



**EUROPEAN  
FORUM**  
*Bruxelles*

## **Manifesto: « Women together for social & climate justice and for equality, fighting through the March 8 strike »**

Women's Assembly – Brussels European Forum 2019



A feminist cry travels through Europe. The violet struggle spreads and moves among the countries of the Old Continent, witnessing the strength of a feminist articulation that does not want to see the rights won by women retreat. The collective experience of women is building a new common horizon, starting from a new anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist and anti-patriarchal universality, which places life at the center of our vision, in a diversified way.

The feminism of the 99% is the one that is able to connect us one another in a feminist alliance in support of equality, taking into account social class and country of origin, through gender and sexual orientation. This feminism is able, on the one hand, to link the struggles for the redistribution of wealth and social justice to the struggles for human rights, and on the other hand, to win the fight for recognition, the increase of freedoms and societal participation at all levels. For years, feminism has placed the real and daily problems of women at the heart of the political agenda. It is the best tool women have to evolve around the world as free women.

This Women's Assembly in the framework of the European Forum, in which we find women of green and progressive forces and of the European left, intends to reinforce and extend this feminism of the 99% to all the spaces of the public and private sphere where we have the capacity to intervene as political forces. It is by facilitating the union and solidarity

within the feminist movement, taking care of its autonomy and respecting the diverse political expressions that our political forces represent, that we put ourselves at the service of the feminist struggle to make it stronger, more indisputable and more inclusive.

**Because we want to stay alive, we reclaim: “Not one less!” (#Niunamenos).** No sexist aggression and no violation of our political, social, economic or sexual rights will remain unanswered. In a context of austerity, racism and trivialization of sexism, no woman should have to resign herself to violence and exploitation. We demand that all European countries ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention, which clearly recognizes that violence against women is a systematic violation of human rights. We also demand European policies to combat the sexual exploitation of women and children. We demand real and effective policies, since the time for declarations of intent or eternal election promises is now over. **We call for resources to support public policies to prevent, combat and eliminate violence against women and girls in all European countries, for the development of a Europe of equality, free from all forms of violence based on gender.**

**Because we reproduce life, we demand a dignified life with equal rights for all women.** The identification of women in the sphere of private care and the unequal and unpaid burden placed on them in the context of patriarchal and capitalist social division have, among other things, been the cause of the exclusion of women from the political sphere. A new social organization of care is absolutely necessary and vital. Co-responsibility for care is not a private matter to be solved in the family context but, on the contrary, it must be in the hands of the State and society as a whole. **We therefore call for public policies and above all a strong and inclusive welfare state.**

**Because we want to be free,** we will not allow the retreat of the right to dispose of our body and our motherhood. We pledge to continue to fight against all forms of oppression based on gender and sexual orientation and against any form of stereotype that tends to maintain gender inequality. We denounce the social, institutional and professional LGBTQI-phobia that many of us suffer from, as another form of gender-based violence. We are women and we are diverse. **We also denounce the repression and political persecution of those who defend diversity.**

**Because we refuse to accept precariousness and poverty as the norm,** because of a capitalist economic system in which being a woman is the main cause of poverty. Precariousness is aggravated for many of us by being elderly or migrant, and by the return of conservative ideas and the extreme right in Europe. This prevents us from developing a life project with dignity and autonomy. No more miserable wages that lead to daily poverty and deprivation of our basic rights, no more the miserable pensions that force us to suffer from poverty in old age. **We demand equal pay and equal labour rights.**

**Because the feminist struggle is completely tied to the defence of the planet,** we strongly protest against the wild neoliberalism imposed as a unique thought in the world that destroys everything, exploits the Earth and exploits women. We are firmly committed to the food, energy and territorial sovereignty of peoples. We demand that the defence of the living and the climate emergency be at the centre of the European economy and politics at all levels. We also demand that these policies focus on the fight against poverty, because the precarious situation of women makes them the first victims of climate change. Therefore, **we demand the integration of the gender dimension in environmental and climate policies.**

**Because the feminist struggle is completely tied to the defence of peace and solidarity, we declare that no woman is illegal. And we cry it out very loudly: No to racism and exclusion!** No to wars whose direct consequences are thousands of victims and refugees all over the world, with many women refugees among them, who are victims that are forgotten, abused and raped. **We call for the reception in Europe of all refugees and migrants for whatever reason.**

**For all these reasons,** we have a clear goal: to reinforce our commitment to the feminist struggle and to continue to contribute to its collective construction, to this mobilisation already deeply transversal, interclassist, international and intergenerational, openly anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal, anti-sexist and anti-racist, which today does not seem to have borders.

Lastly, this forum is committed to supporting for another year the **feminist strike** and the fight against patriarchy, supported in most European countries. Because it is through the strike that we can make visible the economic exploitation of women, often inegalitarian, unrecognised and unpaid; both by going on strike in our workplaces and in the private sphere by striking out the care of others, by refusing to respond to the sexist injunctions encountered on a daily basis.

**That is why we are actively involved in promoting the call for massive mobilization for the March 8 feminist strike, which continues to demonstrate the strength of feminism in the struggle for social & climate justice and equality.**