

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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# Anita Hill: Yes! Bush/Thomas: No!

*Truth* urges all working class women, working class men, and oppressed peoples of all races and nationalities to support Anita Hill and her charges against Bush, Thomas, and their supporters.

Why?

1. Anyone who has carefully watched Anita Hill on television, heard her statements on the radio, or studied her statements in the press, can see that she is telling the truth.

Now another woman who worked for Thomas — Angela Wright — has come forward and said that, based on her experience with Thomas, he is totally capable of the kind of sexist, abusive behavior that Anita Hill described. On the other hand, Bush and his puppets — and Thomas is nothing but Bush's puppet — have a history of lying to the people (the Watergate scandal, the Iran-Contra scandal, the Savings and Loan scandal, the dishonest motivations for the war on Iraq ...). They say that Anita Hill has been paid-off, or that she is suffering from delusions, but they offer no substantial evidence that she is this kind of person. They try to defend Thomas by saying that because he worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission all those years that he is incapable of engaging in sexist, abusive acts. But this is precisely the kind of person that Reagan and Bush selected — people capable of saying one thing and doing another; people capable of looking you in the face, lying, and not blinking an eye. Reagan and Bush, with their Hollywood training and their CIA training, are masters. Thomas is still an apprentice; when he speaks to the public, he says as little as possible; it's obvious he is hiding something.

2. Supporting Anita Hill and her charges against Bush/Thomas will strengthen the struggle of working class women, of all oppressed women, and of the men who support them, against the sexist oppression of women.

The sexist oppression of working class women and of women of other classes takes many different forms: worse pay, worse jobs, worse educational opportunities, worse medical care, denial of the right to abortion, the burden of housework and



child-rearing, verbal abuse, visual abuse, physical abuse, etc., etc. The sexist oppression of working class women undermines the strength and unity of the working class and the strength and unity of oppressed peoples. Because of the position of working class women, at the bottom of the working class, many working class women can see the truth about this society much better than working class men can. They can see that this society has little or nothing to offer. They can see that the only women in this society who have much real free time are young women with no children from rich families or incredibly rich women with all sorts of appliances and/or servants. They can see that a total revolution is necessary to create the material conditions in which women could be truly free. But the very same oppression of women hinders women from admitting the truth to themselves, speaking the truth to others, and playing a leading role in the struggle. This undermines the strength and unity of the working class.

One of the most insidious forms of the oppression of women is what is known as "sexual harassment." As many women have pointed out, "sexual harassment," whether it comes from the boss, or from fellow workers, has nothing to do with sex. It has everything to do with trying to use one's position, as a boss, or as a man, to try to embarrass a woman, to try to make her feel uncomfortable, to try to make her suffer, in

short, to keep her in her place. Day in and day out, working class women, and other oppressed women, are forced to use their energy to deal with this abuse.

Bourgeois publications try to portray this question as a complicated question, something that is easy for women to understand but very difficult for men to understand. This is a rotten lie. Every working class woman, every oppressed woman, and every man who is connected with them, and cares about them, in any way, knows the difference between communication from a man to a woman with a sexual aspect to it that is based in genuine respect and affection, and communication from a man to a woman that may be cloaked with "sex," but which is essentially hostile and aimed at hurting her. The only men who find this question so complicated, so exasperating, are rich white men who are not connected to women and don't care about them, and the backward souls in the middle and working classes who ape them. The more this question comes out in the open, the better it will be for working class women, working class men, and oppressed women and men of all races and nationalities. The more energy we will have to fight the exploiters and oppressors. The more unified we will be in the struggle.

3. Working class women, working class men, and all oppressed women and men need to support Anita Hill and her charges against Bush/Thomas because they cannot rely on the Republican Party or the Democratic Party to lead this fight.

Both of these parties are totally owned and controlled by incredibly rich, sexist, racist, anti-working class men. They have all done far more to hurt people than Clarence Thomas has ever done. If any one of them claims to be for Anita Hill and against Bush/Thomas today, it is only to try to cover himself. The executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch of government are all chock full of immoral hypocrites. Working people need to support any and every struggle against them. We need to unify these struggles into a single movement for a workers party and workers candidates. When working women and working men of all races and nationalities are unified, they will have the power to resolve all the problems before them. They will have the power to lead a revolution in which they will take back everything that they have developed and produced. Working class women and working class men will work shoulder-to-shoulder, as equals, to build a truly socialist society in which they will be free. ■

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# The general strike of women in Switzerland

We are reprinting an article from our tendency's publication in Spain, *La Aurora*. The general strike of women mentioned took place last Spring.

Last month in Switzerland, there was a general strike of women against discrimination at work and for equal rights.

In spite of the threats of the employers to make the strike illegal, in spite of the non-participation of the immigrants because of their precarious situation in the country, the strike was backed up by half of all the women.

## Equality and capitalism

In a rich country like Switzerland, the women have brought to light, the limits that formal legal equality, recognized in laws and constitutions, have in capitalism. Ten years ago a law was passed recognizing equality on paper. It was for this reason that the women chose this day to struggle for it. They demonstrated that we women can and must win equal rights under capitalism, but that capitalism will continue to deny to us real equality.

Even under a very correct slogan, like "equal pay for equal work," discrimination can be hidden. Because we women are the army that nurtures the submerged economy, the temporary work, the domestic service, the work at home, cleaning, small businesses, the worst-paid manual labor. In short, in the sectors and places of work where the majority are women, the pay is much less. Because women are in these sectors? Because capitalism uses the difficulty that we women have to acquire a profession and to maintain a stable job, because it leaves to us the education of the children and the care of the home, in order to keep us in positions that are badly paid, without a future, with fewer unions, etc.

For example, in our country, the CCOO (trade union federation) plans to win women. It is difficult to win them while the union does not raise equality in all the contracts in the sector, while it accepts temporary employment. It can be said that the biggest equality at work that we can achieve within capitalism will be when there is the biggest equality in wages and conditions of work among all the workers.

## Real equality

Even equal wages does not mean real equality.

After work women have to look after a second form of work, the home, which is not paid. Capitalism does not take up as social work the care of the workers of their children and their homes. This leaves it to the women. The capitalists take advantage of the fact that this part of the socially necessary work is realized in the house and freely on the part of the women of the workers.

Only socialism can suppress the domestic economy and reduce to a minimum work realized in homes. Socializing the greater part of it, creating big laundries, public eating places, childcare centers, homes, etc. This is what will permit the women to break the chains that tie her to casseroles, and liberate her abilities, which she will be able to use in learning and working on an equal footing with men.

Socialism will create the conditions, collectivizing all production, and replacing primitive domestic tools with modern tools. But even then a struggle on the part of women will be necessary.

Political equality in capitalism is also a fraud. The double work that women do is the reason that women with equal rights cannot use them to an extent equal to men. For this reason women are much less unionized than men; they participate in politics much less than men. And this will not be resolved until the abolition of capitalism.

## Conclusion

Perhaps one might get the idea that we want to demonstrate that it is not worth the trouble to

# Equality for women and socialism

*For women to be free from oppression of all types it is necessary to have socialism. Socialism means that the working class people own all the wealth of society — all the businesses, the banks, the factories and shops — and use it to satisfy all the needs of the working class people and oppressed peoples.*

*For working class women, this means that: they can be freed from housework by making public all of this work: public laundries, public childcare, public dining places; and that women can be economically independent of men by working in the society with good-paying jobs equal to those of men.*

*For this reason, the fighters for socialism in the United States and around the world have always been the best, and most consistent fighters for social and economic, as well as legal, equality for women.*

*Below we are reprinting a few paragraphs from Lenin, one of the most famous fighters for socialism, on the struggle for equality for women and socialism.*

*From two selections by Lenin on International Working Women's Day*

... You cannot draw the masses into politics without drawing the women into politics as well. For the female half of the human race is doubly oppressed under capitalism. The working woman and the peasant woman are oppressed by capital, but over and above that, even in the most democratic of the bourgeois republics, they remain, firstly, deprived of some rights because the law does not give them equality with men;

struggle for equal rights. On the contrary, when we women win a right, even if it is on paper, it raises the need to acquire it completely. As the Swiss women did by calling a strike against discrimination on the tenth anniversary of the legal recognition of their right to equality. This struggle leads them to see the limits of capitalism and to prepare the thinking and the conditions to struggle for socialism.

Encarnita  
Revolutionary Workers Party of Spain ■

and secondly — and this is the main thing — they remain in 'household bondage', they continue to be 'household slaves,' for they are overburdened with the drudgery of the most squalid and back-breaking and stultifying toil in the kitchen and the individual family household.

Capitalism combines formal equality with economic and consequently, social, inequality.

... But even in the matter of formal equality (equality before the law, the 'equality' of the well-fed and the hungry man, of the man of property and the propertyless), capitalism cannot be consistent. And one of the most glaring manifestations of this inconsistency is the inequality of women and men.

... the first step in the liberation of women [is] no trace ... of any inequality between men and women under the law.

The second and most important step is the abolition of the private ownership of land and the factories. This and this alone opens up the way towards a complete and actual emancipation of woman, her liberation from 'household slavery' through this transition from petty individual housekeeping to a large-scale socialized domestic services.

This transition is a difficult one, because it involves the remolding of the most deep-rooted, inveterate, hidebound and rigid 'order' (inequity and barbarity, would be nearer the truth).

The struggle will be a long one, and it demands a radical reconstruction both of social technique and of morals. But it will end in the complete triumph of communism. ■

## Briefly . . .

### Labor Party Advocates organizing meeting

Since organizing the public forum at which Tony Maz-zocchi, secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), spoke, Labor Party Advocates held its first meeting October 8 at UAW Local 600. It was attended by 25 people from various unions, UAW locals, and socialist organizations around Detroit.

The workers, local union officers and militants present spent most of the time discussing how to build Labor Party Advocates. Discussion was open and lively as all present expressed their conviction that now was the time for a labor party. Committees were established: to coordinate and plan meetings (a chairperson, secretary and treasurer), to set up meetings at supporters' houses, to make sure literature is available and to plan out how to get more people to join. Future activities and meetings of the committees are planned.

All those who support the idea of an independent party of the working class should participate. The fact that many socialists in Detroit do not support Labor Party Advocates is a sad commentary on the pervasive influence of the Democratic Party (in Michigan, the Democratic Party is the UAW bureaucracy) and Stalinism, in its death throes in Eastern Europe and the USSR, in these organizations.

The Workers World Party, supporter of the coup makers in the USSR, is against Labor Party Advocates. The Socialist Workers Party, developing its friendship with the Communist Party of North Korea, and which for years advocated a labor party, refuses to support Labor Party Advocates! The argument — that a labor party must come from the workers struggles, not from the bureaucrats, and since the workers aren't struggling there can't be a labor party — is false. The workers are struggling and this struggle has created Labor Party Advocates. This argument is a cover for their refusal to break their own material ties with the trade union bureaucracy, the left wing of the Democratic Party, and

Castro.

The struggle by Frederick Engels in the 1880's with the sectarians in the United States who opposed the Knights of Labor and their efforts at political independence; the struggle of Lenin with the early American Communist Party and its opposition to the fight for a Labor Party, the struggle by Leon Trotsky with the opposition to the Labor Party in the Socialist Workers Party (which was led by those who, within one year, became the Shachtmanites who broke with Trotskyism) — a study of these struggles will convince even the most stubborn, but honest militant that support to every effort at political independence, whatever its limitations, is essential, is necessary for working class political progress. Thus, support to Labor Party Advocates.

### Public trials of the coup-makers in the USSR!

The working people of the countries inside the Soviet Union, the Russian workers, the Ukrainian workers and peasants, and so on, are demanding a public trial of the Communist Party leaders who tried to impose a military dictatorship in August. The people want the public trial so that they know that these people are punished; so that they know that all those involved in the coup are punished, including, in the minds of many workers, Gorbachev. The bureaucracy must be destroyed if the workers are going to go forward with workers democracy and protect their standard of living.

We think that the demand for public trials is in the best interest of the struggle for freedom for the oppressed nationalities in the Soviet Union, in the best interest of working people around the world, in the best interest of socialism.

**Spark public meeting:** Worried about Recession, Sunday, October 27, 5 pm, Forest and Cass, Detroit.

**Truth:** We sold 44 copies of *Truth* No. 267 at Wayne County Community College, the Ford Rouge plant, the LPA meeting and in Detroit. Young people were interested in and enthusiastic about the fight for jobs, a workers party and workers candidates. ■

## TRUTH

Bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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