

## **NO TO THE EUROPE OF WALLS AND AUSTERITY**

### **FOR DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, FREEDOM, GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

In 2017, the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, nationalisms, anti-democratic movements and political parties, governments that proudly exhibit racism and sexism as identity flags are seriously threatening the existence of the European Union.

Today, the promise of peace and democracy and that of overcoming nationalisms, that are at the core of the European Union's foundations, can easily give way to old scenarios that we have already seen in the first half of the '900.

The European Union, that has set aside those policies on rights and for the equality of women that had been its driving force in the past years, is in danger of succumbing to the incompleteness and lack of democracy of its institutions and to its reckless austerity policies they have created unemployment and insecurity, jeopardized labor rights, eroded social rights and exacerbated inequalities. The young, especially if women, have suffered and suffer most from the effects of these policies.

Let's make 2017 the year against these policies and against the revival of undemocratic nationalisms.

We call women and their organizations to mobilize and build together, while respecting our diversity, proposals, projects, visions of another Europe.

We call for a Europe with a democratic institutional framework representing the will of the majority of its citizens and not only the intergovernmental power relations.

We call for a Europe that fights unemployment and boosts employment, that invests in the protection, defense and security of the environment, in healthcare, education, research and in inclusive social policies.

We call for a Europe that speaks with a single, authoritative voice in foreign policy, especially when the trafficking and the exploitation of young women from sub-Saharan Africa are at stake.

In Europe, the mobilization of women's and feminist movements has often given rise to ideas, proposals and practices that were able to change and improve the European policies.

On March 25, the governments of the member states will meet in Rome to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of its founding. The popular mobilization that many civil society organizations are organizing for that day is one of the many initiatives that we can join to mark 2017 as the year for a new start for the European Union.

**WE INVITE YOU TO MEET TO DISCUSS TOGETHER ON WHAT AND HOW PROPOSE TO THE NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO CHANGE EUROPEAN POLICIES AND REDUCE THE INEQUALITY THAT ARE TEARING OUR SOCIETY APART**

The first meeting will take place at la Casa Internazionale delle Donne (Via della Lungara 19 – Roma) Friday, February 10th (5:00 p.m.)

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