



World Women in Europe: Call for May Day 2012

We Want All Life has to Offer – Bread and Roses!

In 1890, one year after May Day had been decided in Paris to be the world holiday of the workers, a young female worker expressed her feelings concerning May Day: *“What a wonderful thought to know that the exploited and oppressed from all over the world are connected mentally on that day, that they make their demands towards the ruling parties with all their might.”*

The “World Women” in Europe call all women to take part in the unions’ demonstrations and rallies with all their concerns, wishes, demands and visions of a world without exploitation and oppression in these terms and in the spirit of the World Women’s Conference in Caracas/Venezuela in 2011. The European world women are participating actively in the women’s movement of the trade unions, in the labor movement.

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The EU is a region of great wealth, but because of the rule of the mighty European corporations and their governments it is a mighty reactionary pole. The labor movement

and the women’s movement are standing up to them together!

Europe’s female workers, worker’s wives and union women are in a new awakening!

Important struggles and strikes would have been impossible in recent years without the women in factories, hospitals, kindergartens, offices, retail trade or as charladies. That is why on May Day the female workers and workers’ wives and their interests are in the centre for the militant women’s movement as the most important link of the social movements.

The share of women in the working class is increasing. In the EU 58.6 percent of women are gainfully employed. More and more women are no longer financially dependent on their husbands, are becoming more self-confident and independent. At the same time full-time jobs are reduced and instead mini- and part-time jobs with low income combined with extreme flexibilization of working hours are growing. In 2008 31.1 percent of women worked part-time, 7.9 percent of men. The hourly wages of women are 17.6 percent below those of men. In 2006 23 percent of

female full-time workers were employed in the low-wage sector. Female poverty is increasing; officially 15 percent of women and even 32 percent of single mothers are living below the poverty line. This downward spiral of attacks on women increasingly includes the whole working class in Europe.

World women in Europe for drastic pay rise and jobs enabling a life in dignity.

In February 2012 officially 25 million men and women were unemployed in Europe, the highest level since 1997! Spain leads the way with 23.6 percent. Young women under 25 are especially affected. Masses of women are constantly on the move for the care of the people in the health sector.

World women in Europe against the destruction of jobs and for the reduction of working hours with full wage compensation – more time to live, learn, love!

World women in Europe do not want to be migrant workers!

Women carry the main burden of social tasks being shifted on to the families, they invest an average of more than 4.6 hours a day for “unpaid domestic work”. Every third woman becomes a victim of violence in a relationship or at work at least once in her life. Countries of Eastern Europe are known as “countries of origin” for trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Every day the bourgeois mass culture spreads beauty craze and sexism.

World women in Europe against sexism and violence against women!

All of this makes clear: The myth of gender equality in Europe is one of the system’s crucial fundamental lies. A real liberation of women will only be possible if social causes are overcome as well. That is why:

World women in Europe for the liberation of women in liberated societies!

In Greece it is demonstrated how the EU brutally shifts the burden of the economic and financial crisis on to the masses, especially on to the women, workers and children. More and more people in Europe are questioning the system! In European countries a democratic and environmentally conscious youth movement is rebelling, with courageous

young women in the forefront.

World women in Europe for international solidarity with the struggles of the masses in Greece, Portugal, Spain and other countries!

World women in Europe against exploitative child labor and for a future for the youth!

World women in Europe for the shutdown of all nuclear power plants, 100 percent renewable energy and the protection of our natural environment!

“We declare that the struggle of the worldwide militant women’s movement is an indispensable part of the struggle of workers, people and the whole human race for emancipation” the final resolution of the World Women’s Conference in 2011 says. Let us jointly – women and men – fight against mass redundancies and destruction of jobs, organize militant resistance. Let us encourage fighting against the social circumstances responsible for the double exploitation and oppression of women.

We want to work closer together in Europe and get organized well!

That is why on this May Day we especially want to appeal to support the European world women’s financial basis with various initiatives for donations!



For a militant May Day 2012 - We want all life has to offer - bread and roses!

More about the world women and the WWC at www.conferenciamundialdemujeres.org

Contact: