



The World March of Women

1998 - 2008

**A Decade of
International
Feminist
Struggle**

SPECIAL

**Pull-out
Visual
Chronology:
Ten Years of
World March
of Women
Facts and
Photos**

Summary

1998 – 2008



**The World
March of
Women as a
Movement:
a Decade of
International
Feminist
Struggle**

Introduction 4

Part I The March's Collective and International Identity 7

The World March of Women as a Movement _____ 8
A Brief History, from Local to International _____ 17
Understanding the Increasingly Complex World _____ 28
Alliance Building to Construct Another World _____ 34
The Effects of Common Action _____ 41

Part II The March through its Key Documents 53

World March of Women: Purpose, Goals and Values _____ 54
Demands of the World March of Women in the Year 2000 _____ 55
Declaration of Values _____ 59
Women's Global Charter for Humanity _____ 61
Letter to the International Monetary Fund and the World
Bank: 2000 Good Reasons to Change Course! _____ 65
Letter to the United Nations _____ 82
Violence Against Women: The "Other World" Must Act _____ 91

Part III Looking to the Future, Taking Action in the Present 101

Challenges that Match our Ambitions _____ 102

**Brief Glossary of Partner Organizations
and Movements 107**

Bibliography 111



Introduction

In 2008, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the 1st International Meeting of the World March of Women, where our movement was launched. The event, held in Montréal, Québec, Canada, in October 1998, brought together women from various parts of the planet to discuss the preparation of a new worldwide campaign to confront the causes of poverty and violence. Inspired by the successful Bread and Roses March, organized by the Québec Federation of Women in 1995, the 1st International Meeting led to the first international action of the World March of Women, which was launched on March 8, 2000, and ended on October 17 that year.

The World March of Women remained and grew into an international social movement – feminist, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperialist – rooted in local struggles and local context, and linked to class struggle. Following the second international action in 2005, reflection deepened about the nature of the March and it was structured into a movement. Today we are organized in national coordinating bodies (NCBs) in more than 70 countries, composed of hundreds of women and grassroots groups (active participating groups as well as supporting groups). We have an International Committee composed of feminist activists from five continents and an International Secretariat, currently based in São Paulo, Brazil, that coordinates the movement's day-to-day activities.

Inspired by women's struggles at the local level, during the 6th International Meeting in 2006, four action areas emerged, around which the March wants to deepen its analysis and strengthen its action leading up to 2010:



Women on the March until

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Women as a
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- The common good, food sovereignty and access to resources and biodiversity
- Peace and demilitarization
- Violence against women as a tool for controlling women's bodies, lives and sexuality
- Women's work

The main objective of this document is to systematize some of the March's history and forms of action over these past ten years. It is being published on the occasion of the International Meeting scheduled for October 2008 in Galicia, Spain, to plan the next international action for 2010. It will be an important occasion for World March of Women activists in all countries to trade ideas, reflect and strategize about the movement: where we are and the challenges for the future.

In the first part of the book, we seek to identify what characterizes the March as a movement; the dilemmas that existed in the women's movement when the March emerged; its horizontal method of operating, based on grassroots organizations and using multiple forms of expression. The contents and demands of the March are expressed in the historical documents reviewed in the second part of the book. The last part addresses the permanent challenges faced by the movement. An insert contains a chronology of events and historical images of the March and the socio-political context of those ten years.

We hope that this publication will serve as a useful resource for every March activist, sympathizer and ally of the movement, as well as for members of the general public interested in learning more about our work.

We are All Free!

