Advancing Resistance

Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on Gendered Labor

International Working Women's Day 2022
In honor of International Working Women’s Day [IWWD], Advancing Resistance hopes to continue the revolutionary legacy of this day by continuing the tradition of mobilizing the masses and help them recognize our collective stake in the revolution and a liberatory world. This hybrid medium (a poster series that can be compiled into a zine) is an organizational tool that intends to mobilize unorganized people across all demographics, both local and global, and encourage them to join the international struggle against capitalist-imperialist patriarchy.

Advancing Resistance
The first IWWD was a day of struggle, where in 1908 in NYC, 15,000 garment workers and others protested for higher wages, fair scheduling, and the right to vote. Socialist and women worker Clara Zetkin, proposed IWWD as an official day in 1910 during the international meeting in Copenhagen, as a way to combat the patriarchal-centric workers rights movement and ruling class centric feminist movement. Zetkin wanted to uplift the specific struggles of poor and working class women who were fighting the multi-struggle against capitalist patriarchy.
IWWD continues to be co-opted by capitalism and ruling class feminism, where it removes the class based struggle and worker power origin of this day. Advancing Resistance intends to disrupt the neoliberal feminist discourse diluting the revolutionary tradition of IWWD by highlighting everyday women and femmes who are organizers, revolutionaries, and workers that continue to carry the torch and are dedicated to creating tangible, material changes alongside their own communities.

Will you join the struggle?
Highlighted Feminists

- **Sherry**: Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
- **Claire**: GABRIELA Oakland
- **Boogie**: Society’s Roses
- **Arnett**: Lesson Lower East Side Organization
- **Eshawney & Faith**: Raise Up
- **Jennifer**: Red Nation
- **Adrienne**: Sowing Seeds of Change
- **Maria**: Mujeres Unidas y Activas
“The community I am organizing in is mostly South Asian Indo Caribbean folks. Heavily working class a lot, mostly undocumented. A lot of them didn't necessarily have the same benefits as documented folks or middle or upper class folks. The struggle was real for them. If they were restaurant workers, and the restaurant was closed, there was no income. If there were delivery workers and the restaurants were closed. There was no income. So financially. Health wise, there was a lot of struggle and a lot of folks who are struggling for putting food on the table, paying their rent, paying their bills.”

Sherry Padilla
Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM)
Sherry is a community organizer at Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), where she organizes predominantly working class and undocumented Indo-Caribbean and South Asian communities in NYC to fight against racial, gender, class, and immigrant based struggle. In this interview, she discusses how her personal, familial, and communal experiences with state sanctioned violence, patriarchy, and capitalism moved her to join movement work and create necessary political and economical transformation.
"A lot of the things that we organize around...I’m impacted by it. I was undocumented for a lot of years. I was arrested, I was discriminated by the police... I suffered domestic violence from my partner for 13 years...some of these issues I still face today, even though I’m an organizer. It’s still a struggle.

All of this is the reason [I organize], plus I want to be able to be there to support folks that are going through similar situations, and also know that they’re not alone. You could stand strong and I’m here to stand strong with you”

Sherry Padilla
Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM)
“Nobody’s working for the working class, we have to organize and show people that they have the power. They got us fighting against each other – the 99% is fighting against each other while the 1% sits back and laughs.”
Boogie Rose is an elementary school teacher and revolutionary organizer in South Philadelphia. She formed the organization Society’s Roses to remind our community members that we are all society’s roses. Boogie leads her community to fight against gentrification, gun violence, and food insecurity. Society’s Roses centers all of its work in community healing, striving to bring us together through revolutionary love. Our saying, ‘Bloom Where you are Planted’ reminds us that we can bloom into the community we want to be if we dig in our roots to fight for our land and to fight for each other.
"Be your true authentic self. People will always feel when you're not being genuine. It's so much self work to do that, to just be yourself, because your self is always gonna change. You're always gonna evolve. So just start off at least at level one with being yourself and being true to who you are."

Boogie Rose
Society's Roses
"We do not have to wait for any supposed final victory in the revolution to start developing alternatives rooted in sound principles. We must continue to learn from movement elders, other communities, collectively study theory and put it into practice."

Claire Valderama-Wallace
GABRIELA Oakland
Claire Valderama-Wallace [she/siya] is a community leader and organizer with GABRIELA Oakland, a militant Filipina organization advancing the women's movement in the Bay Area. She integrates her background in the healthcare field with movement work ultimately bridging together different struggles. Her advocacy spans from supporting local striking nurses to demand better working conditions during the pandemic to highlighting the consequences of the counterinsurgency programs implemented in the Philippines.
"There are these layers of shame which put women into their place or what they think is their place but a woman's place is first and foremost in the revolution."

Claire Valderama-Wallace
GABRIELA Oakland
“Raise Up can be a great instrument for achieving a lot of change in the workplace—for the clients and the workers. Don’t give up—stay involved!” - Faith

Faith Whitfield-Griffin
Raise Up
“Having all of my nieces and nephews and seeing how society is -- I always said I didn’t want them to have to take unsafe, low paying jobs. And now with me expecting, I definitely don't want that for my baby. That’s why I fight”

Eshawney Gaston
Raise Up
Eshawney Gaston and Faith Whitfield-Griffin are both in the same organization: Raise Up. Eshawney (she/her) is a fast food worker and leader with Raise Up, the southern chapter of the Fight For $15 and a Union. Eshawney emphasized how witnessing the conditions she went through and her co workers continue to be the flame that inspires her to continue organizing. Eshawney and Faith are leaders in a movement of fast food, healthcare, and other low wage workers fighting for higher wages, better working conditions, and a voice on and off the job. You can find both of them on a strike line leading chants or canvassing neighbors to build a bold, mass, worker-led movement that can shut things down and WIN in the US south!
“What pushed me to fight really was working in [long term care] facilities and seeing how the workers and patients get treated. They weren't paying us fair OR taking care of the residents. I had to speak out and speak up!”

Faith Whitfield-Griffin
Raise Up
“What’s it going to take to change things? Us coming together. We’ve got to keep standing up – standing up for our rights!”

Eshawney Gaston
Raise Up
"I constantly tell myself to be mindful and not to ignore my intuition. To speak boldly and loudly as often as I can. And to make it known that I'm not going to be silenced on this particular issue [of sexism]."

Arnett Scott
Lessons of Lower East Side
Arnett Scott is community organizer associated with the Lesson Lower East Side Organization in New York City. She has worked with CEC, the Community Education Council. She got involved with the schools when she had enrolled her daughter in a predominantly Asian school and on one of the Asian parents told her that black people can’t get on the PTA “that they don’t vote for black people.” She had had it and got herself elected to the CEC to overstep this racism and have power for her daughter in her school. She has two daughters and lives in Two Bridges, public funded housing. She currently works at a residential treatment facility for substance abuse users.
"I have a better wealth of knowledge on my experience, but I'm not blind to those that are also oppressed and there's so many of us."

Arnett Scott
Lessons of Lower East Side
The US came in and took advantage of the complicated racial dynamics that already existed in the region. And so you have these fucked up dynamics but at the end of the day, we're all fucking poor, extremely poor. It only makes sense that we organize together and that we be in solidarity on the basis of our class position because in reality, our day to day lives actually look pretty similar.”
Jennifer Marley is Tewa, from the Pueblo of San Ildefonso and she has been a member of red nation since 2015. She is currently a Ph.D student at the University of Mexico, where she also works as a student instructor. Her work revolves around justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People. Fighting violence against native people in border towns and revolutionary socialism.
"As materialists, we know that we need to try to move and be flexible and move with the shifting material conditions. We should always be open and willing to change our positions."

Jennifer Marley
The Red Nation
Instructor at UNM
“...going through the school system at Davis School District. Yeah, it was horrible. Each day it was like experiencing some sort of racial slurs or demeaning comment and just knowing that there were educators that were hearing that and doing nothing like it was just what happens here. There was a total lack of validation — returning back to Davis County School District to be an educator, to try to make sure I was there making a difference, and no other student was going to experience the same thing that I had experienced — and I will commit to being co-responsible and make sure I'm going to do whatever I can to make sure that my classroom is inclusive.”

Adrienne Scott-Ellis
Sowing Seeds of Change
Adrienne Scott-Ellis is a Davis County District school teacher at Doxey Elementary. Davis County is located in Northern Utah – currently under investigation by the DOJ for blatantly ignored racial harassment and discrimination. She is the founder of the community garden, Sowing Seeds of Change. This garden began as a response to the 2020 historic uprisings against racism in which she wanted to address critical conversations of racism to elementary students. Students are able to learn to plant their own seeds while changing the extremely discriminatory environment within Davis County. Through dialogue on human and civil rights advocacy.

Adrienne fights for inclusion – “We are a garden of diversity and everyone has value — whether that’s through being neurodiverse or multinational.” — as her son is.
"We need to keep dreaming and to keep thinking that we deserve a better world, we deserve to be able to regain the dignity that has been taken from us as women, as indigenous people, as mothers, as workers...We have to dream and think that together we can get better and for me the big thing is investing in immigrant communities, poor communities and be able to train, prepare and heal people that in the near future will grow into leaders."

Maria de Jesus Jimenez
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Maria is a migrant from Mexico and one of MUA’s founding members where she has been on staff since 1994. Maria is integral to MUA’s mission of promoting personal transformation and building community power for social and economic justice. Her work includes a variety of different skills: nation wide trainings and presentations on immigrant rights, program planning, peer counseling, volunteer management, technical assistance provision, and public speaking. Maria has also advanced many of MUA’s campaigns specifically on immigrant rights, women’s health access and worker rights.

Maria de Jesus Jimenez
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
The Revolution is Around the Corner: Join local radical organizations/grassroots collectives/workers unions in your own communities and neighborhoods based on your own interests/passions/struggles! Everyone plays a role in the revolution, whether it's creating propaganda art or being at the frontlines of an action!

Uplift Our Interviewees: Support all the comrades mentioned in this zine by learning more about their organizations and seeing how you can support their current struggles.

Theorize with Comrades: Create or join revolutionary study groups with your people! Revolutionary practice is informed by studying radical thinking and legacy.

Create an event based on this tool kit: Reflect on these profiles with your community. Discuss why understanding the radical origins of IWWD is important. Find revolutionary feminists around you!