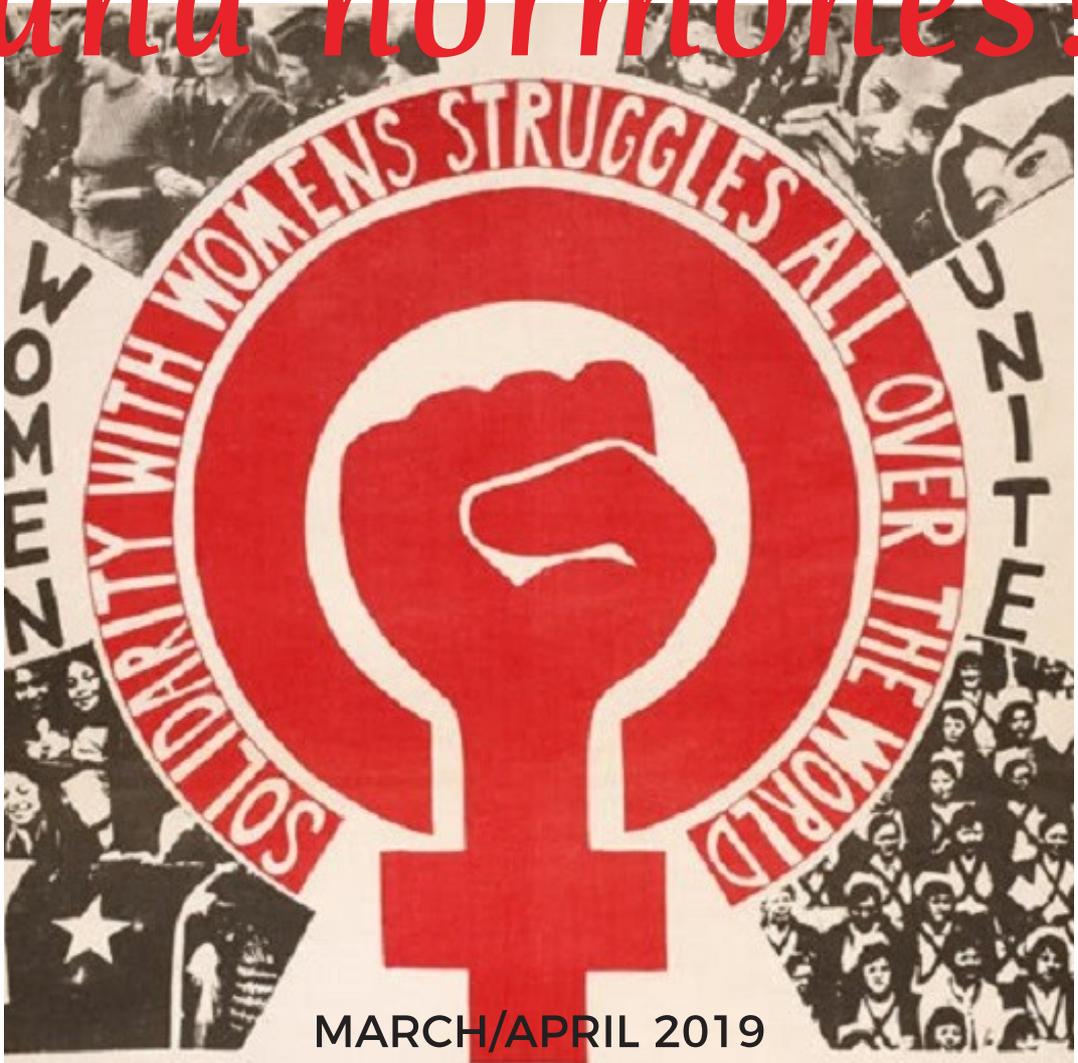


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

bread, roses and hormones!



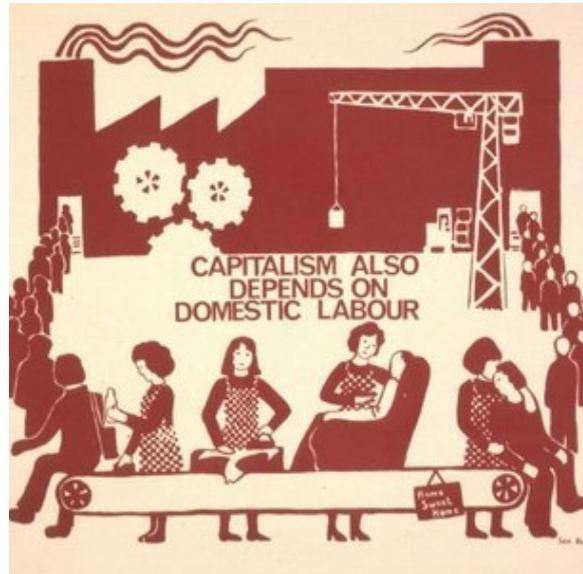
MARCH/APRIL 2019

WHAT IS REPRODUCTIVE LABOUR?

VIOLETTA MACRÌ

Reproductive labour is a central concept to Bread, Roses and Hormones' analysis of what it means to be a woman in capitalist society, both trans and cis. But what is it? It is how capitalism sorts people into two genders based on the labour they perform. The concept of reproductive labour gives working class women a framework to analyze our oppression based on our actual lives, rather than on abstract biological, psychological or academic views. It gives us something, and someone, to fight, and gives us concrete steps towards liberation for all genders.

Labour can be divided into two categories: productive and reproductive. Productive labour is all the work that makes your boss money. You go to work and produce something which is sold. Reproductive labour on the other hand, is all the work done outside of production that makes life possible. Cooking, cleaning, giving birth to and raising children, and the emotional and sexual gratification of men. This work is both the work of daily life as well as work that makes it possible for people to engage in productive labour. Men go to work, are exploited by their boss and are broken down emotionally and spiritually. Then they go home and exploit their wives, partners, and friends to build themselves back up. How many stories have we all heard of men not knowing how to do their laundry, cook for themselves, or even get us off? This is because historically women were forced to carry out this work in order to reproduce the nuclear family, where a man and a woman raise some kids isolated from other



families that are also engaging in the same struggles. The separation of each family creates a situation where they consume more, which makes more money for the rich that control our access to resources. Reproductive labour benefits men and the rich because it makes their workers work harder, and costs them nothing because women are not paid for the reproductive labour they perform everyday.

Working class women are exploited at work and at home. We go to work, then come home and have to do the reproductive labour that is expected of us for ourselves and for others. This leads to women having to work twice as much as non women; one shift out of the home and one inside. However, reproductive labour is not confined to the home and the nuclear family. The same dynamic plays out in personal relationships, where women are often looked to for emotional support. People expect us to do this work because patriarchy trains us from

childhood that women do this work because it's naturally what we want to do. They say we're just slaves to our biological urges, but this labour is imposed on us for the benefit of the rich. Rich women have already escaped by having maids, overwhelmingly women of colour, do this labour for them.

What makes a woman is not her genitals, but the fact we are forced to do reproductive labour. Trans women are women because we are made to do this labour, sometimes to a greater degree than cis women so that we can prove our womanhood or face a significant degree of violence. The gender binary in capitalism only exists to oppress women and feminine gender non-conforming people, and make us perform free labour to benefit the rich. To free ourselves we need to fight capitalism!

THIS IS OUR FIGHT TO! TRANS WOMEN AND SEX WORKERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY AGAINST MAYOR HURLEY, LANDLORDS, AND DEVELOPERS IN BURNABY

LAINÉY CALCANO

On Saturday April 6th, 2019 Stop Demovictions Burnaby called a rally in the Metrotown area on unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations land, Coast Salish Territory, also known as Burnaby, British Columbia in solidarity with the International Day Against Evictions called by German group Mietenwahnsinn. Below is a transcription of a speech given by Bread, Roses and Hormones organizer Lainey.

My name is Lainey and I am speaking on behalf of myself as a trans woman and as a sex worker as well as an organizer in Alliance Against Displacement Bread, Roses and Hormones campaign. I am grateful to be speaking and welcomed here. I am here in support of Stop Demovictions Burnaby and am going to talk about how transmisogyny and the stigmatization of sex work are connected to higher rates of eviction.

Being trans is often the basis for eviction. Although we're protected under the

provincial residential tenancy act as well as federal anti-discrimination legislation, many trans women and sex workers are homeless or live in precarious housing arrangements. It is also hard for trans people to find safe housing, as many renters would prefer to rent to cis people, and/or see us as more likely to be violent and cause problems. Yet in actuality, there is a disproportionate amount of violence enacted against trans people in home environments, in so-called "queer-friendly housing" we are welcomed into whether it be institutional or "within community."

When trans women do get evicted, we have the options of going to men's shelters, where we're often subject to violence. When we are allowed into women's shelters, we are routinely labeled as predators and verbally abused by staff and our fellow shelter goers. As homeless women, we're forced to choose between pretending we're men or sleeping on the street in isolation.



Being a sex worker also places people at a high risk of eviction. Sex workers are often forced to hide the fact that they do sex work and are unable to work from home. Doing outcalls (meeting a client at a location of their choosing), house calls, or working outdoors makes us more vulnerable as a demographic that is already often the target of physical and sexual violence. In instances like these, we can't rely on police to protect us. To make our work safer we are often calling on other sex workers, and in some cases, other trans women for protection.

Trans women, queer people, and sex workers are often disconnected from the larger working class struggle against eviction and exploitation from landlords either because we are rejected by fellow working class people or because we have sunken too far into our niche communities. On international Day of Solidarity Against Evictions, Bread, Roses and Hormones stands beside all displaced and dispossessed people and hopes to see renters worldwide see how eviction is a magnified problem for trans people and sex workers. Your fight in metrotown is our fight as well!



CONTACT US:

Bread, Roses, and Hormones is a campaign of the revolutionary anti-colonial and anti-capitalist political organization Alliance Against Displacement coordinated by working class trans people in the lower mainland.

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Bread, Roses and Hormones organizes on unceded Coast Salish Territories.