



WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

This newsletter is the last one to be published during the Brazilian mandate of the International Secretariat (IS) of the World March of Women. In January 2014, the IS will be transferred to Mozambique.

Our experience during this period of a little over seven years demonstrates just how a change of this magnitude - which implies dealing with new political cultures and forms of action - is positive for the movement. Since 2006, when the IS moved from Quebec to Brazil, we have been able to continue using the WMW's consensus-building method. These consensuses are reflected in the documents that are part of our history and our records, and strengthen our identity and common political platforms. We have shared responsibilities more with the WMW's International Committee members and other activists in the March in terms of following-up on the building of both our movement and processes developed in alliance with mixed movements, which helps them to incorporate feminist analyses and practices. We have won greater recognition from society as a whole and from institutions. While there is still a lot to do, we are certain that the transition of the IS will revitalise us and help us to move forward.

Over the next few months, our challenge as a movement will be to ensure the effective transition of the IS, while at the same time, we organise our Fourth International Action. This action is seen as a process in which feminist political training and communications will be particularly strategic. And our sisters in Mozambique, led by Graça Samo, are certain that they have the support of the entire movement in facing this challenge.



We say goodbye to the task of hosting the IS, but not to our activism within the WMW. Since the 9th International Meeting in Brazil, we have dedicated ourselves to organising the records of the work carried out in recent years, as well as frequent conversations with our Mozambican sisters in order to transfer knowledge we have accumulated. We have also worked on fundraising in order to avoid any interruptions.

Without setting our future tasks aside, the majority of this newsletter is dedicated to creating a visual record that celebrates some of our mandate's key moments, as part of the historical, collective resistance and affirmation of WMW alternatives that we helped to build and will continue to build until all women and peoples are free!

Celia, Miriam and Alessandra

Former members of the WMW's International Secretariat

The Brazilian mandate in photos



June 2007, São Paulo, Brazil: the IS team at the time – Alessandra, Maria, Miriam and Celia – met for the first time at a transition seminar for the sisters from the WMW Quebec and WMW Brazil.



January 2009, Belém do Pará, Amazon, Brazil: World Social Forum: first major mobilisation in the lead-up to the 3rd International Action of the WMW. With Sarah, from Brazil.



October 2010, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo: on the left, Julia and Nathalia, who were also part of the IS and worked hard on preparations for the WMW's 3rd International Action. With Aicha from Mali.



December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark: together with Amparo (from the Philippines), we participated in the Klimaforum held parallel to COP-15, in the fight for climate justice.



November 2011, Manila, Philippines: on our way to the protest on November 25th



June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: the IS at the women's mobilisation during the People's Summit for Social and Environmental Justice, held in parallel to the Rio+20 conference.

International Meetings



October 2008, Vigo, Galicia: the 7th International Meeting defined the format for the 2010 international action, organised around four areas of action and the slogan: Women on the March Until We Are All Free!



November 2011, Quezon City, Philippines: at the 8th International Meeting, we discussed and approved our new statutes, deepening our common anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchy identity. Slogan: "Women on the March: Strengthening collective action, changing the world!"



São Paulo, August 2013: the 9th International Meeting brought together 1 650 women from 50 countries and offered training and space for exchanges and demonstrating solidarity with the struggle of women from around the world, under the slogan: "Feminism on the March to Change the World!"

A Few International Committee Meetings...



October 2007, Coimbra, Portugal: IC meeting (2006-2008 mandate) with the members of the first IS from Quebec and those from Brazil



March 2009, São Paulo, Brazil: IC members (2008-2011 mandate) joined protests during the global week of action against capitalism and war, where we denounced: "We women won't pay for the crisis. The rich have to pay for it"



April 2012, Istanbul, Turkey: first meeting of the IC elected during the International Meeting in the Philippines (2011-2013 mandate).



August 2013, São Paulo, Brazil: some of the IC members and substitutes elected at the 9th International Meeting. From left to right: Salima, Yildiz, Sophie, Awa, Chaba, Khitam, Souad, Sandra and Emilia. Missing from the photo above, but who had also been elected: Princess Nemenzo from the Philippines (Asia-Oceania member) and Elpidia Moreno from Cuba (as a substitute)

A Few Regional Meetings...



May 2009, Bamako, Mali: African Meeting



August 31st to September 2nd, 2012, Guatemala: Americas Meeting



July 2011, Terreblanque, France: 1st Young Feminists Camp



June 2012, Romans, France: WMW European Coordination Meeting

Some activities with allies and other mobilisations...



February 2007, Sélingué, Mali: Nyéléni Forum for Food Sovereignty



February 2011, Dakar, Senegal: Social Movements Assembly at the World Social Forum



June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: women's demonstration during the People's Summit, parallel to Rio+20



March 2013, Tunisia: first edition of the World Social Forum held in a country from the Arab world

Third International Action



March 2010: the Third International Action in Brazil brought together 3 000 women who marched approximately 120 km in over 10 days, between the cities of Campinas and São Paulo.



June 2010, Philippines: Regional Meeting marks the actions of the Asia-Oceania region



June 2010, Istanbul, Turkey: the action united women from different countries in conflict in Europe in a context of growing militarisation and conservative nationalist and fundamentalist offensive



August 2010, Colombia: solidarity missions, conference and mobilisation in front of the Palanquero military base mark the Women and People's Summit of the Americas against Militarisation, regional moment of action in the Americas



October 17th, 2010, Bukavu, province of Sud Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): more than 20 000 people participated in the demonstration that marked the closing event of the WMW's Third International Action. The international delegation present there reached a total of over 220 women from 41 countries, who were able to denounce the economic causes behind the war in the DRC and their consequences and show support for local women fighting to change their situation. It was the first time we, from the WMW, organised an international action in a territory in conflict. Click here to see the video that we produced on the whole Third International Action of the WMW:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hkh1JOjshyg&feature=related>



Towards the 4th International Action: news from Europe and the Americas!

WMW National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) from different regions have already begun their preparations for the 4th International Action. In **Europe**, they met in early October in Brussels, Belgium, where they decided to organise a feminist caravan. The caravan will start on March 8th, 2015 in London (United Kingdom) and end in Portugal on October 17th. Feminist training, cultural activities and a map of feminist alternatives being developed on the continent will be created as the caravan makes its way throughout Europe, meeting grassroots women in urban and rural areas along the way. Each NCB is currently dedicated to preparing detailed proposals on the various activities that will be part of the caravan.

In the build-up to the action, there will be several important moments for mobilisations and encounters between activists: in February, in Switzerland, young feminists are planning an activity to continue the work on attacks on the right to and access to abortion in Europe. A conference on care work is being organised in Germany in March. From June 4th to 6th, 2014, Sarajevo, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, will host a Thematic Social Forum on peace. As the WMW, we will try to organise a session on criminalisation, militarisation and violence (one of the four pillars of our 2015 action) in the forum. The Forum will also be an opportunity to organise our participant groups in the region, in particular, in the lead-up to 2015.

In addition to discussing the action, the Europeans elected Clara Carbunar, from the France NCB, to be the region's substitute in the WMW's International Committee (IC). Participation in the European Secretariat was also renewed and broadened. The next meeting of the WMW's European coordinating team will be held in Basque Country next year.

The NCBs from the **Americas** region have also already held their first online meeting (via skype) at the end of October. During the meeting, they shared information on national actions in which the WMW in their countries are involved and briefly assessed the 9th International Meeting. As part of their follow-up tasks from the Meeting, sisters from the Americas committed themselves to sending information to the IC and the IS on the training processes they carry out in their countries, and on the situation of lesbians. This compilation of information from the region will be used for the planning of the activities of the International Committee and Secretariat in the future.

With regards to the 2015 action, NCBs are to put forward detailed proposals by March, which include estimates of the costs of holding caravans and meetings by sub-region. They are also to share news on resistance struggles and the alternatives that women are building in their own context. These will serve as input for the meeting of the entire IC, which is scheduled to be held in May 2014. NCBs from the Americas have scheduled their next online meeting for February.

New contact information for the International Secretariat



Starting in January, the contact information for the International Secretariat of the WMW will be:

Rue Vila Namuali n. 246, Bairro da Malhangalene, Maputo, Moçambique

The IS' **main email** will stay the same: info@marchemondiale.org To contact the **communication** officer, write to: communication@marchemondiale.org

The email of the new **IS Coordinator**, Graça Samo, is: gracasamo@marchemondiale.org For **liaison** activities with NCBs, write to Suzete Marques: suzete@marchemondiale.org

Photo: during the final assembly of the 9th International Meeting, in São Paulo, we celebrated the election of Graça Samo, from Mozambique, as the new WMW International Coordinator

This **Newsletter** is edited by the World March of Women International Secretariat (IS) and distributed by email.

Contact details: Rua Ministro Costa e Silva, 36 • Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP • Brazil • Postal code: 05417-080 • Tel: +55 11 3032-3243
Fax: +55 11 3032-3239 • Email: info@marchemondiale.org • Site: <http://www.worldmarchofwomen.org>

Collaborations in this edition: Alessandra Ceregatti, Celia Alldridge ad Miriam Nobre **Translation and revision:** Carmen Díaz, Julia Clímaco, Karen Lang, Nathalia Capellini **Photos:** WMW Archives, Joane McDermott, Marta Baião, Pierre-Yves Ginet

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