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A. H & H. Express

B. CHRONICLE

## Women demand a new HQ

THE Wages for Housework Women's Centre in Drummond Street, Camden Town, faces the problem of no longer having a house in which to do its work.

The centre, which took over a disused bookshop in a Camden-owned property a year ago, will have to vacate the premises very shortly, following a High Court order granted to the council last Friday. The building is to be demolished.

The organisers are mounting a strong campaign to get the organisation relocated by the council. They have collected over 1,000 signatures

to a petition, and have written to every Camden councillor.

Their letter says: "Over the past year the centre has become an extremely important resource for local women; it provides not only advice and help, but a social meeting place for women of all ages, races and nationalities, a break from the isolation and stress of the home, and from growing racial tension.

"The economic crisis has made it much harder for the Centre to find an alternative site, but it has also made it much more urgent.

"It is women above all who have 'managed somehow' by extra work and determination at home to

carry their families through on shorter money and at the same time to take over the functions of reduced staff in hospitals, schools and nurseries.

"The women in this area, who have managed to build for themselves some relief from the strain, are extremely disturbed at the suggestion that this should be taken from them."

Ms Ruth Hall, one of the organisers, told the Ham and High: "The council has promised to 'try' to help us, but the women are really angry because we are never seen as a priority."

Up to 25 women a day use the centre, with regular users numbering about 100, she said.

HAM + HIGH - 5.11.76

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUP FACING EVICTION BID

CAMPAIGNERS have stepped up their fight to save the Wages for Housework Women's Centre, against whom Camden Council were granted an eviction order on Friday.

The wages for housework women, who have been squatting in one room of a three storey house in Drummond Street, Euston, for over a year, are urging the Labour-controlled council to offer them alternative premises nearby.

Voluntary worker Ruth Hall said: "Time is running out. We have been told we will be evicted in a matter of days. Unless the council can find us a new home quickly all our hard work could be destroyed overnight."

"We are hoping for an urgent meeting with the

housing committee so we can explain our case.

"So far we have received a lot of support from officers in the social services and from our ward councillors, Paddy O'Connor and Andrew Bethell.

"But the council have said it is unlikely they will be able to come to our rescue."

More than 1,000 women have signed a petition in a bid to save the centre, which is a meeting place where local women discuss their problems together.

It is particularly helpful to mothers, housebound with young children who, without the centre, would be isolated from their friends and the community.

The wages for housework women also campaign on a national level for a better deal for women.