

Gelsenkirchen Internationalism Live -

Reporting on the 3rd World Women's Conference of Grassroots Women in Tunisia

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No.	Text
0	<p>Presentation by moderator Good evening, dear friends! Good to see you all here! We would also like to extend a special welcome to Ayten Kahraman from Yeni Kadin. She was our substitute delegate and will lead the discussion with us later.</p>
1.	<p><i>"Finally!</i> <i>The 3rd World Conference of Grassroots Women took place in Tunis/Tunisia from 3 to 9 September 2022 in solidarity, inquisitive, contentious, self-confident and confident of victory."</i> This is how the final resolution aptly begins.</p>
2.	<p>One cannot understand the Grassroots Women's World Conference without its back story: In 1995, the UN was a bit of alarmed by <u>nearly 50,000</u> militant activists on the sidelines of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. <u>Moni picture in Beijing</u> And promptly the UN World Conferences on Women were abandoned! That's when the <u>Women's Political Council (Counsel)</u> picked up the <u>idea of</u> my experiences in Beijing and my initiative for a World Women's Conference of grassroots women.</p>

3.	<p>They are a genuine contrast to the <u>UN conferences on women</u>. In the UN conferences, government representatives including even the Vatican meet to achieve a certain formal legal equality of women worldwide - but in no way want to touch the social causes of their double exploitation and oppression of the mass of women..., The conferences themselves did not significantly change the <u>situation of women</u>, not even through the years-long and expensive "monitoring processes" with many meetings and mountains of paper produced.</p>
4.	<p>With the <u>basic idea for the creation of the movement of the World Conference of Grassroots Women</u>, the 1st World Conference of Women in Caracas 2011 was already <u>a great success!</u> <u>The 2nd World Women's Conference in Kathmandu/ Nepal</u> was on a new level a truly internationally self-organised, democratic, non-partisan (<i>überparteiliche</i>) (non Party affiliated) and financially independent conference. In accordance with the Caracas Resolution, a system of national, continental and global coordination and co-operation was realised.</p>
5.	<p>To great excitement, Susanne Bader and Halinka Augustin, the European coordinators of the World Women's Conference, announced at the <u>Women's Political Council 2019</u> in Erfurt that the 3rd World Women's Conference of Grassroots Women will take place in Tunisia in September 2021.</p>
6.	<p>A lot had happened since the 2nd World Conference on Women in Kathmandu: Two European Conferences; starting from Argentina, the concept of women's strike days emerged; numerous reliable international contacts; a <u>theoretical seminar</u> in Bangalore (India), Participation in congresses and trips to other countries; Solidarity work against fascist attacks and much more ...</p>
7.	<p>At the same time, there were fierce conflicts in the world women's movement: Fascist and reactionary forces mobilised women, such as the fascist new prime minister in Italy, <u>Meloni</u>, to push through their reactionary im-</p>

	<p>age of women and the radical dismantling of fought-for rights - such as abortion - with supposedly tough women.</p> <p>Governments like our 'traffic light' coalition government (<i>composed of the Social Democratic Party [red], the Liberal Party [yellow] and the Green Party [green]</i> – the transl.) started with great promises of women's policies and are now implementing a rigid course of war and crisis, and that too under the banner of feminist politics. As a deliberate <u>divisive manoeuvre within the</u> strengthening militant women's movement, the ruling class and also large NGOs massively disseminated divisive queer concepts in combination with anti-communist exclusionary manoeuvres.</p>
8.	<p>The coordinators called on us:</p> <p>"... we have created a good sustainable foundation for ourselves: our movement bundles the (movement of a) mass of the women of the world <u>from religion to revolution.</u></p> <p>But that is not enough!</p> <p>The <u>militant world women's movement</u> is facing great new tasks.</p> <p>For this, we need to strengthen the militant women's movement.</p>
9.	<p>None of us suspected the pandemic that would then occur, that still holds the world in suspense today.</p> <p>It was the reason why the conference had to be postponed for a year.</p> <p><u>But we women of the world will not be stopped!</u></p>
10.	<p>For the first time, the women's federation Courage and its national executive committee took over the main responsibility for the preparation in Germany, respectively accompanied and coached by the tried and proven team of the <u>Militant Women's Council.</u></p> <p>Courage was founded in 1991 and as a <u>non-partisan (überparteilich – the transl.) women's association</u> is closely linked to the World Women's Movement. In the whole process, the foundations and principles of the wo-</p>

	men's association Courage proved to be a real global strike. The association has already contributed significantly to the success of the World Women's Conferences.
11.	We wanted to contribute our <u>know-how and</u> at the same time take a big step forward in strengthening our women's association. There were events all over the country organised by the Courage groups - some of them with hundreds of visitors. There, the World Women's Conference was presented, prepared and donations were collected and new activists were won.
12.	The close bond of <u>partner groups</u> once again proved to be very successful for the participation of diverse women of the world - representing thousands of world women. We fought together with them to make their participation possible, for visas and funding and, last but not least, mutuality in relations. At the same time, this strengthened internationalist consciousness and new women became members of the women's federation. <u>The partnerships, which have now often lasted for years or even a whole decade,</u> can be described without exaggeration as the most sustainable moment of cooperation between the World Conferences on Women to date and the firm foundation of international relations on a mutual basis.
13.	This cannot be valued highly enough, but of course it must always be critically examined in terms of the representation of the countries and most important women's movements worldwide. So we could not consolidate the initially very close relations with <u>Latin America</u> and the continent was clearly under-represented in Tunis. This is especially measured against the great importance of the Latin American women's mass movement.
14.	Preparing a self-organised world women's conference of grassroots women, internationally and in Germany, is of course a <u>huge, sometimes breathtaking</u> task. It already seems quite natural. Criticisms come quickly and certainly often justified when something doesn't work out properly.

	<p>But where is there such a volunteer-led, extremely complicated process of preparing and running a conference by the grassroots women themselves?</p> <p>With representants from all continents, a <u>coordination with</u> very different political, ideological and cultural backgrounds; self-organised, <u>self-funded</u>, with a rich programme, Translation into six, sometimes seven languages, extensive decision-making, discussion, culture and friendship?</p>
15.	<p>Actually, the Tunis Conference was supposed to take place at the <u>university in Manouba</u>. Everything was already in place when the dean of the university suddenly cancelled it. But we don't know if it was really for the organisational reasons given or the fear of dubious string-pullers before the militant women's movement of the world?</p> <p>In any case, it took a huge effort with tens of hours of visits and phone calls to find a <u>new venue for the World Conference on Women</u>.</p> <p>But it was then right in the heart of Tunis and became much better the talk of the town and a daily focal point.</p>
16.	<p>The world coordinators from all continents and especially <u>our European coordinators</u> Suse Bader from Hamburg and Halinka Augustin from the Netherlands, together with the Tunisian preparatory committee "Latifa Tamallah" and the other coordinators, did a huge amount of work and fought for the truly equal preparation and leadership of this conference worldwide.</p>
17.	<p>In an intensive process in Germany, with 3 national <u>preparatory meetings</u>, one of which was livestreamed, hundreds of women from Germany and various organisations and individuals got involved in the democratic process.</p> <p>The <u>democratic culture of debate</u> is one of the main trademarks of the world's women. However, it still causes considerable problems at times.</p> <p>With such a heterogeneous composition of the World Women's Conference, this is certainly an essential basis</p>

	for success.
18.	<p>At the national preparatory meeting on Whit Monday in Gelsenkirchen, our <u>delegation</u> was elected.</p> <p>Brigitte Gebauer from Cologne Karola Kücken from Berlin Monika Gärtner-Engel from Gelsenkirchen Nomazulu Thata-Peltzer from Bremen Sarah from Frankfurt/Berlin</p> <p>Our substitute delegate Ayten Kahraman from Leverkusen became a full delegation member at the conference, as Nomazulu temporarily strengthened the African delegation. The delegation also had a trainee: Mareike.</p>
19.	<p>The preparation and conduct of the election of the delegation was one of the major weak points in the preparatory process.</p> <p>It was underestimated and no really suitable method was found to realise a real representation of the mass of women in Germany with five people. Industrial workers were not represented at all and young women were underrepresented. One delegate more or less dropped out of the work frame unified by the principles during the conference and even more so during the evaluation. There is still controversy over this vote today, which has not been resolved, which ultimately violates our principle of democratic culture of debate.</p>
20.	<p>Despite these difficult conditions, the delegation <u>worked closely together</u>, prepared intensively and collectively, made friends and undoubtedly made a valuable contribution to the conference.</p>
21.	<p>The World Women's Conference was composed of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the <u>opening demonstration in the heart of Tunis</u>, * the ceremonial <u>opening event in a banquet hall</u>, * <u>31 partly 2-day workshops</u>,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the <u>General Assembly with at least 200 speeches.</u> * a <u>unanimously adopted final resolution</u> * 40 individual resolutions adopted and an extra section by young world women in it, * <u>4 cultural events of the continents,</u> * a cultural evening of the Workers of the World * and about 20 beautiful <u>booths</u> with books, handicrafts plenty of information and getting to know each other.
22.	<p>With <u>417 permanent participants,</u> the conference in Tunis was numerically smaller than the previous ones. One has to consider the whole world political environment and not least the ongoing pandemic period.</p> <p>We fought for our conference in the headwinds of a world whose ruling systems only exist in <u>crises</u>: Economic crises, political crises, environmental crises, food crises, crisis of bourgeois refugee policy, health crises, debt crises, extremely growing poverty especially in connection with often galloping inflation ...</p> <p>Many regions of the world have already been shaken by wars in recent decades. The war over Ukraine brings with it a new quality: the danger of a third world war, a nuclear catastrophe due to the unjust war on both sides.</p>
23.	<p>We are facing a global environmental crisis and it threatens to turn into a catastrophe that threatens our very existence. The catastrophe has already begun.</p> <p>In more and more countries, crises are developing in society as a whole, processes of <u>revolutionary fermentation,</u> because the mass of people no longer want to live in the old way and the rulers can no longer rule in the old way.</p> <p>All this poses huge challenges to the women of the world, massively complicates their lives and even more so political, organised work, but at the same time challenges them.</p>

24.	<p>However, the number of countries was <u>NOT</u> limited: the participants came from 44 countries, from 4 continents and with 93 delegates from 52 organisations. This brought together a wide spectrum indeed from religion to revolution!</p> <p>Above all, the level and the breadth of content of the workshops and the discussion of the General Assembly grew qualitatively significantly beyond the last conferences.</p>
25.	<p>Especially the women's association Courage with its corner post of internationalism contributed significantly to the fact that through the partnerships the strongest delegation came from <u>Africa</u> - namely from 13 countries! Deeper insight into the countries, incipient mutual cooperation, relationships and friendships were consolidated in advance. <u>14,000 Euros in donations</u> were transferred directly to the Courage account and certainly as much was collected for flights, accommodation, and visas for the partner women.</p>
26.	<p>Together with the preparatory committee, hard struggles for visas and participation were successfully fought against aggravated conditions. Visa harassment is an <u>instrument of oppression</u> against the international militant women's movement and in the case of Uganda, a larger group of women from Nepal, the Dominican Republic and the Kenya delegation, (and a woman from Bangladesh) entry could not be enforced. This restrictive travel policy, especially of poor and politically active people, will intensify in the future.</p>
27.	<p>The <u>Colombian women</u> fought the most resolutely, insisted on the visa and at least arrived at the last day of the conference still cheerful and fighting!</p> <p>Women from Ukraine and Russia could not travel at all because of the war conditions.</p>
28.	<p>Dear women, we have been asked again and again: <u>Why Tunis?</u> Firstly, the World Women's Conferences move around the continents and secondly, Tunisia has outstanding experience in democratic uprisings worldwide.</p>
29.	<p>In 2010/11, a <u>transnational revolutionary ferment</u> developed in the Mediterranean. General strikes, mass protests and democratic uprisings in Southern Europe and North Africa cross-fertilised each other, starting from the Southern European workers' struggles. The so-called "Arab Spring" moved the whole world as a huge mass</p>

	<p>movement against the fascist government. It had transnational, even worldwide appeal and inspired progressive people all over the world. But the democratic and revolutionary forces were not well enough organised, were largely dependent on the internet for their mobilisation strategies and underestimated the organisational and financial power of the <u>fascist Muslim Brotherhood</u> and the influence of the imperialist policies of the USA and the EU. Thus, the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia ended in a reactionary Islamist takeover of the government.</p>
30.	<p>But various democratic and revolutionary organisations drew the conclusions: New organisations emerged or old ones reorganised their work. These include the women's organisation <u>Latifa Tamallah</u> and the ICOR party PPDS, which supports the World Women's Conference. Apart from the usual bourgeois women's organisations, however, an <u>independent permanent</u> organisation of women is unusual in Tunisia and difficult to reconcile with their everyday lives.</p> <p>Also, the <u>women's organisation Latifa Tamallah</u> initially had a delimiting orientation, limiting itself to the proletarian and revolutionary women's movement and disregarding the legitimacy of the struggle against the oppression of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois women. There was a very valuable process of unification over this, yet of course this had an impact on participation from Tunisia.</p>
31.	<p>From the end of 2012 to the summer of 2013, a second wave of struggle for freedom and democracy emerged from the <u>working class</u>. The working class is playing a growing role in the recurrent mass protests opposing growing poverty.</p>
32.	<p>Inflation is now officially at 9.1%, in real terms at 27% - the highest level in three decades. And this on the basis of an already very widespread <u>mass poverty</u>, the dimension of which cannot be compared at all with the situation here. The mass of the population no longer gets any loans.</p>
33.	<p>During protests in the <u>impoverished suburbs of Tunis</u> last month, hundreds of people took to the streets in the evening to fight against the deterioration of their living conditions. They blocked the city's main thoroughfare with burning tyres and defied police who used tear gas. "Work, freedom, dignity" they chanted, echoing the main slogan of 2010/2011. A banner read: "Enough speeches and promises, people are suffering from hunger and poverty".</p>

34.	The <u>reactionary government</u> , which is still seen by many as the lesser evil compared to the fascist Islamist forces, is currently negotiating with the IMF for a loan of 2-4 billion \$, which has to be paid by the masses. The IMF is already demanding the privatisation of state-owned enterprises, which will lead to massive layoffs and worsen unemployment. It is already officially at 18%. Already 507 Tunisian women, men and children have died or gone missing this year on their <u>way across the Mediterranean</u> . Thousands of families with a total of 2500 children had tried to flee.
35.	These experiences and especially their <u>forward-looking processing in the last decades</u> form a great potential for the militant social movements of the world. So, this country was just right to host the 3rd World Conference of Grassroots Women.
36.	We landed in Tunis on 2 and 3 September. In contrast to the way to Kathmandu, the journey was short and fortunately much cheaper. <u>38 degrees in the shade</u> await us, but above all many warm people...
37.	We will be welcomed by the Tunisian friends of the <u>women's organisation Latifa Tamallah</u> , who are working tirelessly together with the Tunisian preparatory committee of about 10 organisations: Women's and human rights organisations, trade unions, and above all rural women from the globally significant <i>via campesina</i> movement.
38.	They were supported by 40 brigadists. The two European coordinators Halinka and Suse, as well as only a few first brigadists had arrived more than a week earlier. Among them were <u>tough girls from the youth organisation REBELL</u> from Germany like Mara.
39.	They did a very valuable job! You wouldn't believe all the things that had to be done. Just the <u>complex office organisation</u> , the translator office, translator technology, the supply of food and drink, the security, the preparation of the rallies, the press work, translator technology, room layout etc. etc.
40.	It was a controversial proven activity to address the mass of women in Tunis with <u>invitations and fundraising</u> . The latter in particular is still controversial today, although from our point of view it is part of our principle of financial independence! Quite a number of women say that one cannot address the poor women with fundraising. But experience shows just the opposite! Just the explanation that it is the grassroots women who come to Tunis made many women smile: "so women like me". Only a few were disconcerted by the fundraising - and these

	were not the poor, but rather the well-heeled women. In a single outreach before the rally began, 279 dinars, almost 100 euros, were collected. This made them feel part of the world women's movement and several of them came to the conference at least for a few hours.
41.	It is Sunday and we gather for the militant demonstration march with a lot of media attention at the meeting point known as " <u>the clock</u> " in the heart of Tunis. The location was well chosen: Every major rally since 2011 in Tunis has taken place here. The Tunisians gave the square its name as an expression of their victory when the then hated President Ben Ali had to flee on 14 January 2011.
42.	<u>"So-So-Solidarité avec les femmes du monde entier"</u> . Solidarity with women from all over the world! The call rang out militantly through the streets of Tunis, unfortunately the route to the site of the opening ceremony led through almost deserted territory! But at least 500 participants kicked off the 3rd World Grassroots Women's Conference with a lively and powerful international demonstration that received considerable coverage in the nationwide media, some even making it to the front pages.
43.	The <u>women workers</u> , farmers, indigenous people, environmentalists, human rights activists, revolutionaries, women from various women's organisations, NGOs and the young women of the world have come.
44.	A striking number of slogans link the struggle for women's liberation and their demands with the thrust against capitalism or imperialism. Women from Mexico, Spain, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Netherlands, Poland, Bosnia, France are leading the <u>demonstration march</u> .
45.	Following the militant rally, the world women who had travelled to Tunis were welcomed by an opening ceremony . Women from the Tunisian preparatory committee emphasised the importance of the World Women's Conference for the further unification of the women's movement, all <u>world coordinators</u> welcomed the participants with short concise speeches, Monika Gärtner-Engel had been asked by them to give the introductory speech - on the history of the World Women's Conference of grassroots women and its importance in the unprecedented world political situation such as the acute danger of a third world war - with all the <u>drastic effects</u>

	on the lives of the mass of women in the world.
46.	Further on, representatives of the many women who are sponsors of the conference - interspersed with militant songs - <u>Wafa Hamami</u> from the Ministry of Social Affairs, spoke about the "infinite patience that all women with courage show in the struggle for women's rights and freedom". <u>Turkia Cheibi</u> , The Million Rurals Association and women without land, called for the struggle to continue in the spirit of Rosa Luxemburg. Naila Zoghlami, Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, is sure confident : "We fight together with the grassroots women, that is the only way!"
47.	On the sidelines of the ceremony, there was a first major controversy to be clarified right away: because the Tunisian organisers had planned as the only cultural figure for the opening ceremony a famous and militant man who stands for the very radical support of the Palestinian liberation struggle. This singer is very respectable - and yet, on the one hand, the relationship to the opening of a non-partisan non-party-affiliated and even more so women's event had to be critically clarified. However, it was also necessary to <u>quickly clarify</u> isolated conspicuous feminist indignation up to the point of threatening to leave the event.
48.	As always, prompt and open addressing of the problem and creative suggestions for clarification were the trump card: With quickly organised new programme contributions such as <u>joint dances</u> and militant women artists and songs, the opening ceremony thus finally came to an enthusiastic, successful and amicable end.
49.	Monday is Day 2 of the conference and starts with the <u>workshops, which will be held</u> until Tuesday evening. A total of 31 (!) workshops are registered. For comparison: in Nepal there were 10.
50.	The internationally prepared and composed <u>workshops</u> put the participants ("spoilt for choice") with the agony of choice as to which exciting questions will be deliberated and discussed together.
51.	The lively participation then expressed great expertise, willingness to learn, theoretical interest, incisive per-

	sonal experiences and the determination to reach practical conclusions. It was a significant novelty of the conference that time was provided in the closing plenary for each (!) workshop to report on the results in a condensed form for 5 minutes. An impressive round trip through the progress of knowledge of women in the world! It is imperative that these reports are still published in full and translated if possible!
52.	The best attended workshop was the one by Gabi Fechtner/ MLPD Germany and <u>Durga Paudel / NCP Mashal Nepal</u> with the collaboration of Menu de la Silva from Sri Lanka: "New perspectives for women's liberation - real <u>socialism</u> or feminist camouflaged opportunism". The deliberately controversial title challenges and attracts over 70 participants, mainly from all over the world. They discuss the path of women's liberation with impressive objectivity and a culture of solidarity and debate at a high level.
53.	In her introductory speech, Gabi Fechtner first highlighted the material basis of the double exploitation of the mass of working women and special oppression of women in capitalist class society, which makes it necessary to liberate women as part of the internationalist socialist revolution. Also, the achievements of the previous socialist societies or the democratic revolution in Rojava must not be underestimated nor do we rest at that. Marxism-Leninism must be developed further - but this also includes proudly defending its basic principles and achievements against anti-communism and becoming aware of them.
54.	For the struggle for women's liberation today, we need the close union of the <u>women's and workers' movements on a new level</u> . Petty-bourgeois feminism now seems to be seizing on the growing women's consciousness and is therefore so valuable to the rulers because it directs our struggle for women's liberation into reformist channels. It was underlined by Durga Paudel, that only the abolition of capitalist class society abolishes all forms of oppression. A creative and exciting discussion ensued, which also underlined the proposal to hold a second theoretical <u>seminar</u> between the 3rd and 4th World Women's Conferences, which will take place in Nepal between the two conferences.
55.	Also, the <u>workshop "No to imperialist war - Yes to the struggle for liberation"</u> , conducted by Monika Gärtner-Engel had many participants . A lot was demanded here! Many wanted to talk about practical activities and very personal experiences right

	<p>away. But first, political economy was taught as <u>hard as nails</u>: the development towards imperialism is an economic law of capitalism. The export of capital means the exploitation of people and nature in other countries in connection with state monopolist structures. That is why new imperialist countries are always emerging, in fierce competition with each other. Of course, this was strong stuff. And so, some "guest women" facilitated the access by giving short reports about imperialist wars and the struggle for liberation in their time: the Paris communard, the women workers of the October Revolution, the American feminist and pacifist, Clara Zetkin and Rosa Luxemburg were of course not to be missed! But the arc stretches all the way to the women of the democratic revolution in Rojava and the young apprentice from a steel company in Germany.</p>
56.	<p>At the end of the workshop, surprisingly, a thesis paper on all the controversies that arose was unanimously adopted, stating among other things: "the thesis that the (women's) movement of my country is the most important, all others must primarily support me, is a subtle form of nationalism. Of course, every country has its specificity, its particular goals and challenges - but we connect them with those of the whole world and take responsibility for them." 37 women, some with their organisations, signed up to the platform of World Women in the Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Fascist United Front.</p>
57.	<p>At the end, three workshops jointly carried out a <u>militant anti-war action in</u> front of the event hall: specifically active - the women workers and trade unionists.</p> <p>Slogans and posters in English, Spanish, Turkish, French, Kurdish, Farsi, German, Arabic and Nepali carried the demands of the world women into the streets: "Weapons down, wages up!", "No to Taliban!", "We want to live, not just survive - No to violence against women!", "United youth for the struggle!", "Women's and workers' movement: Fighting Together!", "We Want Bread - and Roses!", "Peace, Democracy, Socialism!"</p>
58.	<p>In the <u>workshop "Women workers and trade unionists - worldwide"</u>, the leader of the textile workers from Bangladesh met with the one from Tunisia, the militant cleaners "Las Kellys" from Lanzarote / Spain met with the leader of the cleaners' union from the Netherlands, the metal worker from Turkey met with the car worker from South Africa, the nurses and educators from Germany met with those from the Netherlands.</p> <p>Also in this workshop, the exchange of experiences on the preparation and implementation of struggle actions,</p>

	elaboration and implementation of significant demands, future transnational cooperation was agreed upon and the social vision of a future in a free society was discussed just as forcefully.
59.	The Chairperson of the Bangladesh Women Textile Workers' Union Joly Talukder complemented these experiences with the report of the struggles and the situation of women in the textile industry and the predominantly female <u>tea plantation workers</u> . Women public sector workers from the Netherlands and the ver.di trade union from Germany prepared the workshop thoroughly in their countries and reported on the struggles.
60.	In the <u>workshop "Any war is a war against women"</u> by Terre des Femmes, Courage, EKA they came to the conclusion: We must distinguish between imperialist and liberation wars. The history of the struggle for liberation from exploitation and oppression has always been linked to the struggle for women's liberation. We condemn both sides in the war in Ukraine.
61.	<u>Godula Kosack, Chairperson of Terre des Femmes, explained</u> in the workshop: "It is also about land grabbing: Where there are valuable mineral resources in the ground, the civilian population is terrorised until everyone flees and the land becomes 'free' for those who want to exploit it. This is the case in Congo." And "Women, who are the breadwinners of the family in rural Africa more than anywhere else in the world, have become the spoils of war. When they are raped, mutilated, or abducted, the entire society of the enemy is destroyed."
62.	In the <u>workshop on LGBTI+</u> by Alliance Power of the Women's Revolution, SKB and "Pride Revolution", it was important that they consistently oppose the oppression of lesbians, gays ... in unity with the militant women's movement and the class struggle, but explicitly distance themselves from postmodernist queer theory. Many forces from Tunisia also took part.
63.	The threat of <u>environmental disaster</u> has become a question of existence for many women in the world, women reported in the workshop: Red Alert - Women Power to Save the Environment. Despite the abundance of water in Tunisia, the population in the El Kef region in the north suffers from thirst because <u>big corporations are stealing the water</u> . We heard about important struggles in affected regions.

	<p>Struggles like the one for drinking water, against Monsanto, against nuclear war must be waged regionally, but also nationally and globally. Just like women's consciousness, environmental consciousness needs to be developed to a higher level. The importance of the environmental question is still underestimated in the women's movement, which must change.</p>
64.	<p>The participants from Tunisia, South Africa and Germany had an intensive exchange of experiences in the workshop organised by the <u>women's association Courage</u> on how women in the individual countries join forces and work in their organisations.</p> <p>They agreed that this would require a broad coalition of women from religion to revolution. The principles according to which Courage works: (Non-partisanship) non-party-affiliated, democracy, internationality, financial independence have proven their worth and are attracting international interest. In South Africa, for example, <u>Abanqobi-women</u> together changed its working methods after the last World Women's Conference in Nepal in 2016 and is concentrating on working among the working women in the residential areas.</p> <p>The preparation, implementation and participation of this workshop was out of all proportion to its great importance for the whole world women's movement. The question of permanent organisation in a truly broad alliance, independent vis-à-vis parties, NGOs, and government, has really been uniquely solved with the basic idea of Courage. But does Courage itself value this highly enough?</p>
65.	<p>Day four: the <u>General Assembly</u>!</p> <p>The General Assembly is the decision-making pillar of the World Conference on Women. There, only the elected delegates of the countries have the right to speak and <u>vote</u>. Each delegation has 5 votes, regardless of the number of women present. This is particularly aimed at equal rights also for delegations that, for example, cannot afford the travel of five participants. The General Assembly discusses the situation of women worldwide, the development of women's movements and their struggles based on previously prepared country reports, which have been combined into continental reports.</p>
66.	<p>The <u>World Coordinators</u> give an account of their work for the international cooperation and coordination of the World Women's Movement. They also chair the General Assembly. On the one hand, the delegations represent</p>

	<p>the militant women's movement of their countries, bring forward proposals for cooperation and resolutions. On the other hand, they are responsible for making the results and resolutions of the World Women's Conference known in their countries and for giving an account of their work.</p>
67.	<p>This time, the General Assembly had a much more advanced democratic system to introduce initiatives and proposals and thus set a binding course for the future. This was possible through <u>speeches</u>, through motions on the proposal of the final resolution and through short resolution proposals related to women's political assessments, but above all also declarations of solidarity and determinations for future work. This was also preceded by the fact that the last final declaration was so bloated that it got bogged down and was hardly worked with in the countries.</p> <p>Now the <u>democratic methods</u> were developed further: the draft of the final resolution was available in writing and there was time to make formulated amendments to it, which were discussed in plenary with a speech and a counter-speech and then directly decided. In addition, the short, proposed resolutions were posted and adopted by delegates signing them.</p>
68.	<p>This was one of the masterpiece of our no less than <u>40 translators</u>.</p> <p>Everything from volunteer professional UN translators to the young women of Zora translating for the first time was represented. Almost all these resolutions and motions were translated into several languages in record time. For this purpose, they had organised in advance that translators were "sitting ready" in Germany who were able to translate quickly at any time without overburdening the already extremely busy local translators. For all this coordination, we would like to thank Solidarity International, who not only coordinated everything on site, but also offered training seminars beforehand. Make use of them in the future!</p>
69.	<p>However, the submission of motions and voting methodology were a new requirement that demanded a <u>high level of discipline</u>. Here we found that both the working methods of the General Assembly and the new procedures were not clear enough, especially for women who participated in the conference for the first time.</p>

	<p>A brief introduction in the debate on the Rules of Procedure is not enough! As a result of misunderstandings, there was a lot of unnecessary resentment and some people did not even participate in the signing process.</p> <p>Therefore, the World Coordinators correctly decided to lower the approval rate for resolutions from the General Assembly to 30%. Next time, a careful and patient introduction to the methodology must be made without time pressure.</p>
70.	The <u>empty row of chairs</u> in the General Assembly was a symbol of protest and solidarity with the delegates who could not travel due to visa harassment or other reasons: We are missing you - but you are with us.
71.	What is particularly important about the rules of the World Women's Conference is the rule that the delegations can be determined according to the concrete conditions in the individual countries. If no delegate can come directly from the country, <u>migrant women</u> can also form the delegation by mutual agreement. The delegation can also be "filled up" by migrant women, which requires the special consent of the women from the country.
72.	This issue was one of the sharpest controversies of the World Conference on Women around the delegation from Afghanistan. This was one of the few conflicts that could not be settled. Justifiably, the <u>only delegate from Afghanistan present</u> declared that she was not working with supporters of the ultra-reactionary Massoud in Afghanistan. The so-called "National Resistance Front" of Ahmad Massoud belongs to the Islamist fundamentalist forces that strive for their own positions of power and stands for cooperation with the Western imperialists.
73.	This legitimate decision, which was in line with the ground rules, was partly not understood, but partly also answered with a downright smear and slander campaign by an Afghan woman from Germany. Unfortunately, this almost overshadowed the Afghan delegates' <u>competent</u> reporting on the situation in the country and their enormously impressive work with underground schools for girls.
74.	We evaluated the work of the <u>German delegation</u> in a thorough evaluation meeting on 1 October in Berlin:

	"Through the active and competent appearance during the General Assembly, through many speeches, also spontaneous ones, we as delegates of our country have demonstrated and practised both substantive expertise and certainty in the set of rules and the central policy documents. We delegates have conscientiously prepared for the WWC in two meetings, each well prepared by the individual women."
75.	We developed nine speeches on the following topics: The German delegation made contributions on <u>violence against women</u> , on poverty and the fight against the burdens of the crisis, on the importance of non-partisanship (non-party-affiliated) (<i>Überparteilichkeit</i> – the transl.) "from religion to revolution", on the situation of young women in "male professions", on discrimination against LGBTI+ and their inclusion in the militant women's movement, on the crisis of imperialism and the perspective of a liberated society. In part, we were able to unify, in part we also briefly outlined the still existing different opinions in the speeches. This is also a way of practising the consensus principle! In the preparatory process, we successfully fought for quality of content and discipline and reliability in a good working atmosphere. We were by no means able to keep all the contributions, but they were nevertheless a very important basis for our positioning. The convergence of the delegates achieved in the preparatory process has created good conditions for future cooperation at home."
76.	Workshops and the General Assembly gave a unique insight into the situation and struggles of women in the world. It was particularly important to share one's own experiences with others, but at the same time to overcome the urge to over-assign one's own country or organisation to others.
77.	We cannot report all the contents of the discussion, so we would like to introduce you to some of the delegates:
78.	We would like to introduce you to the very remarkable 28-year-old metalworker Dilbent from Turkey . Young as she is, she has already led numerous strikes in the industrial centre of Istanbul, has been politically dismissed several times and organised a march from Istanbul to Ankara. She reported, " <i>We had significant suc-</i>

	<i>cess in fighting for millions of workers against unpaid leave in the pandemic. Then I was dismissed for 'immoral behaviour'. This >code< affects 170,000 workers in Turkey and especially women because they cannot explain what was 'immoral'. I have been fighting against this for 270 days and many workers in the factories in Turkey support me in this struggle."</i>
79.	<p><u>Dr. Mariam Abo Duka</u> is Chairperson of <u>Women Union Palestine</u> - the Women's Union of Palestine reports: "Our region is marked by imperialists and Zionist occupation. We need to talk about our pain and suffering. Children were burnt alive, we women in the Gaza Strip are forbidden by the settlers to leave the house. We organise solidarity campaigns for imprisoned women, but we also take part in solo campaigns with imprisoned women in Israeli prisons. ... Poverty is female, we have 70% unemployment, we need to reach out to the youth. We have to build democracy together."</p>
80.	<p>Only after the World Women's Conference but no less important, we received a greeting from <u>Uki Maroshek</u> from Isreal: <i>"I would like to thank you very much for the invitation. ... My organisation feels it has a mission to stand up for peace. ... We are not giving up!</i></p>
81.	<p>It was particularly important to <u>Jasmina Prpic</u>, Chairperson of the organisation "<u>Women Lawyers without Frontiers</u>", that we address the women of the "others", so Russian women should stand up for Ukrainian women, Serbian women for Bosnian women, etc. In her research and work since the 2nd World Conference on Women, she has succeeded in providing incisive evidence: rape has existed in all reactionary wars in history - but rape as a deliberately used, realised, and rewarded weapon of war has only existed since the 1990s. Their work and the great courage of, among others, the Bosnian participant Bakira Hasecic achieved the first conviction of those responsible for it before the International Court of Human Rights and the outlawing as "crimes against humanity" solely because of these acts. And so mutual solidarity against rape as a weapon of war has been developed, they have been recognised as victims of war and receive a pension. <i>"Organised, we fight together against rape as a weapon of war. Together with men we fight against all warmongering for a society without exploitation and oppression for peace."</i></p>

82.	<p><u>Ayla Chez Al-Id</u> comes from Western Sahara. Since Spain's withdrawal from Western Sahara in 1975, Morocco has occupied the country. 75 per cent of the phosphate deposits are in Western Sahara! <i>"I am here to report that we are victims of this conflict. Many people don't know anything about this. I am happy to be able to report this to you all and also to hear from you all. We would like to invite the women of the world to come and see for themselves, for example in the refugee camps, to see the suffering with their own eyes. I am proud of our common struggle as a women's movement."</i></p>
83.	<p><u>Aneta Fischer</u>, represented the women from Poland. She impressively reported how the new abortion law kills women because they had to have an abortion under unhygienic conditions. Even in the case of problem pregnancies, they are not allowed to have an abortion. Again and again there is suicide or the women ask themselves: What will become of my child when I die? But the Polish women are not only fighting for paragraphs, but also against the reactionary misogynist dogmas of the church.</p>
84.	<p>Rohilat Nazir reported on the progress after 10 years of "<u>women's revolution</u>" in Eastern Syria: <i>"Our problems are the same. Maybe the methods are different. Women should be liberated from all forms of violence in the world. ... Men cannot marry more than one woman. ... We must change our ways of thinking. ..."</i> And emphasises the wish: <i>"We should decide within the framework of this conference how to discuss our theories further and not just be satisfied to shout slogans, but develop a sustainable way of working."</i></p>
85.	<p>Myriam Barros from Spain represented the cleaners from the Canary Islands Hotel in the Spanish delegation: "We have much more power than we realise." They are not only fighting for the immediate economic concerns, but waging political struggles. "We have to change the system. Every single person in their country can play this political role because we are worth it."</p>
86.	<p>The orderly and productive course of the General Assembly was also made possible by a great <u>team of helpers who took care</u> of the physical well-being of the delegates and coordinators, hygiene, and technical problems with translator headphones, as well as the exact counting of votes in a very <u>responsible</u>, prudent and silent manner. Without the many hands that took over the organisation from A to Z in hundreds of hours of time donations, the World Women's Conference would not have been so successful!</p>

87.	<p><u>The youth take over the podium!</u></p> <p>The second day of the General Assembly started with the young women taking the podium: they came from Western Sahara, France, Botswana, France, Cameroon, Switzerland, Tunisia, Germany, Afghanistan, Turkey, USA and the Netherlands. They gave very lively and varied accounts of the complicated and challenging situation of youth in their countries.</p>
88.	<p>For example from Botswana: <i>"We are affected with many problems. There is a lot of poverty and exploitation, a lot of HIV/Aids, a lot of unwanted pregnancies and child marriages. The young women find men very young. Teenage pregnancies are on the agenda. We must denounce child pregnancies and fight for a different education. We are trying to empower young women through education and skills to overcome this gender inequality and also fight against violence."</i></p> <p>They had already taken the podium in Kathmandu 2016 and decided then to build up the "Young World Women". Self-critically, they evaluated that since Kathmandu, they had hardly worked consistently on building up YWW and organising their transnational cooperation. This time, more than 20 young women and organisations signed up to continue building the YWW.</p>
89.	<p>A young Kurdish woman said, "a lot of energy comes out of this". And the representative of Western Sahara, who was afraid of growing older because of the situation of women in her country, said, encouraged by the WWC: "The revolutionary women are role models for me." .</p>
90.	<p>An Iranian woman steeled in the fight against fascism and Islamist terror gave the young women advice: "Be confident, but also listen to our experiences - even the negative ones."</p>
91.	<p>The final resolution, the draft of which had been prepared overnight as a true summary of the discussion and which, in conjunction with 18 formulated amendments, was passed unanimously with few abstentions, best demonstrates the great progress of the third World Women's Conference.of Grassroots Women.</p>

It means taking decisions on a significantly expanded unified basis for the content of the grassroots Women of the World movement as well as on far-reaching practical changes in binding cooperation. This includes

- unification that the common roots of women's problems lie in the capitalist or imperialist system and denounces neo-colonial exploitation.
- It identifies the central focal point of today's conflicts in the threat of world war from both sides Ukraine war, without losing sight of the focal points Palestine or Turkey/Rojava.
- It denounces in all concreteness the great suffering of the women of the world, but encourages that and how women's awareness and women's organisations develop. It contradicts the myth that poverty, misery, over-exploitation and sexism only exist in the so-called "poor countries".
- It takes a clear position on the environmental issue against the threat of global environmental catastrophe.
- It affirms the firm bond with allies, especially in the workers' and youth movements, and with one's own husbands, friends and lovers.
- It invites to participate in the anti-imperialist and anti-fascist platform of World Women.
- It predicts an eventful future with increasingly frequent revolutionary situations in which the militant women's movement will take its society-changing role if it aligns and prepares for it today.
- It sensitizes people to the fact that for these coming "world-shaking" conflicts, the preliminary battles are being fought in people's minds and hearts.
- It positions itself against the essential enemies of women's consciousness from racism and sexism to postmodernism, opportunism and anti-communism.
- It also draws incisive practical conclusions in an ambitious programme leading up to the Fourth World Women's Conference: theoretical seminar in Nepal in 2024 under the working title "*Women's Revolution, Feminist Socialism, International Socialist Revolution*". Active struggle days, strengthening of the contin-

	<p>ental coordinations and the world coordinators. To this end, it also calls on their parties and organisations to provide them with decidedly more support and resources.</p> <p>It is very important that we all <u>spread this resolution</u>, unify on it in our organisations and above all put it into action!</p>
92.	The great initiative of the delegates and participants of the World Women's Conference was expressed in another 50 resolutions. <u>These ranged from solidarity with women and workers in Iran to solidarity with tea plantation workers in Bangladesh in their struggle for higher wages.</u>
93.	All evenings ended with <u>cultural highlights</u> : the continental evenings from <u>ALL</u> continents of the world. (wait Many pictures)
94.	After the wonderful evenings of the continents, last night offered something new: The first part of the evening was taken over by the <u>American</u> women with soulful poems from Mexico, songs of peace rallies from the USA and beautiful costumes and a speech from Peru. Then the American women announced: <u>Clear the stage for the women workers of the world!</u> The song of from "Las Kelleys" (cleaning workers from Spain / Canary Islands) together with the Dutch trade union president was followed by Turkish women singing "Bir Mayıs", the song of the workers' movement for May Day.
95.	One last big highlight of the WWC was the <u>closing plenary</u> on Friday. It was open to all those who wanted to speak and contribute resolutions once again. It began with the reports from the 31 forums, which were eagerly awaited because of course everyone could only experience a small section of the large spectrum.
96.	The World Women's Conference was self-organised from beginning to the end: from <u>medical care</u> ,

	<p>about water and food, about hygiene and cleaning, the application, the super team of the General Assembly, and big field: <u>40 translators</u> in seven languages.</p>
97.	<p>In the end, everything worked out, thanks to the huge <u>commitment of many women</u> in the organisation work. But inexperience, lack of timely presence of brigadists, underestimation of the complex task - all this led to some disorganisation like temporary confusion in registration, room allocation, disregard for hygiene in connection with Corona, food etc.</p> <p>It was one of the most important decisions of the World Women's Conference that an IOC (international organising committee) is absolutely necessary in the run-up. Otherwise, all the organisational tasks will be left to the world coordinators, who in turn will be kept from the conceptual and substantive work and will be overburdened.</p>
98.	<p>Outlook for women in Germany, Europe and worldwide. <i>"Every women's movement in the world, every activist today must take responsibility for those of the whole world!" This is one of the essential results in Tunis that must be the benchmark for our further work:</i></p> <p>This means strengthening the militant women's movement at home and within it the non-partisan (<i>überparteilich</i> – the transl.) cooperation of women from different parties, organisations and currents. Develop and expand the binding and sustainable partnerships and especially strengthen mutuality.</p>
99.	<p>Consolidate the sustainable transnational work.</p> <p>In future, the women will elect four coordinators for their continent, two of whom will focus primarily on international cooperation and two on continental cooperation. All continents are called upon to also nominate women to serve on an international organising committee.</p>
100.	<p>In Germany, we are planning the National Women's Assembly for the beginning of next year, where we will compile the various evaluation events, our delegation will give an account and then at the following European</p>

	Conference in Sarajevo/Bosnia we will realise a Europe-wide evaluation and outlook as well as the election of the new continental coordination.
101	Dear women, dear friends, dear colleagues! We would like to end our presentation with the last words of the final resolution: Women and girls of the world! Our time has come!