

WOMEN'S GLOBAL STRIKE

Why are we striking?

Because the promises made by our governments to advance equality, development and peace for all women 25 years ago were not kept, and women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Because International Women's Day is a day when women over generations have risen up and protested, putting their lives at risk to defend their human rights and fundamental freedoms. We honour that history, reclaim the day and revive women's collective power to demand our human rights.

Because right to strike is a recognised human right and throughout history, strikes have been an effective tactic for harnessing the power of movements to affect change. Strikes have fostered, revived and strengthened solidarity across issues and movements to change structural oppression, whether it be patriarchy, neoliberalism, globalisation, militarism, fundamentalisms or environmental destruction.

Who we are

The demand for a global strike led and owned by women was ignited by feminists, trade unionists and activists at the People's General Assembly held in 2015, in New York. Since then, the calls have spread and seen support; in 2017, the Women's Global Call for Climate Justice supported the call for women's global strikes starting on 8 March.

This call for a Women's Global Strike on 8 March 2020 has been initiated by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), a leading network of feminist organisations and grassroots activists in Asia Pacific. APWLD's 236 members represent groups of diverse women from 27 countries in Asia Pacific. To learn more about APWLD, visit our website at www.apwld.org.

Find us on social media

Facebook: WomensGlobalStrike

Twitter @WomensGblStrike

Instagram @womensglobalstrike

To join us, endorse our political statement and sign up on
our website:

www.womensglobalstrike.com

8 MARCH 2020 | EVERYWHERE
SAVE THE DATE!

How can we strike?

Withdraw from formal work:

Do not go to your workplace or leave your workplace at an agreed time with your colleagues on 8 March 2020.

Withdraw from care work:

Do not do housework, domestic responsibility, and where necessary ask male partners and allies to show solidarity by taking over responsibilities for home, family and community.

Slow down your work:

Where it is not possible to completely withdraw from work, slow down your work as a form of protest.

Organise a rally or meeting:

Bring together women and queer allies in your networks and communities to march, to speak out, to come together!



For more exciting ideas on how we can strike, read our publication '*A Dangerous Unselfishness - Learning from Strike Actions*' on our website, which documents 40 examples of politically significant strikes around the world and over generations.

If you have exciting and powerful ideas for going on strike, tell us about it at info@womensglobalstrike.com.

We are committed to making this journey a collective and powerful one with all women around the world!



Our Political Statement Calling for a Women's Global Strike on 8 March 2020

We, feminist organisations and allies from around the world, call for a **Women's Global Strike on 8 March 2020**. We ask that feminists and their allies withdraw their labour on this day, recognising the roots of International Women's Day in women's solidarity strike actions throughout history, and showing to the world, that **when women stop, the world stops**.

Why do we need to do this?

Because the promises made by our governments to advance equality, development and peace for all women 25 years ago were not kept. While wealth has grown during this period, multiple, interconnected inequalities have obscenely deepened.¹ Because that wealth has been in large parts created by women who do not get to share that wealth. We live within an economic order which is exploiting women and benefiting from the free or lowly paid care work that we do, from the low wages and precarious conditions of work.

Because the greed of fossil fuel companies has destroyed the environment, and the effects of climate change are also more deeply felt by women. We are more likely to be displaced,² we have to travel further to collect water, we are forced to migrate, and we suffer from health implications of increased salinity caused by rising sea levels, changing temperature and more frequent natural disasters.³

Because across the world, women continue to do more care and domestic work and this work is still unrecognised, undervalued and not included in the calculation of national GDPs, even though the economy would not function without it. For instance, in Asia Pacific, women do four times more unpaid care work than men, more than the rest of the world. Many countries' gender pay gap is stagnant, and for some it is actually increasing.

In 2020, when we mark 25 years since the commitments made for women's rights at the 1995 Fourth World Conference for Women, known as the Beijing Platform for Action,⁴ it is time for us to come together, across generations, across different movements, to stand in solidarity with each other and bring the world to a standstill.

We believe that our demands are common demands across the world:

- Decent Work and Living Wages for all
- End gender-based violence
- Just access to resources, power, and opportunity
- Food sovereignty for all

Throughout history, strikes have been an effective tactic for harnessing the power of movements to affect change. International Women's Day is not a marketing campaign to make women feel beautiful: it is a day when women have risen up and protested, putting their lives at risk to defend their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Let us honour that history, reclaim the day and revive women's collective power to demand our human rights.

1 "The top 1% captured twice as much global income growth as the bottom 50% since 1980"

2 "80% of people displaced by climate change are women." Halton, Mark. BBC (2018) Climate change 'impacts women more than men'. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43294221>

3 "A lot of money is being thrown at climate change interventions, [...] but almost none of it goes into research - not for the public health impact anyway. Everyone is thinking about environmental disasters. No one is thinking about public health."

BBC (2018) How climate change could be causing miscarriages in Bangladesh. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45715550>

4 Fourth World Conference on Women. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>