

**THE WOMAN  
WORKER AND THE  
TRADE UNIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649117185

The woman worker and the trade unions by Theresa Wolfson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THERESA WOLFSON**

**THE WOMAN  
WORKER AND THE  
TRADE UNIONS**



*The*  
WOMAN WORKER  
*and the*  
TRADE UNIONS

*By*  
THERESA WOLFSON, Ph.D.



*New York*  
International Publishers  
1926

*Copyright, 1926, by*  
INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS CO., Inc.

---

*Printed in the U. S. A.*

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION—THE PROBLEM . . . . .	9
II. THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN TO-DAY	26
III. CONSTITUTIONAL BARS AND LIMITATIONS . .	55
IV. CAN WOMEN WORKERS BE ORGANIZED? . .	90
V. CAN WOMEN WORKERS BE ORGANIZED? (CON- TINUED) . . . . .	128
VI. WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS . .	159
VII. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES . . . . .	192
VIII. A SUMMARY . . . . .	209
APPENDIX . . . . .	213
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	220
INDEX . . . . .	222





**THE WOMAN WORKER  
AND THE TRADE UNIONS**

4



# THE WOMAN WORKER AND THE TRADE UNIONS

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION—THE PROBLEM

THE trade union was developed as an economic instrument of control, an instrument which could be wielded by workers in their own defence in competitive industrial society. Its effectiveness depends upon its inclusiveness, its strength, its ability to match the economic strength of the employing class.

In so far as women workers are a part of the working class of the country, the trade union should be an available instrument for them in their efforts to improve their economic status. The economic status of the majority of women workers in the United States and in most European countries is extremely low, and far below that of men. The labour movements abroad have recognised the seriousness of a large unorganised competitive group of women workers and have persistently and more or less consistently taken them into their union organisations. The labour movement in the United States is becoming increasingly conscious of the ever-growing group of women workers as possible competitors in the economic world. Much