Women’s* strike, feminist strike on the eighth of March 2019 in Belgium

Everywhere in the world women get up, denounce, react to sexism, to each form of violence and to all discriminations they suffer. This year, we too, women of Belgium, will take action. On the International Women’s Rights Day, the 8th of March 2019, we will call a strike. Women are involved in each aspect of life and this is why this strike will be about much more than just paid labour: it will be about domestic labour, care, consuming and studying. Let’s send all together a clear message to society: “If women stop, the world stops”.

- Enough of organised economic precariousness keeping us stuck in part-time jobs, worthless jobs, downing us as dependent and poor workers.
- Enough of wage inequality, late pensions and pensions next to nothing. Enough of unreachable, insufficient and unsuited allowances.
- Enough of lack of child care centers, retirement homes and accommodation and care facilities putting a collective responsibility exclusively on women’s shoulders.
- Enough of being the only ones to be in charge of the day-to-day domestic work and care. Enough of our personal time being overwhelmed with this free – or nearly – labour and the mental stress bonded to it.
- Enough of those racist migration policies putting us particularly at risk, locking us up, sentencing us to poverty and killing us.
- Enough of being discriminated anywhere because of our skin’s colour, our roots, our wage, our gender(s), our sexual orientation(s), our believes...
- Enough of sexist stereotypes in education, culture, media and advertisement reflecting the image of women as sex objects and putting us in specific and secondary boxes.
- Enough of being told how to live our sexuality, our connection to motherhood, birth control and abortion. Enough of being told how to manage our body and life.
- Enough of medical and gynecological violences and difficulties to accessing healthcare.
- Enough of physical and psychological violences (domestic, sexual, in relationships, street and work harassment...) Enough of femicides, killings of women because they are women. Enough of political and juridical complicity benefitting to the perpetors.

Let’s demand respect, changes and a collaborative re-writing of the game’s rules. Let’s get out of the boxes we are confined to and gather to take back the roles we have been deprived of. Let’s speak out. All together in sisterhood, according to each one’s means, life, claims and desires, let’s fill the eighth of March 2019 up with heavy struggle and emancipation.

Claims are available on our website: 8maars.wordpress.com

* Any person who identifies themselves and/or is identified as a woman
How can I take part in the Women’s* strike, feminist strike on the 8th of March?

Salaried women (employee or worker), artist, job-seeker, ‘legal documents-seeker’, student, self-employed, farmer, worker in the informal economy or in any other situation, on the eighth of March, everyone can find a way to take part in the strike to show that when women stop, the world stops!

Paid-employment striking
Paid-employment striking means physically disappearing for a floating time from the spots we usually fit in the workplace. It is also: organising information meetings with colleagues and raising awareness of the others, working a picket line and coordinating with trade unions when it’s possible, pointing out that you are striking (through email alerts or a distinguishing feature: a scarf, or a symbolic object handed out to users, patients, clients...), stepping in social networks in order to explain the strike, etc.

Care striking
Through the eighth of March’s strike, we want to show the invisible work we daily do in the private sphere. On that special day we can thus allow ourselves to take personal time, do whatever we wanna do (including doing nothing), to stop running and enjoy our life; to talk with our friends and family about fairly re-allocating domestic chores. We can stop taking care of children and elderly people depending on us, stop cleaning, cooking for the others, stop answering our phone and stop controlling logistic at work or at home, do a homo-/heterosexual sexe strike as a sympathy mark for all the women living an oppressed sexuality.

Consuming striking
On the eighth of March, there shall be no workers nor consumers. To this end, we can stop buying or consuming products or services that are no musts, in particular in shops providing bad or degrading work conditions to its female* employees. We can also denounce products which are pink-taxed and avoid consuming products that are over-packed or coming from the other side of the world or from firms exploiting women/endangered people. We can walk, bike, or use public transports and reduce our electronic devices use. We can finally denounce or divert spots or medias overwhelming us with sexist, racist and degrading advertisement.

Study-striking
On the eighth of March, we can also study-striking by not going to classes and using this free-time to invade classrooms in order to explain the strike and its claims to the other students, but also with and towards the other people acting in the university (teachers, researchers, administrative employees, technical staff...). We can make the strike visible by sticking banners in schools, universities, and any other place of study.

Men can also support us by making it possible for us to take part in the different actions: they can replace us at work, take care of the children and elderly people, cook and clean, take notes during the lessons we are gonna miss and explain to others the goal of the strike to gain even more support.

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