



Call for Day of Feminist Struggle 2022

The social situation of FLINTA* ignites rage and anger in us. Capitalist and patriarchal structures of our society create health-related, social, and structural inequalities between the genders. Capitalism and patriarchy are human-made and historically-shaped systems. They are by no means rigid constructs that cannot be changed. Society can be structured in a different manner and function independent of capitalist and patriarchal ideas - and it should!

1. Rise!

Stop femicides and violence against FLINTA! #keinmehr ("no more")

Every third woman** in Germany has already experienced physical violence or sexual assault. More than half of the women** were sexually harassed – and even worse: every third day a woman** is killed by her current or former partner. The fact that the media speaks only of "crimes within a relationship" and thus conceals the underlying structural problems makes us angry. Because they are femicides: murders of women**, and just because of the fact that they are women**. These figures from Germany are frighteningly high, but unfortunately they are in line with the European average. Sadly, violence has continued to rise in the past two years due to social isolation and pandemic-related retreat into the private sphere.

Enraged, we realize that, in addition to cis* women, other FLINTA* are also exposed to blatant oppression and violence because they do not fit into the heteronormative picture that patriarchy paints. Trans people, in particular, are exposed to psychological and physical violence on a daily basis. The years of legal proceedings and other bureaucratic processes that they have to go through simply owing to their gender identity sparks our anger.

Ella, who came to Germany from Iran in 2016, lived in Magdeburg for four years and was politically involved, even had to fight twice as hard for her right to exist and stay here in Germany. Her application for asylum and the dangers she faced as a trans woman in her country of origin were not taken seriously. Nevertheless, she continued to fight. A struggle that led to her tragic death on September 14, 2021. And not even then the discrimination stopped; even after her death her grave is still the target of attacks. As long as the situation for trans people and refugees in

Germany does not improve, suicides such as Ella's are structural. We mourn the loss of Ella and will never forget her story and her struggle - we stand together as FLINTA*.

We demand:

- Stop femicides!
- Private is still political! Do not trivialize violence against FLINTA* as individual cases or as a private matter!
- Let Ella rest in peace and never forget her and her struggle!
- Create spaces where FLINTA* can come together, network, strengthen and rejuvenate their vigor. Against isolation and competition!
- Funding for contact and advice centres

2. Resist!

Our health and body are not commodities! #nichtaufunseremrücken ("not on our backs")

It makes us angry that it has always been mainly women** who take on the work of reproduction and care work! Whether childcare, the organization of family celebrations or the care of relatives – we are indignant to see how all these forms of often "invisible" work continues, even outside the private sphere, such as in wage labor. These forms of work, which are primarily carried out by women**, are disavowed with a consistent contempt and devaluation within our capitalist and patriarchal society.

As a result, we angrily witness that women** are confronted with lower wages, poorer compatibility of family and wage labour, precarious employment conditions and the threat of poverty in old age, which can also be accompanied by health-related issues. We recognize how the challenges since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the constant changes in everyday life, the ban on contact as well as daycare and school closures, represent additional burdens at the expense of women** and mothers. And these burdens also have health consequences.

In addition, women's health is given little importance in many areas of medicine. This is particularly evident in the example of women** on whose shoulders rests a large part of the care work in our underfunded health system; their situation has been made further fragile due to the continuing focus on the economy.

We can no longer accept that the (physical) self-determination of FLINTA* is prevented by archaic laws over 100 years old, as with Paragraph 218, which to this day lists abortion as a criminal offence. Trans people are also massively restricted in their self-determination by steep bureaucratic hurdles and continuous pathologization, which are also accompanied by an obligation to prove their "evaluation of a condition". We are angry about this difficult path to physical self-determination and angry about the health, social and structural inequalities of the system in which we live!

We call on you to support the following demands

- A health and medical care system that fully recognizes FLINTA* health and already includes it in the research and development of medical measures!
- The simplification of transition processes!
- The withdrawal of the health sector from the free market! Health is not a commodity - no profits in the health sector!
- A fair distribution of unpaid care work and its incorporation into society!

3. Revolt!

The anti-fascist struggle continues! #internationalesolidarität ("international solidarity")

We watch angrily at what is happening at the EU's external borders. In the border zone between Poland and Belarus, at least 22 people seeking protection had to die, as the governments of the EU have allowed a zone devoid of human rights to be created here. Here, people are not granted their fundamental right to asylum, shelter or medical care. Only through the work of activists and the local population, who have brought necessary food and clothing to the people, further deaths have been prevented so far. We mourn the lives that have been lost and stand behind the people who provided assistance.

We are still angry about the situation in Afghanistan, where people are now once again exposed to the Taliban. Several journalists and activists who have campaigned for the equality of FLINTA* have already been deliberately killed. Similar to the situation 20 years ago, the rights of women** are increasingly restricted; women** are not allowed to leave their homes unaccompanied, wear burqas and are not allowed to go to school. We admire the strength of activists such as Tamana Ibrahimkhel and Rodaba Parnian, who are currently being held by the Taliban, and join the call for the release of the international Afghan women's groups.

It is with disgust that we see how the EU is undermining the fundamental right to asylum. Instead of establishing admission programs, a border fence with Belarus is to be built for about 350 million euros. The promises of the Federal Government to bring particularly vulnerable groups of people from Afghanistan to Germany as quickly as possible have not been followed by any action. In addition, reasons for which especially FLINTA* flee their homes, such as domestic violence, are assigned to the "private sphere" and thus do not constitute persecution within the interpretation of the Geneva Convention on Refugees.

Instead, the state prefers to continue to focus on getting rid of people and deporting or expelling them, as we can also see in the case of our Spanish comrade María. María was expelled from the country a few months ago and received an entry and residence ban in Germany, which is to last for the next 20 years. This is an unprecedented case of attempts to make an example. Allegedly, María is a threat to public safety and order. She is accused of her commitment to the Kurdish freedom movement, which also embodies an anti-fascist and feminist struggle and has shown, in particular with the women's revolution in Rojava, that feminist utopias can become liveable! We stand in unbroken solidarity with María!

We demand:

- No forgetting of the casualties and victims of racist police violence!
- The abolition of deportation and camps - a humane asylum policy within the framework of international solidarity!
- Release of activists Tamana Ibrahimkhel and Rodaba Parnian!
- Oppose the institutionalized racism in police, state and politics!
- Stop criminalization and repression of activists!

We have no other way out than to work for our liberation, to fight for our liberation! We don't get freedom as a gift - that's why we invite you to come together to the main train station at Willy-Brandt-Platz on March 8th at 5:00 pm! Together we are sending a strong signal against patriarchy and capitalism!

Footnotes:

* FLINTA stands for women, lesbians, inter, non-binary, trans, and agender persons. FLINTA are therefore people whose gender identity is not cis-male. The term lesbians here is not limited to sexual identity, but above all includes its political meaning in the context of past feminist struggles as well as its use in the 70s, which symbolized a break with the binary system.

* cis as an abbreviation for cisgender refers to people whose gender identity matches the gender assigned to them at birth.

** The term woman is used here because these are statistics collected in binary gender descriptions (e.g. by the RKI https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Gesundheitsmonitoring/Gesundheitsberichterstattung/GBEDownloadsB/frauenbericht/08_Gewalt_gegen_Frauen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile). However, since we see gender as a social construct that is so diverse that it cannot be restricted to a binary framework, we use the term FLINTA elsewhere in the text.