

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

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A picket to protest police brutality and harassment of the Black, gay and immigrant communities in Britain and here at home will be held April 26 at 12:15pm outside the British Consulate General, 3701 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. This picket will call attention to the case of the Bradford 12 in Britain and will protest the attack on Delois Young and murder of her unborn child by the Sheriff's Department here in Southern California.

The case in Britain involves 12 Asian youths from the Black community of Bradford (the Bradford 12) who were arrested following the series of 1981 "riots" that occurred throughout England and Wales. The young men were brutalized by the police, and their families and friends have been harassed by authorities. Their trial on charges of "conspiracy" begins today.

"Conspiracy" trials are not new to us in the United States. They have been used consistently against Black communities and others involved in organizing. Those arrested in the Bradford case were involved in community organizing, successfully defending Black and Asian people against deportation and police harassment. Black Women for Wages for Housework labels the conspiracy charges "a blatant attempt by the British government to undermine the power of the Black community, not only in Bradford but throughout the country."

As women, especially those of us who are Black, lesbian or prostitutes, we are too familiar with police harassment and racism within the police force. Citing the case of Delois Young, the young Black woman whose shooting by sheriff's deputies killed her unborn child, Margaret Prescod-Roberts says, "It's an outrage that this woman lies in intensive care and her child is murdered while the sheriff's deputies are free without bail and are merely suspended with pay."

Ms. Prescod-Roberts continues, "We, like the Black and immigrant communities in Britain, face the same value judgment by the police about who is worthy of protection and who is not. And like the community of Bradford, we are organizing to protest this vicious treatment by the police."

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Member Organizations: Black Women for Wages for Housework
Wages Due Lesbians
U.S. Prostitutes Collective
New York Prostitutes Collective