**INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST TELEMATIC MEETING**

**"BUILDING 8M FROM UNITY"**

On February 11, 2023, the Feminist Assembly of the European Forum of Left, Ecologist and Progressive Forces convened an international telematic feminist meeting to which registered a hundred of combative and feminist women from different countries and nations of the world such as Greece, Spain, Euskadi, Cyprus, Austria, Poland, Italy, France, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Brazil, USA, Nigeria, Benin, United Kingdom, Andorra and the Sahara among others.

Organizations:

AWMR Italia - Mujeres de la Región Mediterránea (Italy)

Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres

Grupo Género Feminista (México)

Izquierda Unida, Islas Baleares (Spain)

French Communist Party (France)

Syriza-Progressive Alliance (Greece)

Hellenic network for the 8M feminist strike (Greece)

Ass. Juanita Moro (Argentina)

Communist Party of Spain (Spain)

Sortu (Basque Country)

Rifondazione Comunista (Italy)

Movimiento Democrático de Mujeres (Spain)

Centro de Formación para la Paz (Venezuela)

Communist Party of Austria-KPO (Austria)

Bloco de Ezquerda (Portugal)

Communist Party of Finland-SKP (Finland)

Ministry of Women

Razem (Poland)

Associación Feminista SBC (Spain)

PCE, Colectivo 8M (Spain)

IFE Italia (Italy)

AKEL (Cyprus)

Women's movement POGO (Cyprus)

lOPF Afrique de l'ouest (Niger)

Las Constituyentes Feministas (México)

This initiative arose from the concern of the advance of far-right governments in Europe that directly attack women'srights. Also for the advance of discourses that deny the inequality and violence that women suffer because they are women. Discourses that feed sexist terrorism and promote inequality.

The feminists of the European Forum convene the international meeting to build a combative and unitary 8M in the world.

This meeting was divided into two parts, with two hours of debate each:

In the first part we had the participation of different panelists such as the President of the FDIM, Lorena Peña (El Salvador), Chara Kiouri of the Hellenic Network for the feminist strike of 8M (Greece), Natalia Blázquez of the 8M feminist movement in Madrid (Spain), Karin Scheller of the Movimiento of the Women's Political Council (Germany), Rita Carol Rojas, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Popular Union of Peruvian Women (Peru), Isabel Pires of the FEM-Feminists in Movement (Portugal), Eleonora Forenza of the Feminist Movement (Italy), Hélène Bidard, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of gender equality (France) and Maria Teresa Pradilla Vice Minister of People's Power for Women (Venezuela).

In this first one, the panelists explained from the perspective of their countries and the environment from which they participate, what are the main struggles and demands, the situation of women's rights, of the sexist violence and femicide they suffer. Also, the political violence that some exposed suffering in the first person or their own companions, as is the case of Lorena Peña, who suffers political and judicial harassment by the government of El Salvador or Rita Rojas who reported the situation in Peru as the massacre in the Andes.

In the interventions we were able to assess how the war in Europe is making women's lives even more precarious, as explained by the German panelist Karin Sheller: the investment in armaments has been to the detriment of the public, suffering a deterioration of the public education system, health and attachmentto dependency. She also explained how in Germany the feminization of poverty has increased. It is one of the countries with one of the lowest birth rates in Europe and the employment situation of women is very precarious, characterized by temporary employment and flexibility, with a 20% wage gap.

Hélène Bidard, showed how the lack of co-responsibility, job insecurity and the wage gap that crosses our lives leads us to live old age in poverty with miserable pensions. For this reason, he insisted on the need for the struggle for pensions opened in France to triumph for the benefit of the working majority and especially of women, as they are the most harmed by the reform pursued by theFrench government.

Femicide and sexist violence was another situation that became visible with great concern. In Italy itself, Eleonora Forenza explained to us the lack of protection they suffered and now with the Extreme Right in the government, this situation had worsened. Also as they began to see their rights threatened, such as abortion. For this reason, she expressed the importance of organizing a meeting of women in Rome, to denounce this situation and avoid setbacks in rights.

Natalia Blázquez of 8M in Madrid and Isabel Pires of Portugal spoke to us about the construction situation of 8M. Natalia explained how the construction of 8M was being done on different axes: sexist violence, the consumer economy, public education and health services, the world of work, care, climate justice. All this on the basis of consensus leaving out what divides as is the case of prostitution. Isabel explained how in Portugal the same thing happened where also one of the issues that also divided was prostitution. Both with differentiated positions in this regard, evidenced a division that exists in all feminist spaces of the world.

The Greek panelist, Chara Kiouri explained to us the setbacks in equality that Greek women were suffering with the right-wing government, where women are the majority of the victims of energy poverty. Femicides increase and there is no protection, to the point of subjecting them to the mandatory shared custody of children. While the Vice Minister of People's Power for Women of Venezuela explained that one of her concerns is to end the feminization of poverty and how by 2023 they had proposed to promote women's debate cells and from there take out the main flags of struggle against patriarchy.

In the second part, through a very participatory brainstorming by most of the comrades who participated, we shared all those struggles that united usand those that disunited us.

**¿That our headlines?**

* Peace and disarmament.
* The struggle against all wars.
* The fight against patriarchy.
* The struggle against the capitalist and patriarchal alliance.
* The fight against fascism.
* Solidarity with feminine and left-wing women who suffer political violence.
* Solidarity with women victims of war, refugees and migrants.
* The defense of women's rights.
* The visibility of women in education and history.
* The fight against the pay gap and for decent work for women.
* The right to free, safe and free abortion.
* The fight against femicide.
* The fight against all sexist violence.
* The fight against the invisibility of women's rights.
* The recognition of care work.
* The defense of public services of care.

**What disunites us?**

* Everything that is used to make us invisible
* Free choice
* Prostitution: abolition or regularization

**Pending discussions**

* Basic vital income

From making clear what disunites us, we decided that, in this space of construction of feminist unity, those struggles and demands that divide will not be taken into consideration neither for theslogans, nor for the slogan that has to unite us all this 8M.

We continue with the brainstorming and with the maximum participation we agreed on a slogan with a hashtag that will unite us all this 8M.

#MujeresUnidas

**AGREEMENTS**

**8M unitary campaign**

* The hashtag #MujeresUnidas will join all the slogans that unite us, such as:

#MujeresUnidas for peace

#MujeresUnidas against patriarchy

#MujeresUnidas defending our rights

* In the mobilizations that we participate we will take pictures with the hashtag and a slogan that we will share in networks and we will send to the Feminist Assembly of the European Forum to make a visual montage where we are visible to the "United Women".
* In the month of April we will meet again in another telematic meeting to make an evaluation of the 8M and make proposals for new face-to-face meetings and joint actions that allow us to build an unstoppable network of empowered women that stop the passage to imperialist, neoliberal andpatriarchal policies that threaten women's rights.

**Cristina Simó Alcaraz**

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