



# WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN LIAISON NEWSLETTER

December 2019

## Editorial

It is with great joy that we bring this bulletin to the militants of the March around the world. This issue has a special meaning because it is released in the context of the preparation and near launch of the 5th International Action of the World March of Women, under the slogan **We Resist to Live, We March to Transform!** It is also the first issue produced after a decision by the International Committee to decentralise communication to Brazil, under the coordination of the International Secretariat.

During the 11th International Meeting in Bilbao, the issue of communication was emphasised as crucial to maintain the connection of our international movement, to make the actions of members visible, and to promote international solidarity. Since then, we have launched the new international website ([www.marchemondiale.org](http://www.marchemondiale.org)). With this issue, we resume the quarterly publication of the newsletter -- the next one will be published in March. Starting in January we will make regular publications on both the website and the international profiles of the World March of Women on the social media.

2020 is the year in which we celebrate 20 years of our trajectory as an international movement. By organizing the 5th International Action, we challenge ourselves to rethink and reposition our movement in the context of the international feminist movement to confront the advance of conservatism, with the weakening of the state and democracy, in what we call the crisis of crises. The factors that drove the call to action twenty years ago are still present today, in a more serious way. Poverty and violence against women have taken on a deeper and more inhuman dimension. Conservatism has taken over all spheres of society.

With this international action, we want to reaffirm popular feminism as our organizational model that will allow us to broaden the space and the voices of women, in their diversity, on our march to transform the world. We want to encourage National Coordinating Committees, groups and activists around the world to engage in this journey, from 8th of March to 17th of October, 2020! Let us also mobilise our allies in the various stages of our action!

**We Resist to Live, We March to Transform!**  
**Women in march until we all are free!**

Graça Samo - International Secretariat coordinator

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## 5th International Action 2020

# We Resist to Live, We March to Transform!

In 2020, the World March of Women will carry out its 5th International Action, under the slogan "**We resist to live, we march to transform!**"

With this Action, we will continue to advance in building a permanent and militant movement: feminist, anti-capitalist, and anti-racist. Every five years, an International Action of the WMW connects our organizational processes and struggles at the local level with the global force of feminism in motion.

The 5th Action will be characterised by resistance to the offensive of capital against life, resistance to the rise of conservatism and authoritarianism in different parts of the world. Our resistance is related to concrete proposals and constructions of a society based on equality, justice, freedom, peace, and solidarity.



*Memóire: Solidarity Quilt, symbol of the 2nd International Action of the World March of Women in 2005. A part of the history of our march, woven by many hands over time*

In 2020, we will be organised and fighting. **From March 8th to October 17th, we call on women who are mobilising to join our 5th International Action of the World March of Women: We Resist to Live, We March to Transform!**

## International Calendar of the 5th Action 2020

### **8th of March**

#### **International Women's Day of Struggle**

#### **Launch of the 5th International Action 2020**

The 8th of March, International Day of Women's Struggle, opens up our International Action. The WMW will make itself present and we will launch the action at the demonstrations staged out on the streets and on social media. It is a day to make clear against what we resist, to present our experiences, and to make visible what transformation we are marching towards. This March 8th will mark 20 years since the March inaugurated the construction of an international feminist movement against the causes of poverty and violence. In each country and territory in which we are organised, on that day, we want to launch the action and recollect our history, recognise ourselves in it, and strengthen our collective movement from what we have built up over the years.

### **30th of March**

#### **Palestinian Land Day**

#### **For the self-determination of peoples**

Palestinian women live under siege and terror, Kurdish women are expelled from their territory, women in the Kashmir Valley witness the growth of religious fundamentalism and have less and less space to demand rights. Sahrawi women are part of a divided people, living in refugee camps and an occupied territory surrounded by a two-thousand kilometre wall lined with millions of landmines. Basque women, Catalan women. The World March of Women is present in all these territories, in defence of the right to self-determination, against militarisation and war. Therefore, March 30th is on our international calendar as the day to give visibility to the struggle for self-determination of the peoples.

### **24th of April**

#### **24 Hours of Feminist Solidarity**

#### **Women's Struggle Against Transnational Companies**

The 24 Hours of Solidarity demonstration focuses on the struggle against transnational corporations, in connection with the memory of the day when the Rana Plaza building collapsed. We will denounce the advance of corporate power over our territories, bodies, and work. With this action, we will present our feminist critique of transnational corporations. Mining companies that exploit and destroy territories and communities; companies that push women into precarious work and exploit their labour; security corporations and military services that benefit from conflicts; technology companies that

collect our data; companies that produce pesticides and transgenic seeds. These corporations promote the precariousness of life and reproduce inequalities, and at the same time try to capture the agenda of feminist struggles with initiatives such as selling lilac make-up products and advertising the individual "empowerment" of women. The 24 Hours of Feminist Solidarity are part of a broader process we want to promote to connect popular education activities with demonstrations to denounce those corporate initiatives, aiming to successfully broaden the struggle of women against transnational corporations.

**25th-31st of May  
Anti-Imperialist Journey  
To face the imperialist offensive**

Convened by the International People's Assembly and organised by various movements, networks, and organizations around the world, the Anti-imperialist Journey will be a key moment for building and expressing strategic alliances to confront the imperialist offensive and the rise of the extreme right around the world. Women are part of this resistance, and in the framework of our 5th Action, we will reinforce, on the Anti-Imperialist Journey, the commitment to building alliances with social movements from the self-organization of women. Thus, on that date, we will carry out specific activities of the World March of Women and/or we will build joint actions, according to the decision of each country.

**17th of October  
International Closing of the Action  
For a world without borders**

The closing activity of the 5th Action will be an international activity, in which representatives of the World March of Women from all over the world will participate. Its format is still under construction, but we already know that it will be an action on the border between Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, in the Americas. Borders and walls are concrete expressions of many of the things against which we fight: the imperialist States where right-wing governments stimulate hatred towards immigrants to implement their agenda against the peoples. States from where big transnational corporations come, the corporations themselves that attack the common goods, expel local peoples from their territories, and expropriate everything to turn everything into merchandise. They make profits even from oppression, in military conflicts whose biggest victims are women and children. We, on the other hand, affirm internationalist solidarity between the peoples and women as a principle.

## Towards 2020 - Mobilization

**Feminist training meeting in Kenya discusses Action 2020 and strengthens conversations in the region**



*The meeting brought together 43 women from 15 African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa and Mozambique.*

In Kenya, the World March of Women's Popular Education Planning Committee held a feminist political training camp (FPTC) from 14th to 16th of November. "Feminist Alternatives to Diverse Struggles. Rebuilding, Redeeming, and Occupying the Rightful Spaces" was the name of the meeting attended by 43 women from 15 African countries, including Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, and Mozambique. The camp was a consequence of the continued search for unifying truly democratic spaces for women to share experiences and for young and old generation feminists to learn from one generation to the next. Part of the main reason the camp was organised was to discuss the 5th International Action 2020, as well as to deepen the conversations in the region.

"The International Action is a political time that allows us to coordinate ourselves as an International movement and make alliances with other women's organisations, feminists, and mixed movements. It's a time to generate strength, recuperate joy, and strengthen solidarity between ourselves, as well as with other women and men. It's a time to build the feminist movement locally, connecting our diverse struggles and bringing out united voices as a collective to surpass the challenges that surround women the world over," writes Sophie Ogutu, from the WMW Kenya National Coordinating Body.

The women shared their experiences of struggles and alternatives on issues of insecurity, food sovereignty and agroecology, violence against women, security measures for women human rights defenders, militarism, power analysis, and the building of a vibrant women's movement, their problems and national strategies. Participants also addressed feminist alternatives to various struggles, especially the question of women who take/redeem, rebuild, and occupy their rightful spaces.

In 2020, February 18th, Sahrawi Women's Day, will mark mobilizations in solidarity with sisters living in occupied territories. To show solidarity with Western Sahara, the African sisters will hold special events and activities on the same day. There they will mobilise for the launch of the 5th International Action, on March 8th, for the 24 Hours of Feminist Action in April, and for the 3rd African Regional Meeting, to be held from 12th to 14th of October as part of the 2020 global actions.

## **WMW of the Americas meets in Cuba and begins the preparation of the 5th International Action**



*Women from 13 National Coordinations of the Americas spoke about the proposals to build the 5th International Action.*

On 30th and 31st of October, 26 women members of 13 national coordinating bodies of the World March of Women (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Quebec, United States, and Venezuela) met at the headquarters of the Federation of Cuban Women. In the meeting, we prepared our participation in the Anti-Imperialist Encounter that took place immediately after, and discussed the challenges of the context and the proposals for the construction of the 5th International Action.

From the WMW Americas, we reaffirm the vision that our International Actions are key moments of construction and synthesis of the processes the WMW develops throughout the years. We are convinced that, for the 5th International Action, we have the challenge of strongly positioning the WMW's anti-systemic feminism. This requires the capacity to organise actions to denounce and resist the attacks that we suffer today. At the same time, it demands that we reinforce and practice our proposals for transformation.

From this perspective, we have placed emphasis on the debate around how to dismantle the power of transnational corporations, which today are among the main instruments for imposing policies against life and in favour of the tyranny of the market. Transnationals are diverse nodes of power, involved in industry, commerce, and other spheres that advance extractivism in our region and put the State in their favour. We asked ourselves: What is their expression in the different territories and the links between the issues? For example, to explain the relationship between extractivism and weapons, there are public-private alliances, areas that we need to categorise and counter strategies about which we need to think.

We need to relate the work against transnationals to our realities, to the way they affect us, how they impede the reproduction of life. People are being deprived of the resources they need to be able to live. Attacking the people's reproduction of life is part of the formula of neoliberalism, and that is exactly why demonstrations against it have risen in different parts of the Americas, such as Chile, Ecuador, and Haiti. Conceiving a strategy to expose this plundering of life is a necessary task.

It is important to construct a common narrative in order to express ourselves in the same terms and communicate in a more assertive way. We resist transnationals and, moreover, we march to transform. We need to bring together the different forms that we have put into practice. From this perspective, we commit ourselves to delving deeper into the issue of transnationals, to elaborating dissemination materials, and to organizing the denunciation of transnationals with popular education methodologies, so that we can make the 5th International Action more than an event, we but rather part of a process that strengthens the WMW. In addition to denouncing the facts of the current situation, we need to produce permanent organization from our action, because that is part of the process of repositioning us as a movement.



We reaffirm our commitment to the international agenda of the 5th Action and we reinforce our proposal for an international moment, where we will all come together as part of this process of strengthening and making the WMW visible. In this sense, we commit ourselves to building, on October 17th, an international closing action involving Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, in which we will affirm our struggle for the integration of the peoples and for a world without borders.

## **In Europe, many formats for action and demonstrations at borders**

Representatives of national coordinating bodies of the March in Europe and allied movements and organizations (Friends of the Earth, TNI, European Federation of Urban Gardens, Transnational Migrant Platform, WIEGO) met on September 29-30 in Geneva to discuss a collective agenda for the 5th International Action 2020. The most prominent topics will be the defense of commons, the resistance against corporate power of transnational corporations, and the rise of the extreme right in several countries of the European continent. All the countries where the March is present in Europe will carry out activities on the 8th of March, the 24 Hours of Solidarity in April, and actions at the closing event on the 17th of October.

All WMW Europe countries will organise activities on the 8th of March, for the 24 Hours of Solidarity in April, as well as closing actions on the 17th of October. The actions will have several different formats: public demonstrations and many different training activities and debates. In addition, several countries will hold demonstrations at their borders. The March in the Basque Country will take place on the border between Euskal Herria and France. There will also be an action on the border between Italy and France, the theme of which will be women's work and bodies, as well as seminars with the informal sector to discuss transnational issues from women's point of view. In partnership with the European Federation of City Farms, community gardens, feminist camps, and training spaces will be organised. The March in Turkey will also demonstrate at a border - with Georgia - which migrant families cross in search of jobs, mostly care jobs.

## **La région MENA prépare la 5ème Action milieu des conflits et des attaques et d'attaques sévères contre les droits des femmes**

Women human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region face constant dangers that put their lives and security at risk, due to threats, criminalisation, attacks and abuses of all kinds. Over the past year, however, WHRDs have faced unprecedented challenges throughout the region, in the context of the harsh reaction of current regimes to the massive protest movements that have spread across the region.

WHRDs are under attack at many levels: government offensives against their movements; false accusations fabricated by the judicial system against them; domestic violence that

increases in conflict situations; the dissemination of private information that leads to public attacks and intimidation; misogynistic attacks; internet blackouts; and arrests due to participation in demonstrations or meetings. It is in this context that women participating in the World March, organized in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine, are resisting and preparing for the 5th International Action.

## News

### Women, migration and refuge

The World March of Women has held, together with other organizations, the meeting Women, Migration, and Refugees in Geneva from 27th to 29th of September. The event brought together 260 women from more than 30 countries who face the global diaspora and live in Europe, to discuss a critical and political agenda on migration and refugees. The meeting took place after a big women's strike on the 14th of June, against inequality and the difference between the wages earned by men and women. This was important to stimulate participation in the activity.



*Femmes de la diaspora mondiale qui vit en Europe ont participé au débat sur une agenda politique et critique autour de la migration et l'asile.*

We held round tables and 16 workshops on various topics, such as the role of transnational corporations and their relation to migration, the exploitation of domestic and care work in Europe, racism, sexism, and human trafficking. The women shared experiences of integration and formation of self-organised groups of migrant women, who gather to

assert themselves as subjects of political rights. The meeting was organised by the World March of Women and other migrant women's organisations, trade unions, and progressive movements. The meeting developed the Platform for Action Towards an Open, United, Equal, and Feminist Europe. [See it here](#). At the end of the meeting, we carried out a street action to make our demands public.

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is a reference to the memory of three Latin American political activists (Pátria, Minerva, and María Teresa Mirabal), murdered on the 25th of November, 1960 by order of Rafael Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic. The car of the Mirabal sisters, militants against the dictatorship, was shot when they were driving home from a visit to the husbands of two of them, who were political prisoners. Officially marking this date was initially proposed at the First Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Encounter, in 1981.

Violence against women is structural, an inherent characteristic of the patriarchal and capitalist system. It affects us all because we have all experienced fear, changed our behavior, and limited our options because of the threat of violence. Although violence against women and girls is more common in the private sphere, it is used as a way of excluding women from the public sphere. Women pay with their lives for studying or working outside the home rather than living within the private sphere, as the patriarchal culture dictates. In the context of the criminalisation of social movements and protest, repression against women activists involved in the struggle often takes the form of sexual violence.

This violence encompasses all social classes, cultures, religions, and geopolitical situations. It is used as a tool to control the life, body, and sexuality of women by individual men, groups of men, patriarchal institutions, and States. The World March of Women participates in wide-ranging debates and political actions that promote changes in our patriarchal cultures and to combat patriarchal violence. We believe that the feminist movement must work to promote a strong and broad self-organization of women struggling for autonomy (economic, sexual, reproductive, personal, political, etc.) and self-determination.

[Combating violence against women is one of our fields of action](#). Thus, every year the World March of Women organises or participates in actions of resistance to violence against women in various countries. We share some examples of action carried out in 2019 in different regions.



*In the Philippines, more than 100 women organized a flash mob in front of the military Aguinaldo Camp in Quezon City on November 20.*

**In the Philippines**, more than 100 women performed a flash mob dance routine outside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on the 20th of November. "Kapangyarihan sa kababaihan!" (Power to women!), "Kabuhayan, Katarungan!" (Jobs and Justice!), they sang. They denounced militarism on campuses and in urban and rural communities; the military harassment of students, including primary school students; the gentrification of urban areas in the Philippines, which pushes poor urban women and their families to abandon their homes and livelihoods; the lack of regular jobs, living wages, and respect for the right to unionise, so that our women do not have to migrate for work and those living abroad can return to their families; and the insecurity caused by the permits granted to corporations to occupy their land.

Jean Enriquez, a WMW coordinator and Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, told the local press that "women's lives were claimed for extrajudicial killings and some of us here were raped in exchange for the life and freedom of our partners, wounded and traumatised by prostitution and economic violence because of the war on drugs, more aptly called the war on the poor". [See more here](#).

**In Galicia**, the World March of Women participated in demonstrations in many cities and, on the 25th of November, began a campaign to give visibility to judicial violence against women and children. "[If it's sexist, it's not justice! Eliminate patriarchy from justice through feminist struggle](#)" is the slogan.



*«Si elle est sexiste, ce n'est pas de la justice! Éradiquons le patriarcat de la justice avec la lutte féministe » scande l'appel de la campagne lancé pour la Marche a Galice.*

"Every day" -- the text of the campaign explains -- "in the police stations and courts of Galicia, women who denounce sexist violence are violated in their rights of defence, in the protection of their daughters, or in the protection against their aggressors. They lack advice when deciding to report a crime, at the time they actually report it, and while providing their statement to the police, which will be used throughout the process. There are precautionary measures that keep the perpetrators away while also giving them the right to visit their children; visiting regimes for juvenile sex offenders. There are complaints that blame, judge, or re-victimise women; there is a sexist judiciary convinced that perpetrators of abuse can be good parents for children who have already been defined by law as victims of sexist violence; there is lack of training, empathy, and commitment on the part of the agents involved in the judicial processes; lack of specific courts for sexist violence."

**In Mozambique,** Forum Mulher and the World March of Women participated in various actions to combat violence against women, from 25th of November to 9th of December, in accordance with the calendar proposed by the UN for demonstrations to end violence against women and children. "We demand that the Mozambican State create structural conditions to improve the attention to the victims of domestic violence through an integrated and inclusive attention capable of responding to the demands of adversity and

the particularities of women. That the perpetrators of violence be punished with exemplary penalties as an educational process of a nation and as a way of discouraging the continuation of acts that threaten the well-being of women and girls. We also demand that the state create concrete initiatives to help and restore the dignity of women and girls who come from cycles of violence, ensuring that none of them have to live in the same space with their rapist," says [Forum Mulher's message](#).



*New Caledonia is at the top of the list of violence against women among the territories administered by France outside the European continent and France.*

**In New Caledonia**, the Collective Femmes en Angère (Women in Rage) denounced the silence of the institutions in the face of the expansion of violence against women (4 feminicides since November 2018) not to mention the worrying number of rapes (little girls are a target of these predators) and domestic violence that puts New Caledonia at the top of violence against women ahead of all French overseas countries and France. The demonstration also requested financial and human resources to finance the action plan against violence women have been asking to implement since 2016. Their proposals have been accepted by the local government but the budget does not follow. The demand was for the government to budget the plan to combat violence against women and to make the financing plan visible (today it is completely vague). WMW is part of Femmes en Angère.

## Alliances

### Women Continue to Struggle for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism

Since 2015, the WMW is part of the Continental Journey for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism. The Journey, together with the ICAP (Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) and Cuban organizations, convened the Anti-Imperialist Meeting of Solidarity, for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism, in which about 1,200 people from more than 80 countries participated between the 1st and 3rd of November, in Havana, Cuba.

In this moment, as the Latin American continent is facing the advance of the right by means of coups like in [Bolivia](#), very strong and massive popular mobilizations are brutally cracked down upon, such as the case in [Chile](#), Ecuador, and Haiti, the meeting was a great moment to reflect on the challenges of the current context for the continent and to build unity. Many questions were presented to organised movements, such as what kind of solidarity we should promote in the face of the challenges of repression, vigilance, and violence that are taking place in the territories against the lives of the people who fight, but also in the face of the attacks on democracy that, in the region, are becoming the method of the right.

The delegation of the March in the Meeting was formed by about 30 comrades, who participated in the panels, thematic debates, exchanges in the neighborhoods, an open forum, an exhibition by movements and moments of solidarity with Cuba, Venezuela and all the peoples who struggle. Feminism was addressed in talks, photos, songs, and chants, generating and reinforcing solidarity. They spoke of how the alliance between the movements is a necessary strategy for an offensive taken by the people against imperialism and neoliberalism, which creates lies, impoverishes local communities, and uses violence as a method. They also discussed how people's communication has become a tool to expose what the media monopoly hides.





*The WMW delegation to the Continental Journey for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism was formed by about 30 comrades. Feminism was present in discussions, photos, songs, slogans, creating and strengthening solidarity.*

Nalu Faria, of the WMW Brazil and a member of the CI, participated in the panel that debated the challenges of the left against imperialism. "Our struggle is against the system, against the capitalist, heteropatriarchal, and racist model, which destroys nature and treats some human beings as disposable, aggravates the exploitation of our work and our lives with increasing control of our bodies, of women and men, workers, LGBTQ people, black and indigenous peoples. We want to build another society", she said. She adds that feminism and environmental justice need to be fundamental parts of the struggle. "It's not just about incorporating the rights of women, blacks, and indigenous peoples, but also about learning from their experiences, as is the case of indigenous peoples who have lived in harmony with nature for more than five thousand years.

The final declaration of the meeting expressed the commitments of solidarity with the Cuban people against the blockade imposed by the United States, as well as the commitments of struggle for self-determination of the peoples from all over the world. The Continental Journey for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism continues as a process of alliance and construction of unity in the Americas, as expressed in its route of articulation and action, where the commitments to coordinate concrete actions are expressed. That will lead to the definition of a date for common mobilization in November 2020, of internationalist struggle and solidarity among the peoples facing neoliberalism. Updates on this process can be found at [www.seguimosenlucha.org](http://www.seguimosenlucha.org).

## Against imperialism and transnational corporations

The [Week of People's Mobilization Against Imperialism and Transnational Corporations](#) was held in Geneva from the 12th to 19th of October. The mobilization carries out a global campaign to claim the sovereignty of peoples, dismantle corporate power and resist imperialism. Founded in 2012, it builds the People's International Treaty for the Control of Businesses, to defend the rights of peoples and promote their power to combat crimes, violations, and impunity of transnational corporations.

The March participated in the panel "Together Against Transnational Corporations and the Wall Industry: The Struggle of Migrants, Women's Movements, and Palestinians." The double role of these companies was highlighted. Their big construction works, the plundering of natural resources, the arms trade, the exploitation of workers' labour cause conflicts and expel people from their territories. At the same time, these companies benefit from trade in "security" systems, equipment, and services for governments that want to close their borders to hinder the migration of these same people. The profits of multinationals depend on the violation of rights and the oppression of peoples. Nothing in this process is done without the people, and women in particular, organizing, denouncing wrongdoings, resisting. And the [Peoples' Treaty](#) is one of the instruments of struggle.

## Peoples' Summit: the struggle of social movements against neoliberalism and in defence of life



*In Santiago, the peoples of the world presented their alternatives to the neoliberal system that attacks the basis for the reproduction of life.*

While governments and corporations met in Madrid for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25), women, indigenous peoples and African descendants, migrant communities, peasants, workers, young people and children from many parts of the world, and people mobilised in hundreds of social movements gathered in the South of the world, in another continent. In Santiago, Chile, opposing the false solutions proposed by the capitalist, colonial, racist, and patriarchal system, the social organizations reaffirmed that

the response to the climate crisis, the violence of States and corporations, the attacks against democracy, and the plundering of the commons are the struggles in their territories. These are their alternatives to the neoliberal system, which attacks the bases of reproduction of life.

COP 25 was planned to take place also in Chile, but due to the intense demonstrations in that country, it was transferred to Spain. The Peoples' Summit was held in Santiago and, denouncing the repression of the demonstrations and the neoliberal model, expressed its support for the Chilean people. More than 1,500 people participated in the Peoples' Summit, which, in its final declaration, rejected "the imposition and expansion of extractivism by governments and international organizations, in complicity with the power of corporations, which conceive all territories as potential areas of sacrifice, destroy ecosystems, and displace communities, affecting their way of life and local economies."



*Citing the declaration of the Women's Tent, the People's Summit calls for "feminist economics as a strategy for resistance and transformation of the lives of women and their communities.*

Against this extractivist model, which plunders the planet's natural resources and imposes inequality, the Peoples' Summit proposes structural changes, based on solidarity, the

promotion of food sovereignty and family farming, environmental protection, and self-determination. Citing the declaration of the Women's Tent, the Peoples' Summit calls for "the feminist economy as a strategy of resistance and transformation for the lives of women and their communities, as a way to recognise and value knowledge, domestic work and care that sustains life, but which, in this capitalist system, falls upon women."

The Women's Tent was called by the World March of Women of Chile and organised in articulation with the Chilean Network against Violence against Women; ANAMURI; Colectiva Negrocéntricas; Colectivo VientoSur; Movimiento por el Agua y los Territorios-MAT; Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales-OLCA; Comité Socioambiental, Comité Plurinacional y Comité Internacional de la Coordinadora Feminista 8 de Marzo-CF8M. During five days of activities, the tent was full. There were rounds of conversation, debates, book launches, exhibitions, cultural interventions. Participants talked about violence against women who are on the front line of resistance against extractivism, both in rural and urban areas. Women who are targets of attacks that disqualify their public participation, of aggressions and murders. One of the groups that presented itself, the Comparsa Jardinera, performed feminist renditions of traditional Chilean songs and dance routines in memory of these women -- and in continuity with their struggle.



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The panel "The Crisis as a Business, Market Mechanisms, and Privatization of Nature," convened by Friends of the Earth along with the World March of Women, the Transnational Institute and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA), organizations that make up the Continental Journey for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, discussed the common agenda of environmentalists, trade unionists, and feminists. Debates to understand the current context were held. Leticia Paranhos, of Friends of the Earth, said it is necessary "to go beyond the capital-labour conflict, because today we are witnessing a capital-life conflict." "For this system, there are lives that are

disposable, lives that do not matter to the capital," she warned. Natália Lobo, from WMW Brazil, said that "it is necessary to bring the logic of life to our political actions. False solutions don't offer ways to resolve the crisis because they don't put life first. To do that, it is necessary to change the system."

At the end of the Summit, the WMW Chile organized a WMW Training School which was attended by comrades from Brazil, Argentina, different regions of Chile, Paraguay, Peru, the United States and Quebec. During the session, the women shared experiences they had during the last period in their territories and took notice of the common aspects between their local agendas, accumulating a shared narrative and ideas for the 5th International Action. "We shared what the March in each country has developed. Resistance to the plundering of nature appeared in many ways, and also the idea of occupation and re-signification of public spaces, with actions such as sharing food, holding education sessions in public squares, renaming of streets, and creating monuments in honour of fighters and native peoples," says Miriam Nobre, of the WMW Brazil. Here are the links to the final declarations of the [People's Summit](#) and the [Women's Tent](#).

## People's Summit in Africa for climate justice

The WMW Coordinations of the Southern African region (Tanzania Zanzibar island region, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya) mobilized in the Peoples' Summit from 13 to 17 August in Tanzania, a space of self-organization of social movements in parallel to the Governments Summit, to reaffirm the resistance to the proposed model of regional integration and to build alternatives to integrate the interests of the peoples. For this reason, the WMW Coordination in Kenya was invited to participate as a way of reaffirm the will for unity of the peoples in Africa, free of the configurations defined by colonial economic and territorial interests. The theme of the summit was "Reconstructing the movement of peoples in the context of climate, political and economic emergencies: For radical democratic alternatives and a just transition".

The March had a strong presence of young women from Mozambique and Kenya who were carrying the theme of Climate Justice as their banner of struggle, from the analysis of the impacts of the Cyclones that devastated Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. These young women were able to strengthen their connection with young people from Madagascar and Mauritius to think about building and expanding the voices that denounce the impacts of the climate crisis and sharing the experiences of communities to save lives and ensure ways of survival. The reports have shown how women suffer the impacts of the climate crisis that generates deaths, loss of livelihoods, forced displacement and resettlement, forced migration and conflict and wars that result from competition for the scarce resources that are seen in this context.

Beyond the Crisis, reconstruction, the defense of life!

The resilience of women has shown we reinvent ourselves in the context of crisis, and find in love and solidarity the strength to continue to struggle in defense of life, our children and our communities. It is women who in everyday life find the way to help those who have suffered most, who need help most.

But much more is needed! We need a force that unites African women to face the climate crisis and the reconstruction of the continent that has been devastated by so many wars and so many evils that plagued us since the colonial occupation more than 500 years ago, but which are reinforced by the advance of neoliberalism that has strengthened the advance of capitalism and imperialism in the region, represented by the corporations that plunder the continent's and islands wealth, instrumentalizing the division among peoples and stimulating wars and devastation of the forests, the seas and the diverse culture of the African peoples.

The March has joined with other movements in the region to build the African Climate Justice Alliance, an initiative that seeks to create a joint force between social movements and organizations fighting for a justice that can replace individualistic capitalist values of competition, expropriation and accumulation by values that favor the common good, solidarity, equity, and a life in harmony with mother earth and nature. The Alliance is organizing to have its first meeting in February 2020. The March wants to build that space by reaffirming the meaning of the struggle in defence of life as we have built and defended the Feminist Economy.

The next Peoples' Summit will take place in Mozambique in August 2020, and it will be a very important moment to make visible the 5th international Action of the WMw. Another moment is the realization of the World of Women, that will gather many women of the world in Mozambique in September 2020, where WMw Mozambique is part of the construction under the slogan "African Feminisms: Building Alternatives for Women and the World", through a corridor of knowledge of caring and resisting.

## **The transformative potential of alternative economies**

The World Social Forum of Transformative Economies is scheduled to take place in Barcelona, in June 2020. The allied compañeras of REMTE (Latin American Network of Women Transforming the Economy) participate in the process of building it, promoting the feminist economy as central to systemic changes in society. We share an article by

Magdalena León, from REMTE-Ecuador, [originally published by the Latin American Information Agency \(ALAI\)](#), as a contribution to our debate about alternatives.

*Transforming the economy is urgent, a challenge, and a possibility shared by the entire world today. Predatory neoliberal practices that destroy life have taken the social, political, and ecological crisis to unsustainable levels. But while a resource-hungry capitalist system deepens inequalities and injustices, other economic alternatives resist or are forged to support life, satisfy basic needs, and offer concrete solutions to the multiple material problems involved in the future of societies.*

*Various alternative experiences, which are marginalised or devalued by the domination of the capitalist market, have made it possible to sustain life and generate production and exchanges even in the most adverse conditions. They are realities, practices, and economic visions that have been formulated either in long-term or recent processes, and they share the ethics of solidarity and point out the possibility of placing the reproduction of life and work as the centre of the generation of true wealth. This other kind of wealth is the capacity to guarantee the satisfaction of the basic needs of humanity, in conditions of equality and justice for all people and collectivities, with balances that ensure the protection of Mother Earth, our Common Home.*

*The list is long and diverse, combining economic practices, organizational forms, and theoretical-political visions. Feminist economics is one of these proposed alternatives, which refers to the crucial contribution of the care economy and to a critical view of the economic system and thinking. The social and solidarity economy as a practice and as a systemic vision. Food sovereignty and agroecology; the different realities of rural and urban community economies. Experiences of fair trade, social mutualism, cooperatives, ethical finance. The economies of the commons, of indigenous peoples, of climate justice. Research, public policies, education, and communication are inseparable fields in these experiences and visions.*

*From this vast environment of organizations and networks emerges the initiative of the World Social Forum of Transformative Economies, which will take place in Barcelona, between the 25th and 28th of June, 2020. The WSFTE 2020 takes up the challenge of proposing to the world concrete paths towards other economies, to confront capitalism and neoliberalism from the potential of these experiences, to advance in a shared, integral vision that challenges the system while calling and mobilising society.*

*In the tradition of the World Social Forum, of which it is part, this meeting is not just another event. It is part of a process that seeks to advance common agendas, articulations, and initiatives that broaden the horizon of economic transformation. Likewise, following the WSF Charter of Principles, it is based on values of inclusion, openness, transparency,*



*and respect for the autonomy of the movements, social actors, and people who participate in this space.*

*Barcelona hosts the WSFTE 2020 as a territory of multiple experiences of transformative economies. Its protagonists, the organizations and entities committed to this alternative construction, will share their spaces, their heritage, and their visions as a framework in which the world exchange will flow during the days of the Forum.*

*The call is now open. In the preparatory phase, several debate and exchange activities are self-organising in different regions of the world, in order to arrive in Barcelona with a paths paved. Also in the tradition of the events of the WSF, the Program of the WSFTE will be the result of self-managed and co-managed initiatives that can begin to be proposed and registered.*

*All relevant information, as well as various options for participation in the preparatory phase towards the WSFTE 2020 are available on the website <https://transformadora.org>.*

*By Magdalena León T. -- member of the Latin American Network of Women Transforming the Economy (Red Latinoamericana Mujeres Transformando la Economía – REMTE) and of the Coordinating Committee of the WSFTE 2020.*

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