



EUROPE – NATO THREATS AND CONSEQUENCES

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Gulsah Kurt – on behalf of World March of Women

Women's NATO aspect

NO TO WAR, NO TO NATO!

I am here today to talk about the Women's NATO Aspect on behalf of World March of Women.

As a feminist, anti-capitalist movement struggling against all forms of inequality and discrimination that we suffer as women, peace and demilitarisation is one of the 4 main action areas of the World March of Women which I find quite significant. **There is a very clear logic determining our position vis-à-vis de NATO: we struggle against all mechanisms that produce war!**

Starting from this point of view, the fundamental reasons why women should stand firmly against NATO needs to be mentioned in a more detailed way:

First of all, the fact that NATO has been presenting itself as a symbol of global security, implies in itself a strategy. Especially, over the last 3 decades, we have reached to a peak point in the marketing of the concept of "security". Today we came to the point where security has become the number 1 tool to initiate wars to exploit the local resources in a given country, deprive people from their fundamental rights - including the right to liberty and security, the right to move freely, freedom of expression-, to destabilize territories under the motto "the war against terrorism" and let it spread to the in country zones, so that it is ensured to include in some cases, the simple demands for self-determination under the same context. It is the number 1 tool to legitimize the strengthening of the borders at the cost of the lives of the hundreds of thousands of refugees. Finally, it has become the number 1 tool to legitimize military policies to serve the hegemony of the western capitalist bloc, protecting discrimination, obstructing peace. Security is the nowadays the key concept which justifies putting the political and economic interests of the sovereign states above the well-being and security of the People. Finally, security has completely become a magical concept with the power to create an illusion of the problems that the world is facing today. NATO is a very strong symbol to ensure that this illusion is secure. Instead of dealing with poverty of the people, the ecological crisis right in front of us, and trying to work on the root causes of these, our agenda is shaped by fictional problems imposed on us by the capitalist mentality to justify the increasing demands of war industry. War and militarism are gears of the exploitation and oppression system in which we live. And NATO plays a key role in the continuation of this setup. It has been a strong tool for the military, ideological and economic expansion of capital in the world.



For decades, the feminist movement has been denouncing the impacts of war and occupations on women's lives and its strong connection with the patriarchy, capitalism, and racism.

Another reason determining the position of women is the gendered nature of war and conflict

Women have historically borne the burden of the devastating consequences of armed conflicts and wars. It is women, our bodies and our lives, who are the first to suffer the consequences as we see in every conflict that capital sets in motion to enrich itself. The impacts of war on women are multifaceted, ranging from physical violence and displacement to psychological trauma and economic hardships. Women are disproportionately affected, not only as victims of violence but also as targets of sexual assault and exploitation. Furthermore, war aggravates existing gender inequalities empowering patriarchal discourse and sexism. Its aim is ensuring that the inequalities, the injustices, including that of gender would not change, because it is profiting from these flaws to re-establish the power of the capitalist hegemony once fixed by the patriarchal mentality. Women, who yearn for peace and security of the people, firmly oppose an organization that perpetuates violence and destruction, exacerbating the very issues it claims to resolve.

NATO is serving to the continuity of the war industry

Another critical aspect that drives women's opposition to NATO is its role in perpetuating the global arms race. The excessive military expenditures required to maintain NATO's vast arsenal divert resources from addressing pressing social issues. European governments accompany this logic and they do not only bow to the interests of the oligarchy but are also willing to allocate public resources to finance them by increasing military spending to 2% of GDP (Gross domestic product). Governments invest in weapons, surveillance technologies and borders, while inequalities deepen and the precariousness of life becomes generalized.

Women argue that these resources could be better allocated towards education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, and other programs that would uplift societies and promote equality.

Lacking of transparency, accountability and gender equality

Another fact is that NATO's decision-making processes are plagued by a lack of transparency and democratic accountability. The organization operates behind closed doors, shielded from public scrutiny, making decisions that impact the lives of millions.

Environmental aspects of NATO's military operations



Moreover, women express concerns about the environmental impact of NATO's military operations. The extensive use of weaponry, including conventional and nuclear arms, has far-reaching consequences for the environment and public health. Toxic pollutants released during conflicts pose severe risks to local populations, with women and children being particularly vulnerable. NATO's military activities contribute to environmental degradation and further aggravates the global climate crisis, a concern that we, as women, prioritize in our pursuit of a sustainable and peaceful future.

Need for alternative solutions to ending conflicts

Finally, NATO's doctrine of collective defence has often been used to justify military interventions in sovereign nations, leading to devastating consequences. It is a fact that there is need for international cooperation and solidarity. However, it is clear to us that military intervention is not the solution to conflicts. Women should advocate for alternative frameworks that prioritize peaceful resolutions, conflict prevention, and addressing the root causes of conflicts.

In this world of wars in which capital attacks life, the World March of Women is committed to a political agenda in which the sustainability of life is at the center. Our struggle is for the decommodification and expansion of public services to support social reproduction, for food sovereignty and for structural changes in the current model of re-production and consumption, oriented by the recognition of our interdependence and eco-dependence.

Peace and demilitarization are foundational commitments in the construction of the World March of Women, as well as our internationalist solidarity and tireless struggle for the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples as a condition for overcoming racist and heteropatriarchal capitalism.

For all of these reasons, we say with all our existence: No to war, No to NATO!