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THE EUROPE WE WANT

Elections to the European Parliament are due to take place in June 2009 throughout the twenty seven countries in the European Union. European Union is said to be a peace project where democracy and human rights are the leading values. Is this the reality? How to analyze the European policies and their consequences for the lives of the 250 millions of women living in the EU countries? Which Europe do we want? What Politicians do we want to see in the EU parliament and what policies? Can we build a fair and egalitarian society without breaking with the present capitalist and patriarchal choices made by EU that produced world crisis, precariousness, unemployment, increasing of religious fundamentalisms and militarism and that penalize first women.

European Feminist Initiative - A Voice for another Europe

European Feminist Initiative, a feminist movement, strives to give new meanings to democracy, power, peace and security through making visible the gender power structures that govern the relations between men and women as a major form of discrimination and oppression, together with racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination based on class, ethnic origin, disability and age.

European Feminist Initiative promotes a new signification of democracy: democracy as the capacity of men and women together to have influence over decisions that are taken on their behalf, to allow their participation and their control. That means to see democracy from the perspective of equality between women and men. That means that priorities should be given to policies and actions for women and men to share equal rights and responsibilities in public and private spheres of their lives.

European Feminist Demands

We, women and men that live in Europe have the right to promote gendered democracy and "peace as non only war" both at home and globally through keeping Members of European Parliament accountable for the concrete measures they take towards this goal. We have the

right to fair redistribution of resources to enable women their full participation and better life. It is urgent to integrate in the European construction feminist analyses and people in all the institutions and at all the levels to make them heard. The coming elections to The European Parliament provide this opportunity to elect MEP who will promote and adopt:

1. Equality between sexes as a founding principle in the process of developing Europe, with adopted measures and policies that will produce social changes on the ground.
2. Secularism as a basic principle of the future Europe, ensuring non-interference of religious structures into state politics.
3. Measures and policies that ensure real democracy where both women and men are sharing the power to make decisions and priorities in their own names.
4. Measures and policies that ensure that women and men are enjoying equal rights to secure work, reliable employment and fair salaries for similar work; where priorities are given to social security and protection, to education, health and culture, opening the possibility for both women and men to reconcile personal, family and professional life.
5. Measures and policies that guarantee free movement of persons and acknowledge the full citizenship of all those living in the European territory and giving the right to asylum to victims of sexual violence.
6. Measures, policies and EU legislation harmonized on most progressive level to ensure the implementation of women's right including the right to her own body and sexual orientation, the right to free abortion and the recognition of men's violence against women as a fundamental social problem.
7. Measures and policies towards reduction of military expenditure and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction; closing of NATO military bases in Europe, dissolution of NATO and withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan; re-organization of military structures into civilian units for humanitarian help and ensuring political commitment against any aggression and oppression of other peoples and countries; measures that will lead Europe to become a global driving engine promoting action peace and human security for both women and men worldwide.

Only such visionary political framework can promote a Europe free of violence and free of violence against women, where we can not only demand but enjoy our rights.

For this European Feminist Initiative is going to support:

- All candidates, women and men who stand the test of our political feminist demands and who dare think and act alternatively, for the sake of humanity and human lives in Europe and globally.
- Parties and lists whose programs are in alignment with our propositions, demands and vision for a better Europe and who give space to feminist candidates in an eligible position on their lists.
- Women's organizing on feminist bases for the elections in the forms they choose, according to own context in their different countries in EU.

We turn to all citizens in Europe to go to the polls in June and vote for candidates, parties and lists who promote these demands.

We together can create another Europe, a Europe of solidarity, peace and human security, a secular Europe of gender equality and human development!