



2011 EUROPEAN YOUNG FEMINISTS CAMP NEWS

NEWSLETTER N° 1

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EDITORIAL

So here we are!

The young feminist camp project has now begun. Over the past months, we have had more and more contact between us, and new feminists are joining the project every week! In Paris, a small group in charge of organization is working very hard to build a feminist camp worthy of our ambitions. And also looking at what that camp should be like...

Some are dreaming of taking a break from everyday life to meet one another, share our experiences, and join in together on music, dancing and sports. Others imagine great debates, building a strong network throughout Europe and analyzing our different situations and struggles. In July, August or September, a comfortable week, for discussions and for just being together...

One thing is certain: current events in the social domain are not looking good for women across Europe. Political actions are increasingly directed at doing away with social gains, stopping progress on rights, and denying the specific challenges faced by women, along with the violence and misery we suffer. On the opposite side, the feminist movement seems divided, and even, in some cases, appears to have swung over to right-wing and reactionary causes.

But we reject this! Young European feminists will gain from sharing their experience and views of our fight. Our summer camp aims to be a step forward on the path of radicalism and solidarity. And the World Women March is the perfect framework for its creation.



News Agenda :

A newsletter ?

We want to build this camp together, despite the different locations of our groups... which is why we thought of this Newsletter! Our goal will be to publish it regularly, to keep everyone informed of new developments and decisions. In the meantime, a forum will provide a venue for discussions on both political and practical viewpoints, our hopes, our ideas and more.

The key concept is for each and every one of us to get involved and, in this way, to build our camp together.

Register now for the forum:

<http://youngfeministscamp.catchforum.fr/>

- ⌘ Editorial - A newsletter
- ⌘ The call
- ⌘ Should the camp be open to both genders or only include women? - A place to camp
- ⌘ Camp funding - 1st ideas of themes - Contacts



Call for a Summer Camp of Young Feminists of Europe ! World Marche of Women

The World March of Women is an international feminist action movement connecting grassroots groups and organizations working to eliminate the causes at the root of poverty and violence against women. We struggle against all forms of inequality and discrimination directed at women. Our values and actions are directed at making political, economic and social change. They centre on the globalization of solidarity; equality between women and men, among women themselves and between peoples; the respect and recognition of diversity among women; the multiplicity of our strategies; the appreciation of women's leadership; and the strength of alliances among women and with other progressive social movements.

In 2010, it was the Third International Action of the March. In Europe, actions have been organised in France, Basque country, Galice, Portugal, Greece, Switzerland, Turkey, Macedonia, Cyprus, Italy, in the Balkans ... the european action in Istanbul gathered 3000 women from 22 countries.

In France as in Europe, we notice a neoliberal offensive, with the systematic break-in of public services to more privatization and militarization of the fortress Europe. Women are concerned firstly and their rights attacked. The growing poverty and inequalities weight mostly on women, still first responsible of families.

In view of this wave we want to get organized !

Feminist movements of the different european countries are divers, in their structures, organisation and courses of action. In all these countries, young women stand up and act to take over the feminist social movement.

We want to energize the network of young feminist in europe. We want to propose a space of meeting and political development, nice and friendly to prepare and lead together to the coming struggles.

We would like to organize an autonomous camp of young feminist, in France next summer. For about 10 days, it would be about knowing each other, exchange on our political visions at local, national, European and international levels, and express new wishes and projects. We would like to tackle topics as political repression of feminist and lesbian movements, merchandisation of bodies, religious integritisms, growth of destitution and poverty, militarization...

We want to organize this event with you ! The project needs your proposal and motivation to come true ! We'll have to work together on topics we want to tackle. We'll have to find money to allow a lot of young feminist among europe to join the camp. We'll have to contact groups of young feminist in countries where the march is not organized yet. We'll have to work closely, learn to know each other to make an event like us.

This way, we wish to reinforce the european coordination of the World March of Women. Because the local and national struggles cannot be enough to oppose to the neoliberal global offensive, we want to reinforce the empowerment of the young feminists in Europe. We wish to be organized to be able to assume our rights, fight against injustices and build a world like us.

Women on the March Until We are all Free!

Should the camp be open to both genders or only include women?

The answer will have practical impacts on organization, especially on campsite researches, funding requests, which is why we will need to decide quickly! Each of the groups involved at the time of the decision will have the opportunity to give its opinion.

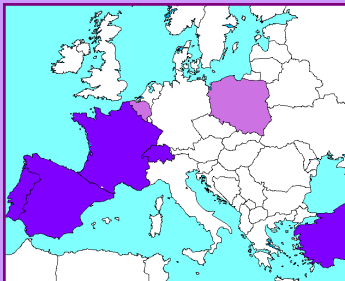
This question usually leads to various, and sometimes lively, debates!

So far, several groups have answered that they would prefer a women's camp. For others, such as the Paris group, the debate continues within the group. The trend seems to be in favour of women only.

We encourage each of you to go to the "Single-sex:" forum page to share your opinion, your views and your reasons. Whether or not your group has already submitted its answer, what you think, and why, may fuel other groups' debates!

We will be accepting group answers through March 1st – final deadline!

Young feminists through Europe involved : the beginning.



In dark violet, Involved groups, and in light violet groups we are in contact with.

MMF European meeting in Istanbul - June 2010



In 2010, 3rd WMW International Action took place. Through Europe, actions were taken in France, Pays Basque, Galicia, Portugal, Greece, Suisse, Poland, Turkey, Macedonia, Cyprus, Italy, in the Balkans ... The European action in Istanbul gathered 3000 women from 22 countries .

A place to camp...



First step in organizing the camp: find a good campsite!
We have started to look for THE perfect place to camp all together!

As our actions aim for political, economical and social

change, we naturally oriented our search toward alternative / feminist locations.

Our friends and networks gave us good suggestions for different sites across France. Our choice will be based on accessibility (very important as this is a European camp) and cost.

We are looking for a large open space for 50 to 70 to be able to camp out and cook together. If you know a place

like that, let us know soon !

We will keep you posted about our finds in the next Newsletters!



Camp Funding ...

To camp this summer, we need money! To cover our travel expenses, the site, food, etc. All of this costs a lot... and we are not rich!

Our idea is to apply for funding from the European Union Youth Program, which could enable us to pay for up to 70% of travel costs and a log of other things. Each of you will need to be work hard to be a true partner, and France will send out the call. We will give you details on what to do, as soon as we possibly can. The problem is that we will only have our answer in May. But even if our funding is denied, we will still maintain the camp. With this in mind, we will be looking for other type of grants from public structures and allied organizations. If you are aware of any funding opportunities in your country, please let us know, as we are trying to determine the budget for the camp.

Logo : Get your pencils !

We are looking for a nice logo for the camp that could represent our project and future network. So help us by sending your suggestions (mmfjeunes@gmail.com). We are waiting for your answers through March 1st, final deadline !

Young ??

When the idea emerged of setting up a camp for young feminists, the first question was whether or not to set an age limit. This completely depends on what we consider "young" to be! But we quickly realized that all the groups agreed that there should be no set age limit. Self-determination won the day, meaning each potential participant will be free to determine whether they consider themselves to be a "young feminist."



1st ideas of themes

One of the goals of the camp is to share experiences and opinions. From this perspective, we propose that each group part of it involve through preparing debates and/or workshops. While the camp's organization is still being put in place, a few groups have already sent us some ideas of topics they would like to work on for the camp.

The WMW Switzerland group is interested in questions linked with democracy and topics related to immigration.

The WMW Basque Country group is interested in feminist self-defence, sexuality and job insecurity.

The WMW Turkey group would like to work on violence against women.

During the coming weeks, it would be good for each group to be able to define one or more topics they would like to organize for the camp. We will keep you posted about the information we receive from the groups, in future editions of the Newsletter and on the forum!

CONTACTS

WMW Young Feminists group (Paris): mmfjeune@gmail.com

WMW Young Feminists group, Facebook profile:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001098814372>

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