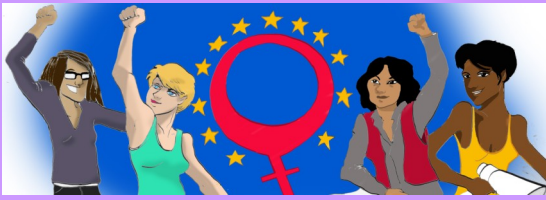


NEWS OF THE YOUNG FEMINISTS EUROPEAN CAMPSITE 2012



NEWSLETTER N° 4

JANUARY 2012

ON THE « MENU »

ALREADY 2012 !?!!

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ALREADY 2012 !?!!

What has happened since last summer in Terreblanque?? Where has the magic of the camp gone, that joy of sharing time together in our little summertime bubble?? Each of us had to go back to the (harsh) reality of our lives, return to work or school, and to our local activist groups, as well.

AND the situation in our countries in Europe is serious! The “crisis” is still front-page news every day, and people are worried about the euro, but our governments have been unable to suggest effective solutions. The situation is deteriorating, as if there were no possible cure: one after the other, the States are implementing austerity measures. Public systems - particularly education - are being privatized. Tough luck for the poorest, who won't be able to attend! Unemployment is very high, and young people are experiencing serious difficulties in finding a job. And those who are employed are at the mercy of bosses threatening them with lay-offs. Women's rights are in danger in many countries, and all the additional work made necessary by the lack of public services (schools, child care, retirement homes, hospitals, etc.), as always, ends up falling to women!

The situation is worrisome, and social movements and trade unions have been unable to organize at the European level. Competition between the countries is orchestrated so that their peoples are forced to submit!! Who has supported our Greek sisters, who have been struggling for more than a year now? Likewise for Portugal, Spain and others! When countries like Iceland, for example, have developed solutions, the media don't even mention it. In many countries, conservatives and even the far right have taken power, applying policies that are liberal and, above all, anti-women. We are told that, to resolve the crisis, women will need to stop working and return to the home. But we want our independence! We do not want to be dependent on our parents or a husband or boyfriend in order to live freely!

We want to be autonomous, to be free to make our own choices in life, and to not have to compete against one another all the time!

We want migrant men and women to have decent living conditions, and we want to be able to move from one country to another without the need for justification!

We want all violence in the home to stop, including child abuse and domestic violence, as well as the constant threat of rape that we feel when we go out, and even in our own homes.

We want every woman to have access to housing, for no one to have to spend a winter outside, and for everyone to have enough to eat.



We will only be able achieve this through our struggles, so we will continue to organize with other young feminists in Europe, and in connection with our sisters around the world, as well as progressive social movements in each of our different countries. We need to promote a change in the world order, based on the values of equality and liberty.

Let's reach out to others and come together!!

CAMPS

2011, A BEGINNING !

2012, WHAT'S NEXT ?

AFTER TERREBLANQUE CAMPSITE...

A lot has happened since the camp in Terreblanque. First, we all returned to our home countries and to our daily battles. Our Romanian sisters have been hard at work, mobilizing the feminist movement in Bucharest, and have already held a number of demonstrations: SlutWalk in September, the November 25th march for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In Paris, after the Dominique Strauss-Kahn rape scandal, the WMW launched a major action, which continues today in the form of feminist and lesbian General Assemblies, with some 50 women attending each meeting. Many radical actions against rape have also taken place in Paris since September. In Galicia, feminists worked to impact electoral campaigns, while our Armenian sisters participated in the 12 Days to End Violence.

Word on the outcome of our camp is gradually spreading. Our Belgian sisters published an article on the camp in their organization's newsletter, and our Portuguese sisters from the Azores held a public forum with photos and a performance, to share their experience at Terreblanque.

Anne and Lorie from France met to edit our documentary, using many video excerpts from our filming. The movie is not yet complete, but should be ready soon, and the DVDs will be sent out in the near future. One of the goals of this movie is to be able to show it, in order to bring in more young feminists for the next camp.

Some groups and individuals sent us their collective or personal assessments of the camp. These will soon be available on our website, which has been a bit slow in the making. But our mailing list is up and running, and has allowed us to share information with each other and to issues calls for solidarity.

If you want to share your ideas, opinions or a text about the camp for the next edition of our newsletter, you are more than welcome!!

Simply send them to mmfjeunes@gmail.com

Or the mailing list at mmf-camp@yfe.herbesfolles.org

... THE NEXT CAMPSITE IN ROMANIA !

Presentation written by the Romanian girls group



The idea of organizing a second edition of the feminist summer camp in Romania is a very big challenge for us. That's why we started this project with a lot of enthusiasm. The first order of business was to find a suitable place that will respect the values we established at the first camp: the: self-management, women-only and equality. With this in mind, we looked for different possibilities. The last place, which seems perfect for the camp, is in the middle of the countryside, a campsite with cooking facilities. Besides that, in order to make this last aspect much easier, a few women from the village will help us prepare our food.

This weekend, some of us went to visit another location – a country house with a big yard in a rather isolated village. Unfortunately for us, this house didn't have the necessary space for all the women. Still, we had the opportunity to develop a first draft of the camp project document.

You will find the first draw of the program in the next page.



THE 2012 CAMP FORECAST PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION :

Dates: August 6-16, 2012

Location: Moroieni (<http://vilemoroeni.weebly.com/fotografii.html>)

PLANNING :

Concerning the subjects of the debates and workshops, we eagerly await your proposals. We have come up with the following as a general idea: Feminism today: a comparison between West and East.

Day 1 Sisters arrive

Day 2 Presentations of the groups, each other and the project, and organization of self-management actions and teams, the final program for the camp and the workshops

Days 3, 4 & 5 Workshops (6 or 8/day)

Day 6 Presentation of the common text we prepared at the first camp and maybe a debate on its relevance today
Are any changes needed?

Day 7 Establishing common actions for the future between different countries or organizations/groups + special guests

We are trying to get Iana Matei, a woman who has an association that fights to protect women who are sexually exploited, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iana_Matei

Day 8 Preparation for the demonstration (possibly in a small town not at all used to this kind of civic action) and the march itself

Day 9 Free time, open house day for other women and PARTY

Day 10 Departure

The program is flexible, depending on your suggestions; our goal is to make everyone as happy as possible. The project will be submitted to Youth in Action on February 1st, and we ask that you please complete the Youth Application partnership form, available at : http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eforms/index_en.php#1 ; look for the Youth in action - action 4.3 form.

Please send your completed forms to:

Asociația FRONT
Catre Ioana Vrabiescu
Str. Orzari nr. 67, et.1, ap. 4,
sect. 2, Bucuresti, Romania



A NEW TEAM TO HELP PREPARE THE NEXT CAMP ?

One of the lessons learned from the Terreblanque camp was that it is hard to communicate with each other. When we are together, we talk and it's great. But before and after getting together, communications are more complicated.

Trough the Paris group experience, we also discovered that having a single group organize a camp means that some things will necessarily be neglected. So we thought that, since so many of us know each other now, we could handle the organization of the next camp in Romania differently.

Who is motivated to :

- ⇒ support our Romanian sisters, to help lighten their load
- ⇒ discuss certain questions that may arise.
- ⇒ go and seek out new young feminist groups in other European countries

Our suggestion is to create a **EUROPEAN ORGANIZING TEAM FOR THE CAMP.**

If 10 young women, or even just 5 of us, could volunteer to work a little on this and connect with young women's groups in their countries, that would be fantastic!

We could then make decisions together and also reach out to other groups in other countries. Anyone interested, please let us know at mmfjeunes@gmail.com. We will then create a special mailing list to facilitate our dialogue.

Organizing a camp is a lot of work, as is maintaining a connection with the young feminists' network. Let's work together so that this second camp can happen. So that new young feminists can also enjoy this wonderful experience!!

Calling all volunteers!

THE WMW IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD

OVERVIEW OF THE WMW EUROPEAN MEETING

The European Meeting was held in Skopje, Macedonia, from September 30th through October 2nd. Delegations from Barcelona, Belgium, France, Galicia, Italy, Macedonia, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey were present. We had the opportunity to share the camp experience and showed the short video of our fabulous march in Toulouse. Steph (France) demonstrated the non-violent communication techniques that we used during the camp.

We talked about different options for communicating more efficiently, the use of alternative media, and how to share the ideas and work of the WMW.

The suggestions adopted in the end were to make short videos on the work done in each country, to set up a Facebook account and to use email to share news about our current actions.

Along these same lines, we decided to create a short documentary-style video for the European campaign, which is aimed at reminding others of the effects of the economic crisis on women. The videos are short testimonies of the realities felt by women since the crisis. We have seen that cuts in social services and general lay-offs are, directly and indirectly, pushing women back into "traditional" roles. Another decision that was made was to plan "original," coordinated actions for this campaign, to reject the pressure placed on us by the crisis and the ignorance of its effects on women, who continue to live in the most precarious positions.

We would really like young feminists to join in these actions, so please contact your **National Coordinating Body to work with them!!!**

More information on this will be available at a later time.

« Finally, I would like to stress the importance of the European campaign, particularly for us, as young feminists, because we understand the effects of the crisis better than anyone, we who are indebted from our studies and yet can't find a job; we who have no day-care options for our children; we who must work in shitty jobs to make ends meet; we who are forced to go back home and live with our parents, for want of public housing; we who must sometimes pay for housing for our parents; we who must care for our aging parents and grandparents who cannot afford a retirement home; we who know that vacations and retirement are far-off dreams; we who, more than anyone, see the inherent flaw of the neo-liberal, capitalist system that is crumbling down around us; it is up to us to expose the irrationality of austerity measures and to unite the voices of women in solidarity and resistance, for a truly egalitarian world! » Raphaëlle, Geneva.

The next meeting of the European Coordinating Body will be held in Romans, France, in early June 2012. For groups without a National Coordinating Body, who want to participate, please let us know!! mmfjeunes@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN THE PHILIPPINES

This past November, the 8th International Meeting of the World March of Women was held in Quezon City, Philippines. More than 80 women from 36 countries across 6 continents were in attendance, discussing a review of the movement and of its strategies and methods of operation, over the course of five days.

It also gave us the opportunity to present the European Young Feminists' Camp. We received strong encouragement to continue this type of activity and networking among us, young female activists of Europe. We met with the young delegates at the meeting, representing the following countries: Philippines, New Caledonia, Kenya, Mozambique, Canada, Chile, Brazil, France, Switzerland and Galicia. Each participant shared how young feminists work together in their country. We also talked a lot about the camp in Terreblanque and about the Rebelles young feminists' gathering in Canada. Anna, a young indigenous woman involved in organizing the event in Winnipeg, told us about the problems of ensuring the inclusiveness of the gathering. Like us, they saw this issue as a difficult, but priority, one.

We briefly touched on the idea of a worldwide meeting, but it is still too soon for that. So we thought that, if we could invite young women from other regions of the world to the next European camp, that would already represent major progress.

Since then, the International Secretariat has supported this idea and a funding plan (for travel costs) has been submitted to the International Organisation of La Francophonie.

Aside from young feminists' issues, many others were also addressed during the International Meeting.

For a more detailed look at these, please see the WMW Newsletter at:

http://www.marchemondialedesfemmes.org/index_html/fr



CONTACTS

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