

International Women's Strike #8M 2018



Once again: Solidarity is our weapon!

Who are we? The International Women's Strike (IWS) is a grassroots movement organized by women, lesbians, transvestites and trans from different parts of the world. It was created at the end of October 2016 as a response to the physical, psychological, symbolic, economical, and property-based violence that we experience in different latitudes. The IWS is planning general strikes and marches for the 8th of March of 2018 in 50 nations.

How are we preparing for the International Women's Strike of #8M 2018? Through different assemblies that have already begun to be carried out across the globe, where every territory transforms into a space of meeting and debate for the defense of our rights. The different slogans of the political and social spaces which every woman represents are coalesced so as to take immediate measures with the goal of stopping violence, guaranteeing equality, and eliminating discrimination in all of its forms.

Where are we from? IWS includes women, lesbians, transvestites, and trans from Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Scotland, Fiji, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, England, Iceland, Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Dominican Republic, Russia, El Salvador, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States.

Why are we striking? Because we are tired of not having our lives and rights respected. We are sick of the intervention of the churches in decisions about our bodies. We strike because institutions do not provide answers to the demands of women and feminized identities when they ask for help nor do they guarantee the mechanisms of access to justice. We strike because the media is negligent in its responsibility of providing trustworthy information and complete coverage of our situations. We strike because women who suffer gender-based violence do not get the necessary assistance from the different state organs so as to overcome the oppressive contexts in which they live and, to boot, are blamed and re-victimized.

How are we striking? In most countries an economic and caregiving tasks strike of one day or some hours was chosen. We suggest open forms of protest according to the possibilities of the regions where you reside, which include the total strike, striking in the workplace or in the domestic tasks and in the social roles such as caretakers, with full-time strikes or partial strikes that stop production or caregiver tasks for 1 or 2 hours. In the situation you cannot strike in your job, we suggest the use of the color violet in clothing or ribbons of that color, a symbol of feminism.

Another of the proposals is denouncing the companies that use sexism in their commercials or in their approach towards female workers, and organizing a boycott against them. In social media we will use the hashtag #8M #ParoDeMujeres, in English #womenstrike. If you want to join and organize a protest in your country, please, write to the email parodemujeres@gmail.com to get more information and support.

How did it begin? The 3rd of October of 2016, taking as a model the national strike of Icelandic women in 1975, Polish women go on a one-day strike to stop the plan to criminalize voluntary and involuntary abortion. The government immediately halted the change to the legislation. A similar situation made Korean women go out to protest against the introduction of harsher sentences to medics carrying out abortions multiple times that same month. The 19th of October of 2016 Argentinian women reacted with one-hour strikes and mass mobilizations against the increasing femicides and the brutal repression they suffered in the National Meeting of Women of the year. Other protests followed in different countries of Latin America. This convergence of movements resulted in the establishment of the International Women's Strike platform as a meeting point for all the nations.

More information in:

FB in Spanish: <https://www.facebook.com/ParoMujeresArgentina/>

FB in English and Spanish:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/InternationalWomansStike/>

TT in Spanish: <https://twitter.com/MujeresEnHuelga>

Argentina's TT: <https://twitter.com/ParodemujeresA>

[Website: www.parodemujeres.com](http://www.parodemujeres.com) (Spanish- English)

Contact email available for press information:

prensapimargentina@gmail.com

Dissemination of this news is appreciated!