



Abortion under attack in Europe!!!

In countries where abortion was legal and free in the past, it is now banned.

In countries where access is already restricted, there is no political will to legalize it and there are also attempts to limit access even further.

In others, where access is free, there are legal and practical threats to this right.

Abortion rights and access, along with contraception and sexual education, are fundamental reproductive rights that are needed to ensure our freedom to control our own bodies and our lives. Our bodily integrity is an inalienable human right; the potential future life (of the fetus) must not be given greater value than the life of an actual woman.

Women are having abortions, whether they are legal or illegal. Restrictive laws banning abortion do not decrease this number. They only increase economic inequalities, targeting women who cannot afford an illegal abortion or travel abroad to a country where it is legal. Clandestine abortions are often performed in dangerous conditions and are a threat to women's lives and health.

Why is abortion under attack?

The so-called "crisis" is used by the patriarchal economic and political powers, as an argument for demolishing the welfare system and social structures. People's freedoms are being attacked, as are existing forms of solidarity. Once again, the precariousness of the lives of the oppressed is on the rise.

As right-wing nationalism continues to grow, we are witnessing more and more attacks on our freedom of choice and our reproductive rights. Pro-birth government policies are being implemented, with the intent of increasing the national population, promoting the domestication of women and treating us as incubators or "the mothers of the nations."

It is economically and ideologically useful for the State that women stay at home or carry the triple burden of being workers, mothers and unpaid care-givers. We are instrumentalized by the State, and tossed into then yanked out of the labor market to serve nationalist policies and the capitalist economic system.

The state, right-wing parties and the Church use nationalist arguments (“we need to protect the nation”), conservative arguments (“abortion goes against our values”) and economic arguments (“we cannot afford free abortions”) to legitimize limiting women’s rights to make decisions for their own bodies. The State, the Church and other religious organizations, and right-wing parties all come together under the patriarchal system, to serve a single purpose: to uphold their white, Eurocentric, male privileges.

Politicians, keep your consciences to yourselves, stay away from our uteruses, and give us back our health, free choice and equal access to our rights – because these should not depend on how much money we have in our pockets. We want legal abortion in ALL of Europe, NOW and ALWAYS. We demand at least this much!

Our solidarity

We call for international solidarity among the women and men working to strengthen the existing feminist network in Europe and who are in touch with global movements, in order to reinforce women’s rights around the world. We need to be aware of dangers and respond to every change in legislation and public discourse, and to even the slightest further restrictions on our rights, our freedom or our autonomy.

We stand in solidarity with all the women of the world who are fighting for the right and access to free abortion. Our struggle will not end until we all have the same rights.

We call on each woman concerned by abortion rights and access to become informed and to defend those rights. We call on all women to stand in solidarity.

Our uteruses are not a testing ground to serve the interests of State and male domination.

We are not the property of men or the State!!!

By a group of feminists associated with the Network of Young Feminists of Europe,
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