



02 – February

THE MARCH IN ACTION

THE WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN'S THIRD INTERNATIONAL
ACTION NEWSLETTER

Editorial

In our Third International Action we will be expressing our international solidarity and the fact that we are alert to what's happening to our sisters in other parts of the world.

We express our solidarity with our Kurdish sisters who are struggling for their people's self-determination and for their autonomy as women, as well as for an end to honour crimes and for equal rights in their families and communities.

We've answered the call of the Sahrawi women for the organisation of a free, fair and transparent referendum that allows the Sahrawi people their right to express freely their self-determination and their independence.

We defend the right of Iranian women to freely organise and mobilise themselves, and their right to criticise the laws that discriminate women, such as the "Family Protection Law" proposal. There are currently 21 women political prisoners in Iran, according to Gender Equality in Iran, among them the feminist activists Somahey Rashidi and Mansoureh Shojay arrested at the end of last December.

We support the women in Honduras who continue their resistance to the civil and military coup in their country, and the Colombian women, harassed by both the state and paramilitaries in their struggle against militarisation.

We will be in the streets on International Women's Day for all of us as women, especially those who are restricted from doing so. Sisters in the above countries invited us to participate in their mobilisations on this day but, unfortunately, we are not able to be physically present in each country that we would like to be. We are organising and participating in the demonstrations in our own cities and towns and we will demonstrate our solidarity with the sisters in these countries in our speeches, slogans, banners and demands.

In feminist solidarity,
International Secretariat

INTERNATIONAL

Preparations for the closing event of our 3rd International Action in the DRC are progressing

WMW women's groups in the DRC are actively preparing for the closing event of our International Action in October. Our sisters in Bukavu held a meeting in early January to present the action in which close to 500 women participated. Eight working commissions were formed at the meeting, including logistics, finances and programme setting.

In addition to North and South Kivu and Kinshasa, the March is also being organised in the provinces in Eastern Kasai and Katanga.

To improve the organisation of our activity, we sent forms to the National Coordinating Bodies for the pre-registration of participants that should be returned by the 30th March to the following e-mail: bukavu@marchemondiale.org.

Through our presence in the DRC, or in our own countries, we will carry out actions to denounce the systematic use of rape of women, girls and boys, the interests behind the control of mineral resources and biodiversity in the region, as well as the profits being made by the arms industry and private security companies.

We hope to show that it is possible to demilitarise the region and challenge the current paradigm in which the military missions of the U.N. – so-called stabilisation missions – end up becoming permanent. In 2010, the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) will mark 10 years of its presence in the country without a cease in the violence against the local population, particularly in South and North Kivu.

INTERNATIONAL

Website and materials for distribution

The website of the Third International Action is finally online at www.mmm2010.info, www.wmw2010.info or www.mmf2010.info. In this space you will find detailed information about actions at national and regional (Asia, Americas and Europe) levels, and also about the closing mobilisation and activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The site contains information about how to participate in the actions as well as all the distribution materials available in various languages (stickers, leaflets, posters, books, and others).

Contribute to the construction of the website by sending news, photos, audiovisuals and schedules of the mobilisation activities of your National Coordinating Body, and any other information that you wish to disseminate.

It is also possible to contribute to the website by helping to translate the contents into the various languages of the WMW. Please contact: nathalia@marchemondiale.org

REGIONS

The Balkans mobilised for 2010!

In their meeting of the 16th – 17th January, WMW sisters from Albania, Greece and Republic of Macedonia agreed on common activities to promote the rights and demands of women from countries in the Balkans region.

A WMW Balkans caravan will bring together women from Macedonia, Greece and Turkey on their way to the European Regional Action in Istanbul, Turkey, on the 30th June (see the January edition of this newsletter for more information). The participants will take part in the European Social Forum in the same city from the 1st – 4th June before continuing the caravan, visiting the following cities en route: Rouse and Sofia in Bulgaria, Costanza and Bucharest in Romania, Leskovac and Belgrade in Serbia, Podgorica in Montenegro, Pristina in Kosovo and Duress in Albania, where the caravan will end.

In each of these cities, meetings and events will be organised by local women's groups, and women's testimonies will be recorded. A film will be made documenting the caravan, and a book will also be published to register collective experiences and events. WMW Balkans sisters invite all women's organisations in the region to join forces with them in the planning and carrying out of these activities. For more information, please contact Natasha Doshovska: dokovska@detstvo.org.mk.

For a feminist and equal Europe, where women live without fear of violence or trafficking, where Europeans and immigrants have identical rights, and where there is work for all and equal and decent wages! Against privatisations of public services and the militarisation of our societies!

COUNTRY ACTIONS

Haiti: Strengthening social organisations in order to rebuild the country

We are all aware of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on the 12th January and the hundreds of thousands who lost their lives, including our dear sisters Magalie Marcelin, Myriam Merlet, and Anne Marie Coriolan.

Since then, we have remained in close contact with our sisters in the WMW National Coordinating Body in the country. It is they who have guided us with respect to what we, around the world, can do now and in the future to show our solidarity. They have provided us with the following broad outline of strategies for action:

“We would like the WMW to support our political strategies with regards to our approach to the

reconstruction of Haiti. Although we have not yet produced a document to this effect, for the moment we join together in supporting the various demands outlined in the text written by the Quebec women: <http://www.marchemondiale.org/structure/cn-groupe/ameriques/haiti/earthquake/quebec012510/en>

We want our country to be reconstructed on the basis of social justice, equality and equity that respects



democratic values. We demand that a real process of dialogue is put into place that allows the social movements and people of Haiti to express their points of view regarding the reconstruction.

Of course we need the solidarity of other nations, but without the imposition of the imperialists' views."

It is now up to our grassroots organisations and National Coordinating Bodies to put our solidarity into practice. The mobilisations that are being planned on or around the 8th March represent excellent opportunities to show that we march side by side with our Haitian sisters and to support the Campaign against Militarisation (recently launched by various social movements):

Haiti is not in need of a military intervention. On the contrary, we demand that the sovereignty of the country be respected and that development aid and technical support of donor nations is given in true solidarity, with the provision of medicines, teachers, and other professionals to serve the Haitian people.

We also demand:

- That women and their organisations be implicated and included in reconstruction projects,

because they are the pillars of social and political life in the country;

- That women have access to integral health services, and that particular attention be paid to violence against women and children in the present context of their increased vulnerability due to the climate of insecurity;

- That Haiti's external debt be immediately and unconditionally written off;

- That Haiti not be lead into further debt. Resources for helping and rebuilding Haiti must be in the form of donations, not loans;

- The reaffirmation of Haiti's right to sovereignty. The emergency help and plans for reconstruction should not be tied to any conditions nor serve the interests of donor nations;

- That food and energy sovereignty be included in reconstruction plans with recognition of women's participation;

- That the people of Haiti be at the heart of the re-building of their nation, in such a way as to strengthen their capacity for decision-making regarding what they want for their country.

And to launch our 3rd International Action around the world...

Below is the general list of actions in each country / territory. For more information with regard to each country / territory, take a look at our 2010 Action website!

Albania: Women's gathering: Violence against women, Tirana.

Algeria: 10th March, Conference-debate: Women's Economic Autonomy, Alger.

Argentina: 8th March, Activity and distribution of pamphlets: WMW slogans, Buenos Aires.

Bangladesh: 8th March, Participation in national rally, Dakar + decentralised activities in different districts.

Basque Country: 8th – 13th March, National caravan, starting and ending in Irunea to + 13th March, National demonstration, Irunea.

Belgium: 6th March, National demonstration with stops in symbolic places: 4 Action Areas, Brussels.

Bolivia: 8th March, 11am – midday, Simultaneous actions in all departments in the country.

Brazil: 8th – 18th March, National march: 4 Action Areas, Campinas to São Paulo.

Burkina Faso: 8th – 18th March, National march towards Ouagadougou: Violence, peace, poverty.

Cameroun: 8th March, Mobilisations in six regions of the country + 1st – 8th March, rural women's market, Yaoundé.

Canada: 8th March, Participation in de-centralised marches and other activities: 4 Action Areas, across the country.

Catalonia: 8th March, Participation in the traditional feminist demonstration together with 'the Walkers', Barcelona + 12th March, Women's seminar: food sovereignty, Tarrasa.

Central African Republic: 15th February – 15th March, Participation in the "Central African women's project for equality and development", including a women's caravan (22nd February – 8th March) between various neighbourhoods, Bangui + 8th March, Women's gathering, Bangui.

Chile: 8th March, Participation in the national demonstration: the history of women's struggles, violence against women, women workers, Santiago de Chile.

Colombia: 8th March, 3 workshops in different areas, Bogota.

Cuba: 8th March, Central public activity: raising awareness of our International Action, 100th anniversary of the declaration of International Women's Day, Havana.

England: 6th March, Participation in the national demonstration: violence against women, food sovereignty, 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, London.

Ecuador: 8th March, Launch of the "Women in the struggle for Buen Vivir (the construction of a society based on a life lived in harmony with oneself, others and the world around)", Guayaquil y Rumiñahui, y Women's rights Forum, Guayaquil + 14th March, Bike mobilisation to commemorate the 100th year

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anniversary of the declaration of International Women's Day, Quito.

France: 8th March, Participation in national demonstration and de-centralised mobilisations: Defence of women's rights, violence against women, launch of 3rd International Action, Paris and across the country.

Galicia: 8th March, Mobilisation activities in 7 regions + 13th March, National mobilisation: 3rd International Action launch, Santiago de Compostela.

Greece: 8th March, United feminist demonstration, Athens.

Guatemala: 7th – 8th March, Symbolic actions: in defence of Guatemalan territory, bodies and land, Guatemala City.

Haiti: 8th March, Participation in the public demonstration organised by CONAP in memory of the women who died in the earthquake, particularly our feminist sisters Magalie Marcelin, Myriam Merlet and Anne Marie Coriolan, Port-au-Prince.

Honduras: 8th – 11th March, Participation in the Latin American Meeting: an open space for dialogue, discussion and the exchange of feminist action and thought, Tegucigalpa.

India: 9th March, National mobilisation: national legislation for domestic workers, Delhi.

Italy: 7th March, Alternative 8th March celebration: launch of 3rd International Action, debate and music, Milan.

Japan: 7th March, Women's march and assembly, Tokyo.

Kenya: 8th – 18th March, Diverse mobilisation, cultural, educational and political activities, Nairobi.

Macedonia: 8th March, Open day – Workshops: Role of, and violence against, women, Skopje.

Mali: 8th – 18th March, National and regional marches: Peace and demilitarisation, Bamako and Northern region.

Mexico: 8th March, Street mobilisation: Femicidio + 14th March, street market: 4 Action Areas, both activities in Mexico city (with women from Tascala, Puebla, Mexico City, Morelia) and San Cristóbal (with women from the south of the country).

Mozambique: 8th March, Diverse activities in different provinces + 27th March, simultaneous activities (talks, cultural and sporting events, awareness raising of international mobilisation in South Kivu in October, etc), Maputo and provinces.

Nepal: 8th March, Participation and pamphlet distribution in national trade union rally with women workers, Kathmandu.

New Caledonia: 27th February, National mobilisation: 4 Action Areas, 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, Nouméa.

Pakistan: 8th March, National Rally, Lahore + 12th – 18th March, Decentralised marches and seminars: violence against women, informal and home-based workers' rights, 7 districts.

Peru: 8th – 18th March, Diverse decentralised activities and mobilisations: domestic and rural workers' rights, the struggle against the prostitution industry, etc, Lima and across the country.

Philippines: 8th March, Women's marches: Violence against women, militarisation, WTO, 12 centres of the archipelago including Manila.

Portugal: 8th March, Public demonstration, Lisbon + 9th – 18th March, Diverse political and cultural activities: 4 Action Areas, Various cities.

Quebec: 7th March, March and national launch of 3rd International Action, Montreal + 8th March, Decentralised actions, 17 regions.

Republic of Korea: 6th March, National and decentralised rallies: Economic issues and Violence against women, Seoul and other cities.

South Africa: 7th March, Launch of the 3rd International Action & roundtable discussions: 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, Domestic workers' rights, women's access to land and housing, etc, Cape Town.

Sri Lanka: 8th – 18th March, March and intertwined activities: Violence against women and children, Thalahena to Puttalam.

Sudan: 15th March, Seminar: Violence against women, peace for Darfur, Khartoum and Darfur region.

Switzerland: 13th March, National demonstration: 4 Action Areas, Bern.

Turkey: 8th March, Demonstration, Diyarbakir + 6th – 8th March, "Diyarbakir Women's Days", Diverse political and cultural activities.

The March in Action is a newsletter edited by the World March of Women International Secretariat (IS) and distributed by email.

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