

## **May 1st Cross-Border Feminists: The strike lives on in our struggles!**

On this historic date that unites workers of the world in the fight for their rights, we come together as a feminist cross-border force and in memory of our struggles, to call for a

### **Cross-border feminist first of May**

We raise our voices with urgency in the midst of a survival crisis that especially threatens women, lesbians, gays, trans and non-binary people. This is why we need to organise and fight together.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has exposed not only patriarchal capitalism but also the urgency of transforming society as a whole. During this crisis, millions of workers carry on their tasks in warehouses without protection and with little pay. Working conditions of migrants have become even more dangerous and exploitative. Millions of underpaid health workers toil without breaks or inadequate protection. Thousands of domestic workers are unemployed and without any means of support. Millions of women are overwhelmed with care work, and millions of workers in the world's informal economies find themselves without income.

At the same time, the current lockdown shows how thousands of women and LGBTQI\* people cannot stay safely in their homes because they have to work to survive. Many who can stay at home are burdened by the patriarchal system's reliance on them for unpaid, round-the-clock care of the most vulnerable, the elders, and children. For many, staying at home means being physically isolated with their assailants. During this crisis, femicides and violence against women and LGBTQI\* people have intensified. Women with disabilities have been made invisible.

We refuse a future that looks like the present, and we refuse to go back to neoliberal normality, whose unsustainability is exposed in this crisis.

Today we fight to end the ruthless theft of natural resources and industrial food production that subordinates the earth and all living things to the drive for profit. We fight to survive the pandemic, but we also organize to confront the long-lasting consequences that the crisis will have on the living conditions of millions of people around the world. We do not want to come out of this 'emergency' poorer and with even more debt! We demand a publicly funded guaranteed income so that nobody is obliged to borrow money in order to survive. The wealth created by workers must support society as a whole, not enrich a privileged minority. We demand access to free health care; and recognition of mental, sexual and reproductive health care as essential rights. Mandatory confinement cannot be allowed to deny our control over our bodies or our autonomy.

In working-class neighbourhoods around the world, noise actions and self-defence networks are being organised to protest femicides and misogynist violence. Indigenous women, already fighting the destruction of the planet, now confront a State that is taking advantage of lockdowns to further exploit natural resources. In every prison, detainees denounce the inhumane conditions and the lack of protection from the virus. Everywhere, migrants rebel against overcrowded reception centres. They demand legal status, without which they are subject to exploitation and violence that has only increased with the pandemic. Strikes in warehouses and factories demand that only essential tasks are carried out and only in safe conditions.

In recent years, feminist strikes have been the tool to unite our global struggles and speak out against patriarchal violence in the home, the streets, the workplaces, and at the borders. In the March 8 and 9 strikes, our feminist power flooded streets around the world by the millions.

During the pandemic and beyond, the energy sparked by the feminist strikes will spread to contesting sexual and racial divisions in the workplaces, and demanding the socialisation of unpaid care work in the home. We want comprehensive health care and the expansion of basic services.

We demand that all non-necessary tasks be suspended to protect lives: labour must sustain life or we refuse to do it! We demand an end to oppression, exploitation, and poverty. And for essential workers to be protected against the virus.

We want to subvert everything to put an end to capitalist society's patriarchal and racist violence. We demand access to safe, free abortion, relief from debt, and the ability to exercise our freedoms. What the global feminist strike has taught us, is that when we are together, we are strong. And now more than ever, we have to raise our voices in unity to avoid the fragmentation that the pandemic imposes.

We want a cross-border, feminist resolution of this crisis, and no return to a normality of inequality and violence. On International Workers Day, we raise our angry voices against a society that exploits, oppresses, and kills us.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, more than ever, we say that our life is not at the service of profit.

On the International Workers Day, we affirm that society can be organised on a new basis, that life without patriarchal and racist violence, and without exploitation, is indeed possible.