

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**
2ND CONGRESS OF THE  **EuropeanLEFT**
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ADOPTED MOTION

Left Feminism can open new ways for social struggles in Europe

This year in Portugal, a new leaf in the history of women was turned over.

During the last thirty years, we fought for the legalization of abortion. Last February, we won the referendum and now, we have a law that allows women to abort in the health public services. We know that much silent opposition persists. However, this has been a great step forward. The right and the conservative forces have suffered a defeat.

A new field for feminist struggles is now opened. Next year, in June, an important feminist association (UMAR) is going to hold a Feminist Congress, open to everybody to affirm that women's struggles must continue at the political agenda. There is still a lot to do to put an end to the different discriminations. Need less to say that the last feminist congress took place eighty years ago.

We live in a Europe and in a World where neoliberalism leaves its trace in the area of women's rights. This globalization has a sexist print; because the capitalist relations that feed it, cross with the patriarchal ones, reinforcing them. In our country, a so-called socialist government has been a faithful follower of these neoliberal politics.

Portugal has on the second semester of this year taken the Presidency of the European Union. On that account, launched the European Year for Equality, which proved to be only a show-off politics well away from women's real lives.

The situation in Europe is very similar:

- Violence against women is increasing, such as discrimination and precarity at work. In our country, for example, the difference of wages between women and men rise up to the 20%. The four women members of the Parliament belonging to the Left Block worked out recently an important document about gender discrimination in the work market.
- The rights of the immigrant women are ignored.
- Parity, although already decreed in the Law in some countries, requires social measures that will enable wider access to the political power and a greater share of responsibilities in the household.

MOTION

- The neoliberal politics reduce the supporting social facilities to children and old people.
- The feminization of poverty is a reality.
- Sexism in attitudes, language and mentality persists.
- The struggle for the rights of gays and lesbian has still a long way to run.

For the above reasons, the causes for feminist action are far from being exhausted.

The Left Parties, who fight for a Social and Democratic Europe and against the patriarchal and capitalist relations must clear the way for a Left Feminism, where women may have a word to say in economic, social and politics issues.

The Europe we want cannot be built by turning its back against women.

We fear that the great majority of the governments wish that the new Treaty is approved without the vote of the people they represent. The mobilization of women in favour of referendums in their countries should be an opportunity for us to say that a Left Feminism can open new ways for the social struggles that are essential to build an alternative for the European Left.