

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY - COALITION OF ASIAN WOMEN GROUPS
May 18, 1975

We, the women of the Coalition of Asian Women Groups recognize the need for women the world over to unite and organize for women's liberation. As Asians, as women and as members of the immense work force that built this nation, we do not see the women's question in isolation. The oppression of women must be seen in the context of a more basic form of oppression -- that of the working people whose lives are controlled by a system based on super-profits for the few, what we call capitalism.

We Asian women who are part of the working force share a common interest and a common enemy who devises splits and divisions among us, i.e., women against men, whites against minorities, minorities against minorities, organized workers against the unorganized, workers against welfare recipients, civil service against provisionals, and American-born workers against the foreign born. We therefore call for a massive and fundamental change in this economic system so that the needs of the majority take precedence over that of the minority.

1. With the deepening economic crisis, it is the oppressed minorities in this country and especially minority women who are the hardest hit and the last to benefit from basic human rights. As Asian women we recognize that we are struggling not only against the oppression of women but in addition against the burden of racism with all our sisters of color. Racism and genocidal wars of aggression have existed throughout the history of this country, and during periods of crises, we see that racism is intensified and used as a tool to weaken and divide us. In our struggle against racism, therefore -- which is a call for unity among all oppressed people -- we oppose the racist policy of this government.

2. As women, as workers, as oppressed minorities, we must continually fight to secure our democratic rights -- the right to unionize and to decent wages, working conditions, education for our children, health care and daycare. It is always in the larger context of change, not reform, that we must carry on our fight for democratic rights.

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3. We see feminist issues cannot be viewed as ends in themselves but that true liberation for us women can be achieved only by a complete transformation of this inhumane, exploitative system which breeds on racism and sexism. It is, again always in the larger context of change, not reform, that we must carry on our fight for women's equality.

4. We in the Coalition of Asian Women Groups maintain an independent, political identity and viewpoints from other women's groups who limit the women's issues to feminism and reform. However, we will unite where and when we can with all groups who are sincere in their fight for women's liberation -- as long as we are able to maintain our political principles and continue our efforts to raise the political consciousness of as many women as possible.

5. Our struggle for women's equality in the work force is part and parcel of all working people's struggle against unfair use of labor for profit and for wars of aggression which are purposely incited for the sake of super-profits -- what we call imperialism.

6. We seek world peace, but this can be achieved only when these wars of aggression against undeveloped and Third World countries are put to an end. Our recognition of the necessity for armed struggles of Third World people is therefore not a contradiction. If the imperialists of the U.S. and the Soviet Union hope to attain world peace through detente at the expense of Third World nations, this is a false peace.

7. We support the Third World people -- the women and men fighting together against the domination of their labor, their lands and their natural resources by foreign and domestic exploiters -- who are actively fighting for the end of imperialist aggression and therefore for real world peace.

We in the Coalition of Asian Women Groups urge men who also seek and struggle to change this society to join forces with us. For only in unity with all working people can we weaken and finally dismantle this system of super-profit exploitation which is called capitalism and our fight for women's rights must be therefore closely allied with the fight for the rights of all working and oppressed people.