



2000
Word March
of Women

2000
Marche mondiale
des femmes

2000
Marcha mundial
de las mujeres

8 March - Mars - de Marzo

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FEMME - DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LA MUJER



The World March of Women

We are counting on the presence of thousands, hopefully millions, of women in the streets in the year 2000!

Action Scenarios

El member organisations are invited to start preparing, as they celebrate 8 March 1999, their participation to various activities that will take place up to the year 2000. Here are a few scenarios for national and world actions in the framework of the World March to help participating groups study different possibilities. Discuss them with other groups to determine the feasibility of such actions in your country. Please inform us as soon as possible of any new regional or world action proposal. We hope these suggestions will give you inspiration.

World March of Women: Actions

Three levels of action have been proposed for the March. First, there will be an action demonstrating women's mass support for the world demands, signified by signing support cards. Second, women's movements in each country will organize national actions that will present demands reflecting their realities and priorities (related to the issues of **poverty and violence against women**). Finally, one or several world demonstrations or rallies will be held. The entire project is to be developed and supported by a process of popular education. The actions will begin 8 March 2000, and end 17 October 2000, with the world rallies.

Joining the World

March in the Year 2000 means:
making a commitment and adopting the project as your own;

encouraging other groups in your country to join the project and working in tandem with them;

wanting to help organize actions being planned nationally and internationally;

wanting to participate in the popular education campaign where you live;

passing on information about the March to members of your group, inviting them to have discussions and mobilizing them to act

National Actions

National consulting/coordinating bodies will develop one or several national demands relevant to the women of their respective countries or regions.

We propose that the national actions take the form of a relay march. The marchers in each contingent could transfer an object or banner to marchers in the succeeding contingent. The banner could be a work-in-progress where each contingent adds a section as they join the march.

We also propose that the national relay marches end with a national rally to welcome the marchers and present the demands to the decision-makers.

Rallies on 17 October 2000

The March Coordinating Committee discussed many action scenarios for the rallies; here are the three main proposals:

1. The national marches that will take place in different countries around the world will end with a national rally. These rallies, taking place simultaneously, would end the World March by symbolically uniting the marchers and the population of countries all around the world.

2. The national marches could end a few days before 17 October. Women from different countries would then travel to rallies outside United Nations offices in each major region of the world. These regional rallies would take place simultaneously. Each regional rally could also welcome marchers arriving from other world regions.

3. A single large world rally could be organized to end the March on 17 October 2000, in front of United Nations headquarters in New York. Marchers from participating countries would come to this rally representing those unable to make the trip.

Why a March?

Why a Women's World March in the year 2000? At a time when violence against women is a daily occurrence, and when women become poorer and poorer, it is a must to globalise solidarity. The last Congress of Education International decided, by an overwhelming majority, to uphold and support that global initiative. The Women's World March is a concrete and mobilising project enabling us to mark women's place in the new millennium and to show our determination to change the world!

Where does the idea for a Women's World March in the Year 2000 come from?

The idea to hold a world march of women in the year 2000 was born out of the experience of the Women's March Against Poverty, which took place in Québec in 1995. This march, initiated by the Fédération des femmes du Québec (Women's Federation of Québec), was hugely successful. The entire women's movement mobilized for the march as did many other segments of the population.

The presence during that march of 20 women from countries of the South reminded us of the importance of global solidarity-building. The Beijing Conference proved that women everywhere are struggling for **equality, development and peace** more than ever before. It was at this conference that the first proposal to organize an international women's march was made.

The Demands

The World March of Women in the Year 2000 will be making two major demands related to **poverty and violence against women**. With these demands we will challenge the various systems and authorities that generate inequality between men and women and exert control over women's lives. There are committees working now on developing the content of the demands so that a more detailed proposal can be discussed.

A March to Change the World!

Goals - What We Want

- To stimulate a vast movement of grassroots women's groups so that the march becomes a gesture of affirmation by the women of the world.
- To promote equality between men and women.
- To highlight the common demands and initiatives issuing from the global women's movement relating to the issues of poverty and violence against women.
- To force governments, decision-makers and individuals the world over to institute the changes necessary for improving the status of women and women's quality of life.
- To enter the new millennium by demonstrating women's ongoing determination to change the world.

Values underlying the action

- the leadership of the organization is in the hands of women;
- all regions in the world share leadership in the action;
- participating groups must subscribe to the objectives and overall plan of action for the March but remain independent as regards organizing the action in their respective countries; we recognize, respect and value the diversity of the women's movement;
- the World March of Women in the year 2000 is an action of peace.

On the basis of our **Second World Congress** resolution on the "Global March for Women in the year 2000", you are invited to enable and encourage the commitment of women to the organisation of this vast project.

You will be regularly informed of the developments through EI's Internet site and mailings. Contact the secretariat if you need additional information, such as the names and addresses of participating groups in your region.

The wealth of the planet and of humanity must be shared equitably

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