



International Dockworkers Council

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Global Feminist Strike 2021 – Why we are striking?

Decades after the first demonstrations of women who fought for the improvement of labour relations, the equal treatment of both sexes has not been achieved yet.

Women are still facing discriminations in the workplace, in education, in health, in participation in the public space. Women are still vulnerable in all forms of violence. Women are still vulnerable in poverty and social exclusion.

Covid-19 is a major challenge for our societies and our economies and put under question the way they are developing. Women stand at the front lines of the covid-19 crisis as health care workers, front-line workers in other areas, caregivers, innovators, community organisers.

While the same time new barriers have emerged within the covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown practice that have been imposed. Across the world women are facing increased domestic violence, unpaid care duties, unemployment and poverty.

The insufficient or in other cases the destroyed by the neo-liberal policies structures of welfare state are pushing back women in “traditional” roles as the sole or the main caregivers for the children or the elders.

The compulsory and still unregulated introduction of teleworking further squeezed women’s leisure time to the extinction and further imposed multi-tasking.

This year’s 8th of March is indeed a very different anniversary, and that’s why we need to increase our efforts to draw attention to these problems and not let them be hidden.

Last year IDC decided to undertake a global campaign for the ratification of the ILO Convention No 190 on Violence and Harassment in the work. The gender-based Violence and Harassment is an important parameter on this discussion.

It’s absolutely essential to conclude the ratification of International Labour Convention 190 and International Labour Recommendation 209, which were voted on by the governments in 2019 but whose ratification is not yet completed.

It’s absolutely necessary to strengthen our demands for equal opportunities everywhere, to encourage the participation of women in the boards of trade unions/federations and to lift the veil of silence.

THE INTERNATIONAL DOCKWORKERS’ COUNCIL -IDC