

FOR AN OPEN, SOLIDARY, EQUALITARIAN AND FEMINIST EUROPE

PLATFORM ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 29TH 2019 AT THE END OF THE EUROPEAN MEETING "WOMEN-MIGRATIONS-REFUGE"

The 263 participants¹⁾ in the european meeting « Women-Migrations-Refuge » which took place in Geneva from the 27th to 29th of September 2019, women from many countries around the world, adopted the following Platform after two days of debate and the exchange of experiences, in order to provide common objectives of struggle and begin forming a space of European resistance for the defence of the rights of migrants.

At the global level, we, women and LGBTIQ+ persons represent nearly half of the migrant population. Our statuses vary, are more or less precarious, much like the reasons which forced us to leave. In our countries of origin, on the journey of exile and in the poorly-coined "host" countries, we encounter obstacles, discrimination, and extreme forms of specific violence including sexual violence or rape used as weapons of war.

When we request asylum, our reasons for flight are often not heard or taken into account. When we come for work, neither our training, nor our prior professional experiences recognized, pushing us to sectors such as the care economy or to sex work, where working conditions are particularly precarious. We must not forget the victims of pimping networks and of organized crime who are subjected to precarity and extreme violence.

Those without a legal status, numerous in these sectors, are in an even more precarious situations as the absence of a residence permit generates vulnerability and exploitation.

In capitalist, patriarchal, racist, hetero-normed and neo-colonial society, where nationalisms and xenophobia are intensifying, where governments seek to limit the possibilities of access to their territories and to criminalize migration, it is more than ever necessary to elaborate a common platform of demands for an open, solidary, equalitarian and feminist Europe that guarantees to each the right to stay, to circulate freely, and to live in dignity, and which values the contributions of migrant women. To do so, it is necessary to create a European network of solidarity with migrant women struggles for the extension of their rights, regardless of their status. It is also important to encourage the creation of spaces allowing for the self-organization of migrant women, solidarity, and resistance.

The demands listed below are a working tool for our common struggles:²⁾

For a genuine welcome, we demand:

- the right to stay for all: no expulsions, notably Dublin-based expulsions, for women who are victims of violence and the abolition of the principle of « safe countries ».
- the elimination of all forms of institutional and structural violence.
- the abolition of holding centres and of administrative detention.
- freedom of movement.
- the right to work and to education upon arrival, without discrimination.
- the recognition of previous training, experience, and skills.
- a sufficient provision of free language courses.
- dignified housing conditions.

For full implementation of the Istanbul Convention (IC), we demand:

- the full ratification of the IC, the full implementation and application of the Istanbul Convention in countries who haven't signed it yet.
- t- removal of all reservations about the Convention, and defence of the IC in the face of attacks to which it is subjected in certain countries.
- equal rights for all women victims of violence regardless of residence status, or the location where violence occurred, including on the journey of exile.
- the obtention of residence permits independent of civil or family status and employment.
- sufficient resources for prevention, awareness raising, and training in terms of violence against gender-based violence.
- sufficient resources for organizations and associations that support women victims of violence.
- recognition of the expertise of feminist associations, as well as the training of actors engaged with questions of violence and gender equality, awareness campaigns on all forms of violence, and a precise census of all cases of violence.

For a Europe that guarantees refuge to women and LGBTIQ+ persons, we demand:

- the recognition of the specific forms of gender-based violence as grounds for asylum.
- asylum procedures that takes into account the specific needs of women and LGBTIQ+ persons.
- the right of women to be heard by actors of the gender of their choice.
- residence centres that take into account the diversity of sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.
- a particular and increased protection for unaccompanied minors regarding their physical, mental and sexual integrity, as well as their right to education including professional training.
- the right of civil society to access asylum and holding centres, or other closed spaces, in order to break the isolation, inform the population of what is taking place, and create solidarity.

For access to health for all, we demand:

- free, public, and quality health services, regardless of residence status.
- a better consideration for invisibilised forms of suffering, physical or psychological, including sexual and reproductive health.

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- information to migrants on health services, as well as individual training of health providers on issues relating to migration, as well as increased means for cultural mediation.

For an access to justice for all, independent of residence status, we demand:

- information on rights, access, and the workings of justice in accessible language and wording.
- the right to be heard, to be taken seriously, to be protected, on the basis of the presumption of truth in all cases of denunciations of violence.
- the dissociation of criminal procedures from administrative ones.
- for persons without legal status, the implementation of mechanisms that place the right of the victim above the legislation pertaining to migration and, as of there, the non-transmission of data between criminal authorities and authorities in charge of migratory questions.

For the recognition and valorisation of educative and care work, as well as its indispensable contribution to life, we demand:

- the regularisation of all workers of the care economy, on the principle of one job/one permit.
- a regulated and dignified wage for care economy workers which takes into account qualifications, experience, and the strenuousness of work.
- the application of existing legislation in terms of work (work hours, rest, vigil), as well as the right to social security in the care economy, independent of residence permit.
- the right to unionize and organize.
- the ratification of ILO Convention 189 and its concrete implementation.
- the commitment of States to lead visibility campaigns on domestic, care and educative work, and the collection of reliable data.

Against the impunity of transnational corporations (TNCs), we demand:

- recognition of TNCs' systematic violation of human rights throughout the chain of production as well as their role in war and climate change – all of which generates forced displacement of people leading structural migratory movements.
- the adoption of a binding international legal instrument on TNCs and human rights to end impunity for TNCs, impose sanctions and provide reparation mechanisms for affected populations.
- increased taxation on the profits of TNCs.
- the strengthening of the public sector and the end to privatisations.

We denounce the role of wars, political extraction, climate change, and the agri-food industry as causes of migration, and destruction of the environment.

We denounce the role of TNCs in climate change, which disproportionately impacts impoverished populations and those living in precarity, particularly women.

We denounce a financial system that acts as a driver and facilitator of destructive actions of TNCs, with the complicity of certain States.

For a society without racism, sexism, discrimination, we demand:

- equal treatment for all residents, against racial profiling.

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- the development of means for anti-racist, anti-sexist education, from the youngest age.
 - the freedom to dress as each so wishes.
 - the right for each to participate in the political life of the countries in which they live.

We denounce daily acts of racism, racist harassment, harassment in the workplace, and institutional racism.

We will not allow feminism to be instrumentalized and recuperated by racism and nationalism!

We will fight against all forms of fundamentalism!

Patriarchy, neo-liberalism, neo-colonialism, basta!

For the recognition of the intersectionality of oppressions and the convergence of struggles!

Solidarity with women of the world!

Notes:

1) The European Resistance Network was created in Geneva and currently includes women from Afghanistan, Germany, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Catalonia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Eritrea, Spain, Ethiopia, Euskadi, France, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Syria, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom. Alongside the many exiles living in Switzerland or in one of the European countries, women in solidarity who are fighting alongside them in Switzerland or in one of the European countries for the recognition and extension of their rights also took part in this meeting. Morocco and Algeria refused to grant visas to migrant women invited as speakers at the meeting, even though they had taken all the necessary steps on time and in accordance with all the rules.

2) The demands and requirements formulated herein apply to all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics. The demands and requirements applicable to women are understood to apply to all persons who fully or partially identify themselves as women, regardless of the gender attributed at birth, as well as to all persons who are or, in some cases, have been considered as women.