

MANIFEST

Women*'s Strike in Luxembourg

“You can be as feminist as you like. When your child is sick, it will always be you who doesn't go to work in the end.”

Julie is 29 years old and works at the commune. She stopped working as a painting workshop leader, which was her passion, so that she could have regular working hours and spend more time with her daughter.

Her partner, Théo, her two-year-old Nina's father, works freelance for an architecture firm. It is not that Théo does not want to look after their daughter, but he knows that in his job it will not be appreciated if he takes leave to look after his child; he also cannot risk missing out on contracts. Although he earns, on average, more than Julie, he does not have the same job security or the same conditions for taking leave.

To some extent, Julie feels that she had to make a sacrifice when Théo did not feel the need to make one.

So many women experience this injustice: they feel confined to their role as a mother, as an assistant or as reinforcement, and they are encouraged to take on organisational, care and planning work at the expense of their other interests, duties and desires. How can this be avoided? What can be done to make helping loved ones, raising children or even housework be seen as everyone's responsibility, whatever their gender? What can be done to ensure that unpaid work does not compete with paid work? How can this responsibility be shared equally between women and men?

We must make sure that altruism and empathy, which are valuable qualities, do not become detrimental to women.

Whether your name is Julie, Karima, Sandy, Djalika, Lou or Renata... Whether you are young or old, from here or elsewhere, have children or do not, are single, in a couple, in a civil partnership, married or divorced, healthy, sick or have a disability... You've all heard the same story, the one which dictates what a woman should be or do, the one where you are called back into line when you do not fit the image of the "perfect" woman, the one where your paid work is worth less than a man's work or even that the care work, cleaning or child-rearing that you do every day is not a real job.

It is time to recognise this work – which is essential to the functioning of our society – as real productive, respectable work that is shared equally between men and women! For far too long, this kind of work has remained unseen and discredited. For far too long, it has been seen as work that happens on its own or as if this kind of work

was less important than activities and roles traditionally taken on by men.

In Luxembourg, the situation is as follows: 34% of women are working part-time in comparison to 6% of men. 58% of these women's main reason to work part-time is because of family reasons. "This constellation has a direct impact on pensions later on. 44% of women who do get a pension only get the minimal amount (1726,135€ in 2015), while only 4,5% of men are in the same situation." To end this unbearable and unacceptable inequality: join the first women*'s strike in Luxembourg!

All those, whose working conditions, precarious situation and other injustices make it impossible to join the strike: show your rage and your desire for change with creative Actions!

Women united, will never be defeated!



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