

*Without our work there would be no wheel turning in this world:
We have the power to stop the world and change it fundamentally!*



Call for international 8th March strike

March 8th is International Women's Day. For decades we have been taking to the streets on this day to make our experiences and the social grievances to which we are exposed every day visible. We are women, lesbians, non-binary, trans and inter persons and we are part of an international movement. In recent years alone, this movement has brought millions of people onto the streets from Poland to Argentina, from New York to Hong Kong, from Spain to Nigeria. Also in 2019, in Hamburg and all over the world, we will leave the sinks full and the office chairs empty: We will demonstrate and we will strike!

For years we have watched with concern the worldwide rise of right-wing national parties and governments. But already, we constantly hear sexist, homo- and trans- and handicapped-hostile comments, experience constant force, oppression and exploitation by cis males¹ and the patriarchy! Our work is underestimated and made invisible: We still earn many times less than cis males. At home we take on countless hours of unpaid educational, household and care work. In old age, we hardly make ends meet with our pension, if at all. It goes without saying that we are expected to provide emotional support for everyone in our environment and as if taken for granted put our own needs last. As different as we are, we are all workers! Whether with a ballpoint pen, wrench, computer or broom in our hands, whether we get paid for it or not: We are expected to do all this work uncomplainingly, unnoticed and willingly.

On 8th March we will go on strike to make visible what otherwise disappears in the private sphere and to find a collective expression for our experiences, which otherwise remain isolated! We will stand up for a society in which everyone has what they need and in which everyone can be different without fear. For we do not want equal participation in a system based on competition, discrimination and exploitation of people and the environment. We are fighting for fundamental social change!

Who are we?

We are very different people from diverse contexts. We have different social and cultural experiences. Some of us go to school or are learning a profession. Some of us receive social welfare, asylum benefits or a pension. Many of us take over the unpaid emotional and physical care for our environment, organize education and household. We work at home or in different professions.

What unites us is the strength to lay down our paid and unpaid work!

What do we want?

The strike is a chance to bring together different struggles and to become active together in solidarity.

We fight for a world in which we can work according to our abilities and our needs and in which every work is valued. We make invisible and unpaid work visible. We politicize relationships and family connections, because the private is political. We want to decide for ourselves whether, when and how we work, because every second of our day is our time!

1 Cis males are the men who have been classified as men at birth and who also feel comfortable with it. Trans men are also men, but do not have the same privileges, but experience oppression.

We demand the social recognition and material upgrading of professions in the care sector, such as nursing, education and cleaning work. We oppose the criminalisation of sex workers. We stand up for a society in which we can all lead a good and safe life!

We are in solidarity with the struggles of trans, inter and non-binary persons all over the world, because only we determine our gender. We do not let ourselves be dictated how we should look, behave or dress - and even more we do not let ourselves be attacked or insulted for it. We do not need protection from cis males, we demand an end to the violence. Every attack on one of us is an attack on all of us!

We decide for ourselves whether or with whom we have sex and when and whom we love. We fight to control our own bodies. We decide if and when we want to get pregnant or when we have an abortion!

We don't let ourselves be further racist discriminated or sexualized as 'exotic beauties'. We don't care if you can pronounce our names or not, we won't adapt!

We stand up for a society in which everyone can move freely and nobody is hindered; in which refugees and disabled women, lesbians, non-binary, trans and inter persons have a secure residence status and a safe and dignified home!

We fight for a society beyond nationalities and borders. We declare war on anti-feminism, racism, anti-semitism, antiziganism and anti-Muslim racism!

So what does strike mean?

We have no political right to strike in Germany, so we get creative! Stick together and make yourselves visible collectively: Put down the household work. Give yourselves a day off. Slow down at work. Skip school. Don't go to university. Hang aprons from the window. Hang up posters in your office. Don't make coffee. Don't clear out the dishwasher. Organize yourself instead, call student meetings, company meetings, disabled workshop and youth- and trainee-meetings! Talk to your colleagues, friends, grandmothers, mothers, aunts and sisters.

We can all strike together on 8th March by collectively and publicly organising childcare, demonstrating on the street or taking public places. Like our predecessors and comrades-in-arms, let us fight with all necessary means for a good life for all: until every day is 8 March! Join us!

* Your gender is not your body, your gender is a social attribution. The * expresses that.

There are also many possibilities for cis males to get involved: Catering, child care, billboard advertising and much more. You want to support us? Great! Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at 8m_hamburg@riseup.net.