Bangladesh Women's Association in Great Britain

BLACK WOMEN for WAGES for HOUSEWORK (BRITAIN)

Union of Turkish Women in Britain UTWB

FD, contelle 1, 20

CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL - MOTHER'S DAY MEETING . . HOUSE OF COMMONS . . 6TH MARCH

From April 5th, the child tax allowance will be phased out; and most mothers will get a rise in Child Benefit. But immigrants from Africa, Asia, Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal, Turkey and the West Indies whose children are not in this country will not be eligible for any Child Benefit. Unlike every other taxpayer, we will lose the child tax allowance and Child Benefit as well. WE WILL BE CHARGED £70m. FOR BEING DEPRIVED OF OUR CHILDREN.

The 5th of March is Mother's Day. Mothers are given a card and some daffodils for all the unpaid housework (recently valued at £115 a week) we do every day of the year. We women are working for Britain not only in Britain and not only when we go out to paid jobs here. We have always worked for Britain in the Third World where we produced first, wealth and workers for the British Empire, and now wealth and workers for Britain. We are tired of making sacrifices while as Black and Third World women we are robbed of the benefits we've paid for many times over. We are tired of seeing that once again it is mothers and children who have to foot the bill, who are put last, that again it is parents and children from the Third World who pay the most.

WE HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 6TH MARCH, THE FIRST MONDAY AFTER MOTHER'S DAY AND TWO DAYS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, at 7 p.m. IN ROOM 10. Women - immigrant and native, of all races - will speak about our lives and how this new discrimination will affect all immigrants and all women.

In the debate on race and sex discrimination, Black and immigrant women are almost never mentioned. All immigrants are not men, and all women are not native and white. Yet this is the impression that is given when Black and immigrant women remain invisible. We refuse to be invisible any longer. That is why immigrant women are taking the lead in demanding what is ours - the benefits that all other taxpayers receive, the money to have and to raise the children we want, wherever they happen to live.

We are asking your organisation to attend and/or sponsor this event demanding CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL, and that it endorse the enclosed resolution which will be given to the Prime Minister. Knowing that Black and immigrant women are the poorest, you will appreciate also that we need your financial contribution for this campaign.

It is not enough to condemn racism and sexism. We must all refuse this proposal which is aimed at keeping us poor, divided, dependent and on the defensive.

Yours very sincerely,

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