

DEMONSTRATE

Against Racism and Police Violence

Wednesday the 15th of November
5.30 pm 40 College (Police Headquarters)

Sophia Cook is the third person in 15 months to be *shot by a police officer*. Michael Wade Lawson was murdered by Peele police late last year and Lester Donaldson was murdered during the summer of 1988 in his home. People of colour Native and poor whites are clearly unsafe since those who are payed to "serve and protect" all communities convict us without trial on the basis of race and class.

Ad Hoc Women's Coalition Against Racist and Police Violence (comprised of women in labour, pro-choice, support services, women of colour groups, native women and others).

Black Action Defence Committee

Ad Hoc Women's planning meeting for above demonstration
Sunday the 12 of November, 1pm to 3pm OISE 252 Bloor St West.
For more information please call 538-1108 or 533-6135

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE AD HOC WOMEN'S COALITION AGAINST RACIST AND POLICE VIOLENCE

We condemn the police shooting of Sophia Cook, the latest Black person to be shot by metro police. We do not accept the excuses by Metro police that this shooting was accidental. We condemn the police killings of Lester Donaldson and Michael Wade Lawson. In the last fifteen months three Black people have been shot by police in the city, two of them fatally, and the Black community in Toronto has had to live in a climate of fear and concern for their lives from the police and the justice system as a whole.

We see this as a part of the pattern of racist and police violence across the country. This is evident in the Donald Marshall inquiry in Nova Scotia, the Manitoba justice inquiry (the deaths of J.J. Harper and Helen Betty Osbourne), the inquiry into relations between police and Native people in Southern Alberta, and the police shooting in Montreal of Anthony Griffin. Ongoing racial police harassment and injustice is a fact of life for Black people, Native people and other People of Colour across the country.

Since the late seventies when the Black community called for justice in the killings of Albert Johnson and Buddy Evans by Toronto police, no action has been taken to root out racism in the police force, or to bring appropriate justice in these cases, or to protect the Black community from further police violence. Not a single police officer has been convicted of any wrongdoing in these crimes.

Women, working people, gays and lesbians also suffer from acts of police violence and systemic injustice. Bill 4 is inadequate.

We DEMAND an end to racist and police violence.

We DEMAND the immediate establishment of an independent civilian review body with broad representation selected by and from the communities affected by police violence.

We DEMAND that Traffic policeman Durham who shot Sophia Cook be suspended immediately.

We DEMAND that Traffic policeman Durham be charged with attempted murder.

Ontario Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Sidney-Toronto Association, Korean Womyn's Collective, Toronto Black Women's Collective, CUEW - Local 3, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Asian Lesbians of Toronto, Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, Nellie's Hostel Collective, Nellie's Relief Staff, Basic Action Poverty Group, Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Centre U of T, ACSA, North York Women's Shelter, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, IWW, Nelson Mandela Law Society, Shirley Samaroo House, Metro Labour Council, Metro Labour Education Centre, YCL, Black Women For Progress, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, Wimmin Prisoners Survival Network, Ecomedia, Ontario Coalition of Visible Minority Women, Women Working With Immigrant Women, Toronto Socialist Feminist Action, Women For Economic Justice, Multicultural Womyn In Concert, Women's Caucus of the Alliance for Non-Violent Action, Toronto Women's Bookstore Collective, Immigrant Women's Centre, Students For Choice.