



04 - April

THE MARCH IN ACTION

THE WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN'S THIRD INTERNATIONAL
ACTION NEWSLETTER

Editorial

An increase in work with diverse women's groups. The strengthening of relationships with women from mixed (men and women) movements. The increased participation of young women. The fact that, in many countries, the WMW action has contributed to the renovation of a feminist agenda in the media. All of the above are very positive steps forward that have been observed as a result of the activities that took place during our 3rd International Action from the 8th - 18th March.

On the other hand, the socio-political context in which the International Action is taking place presents us with challenges such as organising actions in a countries / regions marked by conflicts and by systemic crises, which generate ideological changes (the strengthening of the conservative offensive and the attempt to roll-back rights already won) and make it more difficult to access resources. We have also perceived the need to organise more debates and seminars to deepen issues and elaborate national demands regarding each of our four Action Areas.

This edition covers the activities and actions that took place in the first stage of our International Action. Up until the closing of this edition, we had received news from 45 countries. The pictures below are from countries that hadn't had their pictures published in the March edition of the newsletter.

In feminist solidarity,

International Secretariat

Next Steps

Regional actions and preparation for action in the Congo: The mobilisation continues!

National actions, regional actions and the closing event in the Democratic Republic of Congo mark the WMW's calendar from now until October and will maintain the National Coordinating Bodies mobilised. In many countries, such as France, South Africa and Quebec, the WMW's action will take place in June, August and October, respectively. In Asia-Oceania, the regional meeting was delayed for about a month and will take place from the **10th to the 12th of June** in Quezon City in the Philippines. The last day will be marked by a demonstration against north-American imperialism in the region.

In Europe, preparations for the regional action that will take place on the **30th of June** in Istanbul (Turkey) are advancing, as well as the caravan that will mobilise women from the Balkans region.

In the Americas, the Women's Social Movement's and the World March of Women's call to action has gained the support of many mixed movements, such as Compa

and Via Campesina. These movements are now part of the organisation of the Women's and American People's Meeting against Militarisation (Encuentro de Mujeres y Pueblos de las Américas contra la Militarización) from the **16th to the 23th August**. The registration of up to three participants per National Coordinating Bodies starts in May and ends on the 15th July.

Towards the Democratic Republic of Congo

The preparations for the closing event of our International Action in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, were one of the main topics of the WMW's International Committee meeting that took place between the 17th - 20th April in Simonstown, South Africa. The expectation is that around 1.000 people will participate in this closing mobilisation. With the help of the presentation made by Josée Kusinza regarding RDC's social, economic and political situation, as well as her

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report of local preparations, the IC debated the objectives, programme, international mobilisation, follow up to the local preparation, as well as funding and priorities. The programme will include, among other activities, discussion panels, a food sovereignty fair, debates with authorities, creation of a memorial, the planting of trees, workshops and artistic activities. The methodology commission should finalise, soon, the program details.

At this moment, the International Secretariat (IS) is pre-registrating country participants. Due to infrastructure limitations (housing, space for events) and also for questions of security, the IC has decided that all participation in the closing act must be organised in communication with the WMW National Coordinating Bodies. The need to include journalists, health professionals and activists with languages skills to support the event in country delegations was also highlighted.

Further information about the DRC will be soon available on the website www.mmm2010.info.

If you have questions concerning pre-inscriptions, please write to: bukavu@marchemonde.org.



One of the main themes of the IC meeting in South Africa was the planning for the closing activity in Bukavu

COUNTRY ACTIONS

8-18 March: the first key moment of the Third International Action!

Africa

From Algeria and Morocco in the very north, to South Africa and Zimbabwe in the very south, many hundreds of WMW sisters were mobilised on the African continent at the beginning of March to launch the 3rd WMW International Action and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the declaration of International Women's Day. Actions organised in 14 countries included marches and demonstrations through towns and cities and camps, round table debates, the launching of a campaign, events and talks, cultural activities, a sit-in, training seminars and debates.

These activities were carried out in **Algeria** (the launch of the "Kif Kif" – equality in law – campaign), **Benin** (demonstration in Cotonou: "Equal rights, equal opportunities, progress for all"), **Burkina Faso**, **Cameroun**, **Central African Republic**, **Democratic Republic of Congo** (marches in Bukavu, Kinshasa, Lumbumbashi and Mbujimayi: peace, violence against women, equality between women and men), **Kenya** (although the main 8th March demonstration in Nairobi was prohibited by police), **Mali** (training seminar: consolidation of peace and security in the country), **Morocco** (sit-in to demand the end of violence against women), **Mozambique** (talks, sharing

of experiences and cultural activities in an event in Maputo), **South Africa** (launch of the 3rd International Action, round table discussions), **Sudan**, **Western Sahara** (marches in the Saharawi refugee camps) and **Zimbabwe** (march: presentation of the WMW, violence against women, economic empowerment).



The women of the WMW in Benin

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Americas



Women are marching in Canada

WMW activists from 18 American countries – in South, Central and North America and in the Caribbean – organised or participated in International Women’s Day demonstrations and other activities on or around the 8th March.

In Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Martinique, Mexico, Peru, Quebec and Venezuela, our sisters mobilised under the WMW flag and the slogan “Women on the March until we are All Free” as part of the 3rd International Action. Actions included street demonstrations in capital and other cities – in Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, Oruro, Santa Cruz and Tarija, **Bolivia**; in Santiago, **Chile**; in San Salvador, **El Salvador**; in the city of Guatemala and other cities, **Guatemala**; in San Cristobal de las Casas and Mexico City, **Mexico**; in Arequipa, Chiclayo,

Asia-Oceania

All 6 of the WMW’s Asia-Oceania National Coordinating Bodies who sent delegates to the VII International Meeting in Galicia, as well 3 other NCBs in the region, mobilised sisters in their countries for 8th March street actions.

National demonstrations took place in: Dhaka and Rajbari in **Bangladesh** (marches in which talks and cultural activities also took place; more than a thousand participants in Rajbari alone); Tokyo, the capital of **Japan** (2 different marches: a “Mimosa Parade” on the 7th March (anti-globalisation, lesbian rights, abortion, anti-militarisation, etc) and a central rally and march on the 8th March with 800 participants), Kathmandu (**Nepal**), Manila and 11 other strategic centres of the **Philippines** archipelago (in Manila many hundreds of women marched under the slogan “Militarism, Sexism, WTO, Arroyo: Retreat!”), and Seoul, the capital of **South Korea** (6th March, 500 participants took part in the 26th Korean Women’s

Junín, Lima and Puno, **Peru**; in Fort-de-France, **Martinique**; in Montreal, **Quebec**; in Caracas, **Venezuela** –, a 10-day march in **Brazil** (from Campinas to São Paulo) and other street interventions in **Argentina** (Buenos Aires), **Cuba** (Havana) and **Ecuador** (Quito).

In **Canada**, **Paraguay** and the **United States**, feminist activists allied to the WMW made the most of the launch of our International Action to share our Action Area analyses and develop their own demands related to them, while mobilising interest in our movement. While in **Haiti** and **Honduras**, WMW activists were present in street demonstrations and activities together with other feminists, resisting the coup d’état in the former, and in remembrance of our sisters Magalie Marcelin, Myriam Merlet and Anne Marie Coriolan in the latter.



Mobilisation in Ecuador

Festival and WMW for the reorganisation of care work and to defend women’s rights).



Manifestation in India

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Local, but just as well attended, street actions took place in Raipur (Chattisgarh District, **India**) – a celebration with more than a 1000 women of the historic struggles of women in the world and to assert the rights of women in the family, communities and in society – and in Lahore (**Pakistan**) – a 10km march of 1500 women in the centre of the city.

Europe

Of the 13 countries on the European continent who had shared plans with us for on or around the 8th March, only one of them – **Catalonia** – was not able to put those plans into practice, due to very heavy snow.

WMW activists in the other 12 countries were seen and heard in the streets of their capital and other cities participating in the following activities:

National demonstrations: Brussels (**Belgium**); London (**England**, thousands of women); Paris (**France**, 5000 women); Athens (**Greece**); Santiago de Compostela (**Galicia**); Bern (**Switzerland**, 8000 women).

Local marches and street gatherings: Durres and Fier (**Albania**); Zornotza to Orereta, and Bilbao, Bizkaia, Portugalete and Santurzi (**Basque Country**); Havre, Marseille, Strasbourg, Toulouse and Valréas (**France**); A Coruña, Ferrolterra, Ourense, Pontevedra and Vigo (**Galicia**); Porto (**Portugal**); Diyarbakir (**Turkey**, thousands of women).

Other activities: Lezha (**Albania**); Milan (**Italy**); Skopje (**Macedonia**); Coimbra and Lousã (**Portugal**); Base, Geneva, Neuchâtel (**Switzerland**); Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul (**Turkey**).

As well as these actions at national and local levels, a WMW Balkans regional activity was also organised,

In **Sri Lanka** activities in 6 towns concentrated along the northwest coast (fishing communities) the main theme discussed was women's role in achieving democracy, while in **New Caledonia** a national mobilisation in a central square of the capital Nouméa launched the 3rd International Action and debated the 4 WMW Action Areas.

from the 19th – 21st March in Tirana, capital city of Albania. 65 sisters from 6 countries in the region – **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro** and **Romania** – participated in this historic meeting in which the WMW Balkans Network was founded. Participants agreed to join together in solidarity and action organised across borders in the region, in the struggle against neoliberal policies and patriarchy.



Meeting in Macedonia

COUNTRY ACTIONS

The Walkers present in demonstrations: always irreverent !

Many countries intend to, or have already carried out workshops to construct their “Walkers” - puppets dressed in clothes and messages reflecting our demands that, after participating in their country's action, will participate in the regional mobilisations



and will be present in the international closing event in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Until the closing of this edition, the IS had received photos of

Walkers from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, the Philippines, Galicia, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Quebec and Switzerland. During the last WMW's IC meeting, Jean Enriquez (Philippines) and Michele Spieler (Switzerland) noted that the Walkers contribute to increased visibility of the WMW.



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Along with the “batucadas”, the Walkers encourage ever more animated demonstrations.



“We have made three Walkers in Vigo, which represents the fisherwomen, the young women and the women working in the tinned food

industry”, declared Tereixa Otero from Galicia. “In our country we are only used to seeing women in church processions, we don’t see women making demands. The Walkers have contributed the mobilisation of women from trade unions and also of young women, and they will continue to be present in other mobilisations such as the International fisherman Forum, that will soon take plac in Galicia.”



In Brazil, during 10 days of action, a group of around 20 women from all around the country, dedicated two days to the creation of clothes for the Walkers. They were made in a workshop under the orientation of the artist Biba Rigo. She told us that the two days were intense: “we worked morning, afternoon and night;

each participant drew images that express aspects of women’s lives related to their place and culture of origin.

Then we created molds for stamping the fabrics and making the dresses.” Biba tells us that one of the highlights of the immersion workshop on cultural diversity was the possibility of being able to exchange experiences and life stories among indigenous, young, black, rural and urban women.

In Switzerland, while they were sewing, the dress creators chatted about the WMW’s history, the four Action Areas and of the closing event in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Neuchatel, a Swiss

city, they used organic cotton (produced without pesticides) as raw material, purchased from small-scale producers in Burkina Faso and Mali.

To watch a video on the creation of these dresses in Switzerland, please click on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-kqOT9ofxU&feature=player_embedded#



Pictures: In the previous page, Walkers from Puerto Rico and Portugal. In this page: Quebec, Galicia, Brazil, Switzerland and Philippines.

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