

colonization and imperialism. We believe that the empowerment of women must be achieved within the context of "self-determination", and we call for the dismantling of all forms of global oppression. The struggle for "gender equity" takes place outside of the context of decolonization and inherently precludes us from attaining true liberation. The privileges of the dominant civilizations have been gained at the expense of Indigenous women and the cultures and societies and peoples at other impoverished nation states. True "gender equity" can only be achieved within an anti-colonial and anti-imperialist framework.

IV BEGINNING THE DIALOGUE:

If the women's movement is to continue to grow and expand globally it must address the fundamental issues being addresses by women of colour and indigenous women who comprise the majority of the women of the world.

The time has come for this dialogue to begin. This challenge to mainstream dominant society feminist groups and NGO's is issued in the spirit of sisterhood. We call upon all women involved in the movement to consider these issues. We believe that regional conferences, meetings and retreats need to be held where women of colour, indigenous women and other women in the feminist movement can begin the struggle on these issues.

The issue is a difficult one. Struggling with our racism, classism and cultural differences is always difficult. Remember - a difficult birth doesn't make the baby any less beautiful.