. THEY ARE PAID MARKEDLY LESS THAN MEN UNDER CAPITALISM, AND EXPECTED TO PERFORM UNPAID DOMESTIC AND REPRODUCTIVE LABOUR. CAPITALISTS REQUIRE THE UNPAID. UNDERVALUED WORK OF REPRODUCTION TO CONTINUE EXTRACTING PROFIT. BUT WE SEE THIS CLEARLY. AND ARE READY TO TOPPLE THIS SYSTEM.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTRADICTION IS THIS: WOMEN’S LIVES ARE NOT WORTHLESS. AND WITHOUT THE MASS EXPLOITATION OF NON-MEN. CAPITALISM WOULD COLLAPSE. CAPITALISM CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT THIS EXPLOITATION. AND THIS EXPLOITATION CAN ONLY BE ENDED BY THE OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM. THIS MARCH 8. LET US STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION(S) ALONGSIDE THE END OF DOMINATION. THE TWO ARE IRREDUCEBLY CONNECTED.
Reproductive Labor - If Our Lives Are Worthless Without Us

Successful in the Reproductive Justice Movement

From 2021-2022, Argentina, South Korea, Thailand, and most recently Colombia have decriminalized abortion. Each one of these successes built on the previous—lawyers in Colombia drew from legal precedents in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Activists waved symbolic green handkerchiefs that first emerged in Argentina, and advocates learned to leverage social media and team up with medical providers. It is critical that we continue to learn and work with our comrades in different locations and with different occupations in the global fight to ensure reproductive rights.

Virginia became the 10th state to pass a domestic workers bill of rights, ensuring freedom from discrimination and health and safety standards for more than 60,000 domestic workers, with roots in slavery and gendered divisions of labor. Domestic work is performed mainly by women of color and is often underpaid and excluded from workplace protection laws. Advocacy organizations such as the National Domestic Workers, Hand in Hand, & Care in Action helped to educate lawmakers and push for these reforms.

In 2022, New York and Massachusetts’ expanded paid family and medical leave policies went into effect. Unpaid care work for children or other relatives disproportionately falls on women, and having to choose between being paid or caring for others contributes substantially to economic gender inequality. Advocates in the New York statewide paid leave coalition united over 60 organizations including small business owners. Generated economic analysis on earlier state-level paid leave policies, and surveyed public awareness of these policies after they were passed. This is important work to replicate in the 41 states that still have no paid leave policies.

When there is so much to be hopeless about, we need to focus on the hope and the lessons that these wins provide. To learn more, check out the below movements and organizations:

NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS ALLIANCE - See if your state have a domestic workers bill of rights
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES - See if your state has a paid family & medical leave plan
CAUSA JUSTA
A BETTER BALANCE
THE CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
CHANTS

WHEN WOMEN’S RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK
WHAT DO WE DO? STAND UP. FIGHT BACK!

WHEN WORKING FAMILIES ARE UNDER ATTACK
WHAT DO WE DO? STAND UP. FIGHT BACK!

WHAT DO WE WANT? ABORTION RIGHTS!
WHEN DO WE WANT IT? NOW!

WE RAISED OUR KIDS. WORKED ALL NIGHT
SIDE BY SIDE. WE’RE READY TO FIGHT!

MY BODY! MY CHOICE!

HEY HEY! HO HO! GENDER VIOLENCE HAS GOT TO GO!

“PRO-LIFE” IS A LIE!
YOU DON’T CARE IF WOMEN DIE!

WHATEVER WE WEAR. WHEREVER WE GO
YES MEANS YES AND NO MEANS NO!

THEY SAY NO-CHOICE
WE SAY PRO-CHOICE!

STOP YOUR HATRED. STOP YOUR VIOLENCE!
WOMEN AND GIRLS WON’T BE SILENT!

MY BODY. MY RIGHT!
WE WON’T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!

DEMANDS

ENSURE THAT THE MEASURES BEING DEMANDED BY MOVEMENTS IN
THE FACE OF CORONASHOCK ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLE.
WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST
SYSTEMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM SUCH AID: WOMEN. INFORMAL
WORKERS. MIGRANTS. PEOPLE OF COLOUR. LOWER CASTES. AND
LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE.

DEMAND THAT GOVERNMENTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGNS TO ENCOURGE
MEN AND WOMEN TO SHARE HOUSEHOLD CHORES EQUALLY SO THAT
WOMEN DO NOT HAVE TO SHOULDER THE BRUNT OF THE BURDEN OF
HOUSEWORK.

AID AND FINANCIAL STIMULUS PACKAGES IMPLEMENTED BY
GOVERNMENTS MUST INCLUDE SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES THAT
ADDRESS WOMEN’S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACKNOWLEDGE
THE CARE ECONOMY.

PROVIDE A GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME FOR WOMEN AND
HOUSEHOLDS THAT CARRY OUT THE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF
ESSENTIAL CARE WORK (INCLUDING DOMESTIC/HOUSEWORK).
ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DEPENDENTS.

PROVIDE FOOD BASKETS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHERE
CHILDCARE CENTRES/SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.

GUARANTEE READILY AVAILABLE HOTLINES AND OTHER PUBLICLY
ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND SERVICES FOR ALL
VICTIMS OF PATRIARCHAL VIOLENCE AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

DEMAND THAT GOVERNMENTS TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
ADVERTISING THESE HOTLINE NUMBERS AND PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS THROUGH AUTOMATED SERVICES, TEXT
MESSAGES, BANNERS ON BUSES, BILLBOARDS, AND DISPLAYS IN
PUBLIC SPACES, NEWSPAPER ADS, ETC., SO THAT THOSE IN NEED
KNOW ABOUT THE SERVICE.

DEMAND THAT GOVERNMENTS OFFER COUNSELLING FACILITIES FOR
WOMEN. MARGINALISED PEOPLE. THE POOR. LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE,
MIGRANTS. PEOPLE OF COLOUR. THE ELDERLY. AND PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS AND/OR VICTIMS OF
VIOLENCE.
NEOLIBERALISM AS THE ICARIAN FEMINIST

IN THE ABSENCES OF LIBERATING EDUCATION THE OPPRESSED WILL DREAM OF BECOMING THE OPPRESSOR. THESE DREAMS EASILY TAKE UP SPACE IN THE MIND BECAUSE EVERYDAY OUR IMAGINATION IS HELD HOSTAGE BY CAPITALIST MEDIA, MUSIC VIDEOS, TV SHOWS, THINGS THAT TAKE UP SPACE IN LEISURE TIME TO REINFORCE THE THINGS WE DO ON THE CLOCK (WORK).

A FRIEND RECENTLY POSTED RIHANNA’S BABY BUMP WITH A QUOTE, REPRESENTATION MATTERS. IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A BLACK WOMAN IN THE BILLIONAIRE’S CLUB. CAPITALIST INDIVIDUALISM WILL HAVE US THINKING THIS IS ENOUGH. THINKING THIS IS ENOUGH ABSOLVES US OF DOING THE WORK TO MEET THE MATERIAL NEEDS OF BLACK WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITIES RIGHT NOW. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BREAK THE GLASS CEILING IF THE SHARDS OF GLASS FALL, SLICING THE WOMEN BELOW?

THE SYSTEM MOVES AND EXPANDS AND REWARDS PEOPLE WHO WILL CONFORM TO ITS VALUES: INDIVIDUALISM, COMPETITION, HIERARCHY, EXCLUSIVITY, PROFIT. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF REWARD, WE ARE PUNISHED IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WHAT THE SYSTEM CALLS “CHEATING,” TARGETED IF WE FORM UNIONS AT WORK.

WOMAN CEO’S DO NOT SERVE US, THEY ONLY EXPAND THE PROFITS OF THE PRIVILEGED FEW. WHAT ACTIONS WILL WE TAKE TO FORM STRONGER ALLIANCES WITH EACH OTHER RIGHT NOW? WHAT ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESSES WILL WE PUT IN PLACE TO STAY TRUE TO OUR VALUES IN THE LONG TERM?
DEMANDS

INCLUDE WOMEN FROM WORKING-CLASS WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES REGARDING RESPONSES TO AND RECOVERY FROM THE CRISES THAT WE FACE TODAY.

BUILD NETWORKS OF SOLIDARITY AND COLLECTIVE SUPPORT THAT RESPECT PHYSICAL DISTANCING PRACTICES TO FIGHT AGAINST INDIVIDUALISM AND VIOLENCE; CREATE WOMEN’S RIGHTS GROUPS AND LOCAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS ABOUT EMERGENCY PLANS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND CREATE TEAMS TO CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH GREATER SOCIAL VULNERABILITY.

CREATED IN CAMARADERIE BY:
ECHO A
SHENBY G
FATIMA B
SOFIA Z
JODI S
LUNA F
MAX A.L
SOPHIE B
ELECTRA
APARNA G

WITH A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE’S FORUM

Inspired by and adapted from Tricontinental Institute’s CoronaShock and Patriarchy study and demands. Read the original here: