

# Bread and Roses

James Oppenheim

As we come marching marching in the beauty of the day  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts grey  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us crying "Bread and Roses! Bread and Roses!"

As we come marching marching we battle too for men  
For they are women's comrades and we fight as one with them  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes  
Hearts starve as well as bodies. Give us bread but give us roses.

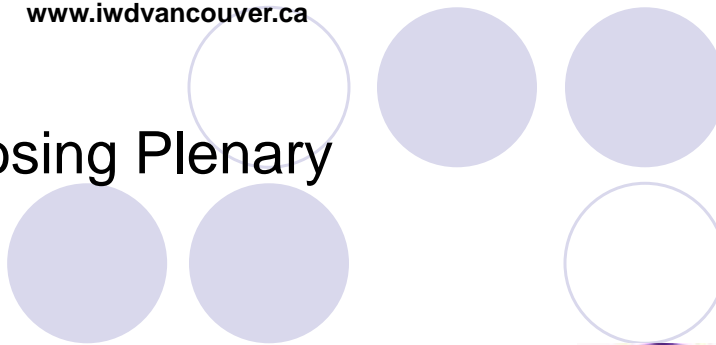
As we come marching marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient cry for bread  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew  
Yes it is our bread we fight for but we fight for roses too.

As we come marching marching, we're standing proud and tall  
The rising of the women means the rising of us all.  
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes  
But a sharing of life's glories, Bread and Roses! Bread and Roses!



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## Closing Plenary



# Access to Justice

## Action:

Access to Justice is an issue that is not being effectively publicized. As a result, people are unaware of the critical lack of legal services and representation available to women in BC. We need to raise awareness within our own communities through local organizations as well as established legal groups and movements. Garnering public support will help pressure both the BC and federal government to take action on this issue and increase Access to Justice for all Canadians. Visit [www.accesstojustice.ca](http://www.accesstojustice.ca) and become educated on this issue as the first step!

Organize as a community to further elaborate on these issues, encourage discussion, and raise awareness. Join existing groups and organizations that are already fighting for access to justice (e.g. the Coalition for Public Legal Services).

We would also like to see publicity on all the discussions and recommendations done today in order to increase awareness.



# Access to Justice

## Recommendation:

We recommend that the federal government implement a nationwide guideline for the provision of legal services and representation. All Canadians should be able to access justice just like they should be able to access healthcare services.

Of the funds provided to the provinces on behalf of the federal government, a minimum amount should be allocated for legal services and representation. The provinces need to be accountable to the federal government in order to ensure the funds are spent on programs that increase Access to Justice. Furthermore, funds should be allocated to groups and organizations that focus their efforts on supporting women's legal services and representation.

The funds for these recommendations do exist; they have just not been allocated appropriately.

# Access to Justice

## Recommendation:

The federal government needs to commit to international treaties (such as CEDAW and Human Rights treaties) as well as act on them. This translates into access to justice issues, housing issues, aboriginal rights issues, poverty issues, child poverty issues, women's rights and equality, and many others.

This commitment needs to translate into tangible resources for legal representation and services such as legal aid. Although the funds will be administered by the provinces, the federal government must ensure that a minimum amount of funds is spent by each province on legal services and representation.

# Climate Change and Food Security

## Action:

Reduce your carbon footprint and buy local products.

Meet with your MP to discuss political action on climate change.

Create awareness of issues surrounding women's rights, climate change and food security through workshops and conferences that create the link between these issues.



# Climate Change and Food Security

## Recommendation:

The federal government should contribute its fair share and support adaptation funding for people dealing with the effects of climate change and food security. The government should also support civil society organizations that have a gender and equality perspective and are dealing with food security as related to climate change.

Encourage governments to create legislation that opposes foreign ownership of land and regulates land use. Also encourage the Canadian government to take a leadership role on this issue.



# Economy

## Action:

Educate and promote economic literacy through a gender lens.

## Recommendation:

The federal government must restructure the tax base to pay for social services in order to improve the economic position of women and families. Publicly funded programs need to ensure women's participation in the economy and promote the end goal of gender equality.

The federal government must implement a national family policy which would include the provision of childcare, parental leave, elder care, and EI payments based on a living wage.

This is based on a more inclusive definition of family.

Internationally, we must take responsibility for the trade relations we have with other countries and their domestic treatment of women and respect for human rights.



# Education

## Action:

Connect with our MPs either personally or by letter to voice our concerns about the vulnerability of education in our society

Lobby our elected officials to make education a priority either by letter writing or speaking to them personally

## Recommendation:

All levels of government must keep education high on the political agenda and enact long-term, sustainable, and fully-funded plans that address education for all.

Education as a tool for active citizenship should be a priority for all levels of government



# Femicide

## Action:

Train people working within the justice system and monitor the effectiveness of a program of gender analysis and relations with First Nations.

Start using the word "femicide" to raise awareness. Talk about it as a systematic and broader cultural issue rather than as "missing women" which sounds like individual cases. Acknowledgement is the first step to dealing with it.



# Femicide

## Recommendation:

That the justice sector institutionalize gender analysis policy and procedure and then train people working within the justice system to utilize gender analysis. Nationally this gender analysis has to include the historical realities and current situation for First Nations people.

We want governments at the G8/G20 to maintain funding for international aid. We also call for federal and provincial government funding to promote economic and financial security, empowering women to deal with their own violence by giving them resources and raising awareness on how to access those resources. These resources should be utilized especially for integrating marginalized women, including immigrants and refugees.



# Healthcare

## Action:

At the local level, each person discuss the issue of public health care

Bring people's stories, particularly victims of health care cuts, to broader public awareness and provide the public with more information

## Recommendation:

Health care is a human right, an integral part of the social contract between citizens and their government. It should not be a commodity sold for profit but a public service supported by fair taxation and accessible to all.

Urge the health minister to defend healthcare funding in a firmer manner, especially issues concerning women's health



# Housing

## Action:

A collective action of coming together to demonstrate our anger and the solutions we want to see

Shame the government into action through the media, social media, and local organizations, including NGO's.



# Housing

## Recommendation:

Get rid of the barriers to social housing. This can be done by building more social housing, not destroying housing that exists, and getting rid of the barriers to access B.C. housing. These solutions must consider the needs of single women as well as those of women with families. This is a complex issue that needs to consider also the other services that must be in place to support these women.

Direct all governments at the G8/G20 to fulfill their responsibility to provide adequate housing to their citizens and strike a national housing plan. Furthermore, we need to highlight the fact that Canada is alone among developed nations in not having a comprehensive national housing program.



# Indigenous People

## Action:

Organize workshops funded by the Canadian government and indigenous nations so all indigenous nations and societies fully understand what the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples means. Integrate workshops into schools and programs for new residents of this country.

Send a delegation to the G8 Summit. Organize a massive event in Vancouver to correlate with the G8 summit. Utilize social networks, workshops, and forums to promote the event and journey.



# Indigenous People

## Recommendation:

That Canada adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that it apply to all indigenous nations in Canada, and that the government act upon all of its recommendations.

Recognize and honour indigenous rights to land, sea and resources. Settle land claims and take action on justice for the missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Follow protocol for each nation that the government holds office. In the meantime, provide equalization funding to native communities and schools.



# Labour Rights

## Action:

Demand rights for domestic workers, caregivers and temporary workers coming to Canada.

Open the doors to women working in trades and training.

## Recommendation:

That domestic workers and caregivers be able to enter Canada as immigrants, eliminating the temporary arrangements that exploit labour.

Restore and increase government funding to support immigrant women to integrate and secure employment.

Recognize foreign credentials once they are in Canada.



# Leadership and Decision Making

## Action:

The women at the table commit to working within their organizations and communities towards gender equality – because it is self evident that strong female leaders come from developed labour and community initiatives.



# Leadership and Decision Making

## Recommendation:

There must be a push towards recognizing the “silent opposition” that exists which is working against women and their involvement in leadership and decision-making.

We must have government cooperation to acquire resources to help develop relevant skills among young women for practical application in communal, political, economic and social arenas.

Start initiatives at all levels of early childhood education to understand cultural sensitivities and the importance of empowerment and encouragement; provide self-perpetuating support through mentorship.

Leverage the unique characteristics of feminine energy globally to redraw the picture of what it is to be a powerful female leader.



# Media

## Action:

Collaborative work between non-profit organizations and media organizations that support strengthening women's role in the media

Collaborative partnership with mainstream media for dynamic, multi-level interaction

Education and training people of all ages for accessibility through alternative tools and social media

## Recommendation:

Policies for long-term funding for organizations that provide women with tools that increase their access to the media (technology, training, etc.)

Long-term federal funding for community-based media programs such as education and training, mentorship programs



# Peace, Women and Militarism

## Action:

Lobby MLAs for mandatory peace education including sexuality education-- not just sex ed-- social/emotional learning, conflict resolution, and the true effects of war.

Lobby MPs and MLAs to abolish military recruitment in schools and universities

## Recommendation:

Demand that all military ads and promotions refrain from using women and children receiving help/protection as the rationale for militarism and war.

Advocate for sensitivity training for soldiers regarding women and/or racism.



# Poverty and Income

## Action:

Research and then educate the activists within our networks on the importance of a guaranteed liveable income to ensure gender equality.

Implement policy alternatives focused on community building and person-to-person power such as job sharing, dropping rental rates, community gardens, free stores, pressuring people to transform their jobs from the problem to the solution, and taking control over the corporations within our communities.



# Poverty and Income

## Recommendation:

We recommend that Canada adopt a **Guaranteed Liveable Income Program** that ensures no individual spends more than 50% of his/her income on housing, food, clothing and child care.

We recommend that the government implement a national housing strategy that guarantees safe, affordable, sustainable housing for all, with a priority focus on integrated communities and gender-based analysis.



# Violence Against Women

## Action:

Shift societal attitudes of violence against women. This includes men taking responsibility. There should be increased public awareness and continued outreach and education to men, women, and children.

Address men and women's portrayal in the media. Create new role models for men and women in the media. Use media to challenge portrayals of men and women.



# Violence Against Women

## Recommendation:

That international, national, provincial, and municipal governments commit to the issue of violence against women and make it a priority. That funding and resource commitments meet the needs of women as represented by the epidemic numbers of women experiencing violence. That these resources be for direct services, education and outreach. That this education and outreach be for men, women, and children about non-violence, respect, and how to resolve conflict without using violence. That resources be allocated to support women living with violence and leaving abusive relationships.

Challenge the economic system that oppresses women in Canada and advocate for an economic system that addresses women's issues such as day care, housing, and income. Promote economic independence for women. Advocate for support services and employment and education opportunities for women.

Society in general must recognize the issue of violence against women and it must be exposed in and through media.



# Women in Solidarity

## Action:

Raise awareness about the issues of women's rights at home and abroad.

Engage in discussions with friends, family and co-workers to educate, support and empower each other on women's issues.

## Recommendation:

Canada should lead by example by supporting women's rights at home by adhering to CEDAW recommendation, and abroad through international aid and political will.

The Canadian government should further support women's organizations, both abroad and at home. Women's organizations need to be included in the decision-making process at all levels so that women's needs around the world are adequately addressed.

