

Women's League Courage, Germany, November 2013

Dear Friends, Dear Sisters around the World,

The "Courage Women" from Germany are sending you their best and warm greetings in solidarity for the November 25th! In Venezuela in the spring of 2011 the first World Women's Conference of rank-and-file women declared wholeheartedly: *"We are determined to develop women's movement in every country and we concentrate our cooperation on three worldwide campaign days of the militant women's movement. (...)*

On 25th November, the day for opposing violence against women, we are willing to fight every variety of violence against women! We especially condemn the violence as the result of imperialist aggression and wars where women are victims and trophies of the war lords."

The world wide coordination team met in October in South Africa for the preparation of the 2nd World Women's Conference in Asia in 2016. The next World Women's Conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 11th to 18th March.

With fury and sorrow are we watching the violence women around the world are exposed to – like our friends in Bangladesh, where fires and collapsing textile factories are costing the lives and health of thousands of female workers. Our friends in Syria who are fighting not to fall victims to a bloody "proxy war". Our friends in India where the resistance against brutal rape is increasing. Our friends in Europe where unemployment and poverty have been growing rapidly because the burden of the economic crisis is being shifted on our backs. On the other hand we are proud and optimistic because more and more women and girls all over the world are now prepared to fight. Women committees are an important pillar for the self-administration of the region Rojava (West Kurdistan) in Syria. In Asia many courageous women are fighting in their labour unions against the gruelling situation in the factories and for compensation and higher wages – they are supported by solidarity world wide. These are a few examples only.

Now we would like to tell you of our experiences in Germany at this time: especially young women are organizing protests against sexual harassment which occur in the media, advertisements etc. on a daily basis. Women are also protesting against "Fracking", the same way as in other countries. Through underground explosions of the rocks with pressing in chemicals, gas is to be extracted. "Fracking" poisons the drinking water and speeds up the climatic disaster. The wives of the mine workers from the women's league Courage are campaigning against it, together with representatives of the environmental movement. The mining corporations are planning to shut down the mines for "Fracking", that is why the women are fighting for every job in the mines. During the struggle for every job at Opel Bochum their wives, women, working women and the families of workmen united in the "Basta! Women Committee". They present themselves in public independently and are collecting funds to prepare strikes. They protested loudly at the "IAA Frankfurt" in front of the stall of Opel and even security and police couldn't stop them. They got a lot of public attention and donations, too. The workers of Opel are very proud of these women. Our work is also facing severe attacks. The women's league Courage is no longer accepted as a non-profit-making organization, because we are without regard for affiliations and also welcome communists. This would mean an enormous loss in financial support. The fight for the non-profit status is part of a growing anti-anticommunist movement in Germany. Recently we have been protesting against it at the State Parliament and are winning more and more follow campaigners!

In Essen this year we are organizing a "Tribunal des femmes" against violence on women and girls - world wide. The highlight will be the flash dance for all to the song "Break the Chain" from OneBillionRisingDay.

Would also love to deliver a special greeting from you all!

We were happy if you could give our special greetings to the women of your countries and vice versa.

And also please let us know what are you planning for the 25th November? How are you? What motivates you and your fellow women in your movement? How important is the „World Women's Conference“ to all of you?

**We do embrace you warmly,
Your Courage-Women from Germany**