

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH

23 day of November 1972

SUBJECT Women's

Liberation Front

Reference to Papers

400/71/272

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "In an effort to revive the old Women's Liberation Front (the majority of whom, under the leadership of Privacy and Privacy broke away from MANCHANDA and his wife a year ago to form their own group - later to be known as The Revolutionary Women's Union), Abhimanyu MANCHANDA and his wife, Diane, recently issued a six-page paper 'Women's Liberation Front - Aims and Policy' (see copy attached). The paper, which propounds the usual Maoist line includes pieces on Discrimination against women in Education and Abortion and Contraception on the N.H.S.

3. Applicants for membership are urged to write to The Secretary, W.L.F., Privacy (Privacy). The MANCHANDA's are the only surviving members of their old clique and the new membership is understood to be very small."

4. References:

Privacy

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A. MANCHANDA  
Diane MANCHANDA  
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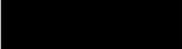
Submitted:

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WDC  
Inspector

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



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## MANIFESTO OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT

In present day capitalist society, while the vast majority of the population, the working people, are exploited and oppressed for the profits of the few, women suffer double oppression.

In the community in general, women are denied opportunities for full participation in political, economic, social and cultural life. At home, being economically dependent on and dominated by men, they are reduced to domestic slavery, objects of men's sexual lust and instruments of child production.

Petty housework crushes, strangles and degrades them. Their wasteful and uneconomic labour is not only barbarously nerve-wracking, but in fact shuts them out from any creative, cultural endeavours. With stunted mental and physical faculties and denial of opportunities, their talents find no scope for the enrichment and happiness of the community.

With modern kitchen gadgets and household appliances, their glamorised domesticity, while providing ever-increasing profits to the commercial sharks, only highlights their subservience to men and the domination of the whole society by the capitalist bosses. In this way the labour-force is maintained for the bosses while women produce the workers of the future, for which no direct payment is made to them.

As super-exploited workers, whether in the factory or office, women provide cheap labour at unequal rates. Adding to the pool of unskilled and unorganised labour in this capitalist, competitive jungle, they depress their own as well as men workers' wages.

The social institutions - the state, church, educational and cultural establishments, laws and customs, all are geared to serve and perpetuate the interests of the small ruling class for the exploitation of the majority, as well as domination over women.

Only an all-round social revolution can end the present capitalist system of exploitation, oppression, inequality and discrimination. By its very nature, women's liberation struggle with its own specific features, constitutes an essential part of such a revolutionary movement.

In the world today when revolutionary storms of national and social liberation are rocking the very foundation of the whole system of exploitation and oppression, British women are firmly resolved to end their domestic, sexual and social oppression.

The Women's Liberation Front calls upon women all over the country to organise themselves and join the Women's Liberation Front in their localities, place of work or study.

With confidence in our noble aims, hard work and united, organised strength, the cause of women's liberation shall surely be victorious!

FORWARD  
TO WOMEN'S LIBERATION, L.

THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT WAS ESTABLISHED  
WITH THESE AIMS IN VIEW

1. To organise women in general, working class women in particular, and win support from other sections of the community to fight for a society in which there shall be no exploitation and oppression of women and where they shall enjoy equal rights and opportunities with men. Obviously, this will be possible only in a social system where all kinds of discrimination, exploitation and oppression, cease to exist.
2. To fight for the equal rate for the job in all realms of social economy.
3. To fight for equal opportunities in employment, education, training, social and political life. For the realisation of this, to fight for special facilities: for creches at the place of work or study, maternity leave for a definite period (with no loss of pay) in the pre-natal and post-natal periods, and the right to return to the same job without suffering any loss, as of right, guaranteed by statutory law.
4. To fight against all discrimination against women with regard to marriage, divorce, inheritance of property, taxation, insurance, and in all fields of economic and social life in the community. All discrimination with regard to children born in or out of wedlock must be abolished.
5. All women should have the right to bear children or not. In order to make this right effective, adequate contraceptive and abortion facilities should be made available free on the national health service.
6. To involve women in political and social activities, thus to help in the development of their long-suppressed talents and to wage a consistent struggle against male chauvinism.
7. To support the struggles of women of all countries in the realisation of the common aims to end the system of exploitation and oppression and, for this purpose, to take part in the struggle in Britain and support the struggle of the workers and oppressed people all over the world.

If you agree with the aims of THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT

-- APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO --

The Secretary,  
W.L.F.,  
58 Lisburne Road,  
London, N.W.3.

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\*\*Subscription\*\*  
\*\*£1 per year\*\*  
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Telephone

END WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND SEXUAL OPPRESSION !  
END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN EDUCATION !  
SMASH CAPITALISM FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION !

END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN  
IN EDUCATION !  
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Charter of Demands for Equal  
Education.

In present day Britain's national economy, while the vast majority of people, the working class, are exploited and oppressed for the profits of the few, women suffer double oppression.

In their position as domestic slaves, petty housework crushes, strangles and degrades them. Their wasteful and barbarously uneconomic labour is nerve-wracking and stultifying. Modern kitchen gadgets and glamour products, while providing ever increasing profits to the capitalist bosses, only highlight women's domination and subservience to men, as domestic slaves, instruments of sexual pleasure and child-production.

As super-exploited workers, whether in the factory or office, they provide cheap labour at unequal rates. Adding to the pool of unskilled labour, in this jungle of capitalist competition, they depress their own as well as men workers' wages.

The social institutions, the state, church, educational and cultural establishments, laws and customs, all are geared to serve and perpetuate the interests of the small ruling class.

While the present educational system, both at school and university level, blatantly discriminates against the working people, it hits harder at women to continue their glamourised domesticity, super exploitation in industry and commerce, and status of second-class citizenship.

The discriminatory 'special' education for women denies them scientific, technological and vocational training and debars them from full participation in social production and scientific advance, as well as from political and social life.

Women of Britain are resolved to struggle against this social system of exploitation and oppression, to end our double slavery.

To attain complete emancipation, not only are we determined to end domestic bondage and social oppression and to win equal citizenship with men: but also to restore motherhood as an honour instead of a disability and handicap in society.

We shall not rest with a facade of legal equality, but shall fight for concrete conditions in which women can exercise actual equality.

As part of this struggle, we are determined to fight for the following charter of demands for equal education for women.

1. A single co-educational comprehensive system of education for both boys and girls.
2. Equal educational opportunities for women in scientific, technical and medical colleges and centres of research and vocational training, with full equal opportunities for re-training.
3. Equal opportunities of day release for women on full equal pay in all fields, for the enhancement of their educational standards.

4. Special nurseries, child-care and health facilities in all places where there is a need, at educational institutions, places of work, at the expense of the employers and state authorities. Without such facilities, women would have no real equal opportunities and rights.
5. Equal opportunities for jobs for women in scientific, technical, industrial and other fields of employment.

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EXTRACTS FROM W.L.F. STATEMENT ON DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION...

"Our agitation in the field of education is firstly designed to eradicate all discrimination against women so that they can have equal opportunities for all-round mental and physical development. Only thus can they take full part in the economic, social and cultural life of the community. We want to end domestic slavery, glamourised or not!"

"The journal of big business, the Economist, dated Jan 1, 1966, estimated that 84% of all private wealth in Britain is owned by 5% of the population, while the top 2% own 55% of the total.

The present bourgeois education system has basically developed to serve the class interests of this 5% and discriminates against the working people. It is aimed at creating a small elite of highly trained skilled personnel from among the upper and middle classes to manage and run industry, commerce and the state machinery so that higher efficiency brings maximum profits to the ruling classes. Higher productivity is synonymous with higher profits. If there are no profits, industries close down and workers are thrown on the heap of the unemployed. The majority of the working class children are taught the "three r's" and given such technical training as fits in with the bosses' profit motives.

What is the lot of the majority of young girls? The children of the working class? Their education - domestic 'science', deportment and fashion, are meant to equip them for glamourised domesticity, at the same time providing an ever-increasing commercial market for lipstick, powder and paint, hemlines yo-yoing between minis and maxis as working women strain to keep up with haute couture."

"Equipped with the 'three r's', women, as workers in industry, constitute cheap labour on unequal rates, bringing super-profits to the bosses. As low paid workers, mostly unorganised, women add to the pool of unskilled labour, thus depressing their own as well as men's wages. As secretaries and clerical staff at low wages, they lubricate the smooth running of commercial offices, government and local authority establishments, while providing spice in the life of the dividend-grabbing, tired directors and ulcerated executives, while the masses suffer unemployment and wage freeze."

"Our main struggle is for democracy. But democracy means actual concrete conditions, not just formal rights. The tying up of women to the household for bringing up children closes the door to taking part in the economic, political and social life of the community."

"Democracy for us means that millions of women should become conscious of their oppression in society as well as at home. They should get organised and take part in changing the whole society. We know that if the interest of a small elite, 5% of the population, determine and run the whole society, then women, as part of the oppressed majority, must together with men, change this basic structure."

## ABORTION & CONTRACEPTION ON THE N.H.S.

More and more women in capitalist Britain are becoming aware of their social and domestic oppression. No commercialised glamorous facade can cover up their slavery in the bedroom, nursery and kitchen. Their inferior status in social and economic life is epitomised by the bourgeois laws with regard to marriage rights and divorce, the inferior status of children born 'out of wedlock' as compared to 'legitimate' children: laws which grant privileges to men and are humiliating and insulting to women.

Because of their economic dependence on men and social function of bearing children, women are reduced to domestic slavery and therefore cut off from taking part in the economic, social and political life of the community. Thus they are penalised for being mothers and condemned to stultifying, soul-killing, and unproductive household economy.

If women do not want to have children, bourgeois laws and a hypocritical morality, reflecting the discriminatory economic and social conditions, impose all kinds of barriers for them.

Of course, women of the affluent, upper middle class suffer no financial embarrassment or disability in obtaining advice for contraception or abortion facilities.

It is the millions of working women who, because of their inferior social status and ignorance cannot afford costly advice on contraception nor avail of the present meagre National Health Service facilities. Because of these circumstances the working women are driven to bankruptcy to obtain an abortion and suffer the hazards of unhygienic back-street, delayed operations. The attempt to avoid the social 'stigma' of unmarried motherhood and the dread of failure to maintain the expected child, drives women to desperation and mental torture.

Despite the advance in the reformed law, out of the estimated 100,000 abortions performed in the first 12 months of the new law's operation, 60,000 women were forced to illegal abortions, while only 40,000 were able to take advantage of the N.H.S. or pay for the services of private clinics.

The reform of the abortion law in capitalist Britain has opened up the floodgates for profiteering sharks to get rich quick at the expense of women from the continent and U.S.A.

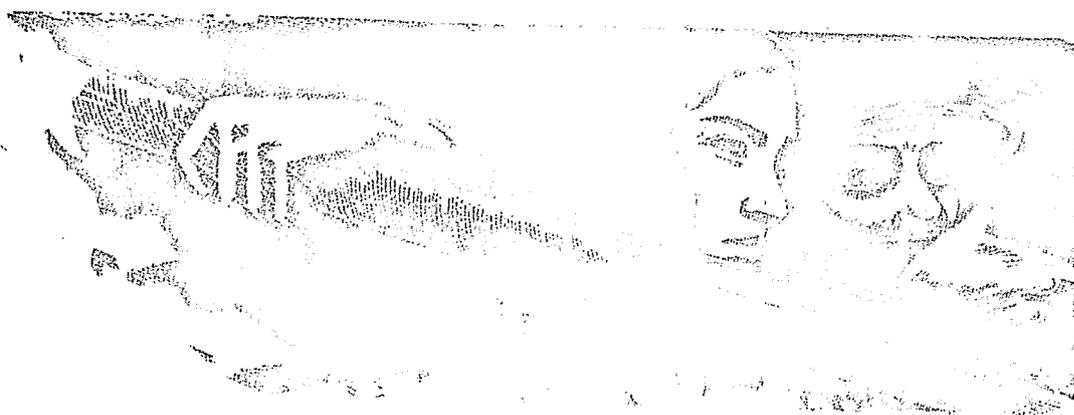
While the present law grants legal equality, in practice, like other laws under bourgeois democracy, it denies their actual enjoyment by the working class women. Of the 555 consultants in England and Wales, only 436 are available full-time to supervise the abortion operation. Many of these surgeons are 'conscientious objectors.' The condition of approval by two doctors, with an anti-working class bias, actually restricts facilities for working women who are forced to seek an abortion for social or economic reasons. While medical advice is necessary for health reasons, middle-class doctors are the last persons to pronounce upon the social needs of working class women.

It would be an illusion to talk of any 'control over ones own body' or any other liberty as long as bourgeois society keeps women in domestic slavery and under male economic and sexual domination. Only the small minority of the privileged 'upper' class women or the petit bourgeois selfish egoists, are concerned with enjoying their own bodies regardless of any social responsibility. They couldn't care less about the misery of the exploited working women.

It is to end the oppression of millions of working women and to relieve them of their household bondage that we demand:

- 1) Free advice and contraceptive facilities
- 2) readily available abortion on the National Health Service
- 3) Special clinics for women
- 4) Sex education campaign at places of work, educational institutions, in the community and through the mass media
- 5) For those women who want children, provision of nurseries and child-care facilities at places of work, educational institutions and in the community, at the expense of the authorities.

Women's organisations must build a mass movement, involving millions of women and win the support of progressive individuals and organisations to realise these demands.



TEACHERS & LEADERS OF THE WORLD PROLETARIAT & OPPRESSED PEOPLE HAVE SAID ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION:

F. ENGELS

"To emancipate woman and make her the equal of man is and remains an impossibility so long as the woman is shut out from social productive labour and restricted to private, domestic labour. The emancipation of woman will only be possible when woman can take part in production on a large, social scale, and domestic work no longer claims anything but an insignificant amount of her time."

V.I. LENIN

"The struggles for our demands for women must be bound up with the object of seizing power, of establishing the proletarian dictatorship. But the women of the working class will not feel irresistibly driven into sharing our struggles for the state power if we only and always put forward that one demand, though it were with the trumpets of Jericho. The women must be made conscious of the political connection between our demands and their own suffering, needs and wishes. They must realise what the proletarian dictatorship means for them: complete equality with man in law and practice, in the family, in the state, in society; an end to the power of the bourgeoisie."

"Where capitalism and private ownership of land, factories and shops exist, where capital is in power, men are the privileged."

MAO TSETUNG

"Genuine equality between the sexes can only be realised in the process of the socialist transformation of society as a whole."

Issued by: WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT, 58 Lisburne Road, London, NW3. Telephone

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