



Women 7 Summit

Press Release of the W7

May 9, 2019

Women 7 Summit

More than 400 feminist activists from around the world are meeting this Thursday in Paris to submit recommendations to the G7 ministers. The objective of this 3rd international summit of the Women 7 movement is to push the G7 states, under France presidency this year, to adopt measures that will go beyond declaration and will constitute concrete progress towards gender equality.

No country in the world has achieved equality between women and men. And not one commits or invests enough to make it happen. In response to this, the Women 7 movement - which brings together a hundred or so feminist associations from around the world - is now submitting its recommendations to the G7 Equality Ministers. Although France claims a feminist diplomacy, Emmanuel Macron did not attend, unlike his counterpart Justin Trudeau, who participated in the Women 7 Summit in 2018.

France has a historic responsibility as president of the coming G7 summit. While Women 7 welcomes the renewal of the Consultative Council for Equality between Women and Men and the ongoing work to establish a list of model laws for the rights of women and girls, these initiatives need to be accompanied by ambitious measures and substantive financial backing. Because without concrete commitments that have a real impact on the lives of women and girls around the world, this G7 will not break the status quo nor counter regressions around the rights of women and girls that we unfortunately observe in many countries. Promoting public policies and so-called 'feminist' diplomacy without accompanying them with proper and decisive measures would create a "third rate" standard.

On the eve of the meeting of the G7 Ministers for Gender Equality in Paris and Bondy (France), Women 7 demands:

- Firstly, the increase of financial resources for feminist associations and NGOs: they have the legitimacy and the expertise to carry out initiatives that have a concrete impact. Today, all over the world, the vast majority of these associations work in a context of high financial and economic instability. France is currently communicating on the establishment of a new fund for 120 million euros for feminist associations. The Women 7 calls on all G7 countries to release resources that meet the challenges, and stresses that building a real partnership of trust between public authorities and associations in all their diversity requires redefining funding mechanisms. At present, they are too often short-term and not well adapted to the NGOs reality.



- Secondly, it is crucial to increase the participation of women and girls in policy-making in their own countries, but also in international moments such as the G7 and in decision-making processes. No decision taken without those directly concerned will be relevant. To date, they remain underrepresented. Moreover, feminist activists when involved provide at best a “consultative” position; we are still far from a systematic involvement in the construction of policies.

The G7 alone will not change the world, but a truly feminist G7 can build the foundation toward real progress in the future. The feminists of the W7 will make their voices heard Thursday in Paris, and in the remaining three and a half months until the summit of Biarritz.

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Women 7 Movement

The Women 7 (W7) brings together associations that defend women’s and girls’ rights in the G7 countries and all over the world. Our core mission is to make sure that the G7 adopts financial and political measures in favour of gender equality in 2019 and beyond that will have a tangible and lasting impact on the lives of women and girls around the world.



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**Time passes by, inequalities remain.
Le temps passe, les inégalités persistent.**