

capitalist production and that women had
Not only for better wages and conditions
Russian women of 1917 did, for peace, f

For many years now international women's
radical history and has instead been captured
– some call it ‘white feminism’, others call it
have been told to ‘celebrate’ being a worker
made, like ‘girl power’ and all that leaning
Over the last few decades we might have
a year at best, and women’s equality has
the gender pay gap and getting more women

But throughout these years there have always been
critical of this brand of feminism – we have
been distributed equally and that for feminism to
be anti-racist, anti-colonial, anti-capitalist
women, and that it must bring the uneven
working class women’s realities to the centre of
women’s work.

It’s worth repeating. Women have always done
much of the time) we don’t get paid for that
having sex, reading a bedtime story to a child,
mum’s birthday and then remembering to buy
activities have in common is that they are
reproductive.

Reproductive work – which can be either
(mostly women) do that makes and remains
intergenerationally. The gendered division of
who do this work in the home and when

violence, exploitation and expropriation. We reproduce people as labour power. We reproduce people as class subjects who are disciplined, educated, and told 'where their place' is, whether to be a manager, a professional, or someone else for less than the minimum.

But when we talk about reproduction it is about the radical potential of struggling with questions and choices that we make in how to conceive children, take care of our elderly, control our families and relationships are crucial in imagining emancipatory societal models which are free from oppression, capitalist exploitation and patriarchy.

When we bring this understanding of reproduction to the strike – which can be usefully understood in the current capitalist conditions of production – the current call for the women's strike is more visible: when we refuse to do domestic work (both paid and unpaid), the refusal to do the housework for a day or to care for children or the elderly, the very fact that we are not paid and those we love or are paid to care for cannot be refused. Under the current conditions of capitalist labour can only be redistributed either through a strike or to someone else in an unwaged capacity.

In bringing together a politics that confronts both productive and reproductive capacity we are not just talking about the women's strike with something else: we are talking about a politics of production but of reproduction. A politics of reproductive labour and our care work. A

valued at all. For this reason, the liberal
reached within capitalism. We have to co
labour, our services and our care to those
and profits. We strike to make our power

*Camille Barbagallo is a member of Plan
and researcher (not necessarily in that o
York.*

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