E-Newsletter 2020, Issue 2

Welcome to the latest edition of the WIDE+ newsletter in which we keep you up-to-date with the latest WIDE+ developments. Have an idea or would like to feedback on this newsletter? Email us at: info@wide-network.org

COVID-19 and Feminism

COVID-19 and measures to contain it, has huge impacts on our lives and work. WIDE+ has not published a statement on the COVID-19 virus and its gendered impacts, since already many analysis is available (see our overview). We will share statements and calls for help from our members.

New series "Our Common Cause" of in-depth interviews explores experiences of resisting and promoting feminist ideals, see for more below.

The series "Our Common Cause" is the result of the work carried out by social movement scholar Jennifer Ramme and her team of students in the context of the seminar on social protests and gender regimes at the European University Viadrina in 2019. They are published in collaboration with WIDE+. In the interviews, the activists talk about the issues they struggle with in various places in the world, though most
articles focus on informal movements in Europe and Latin America.

6 Interviews available at the site movementsarchive.wordpress.com:

Peace Mothers (Turkey, Kurdistan and Germany) - "It is our pain that brought us together"

Non Una Di Meno (Italy) - "Together we gain strength to change what is wrong with society"

Women*Strike Committee Berlin - "Does anyone really believe that equality exists in Germany?"

Proceder / Ni Una Menos (Colima, Mexico) - "If you're an activist and you don't have hope, you're in deep trouble"

Tbilisi Pride (Georgia) - "That situation for LGBBTQI* people in Georgia makes you feel like a secondary citizen and a person deprived of basic rights"

Insight (Ukraine) - "We urge absolutely all women to join us, because we believe in women's solidarity" (in English and Ukrainian)

New Briefing Paper available: A Review of Feminist Initiatives in Europe

This publication is the result of a review of feminist organizing in Europe initiated by the WIDE+ network. We organized this review as we experience fragmentation between feminist initiatives and groups. We present here conclusions from almost 20 in-depth interviews with feminists working in national and local contexts, as a source of inspiration and reflection for other feminists, without claiming that the observations from the interviews can be generalized.
Main challenges we found: In most of the interviews, the rise of the far-right emerged as a common issue in the current political spectrum. The expression of different forms of racism, LGBTQI phobia and other attempts to control activism also appear as intersectional challenges. The challenges different groups face daily in Europe differ a lot as a result of power asymmetries. Access to finance is a major issue. And another common challenge mentioned by feminist activists was a heavy workload combining their activism with paid work and reproductive work in terms of time and basic needs.

The following suggestions on strategies or areas of work for transnational collaboration came up: more funding for all kinds of feminist initiatives; transnational coalition-building and diversity of feminisms; digitalization; media strategies of building feminist narratives; sharing knowledge; and power asymmetries among feminists, including intergenerational collaboration

Link to download the publication: https://wideplus.org/2020/03/30/a-review-of-feminist-initiatives-in-europe/