

# International Working Women's Day Speech

Laura June Rose, for Bread Roses & Hormones

My name is Laura June Rose and I am here speaking on behalf of Bread, Roses & Hormones, a trans liberationist group active on the (territories), known, colonially, as greater Vancouver and Nanaimo. We were asked to speak on economic struggle.

The violence that Indigenous women and communities face is genocidal, focused on the complete elimination of Indigenous nations and people. The end of this violence is wrapped up with the national assertions of Indigenous sovereignty and for that reason is larger than the scope of economic, or class struggle. For that reason, I will restrict my speech to the class struggle of working class women against patriarchy, which impacts us in a disciplinary way.

By disciplinary I mean that violence against women functions to organize working class people into different roles that benefit the capitalist.

As autonomist Marxist-feminist Mariarosa Dalla Costa claims: "the capitalist buys two workers for the price of one." He buys the wage-laborer and whoever cares for the laborer, making it possible for the worker to return to work day after day. But he does not pay a wage out to the person, who is usually a woman, that does the work of re-energizing the, usually male, wage-worker.

The way this works out on poor trans women is that when we fail to clean and care well enough and give our souls and bodies to the people we depend on economically, they cast us away into the streets where we are barred from many of the services that exist for non-trans women.

A Trans PULSE report released in Ontario in 2014 mentioned that on average trans people make less than 15,000\$ a year. This means we struggle to afford our hormones, psych meds, rent, food and other basic necessities on our own.

Part of the reason we are so poor and thus so dependent on others is that we can not get or maintain jobs because of discrimination and harassment. But even if we could get jobs and keep them that would not mean that rent is capped, healthcare is free and quality, or that the inflation of the price of goods will stop. And if definitely wont mean the suicide and killings will come to an end.

In other words the class struggle of trans women, like all women, includes but is larger than the struggle over the wage that is paid out to us by the boss man, the welfare man, or even our own man.

Our economic struggle includes the struggle for meaningful work but also universal trans care, universal housing, unrestricted access to proper nutrition and leisure time, and safety from misogynist violence.

These are things that can not and will not be won through refinements to the capitalist mode of production, adjustments in the leadership of the colonial administration, or by more sophisticated systems of redistribution. Our labor, our health, our homes, our safety, and our

lives can only be freed through a total social transformation led by the poor and suffering masses of women and trans people ourselves through institutions that belong to us: revolutionary organizations.

On this women's day, Bread, Roses & Hormones is proud to celebrate alongside other powerful women and looks forward to the day when we meet each other on March 8th not as colonized and proletarian women but as free and fully developed human beings in a sovereign and socialist world.

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