

National Radical Women

625 Larkin St. Ste. 202, San Francisco, CA 94109

Phone 415-864-1278 * Fax 415-864-0778

RadicalWomenUS@gmail.com * www.RadicalWomen.org

December 31, 2009

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we gear up for an action-packed 2010, I want to thank you for the political support, time, energy and contributions that you have given Radical Women. We started 2009 with exciting plans from our national conference in late 2008. There, activists charted a course to harness the power of socialist feminism. We were determined to strengthen multi-issue liberation movements and the fight for survival of the most vulnerable in these tough times. Since then, we have accomplished a great deal.

Over the last year, RW members and allies hit the streets in support of immigrants and against spending trillions on bank bailouts and war. We've held meetings, study circles, and forums. We helped defeat an anti-gay initiative in Washington State and pressed not only for same-sex marriage rights, but for full queer liberation.

As always, the fight for reproductive justice was a priority. We organized Roe v. Wade demonstrations in many cities and defended clinics against harassment by anti-abortion zealots. And of course, we roundly condemned the anti-choice Stupak-Pitts amendment to the federal healthcare legislation.

We've marched, written and agitated for single-payer healthcare and steadfastly opposed "reform" that sacrifices women and immigrants, provides unlimited profits for the private insurance industry, and cuts Medicare. Read more [here](#).

Here are just a few other highlights from 2009:

- California chapters participated in "No on Prop. 8" actions before and after the State Supreme Court upheld an anti-gay marriage initiative. Bay Area RW helped found the Student Worker Action Team, which spearheaded statewide University of California student and faculty walkouts to protest layoffs and tuition hikes. Los Angeles members walked picket lines with carwash workers trying to unionize, spoke in college classes about socialist feminism, and led a workshop on *Revolutionary Feminists of Color* at a Women of Color conference. Both chapters initiated demonstrations opposing budgets balanced on the backs of single mothers, workers, the poor and retirees.
- New York RW was a vital part of the support committee for the courageous Stella D'oro strikers. The Big Apple chapter worked with

others to defend political prisoners like radical attorney Lynne Stewart. The City College of New York (CCNY) RW club provided a fiery young feminist presence at campus actions against budget cuts and tuition hikes.

- Portland RW went door-to-door campaigning to increase the minimum corporate tax in the state of Oregon (currently one of the lowest in the U.S.). They organized a counter-picket to the anti-abortion group "Precious Children of Portland" at a Planned Parenthood clinic construction site. The chapter has reached out to students on campuses like Portland State University.
- Seattle RW started the grassroots campaign Sisters Organize for Survival (SOS). SOS's first priority is saving the Washington State Basic Health Plan, a subsidized public insurance program that is on the budget chopping block. Over the last few months, SOS hosted a public tribunal that found the governor and state legislature guilty of abandoning poor and working people, held a sidewalk rally against the cuts and organized a call-in campaign to elected officials. Thousands have signed a [petition](#) to save the program and other essential services by taxing corporate profits and the income of the rich.
- On the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state, RW is in the leadership of the Stop the Checkpoints Committee, which opposes anti-immigrant Border Patrol checkpoints and defends immigrant workers and families. The committee held an International Women's Day rally celebrating the leadership of immigrant women, and fought for the release of two young Mexican workers from the Federal Detention Center in Tacoma.
- RW sisters in Australia are immersed in the escalating battle over reproductive rights and defending the state of Victoria's new law decriminalizing abortion. The chapter is working with a campaign in Queensland to legalize abortion and to get the state to drop criminal charges against a couple for procuring an abortion. They have continued to mobilize to stop Indigenous deaths in custody and call for a community board of review to hold the police accountable.
- Your generous contributions made the National Radical Women fund drive a success, raising \$58,000. The National Organizer toured the U.S. for three months, speaking about "No more singing capitalism's blues: Sisters, it's time to fight!" Our socialist feminist writings sparked debates about the impact of racism, sexism and homophobia on the working class. At the request of the authors, we translated into English a

groundbreaking new booklet, *Notes from the Female Reality in Mexico*, by leaders of the Partido Obrero Socialista (Socialist Workers Party of Mexico). The pamphlet is available [online](#).

Together we can achieve even more in 2010! As a start, here are some January actions where your help is needed:

- In San Francisco, for the sixth straight year, RW members and others in Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights (BACORR) will protest the misnamed "Walk for Life" on January 23. To get involved, contact baradicalwomen@earthlink.net. (If you are in the Los Angeles area, contact LA RW at radicalwomenlosangeles@earthlink.net to carpool to the demo).
- Portland RW is spearheading a counter-demonstration to an anti-choice "Oregon Right to Life" march on January 17. Come to an organizing meeting on January 6, 6:30pm at Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th St. (just off Burnside). Email rwpdx@igc.org for details.
- In Washington state, Sisters Organize for Survival is calling a State of Emergency rally outside the capitol building on January 12, while the Governor gives her state of the state address to the legislature. RW is celebrating reproductive justice on January 22 on the steps of the Washington State Capitol. For more info, write RWSeattle@mindspring.com.
- New York City RW will hold a Roe v. Wade 37th Anniversary Commemoration, Feminists Fight Back Against Attacks on Reproductive Rights, on Jan. 29 at 7:30 pm at Freedom Hall, 113 West 128th St., Harlem. For more information email nycradicalwomen@nyct.net.

As an unbought and unbossed community-based organization, Radical Women's efforts are made possible by support from people like you. Contact the chapter nearest you to get involved. Stay in touch with the latest activities at <http://www.radicalwomen.org>. Your donations are also needed. You can contribute [online](#) via PayPal or mail a check to National Radical Women at 5018 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle WA 98118.

With an unbeatable combination of optimistic socialist feminist ideas, community action, political education, and collaboration we can, and will, make the world a better place!

In solidarity,

Anne Slater National Organizer