

We fight where life is

„On 25th November, the day against violence against women, we fight all forms of violence against women! We especially accuse violence as a result of imperialist aggression and wars against the peoples, in which women become victims and war trophies.”

“On 25 November, the day against violence against women, it is important to accuse the different forms of violence against women, especially those who are suffering as results of aggression and imperialist wars against the peoples, in which women become victims and war trophies.” (Taken from the final resolution of the World Women’s Conference of rank and file women in Venezuela 2011)

Today more than one million people in Syria have had to flee their homes, 2/3 of them are women and children. The justified fight of the insurgency which started in March 2011 has become an imperialist competition and power struggle by now. Raping is used as a mean to break resistance.

Women from the Asian-Pacific countries see the reason for the US military presence primarily in their wish to control the big market they regard it as. The US military presence reinforces aggression, the thread of war and intensifies the general militarization. They violently suppress the people fighting for a change in this region. Women complain that victims of such violence never get justice, because the USA takes US-soldiers who have become criminal directly out of the country.

Looking back at 2012 we can see courageous and self-confident women around the globe who no longer want to endure violence and oppression. Violence against women is inseparably linked to the capitalistic conditions, which a growing rebellion of women, men and youth around the world is fighting against. Not without reason the women are often fighting in the front lines.

The seeds of the Arab spring grow roots

In August of this year the Tunisian women were shouting in the streets of Tunis: *“We want the second revolution”*. The reason for this demonstration was the draft of the new Tunisian constitution that no longer speaks of equality of man and woman. Church and religion have always been used to support patriarchic family structures. Such a change in the constitution would open the doors for violence against and oppression of women and girls. In nearby Egypt the German-Egyptian political scientist Hoda Salah draws balance after women had been threatened by the police because they had been wearing trousers: *“some of these women are on satellite television telling millions of Arabs how they were humiliated, sexually harassed and hit by the police. Former taboos like “He threatened to rape me” they speak out loud today, with confidence. That is a revolution itself.”*

“Don’t tell me, how to dress”

is the slogan of the “SlutWalk”. Especially young women were demonstrating against a Canadian policeman’s remark in several cities around the world. He advised women not to dress like “sluts” if they do not want to become victims of sexual violence. That is how abuse and rape are justified. Again and again we have to fight hard for women being allowed to decide over their own body, if they want to have children or not. In Turkey, Switzerland, Spain a tightening of the right to abortion is to be pushed through. History has told us that this leads to illegal abortions, carried out in unhygienic conditions where many women die.

In August 2012, 2500 female workers of the Ocean-Garment factory in Cambodia were on strike and demanded the dismissal of a manager. They accused him of harassing four women sexually.

Solidarity makes stronger

The courageous strike of the steelworkers from Aspropirgos got big international solidarity. This was organized very practically in some parts. The steelworker’s women supported the struggle and they did so although they did not know how their families should survive without salary and only a small strike-pay. To withdraw the material foundations of survival from the workers is also a form of violence. But all of them relied on the solidarity. Women from the Women’s Political Council in Germany send a lorry loaded with 270 solidarity packages to Greece.

The consequences of the world financial and economic crisis are particularly burdened on the shoulders of the working-class families. In August 2012 Spanish mine workers’ women marched in Mieres at night to protest against the non-fulfillment of the government’s commitments in the mining industry.

“Currently the consciousness among the masses of women is developing that equality cannot be achieved by means of formal legal equality alone. There is a growing awareness of the necessity for a worldwide exchange of experience, collaboration, stimulation of common actions and solidarity. There it the growing awareness that it is necessary to struggle for the liberation of women in a world completely liberated from exploitation and oppression.” (Taken from the call for the World Women’s Conference 2011)

“We declare that the struggle of the international militant women’s movement is an inseparable part of the struggles of workers, peoples and the entire humankind for its emancipation.” (Taken from the final resolution of the World Women’s Conference of rank and file women in Venezuela 2011)

Swiss delegates of the World Women’s Conference 2011, October 2012,

on behalf of the European Committee