

Freedom Socialist Party & Radical Women
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Press Statement by Yolanda Alaniz, April 12, 2017

GENERAL STRIKE MAY 1st

My name is Yolanda Alaniz, with Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. Radical Women began in the late 1960s to build the leadership of women, especially women of color, in the social and political movements. Sexism was rampant in those days and women were often not encouraged to speak or take leadership. Rather they were assigned the cooking and typing. I joined Radical Women in 1974 and then the Freedom Socialist Party because those organizations believe, as I do, that there can be no political change in this world without women being out front and leading. There can be no socialist revolution without women's liberation and there can be no women's liberation without a socialist revolution. And, there can be no freedom from racism, xenophobia, homophobia and the exploitation of workers until there is a new democratic, centralized society run by those who do the work. A society that values human life and the well-being of this planet instead of profits for the capitalist ruling class.

It has been women throughout history who have always been the most militant of any struggle. Black and white women united to fight against slavery, and for the right of women to vote. Women, LGBTQ people, and immigrants in the labor movement have brought in a more militant and urgent agenda. Black Trans women started the Stonewall Rebellion. Black women were the backbone of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party, and Latinas were the strength of La Raza Unida Party.

The women and men immigrants in the 1880s were working 16 to 18 hour days in the U.S.A. There was no free education for poor immigrant kids. The struggle to have unions, labor laws, an end to child labor, and to receive paid vacation and sick leave happened because workers sacrificed their lives. May Day is recognition of the Chicago Haymarket Martyrs who agitated for the 8-hour day and were arrested, framed, convicted, and executed for a bombing. As part of the ongoing fight for the 8-hour day, more than 300,000 workers and 13,000 businesses throughout the United States walked off their jobs on May 1st, 1886.

In this tradition, new young women feminists are organizing and joining women like me who have been out in the streets since the 1970s. Together we are connecting the issues and breaking down the barriers based on sex, race, sexuality, and national origin that have kept the working class divided. Women are in a strategic position not only to stop white supremacy and fascism from gaining a foothold, but to change the world.

Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party stand with undocumented immigrants, Muslims, and others who are under attack by this neo-fascist government. We are united against ICE raids and against travel bans. We stand with the DACA students. We demand the U.S. open

its borders. Everyone has a right to full citizenship, like prior European immigrants. We demand an immediate halt to deportations and NO damn wall. We demand that Los Angeles declare itself an official sanctuary city where all its facilities are safe zones free of ICE raids, arrests, and harassment. We also demand that the city call a state of emergency for the homeless crisis and provide them housing, jobs, and healthcare.

Women have demanded more because we are the ones with the least to lose and the most to gain. It is our responsibility to protect our children, our class, the human race, and our planet.
¡Adelante las Mujeres del Mundo! Women of the world unite!