



NEWS OF THE YOUNG FEMINISTS EUROPEAN CAMPSITE

NEWSLETTER N° 3

JUNE 2011

We're making it happen!



There has been a lot of activity since the last newsletter: we've been working hard on subsidies and we've come out on top! This financial support will give life to our hopes that over a hundred young and active feminists will be able to participate, to improve their lives, the world and the situation of women as a whole. It started as a dream but now we're actually making it happen! More than a hundred young feminists from Europe will be meeting at a great place, a campsite where we will be managing our experience ourselves. Self-management was the arrangement we selected, to strengthen our ties with one another: preparing our food together, resolving technical issues, discussing, playing, demonstrating together and more. This should give us the time to really meet with one another.

These meetings are vital: around the world, people – with women at the forefront – are suffering from the so-called “economic crisis” and from the effects of neo-liberal laws. Poverty is on the rise, especially in Europe: many countries are affected by measures designed to break the will of the people: falling wages, pension payments on the decline, reductions in social services, etc. This situation is unacceptable. We feel solidarity with all those who are active in their resistance, primarily Greek, Spanish and Portuguese women. As always, women bear the brunt of the consequences of social deterioration, while those in power seek out scapegoats: migrant, foreign and Muslim women, civil servants and more. Our sisters have entered the fray, both in the recent Arab revolutions and in movements here in Europe!

We are looking forward to this gathering, to share our struggles and to create much-needed ties. When will we see a global movement? We'll make it happen! With just our limited resources and, for now, brief experience, we will make it happen. We will open this crucial space in order to talk with one another, get to know one another and organize ourselves together. We will cry out our rage and sing our hopes to the entire world, and we will take to the streets!

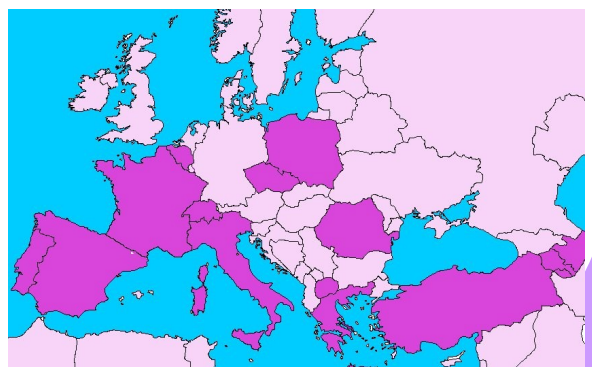
We are the World March of Women and... we're making it happen!!



News focused on the place and the practical aspects, on the « menu » :

- ✂ TERREBLANQUE
- ✂ Food
- ✂ Committees
- ✂ Daily life at the campsite
- ✂ Suggested schedule for the week
- ✂ REGISTRATION

Countries where our participants come from



TERREBLANQUE

The location chosen for our campsite is not a specifically feminist site. Initially, it was a teaching farm that became an ecological community and artists' residence some twenty years ago. It receives no government subsidies, and its residents regularly hold parties and concerts in order to raise funds for their art shows.

About thirty people live there year-round (couples, families, children and single people). Some of them are delighted to have us there, while others are concerned by the exclusion of men.

FOOD ...

The self-managed aspect of the campsite will also apply to preparing our meals: a shared responsibility! We have started to plan out our menus, so that we can purchase the necessary supplies in advance. The food we buy will be healthy, purchased from nearby local producers. We will also be planning vegetarian meals, and options for any food allergies, but we will need to know of these in advance! (So please be sure to note any special food requirements on the registration form.)

We are looking to delegate the preparation of one of the two main meals each day to an association or other third party, to simplify our arrangements and to save time. If this works out, we will only have one meal a day to prepare ourselves (breakfast will be buffet-style self-service). If you have any suggestions for our group meals, please let us know! For example, you could bring a specialty from your country, but remember that there will be a lot of us wanting to try it! And if there is anything in particular that you love to eat, the best solution would be to bring it with you!!

COMMITTEES

Once all the campers have arrived and settled in on Saturday, the next day (Sunday, July 10) will be devoted to the presentation of different tasks and an explanation of responsibilities. At that time, we will decide how we want to divide ourselves into groups, although we have already established a preliminary list of the most important functions: food, cleaning/trash, supply runs, showers/toilets, workshops/hours, wood, refreshment stall, evening events, videos, etc.

These jobs will be assigned to committees. Your participation is not limited to a single committee: if you want, you have the option of joining two. Any suggestions as to how we can organize are more than welcome!!

DAILY LIFE AT THE CAMPSITE

To respect the living environment at Terre Blanche, here are some details and precautions to take and keep in mind before you come:

WHAT TO BRING

Here is a list of items necessary or recommended for you to bring to the campsite:

- ⇒ tent, sleeping bag, groundsheet, etc.
- ⇒ flashlight
- ⇒ sun protection: sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- ⇒ swimsuit and towel
- ⇒ walking shoes and flip-flops
- ⇒ biodegradable toiletries (soap, shampoo, products, etc.)
- ⇒ *biodegradable mosquito protection, if possible*

If you want, and can easily transport them:

- ⇒ books and games to share with us
- ⇒ music (MP3 format) / musical instruments

Unless absolutely necessary, do NOT bring:

- ⇒ your laptop: the dust at the campsite could damage your electronics. An Internet area will be available for you to check your email, so we recommend you not to bring your laptop if it is too fragile or too precious for you!
- ⇒ valuables, jewels, generally anything that could get lost, broken or otherwise cause problems for you!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Plug-in area: a space dedicated to charging mobile telephone and other batteries, etc., will be available to everyone at the site. Please use the outlets only as necessary and wait your turn to charge your batteries and devices.

Internet area: this will be in the same location as the plug-in area. We will provide a few computers to allow you to remain connected to the rest of the world... Please be sparing with your connection time, so that our sisters will also have the chance to log on.

SUPPLY RUNS

Supply runs for necessities: Terre Blanche is tucked away in the countryside. The closest village is an hour away on foot. Someone will go for supplies every day, and we will be able to make emergency purchases, if necessary. However, we ask that you try to plan ahead and bring supplies with you for all your needs.

H Y G I E N E

The showers: are solar showers. We will need to save water as much as possible (particularly since a drought is expected in France this summer) and to use biodegradable soap and shampoo, so that our wastewater is not harmful to the site. If you cannot find chemical-free soaps where you live, some will be available on-site.

The toilets: are dry toilets, meaning they use no water. The excrement is composted, to be used as fertilizer by farmers. For those of you who have never used one, don't worry! You will quickly get used to them. They are just as hygienic as any other toilet and are truly eco-friendly!

First suggestions of schedule for the week ...

Saturday, July 9: campers arrive

Sunday, July 10: organization of the campsite, general meeting, creation of committees, etc.

Monday through Thursday, July 11-14: workshops, based on the proposals submitted by all participants Suggestion: 90-minute (or 3-hour) workshops, with 4 90-minute workshop time slots per day and 4 workshops per time slot.

Friday, July 15: demonstration in Toulouse (morning: preparation; evening: free time in Toulouse)

Saturday, July 16: morning: assessment of the gathering and future prospects; afternoon: open house with an inter-generational debate; evening: concert and party

Sunday, July 17: clean-up and departure



Here we are in picture! The Young Group MMF PARIS, that works restless for the success of this project, and some of us are missing !

From left top to right down: Piper, Nathalia, Stéphanie, Valentine, Camilla, Valérie, Elisa, Clara, Héloïse, Anne.

REGISTRATION

Please send your registration form back to us by **June 8th** at the latest.

The global cost is €30 per person, to be paid in cash (euros) when you arrive, regardless of whether you are staying for the full week (which we highly recommend!) or for a shorter period. There are several pages to the registration form; **please be sure to complete it in full!**

For your return trip, try to avoid scheduling your departure for Sunday morning, because we want you to be able to enjoy the party on Saturday night. If you can get a better deal on your travel by returning on Monday, it will be possible to stay an extra night at Terre Blanche.

The workshops that will be taking place will also be completely self-managed, so please include your **group's proposals on the registration form**. Please note: It is very important that you **indicate the equipment** that you will need for your proposed workshop(s) (and whether or not you will be bringing it with you).

CONTACTS

Young Group MMF - Paris E-mail : mmfjeune@gmail.com

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

In case of emergency : 003 362 806 05 83 (cel)