

P.S. Peggy Somers + Gisela Koch might go. We decided to prepare a statement of why we're not there. Literatures they should and attach to. Also if people speak they should make it clear that you speak as an individual + make proper remarks with why our organization is not there.

FB, catella, 50

Please distribute to all members of your group!

To all members in the network,

Since the newsletter did not make it clear that the N.Y. Collective has taken the liberty on behalf of the entire network to refuse

to participate in the Soc. Fem. Conference in July, I will lay out to you why we arrived at this decision (which affects us all). ^{And is a decision we are all bound to!!}

I wrote a long detailed letter after the Montreal conference explaining our perspective and saying that we would run 10 workshops. I then received a conference mailing which relegated us to the area of "Special Interest Workshops" with groups like women and radio, women and therapy, etc,

Their Strategic Workshops are broken into Community Organizing, Workplace Organizing, and Building a Soc. Fem. Movement. As if the three could be separated... However we were never considered for presentations in any of these.

Then I got a letter from them stating that we could run a series in special interest workshops. They also asked me to ~~get~~ get Mariarosa Dalla Costa to talk on the theory panel. Then I got a phone call saying that they didn't want Rosa since she's European (as if Capital isn't international). They decided they wanted to find an American. So I said you want us then to send someone else who represents W.F.H. for the theory panel? NO. Why? Well they weren't aware how tied into W.F.H. Rosa was and by just reading the Power of Woment and the subversion of the Community-9 (which really needs to be revised) they liked her theory but she doesn't state W.F.H. there and they didn't assume she was now stating it but when they found out that she was one of our group, they didn't want her to speak. They said they like the theory but not the strategy of demanding a wage. They could see talking about socializing some of that work. So in other words they made a political decision about us. They asked Barbara Ehrenreich to speak and were looking for a 3rd world woman and a lesbian (who knows what politics they have to have..probably none)

So our group discussed all this and insisted first to have our name taken off their conference materials immediately, because we don't want to be viewed in this way and we never agreed to this. We felt it was political slander to put us ~~with~~ with radio and therapy. Next we talked about having an autonomous presence at the conference and being represented and viewed in a way that pleased us -not just to fit in-This was obviously not possible. Also their categories of workplace vs. community is just the split that Capital and the Left promote which our perspective speaks against. So we couldn't fit into their categories without misrepresenting our perspective.

So we decided that it would be political suicide to go there. Any woman we could turn on would not be reached in an environment that had already made a political decision to view us in the way they had. We would end up probably fighting left women just like we did at the public meeting in Montreal or at other meetings we've been at with left women. We figured to spend our time and so much of our money, when we have a conference in the Fall and a conference this summer in Europe, ~~not to go!~~ **NOT to go!**

I called them back and told them we would not participate as an organization and I told them why. I said individual women might attend but not the organization and to take us off the mailing. I hope this explains all the details.

Janice for the N.Y.C. Collective