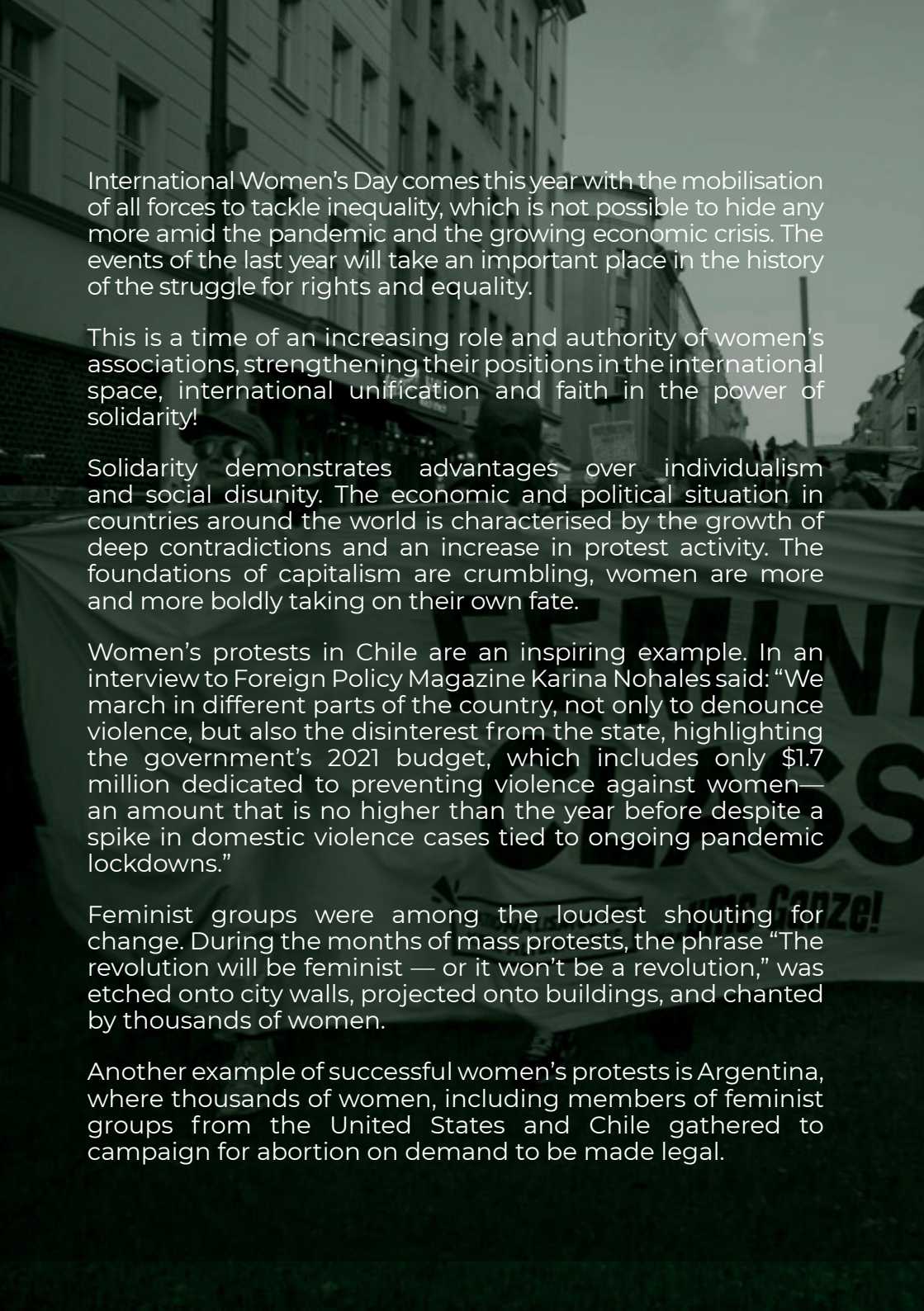


# MODERN HISTORY OF WOMEN'S PROTESTS





International Women's Day comes this year with the mobilisation of all forces to tackle inequality, which is not possible to hide any more amid the pandemic and the growing economic crisis. The events of the last year will take an important place in the history of the struggle for rights and equality.


This is a time of an increasing role and authority of women's associations, strengthening their positions in the international space, international unification and faith in the power of solidarity!

Solidarity demonstrates advantages over individualism and social disunity. The economic and political situation in countries around the world is characterised by the growth of deep contradictions and an increase in protest activity. The foundations of capitalism are crumbling, women are more and more boldly taking on their own fate.

Women's protests in Chile are an inspiring example. In an interview to Foreign Policy Magazine Karina Nohales said: "We march in different parts of the country, not only to denounce violence, but also the disinterest from the state, highlighting the government's 2021 budget, which includes only \$1.7 million dedicated to preventing violence against women—an amount that is no higher than the year before despite a spike in domestic violence cases tied to ongoing pandemic lockdowns."

Feminist groups were among the loudest shouting for change. During the months of mass protests, the phrase "The revolution will be feminist — or it won't be a revolution," was etched onto city walls, projected onto buildings, and chanted by thousands of women.

Another example of successful women's protests is Argentina, where thousands of women, including members of feminist groups from the United States and Chile gathered to campaign for abortion on demand to be made legal.



Argentinian politicians have passed a bill to legalise abortion in a groundbreaking move for Latin America, a region that has long opposed the practice on religious grounds.

Giselle Carino, an Argentinian feminist activist said to the Guardian that “the real credit lay with Argentina’s indefatigable women “who never stopped occupying the streets and the social networks – not even against the backdrop of the pandemic – and kept up their struggle, without haste but without rest”.

Responding to protesters’ demands, politicians agreed to hold a referendum to rewrite the constitution.

In conditions of ever deepening contradictions, aggressive circles of nationalists, right-wing radicals and representatives of conservative parties are looking for a way out through organising their own protests and introducing laws that infringe on human rights.

All these actions reasonably cause a growing amount of protests!

An increasing number of women are joining the struggle for their rights, for the rights of their children and communities. Women will celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021 by strengthening the fight against femicide, violence, for improving their economic situation, for equality and bodily integrity.

The ability to speak out and share our rights openly should unite women around the world even more! We reach out to those who need help! During the coming week we will be showing photographs from women’s protests and rallies!

Happy International Women’s Day! In solidarity!

femLENS

# Monon Muntaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh,  
2020-2021



A woman in Noakhali, Bangladesh was gang raped brutally in September 2020. The perpetrators filmed their crime and the clip went viral after the incident. After that people started demanding justice for the gang rape and the rape culture in Bangladesh.

People are standing up and speaking out against all the cruelty that is happening with

women and children.

The protest is still on. Many women organisations, feminists, activists and students are taking up initiatives like flash mobs, torch processions, human chains against rape and sexual violence.



# Julia Zabrodzka

Prochoice Protests,  
Warsaw, Poland, 2020



On the 22nd of October 2020 Polish Constitutional Tribunal has ruled abortion due to fetal defects, including lethal ones, to be unconstitutional. It has sparked anger among Polish society: thousands of women and men took to the streets in spite of COVID-19 pandemic. At first the police protected protesters, but after a few days they started to suppress demonstrations in an increasingly brutal manner. Nevertheless, protests have been organized in dozens of cities, towns and villages all over Poland, and at one point more than 100 thousands people marched through the streets of Warsaw in a biggest demonstration since the fall of communism in 1989. Many of protesters have been carrying a sign of red lightning bolt, the symbol of Women's Strike movement which coordinated the protests.





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# Aery Duisenova

IWD, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2020



On March 8, 2020, a march for women's rights took place in Almaty under the slogan "Every Woman Matters!", organized by feminist initiatives: KazFem, Feminita, Femagora, Femsreda and the public foundation "SVET". According to a rough estimate, about 200 people came to the march on International Women's Day. The procession started on the Arbat at 12:00. The participants were given purple ribbons and leaflets with slogans. Before the march began, the names of women who have died as a result of domestic violence were called.

"Have you seen Aisha?", "Where is Aisha?", "Do you know where Oksana is?" they asked passersby. One of the organizers of the march, Leila Makhmudova, said "We called the names of victims of domestic violence to show that no one is forgotten. The victims of violence have faces, and they are women's faces. Let me remind you that 400 women die in Kazakhstan every year because of domestic violence. And the statistics do not reveal the problem completely, they only cover the cases that we became aware of".





Black and purple were the thematic colors of the march: black as the color of mourning for those killed because of domestic violence and the lack of laws to protect women, and purple as the color of suffragettes and modern feminists. The participants marched chanting slogans in Russian and Kazakh: "Equal pay for equal work!", "Remember, just like two times two - only struggle gives rights", "Kyzga kyryk uydin

BOSTANDY K", "Barlyk zayel brir zhanashar". Feminists Leila Mahmudova and Gulzada Serzhan carried a funeral wreath, which participants in the march burned in the square near the Abay Satellite Theatre. The march was not sanctioned with the Akimat of Almaty. Policemen in plain clothes were present at the march, but there were no detentions or interferences on their part.

**DEMAND THAT RAPISTS NOT BE RELEASED ON PAROLE.**  
**DEMAND A LAW ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT.**  
**DEMAND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES.**

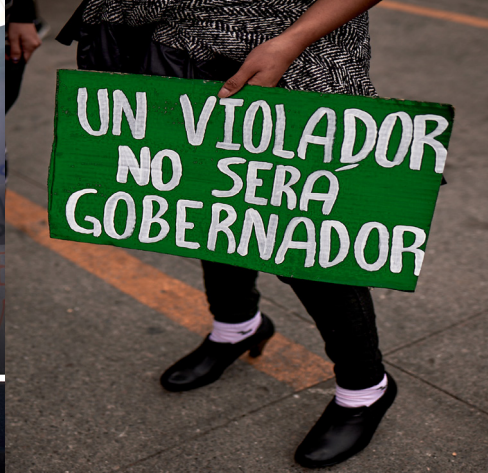


# Mahé Elipe

Chilpancingo |  
D.F. , Mexico, 2021

A first demonstration on January 11, 2021 of feminist collectives from Chilpancingo in the state of Guerrero, Mexico, was organized in front of the Fiscalidad general of the state of Guerrero to demand that Felix Salgado Mace-

donio not run for governor of Guerrero because he is facing several charges of rape and sexual abuse, one in 1998, another in 2016, and another filed in January 2021.



Following which, in the capital Ciudad de Mexico City, the creation of the National Feminist Collective CONAFEM "No aggressor in power", held various actions on January

28 and February 13 in front of the national headquarters of the political party Morena, against Felix Salgado Macedonio.



“Ya chole” (no problem) is the response offered by the President of Mexico, Andres Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), to the campaign against Felix Salgado Macedonio, Morena's candidate for governor of Guerrero, despite the numerous accusations of sexual violence. On Thursday, February 18, a feminist contingent organized a new demonstration in the streets of Chilpancingo and filed an indictment against the candidate with IPEC.



**“IF YOU WANT A “FEMINIST STATE”, PROTECT WOMEN AND STOP PROTECTING RAPISTS, MURDERERS AND FEMICIDES. BRINGING A RAPIST TO POWER MEANS GIVING HIM ALL THE POWER TO CONTINUE TO ABUSE WITH IMPUNITY”**

# Bruna Mastrogiovanni

Ele Não, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2018



These photos are from two protests in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I think they were very important in our history: Ele Não (Not Him), a last attempt of change before our genocidal president was elected at the end of 2018, and 8M - the first women's march after his election, in March 2019.

I was living in a small village in the middle of the rainforest since December 2018, and I arrived in Rio just a few hours before 8M started. Being in the middle of this huge crowd of mostly women in such a big and complex city like Rio was dazing and intense. It made me even more aware of the power and energy we create when manifesting ourselves together.





# Tania Rubiños

IWD, Oaxaca,  
México, 2020

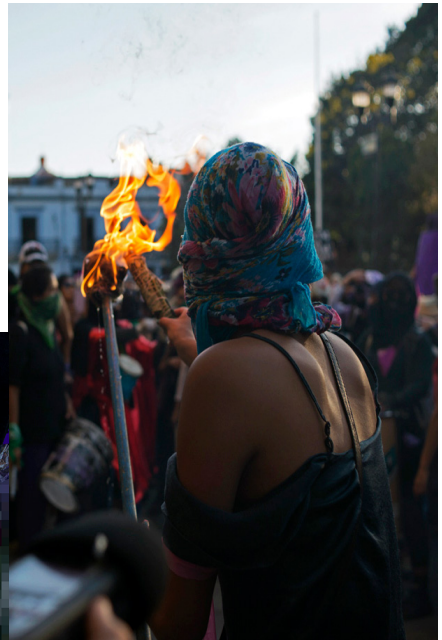
In 2020 I went to photograph two protests of women in my hometown Oaxaca, México. I felt empathy as well as empowered and protected by all the women around me, the energy and sisterhood is beyond these words.

I believe that it is important to participate in protests to fight violence against women,

create awareness about it and defend our rights. The statistics in Mexico confirm that 10 women disappear per day. So, a protest is a way to ask the state for resolutions and security for all women.

Every protest works to empower women to speak up about any kind of abuse or violence they have suffered and to create empathy with them.

We're documenting an important moment of our life and history. Photography is a language that doesn't need translation, it shows that we're not too different between us, even when we do not have the same colour of skin, culture, language, etc.





# Özge Sebzeci

Istanbul, Turkey,  
2021



Gülistan Doku was a 21 year-old university student who was studying Children's Development in Tunceli(Dersim), a city in Eastern Turkey, 4 hours drive from her village. She was the youngest of seven siblings, a cheerful young woman whose dream was to open a kindergarten. On January 5th, 2020, she didn't go back to her dormitory. Her friends reported her missing to the police. She had been seen arguing with her boyfriend on the day she went missing.

Police found the last camera footage of Gülistan where she sat near the Dinar bridge in the outskirts of the city. Assuming that she had committed suicide they started search efforts in Uzunçayır Dam. Water was drained (and discharged) in search of her body but couldn't find it until now. Her ex-boyfriend Zinal Abarakov was arrested shortly after but was never fully investigated. The family and the lawyer of the family Ali Çimen suspect it was a cover-up because his stepfather is a police officer. The family of Gülistan insists that she " did not commit suicide, she was

disappeared by force". Women's rights groups also actively spoken out against the theory that Gülistan had committed suicide and keep calling for scrutiny over a possible involvement of Abarakov amid the rising cases of gender-based violence.

For Turkish women, social media has become a new battleground to fight for justice. As more women have access to the internet, cases like Gülistan's, which were previously easily unseen, are able to stay in the public eye. A lot of femicide cases became visible on social media in recent years, such as Şule Çet, whose body was found on the street in Ankara in May 2018 after she allegedly fell from the 20th floor of a high-rise building.

Thanks to active campaigning by women's organisations, journalists and politicians on social media, her case was reopened as a murder investigation and eventually, Aksu wıch was her boss was sentenced for life for murder and aggravated sexual assault.



# Vannessa Jimenez

Bogota, Co-  
lombia, 2020



The feminist movement in Colombia has been on the rise for several months, and it is that feminist collectives have become groups of brave women who have broken the silence, women who have merged in embraces of sisterhood and that regardless of ad-

versity, they go out, again and again, to raise their voices in the streets to be heard by an indolent government and a macho society, assuring that as a consequence of this great movement and its actions, the patriarchy is going to fall.

# Fernanda Rocha

IWD and Prochoice  
March, Córdoba,  
Argentina, 2018



It was my first record of this kind of demonstrations, during the International Women's Day, in my hometown Córdoba, Argentina. It was also in claim for the Decriminalization and Legalization of Abortion, which was finally approved in Argentina at the end of 2020.

Photography a fundamental tool for recording moments that can make history and because it helps to raise awareness on issues that need to be debated in society.



# Alade Aderonke

Abuja, Nigeria,  
2019

For many years police brutality has dominated Nigeria in different forms, some heard, while others under the radar. Unknown to the men in uniform, citizens of Nigeria are determined to shine a light on the victims and the incidents that made them victims.

At 10am, on 4 May 2019, a group of women and men gathered at the old parade ground to protest on the abuse of women by police officers in Abuja. They embarked on a walk from Eagle Square to the Police Headquarters in Abuja, chanting the words:



**WOMEN RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS  
SEX FOR BAIL IS RAPE  
WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED  
I AM A FEMALE CHILD, MY DRESSING IS MY  
CHOICE DON'T RAPE US, PROTECT US  
TO BE A WOMAN IS NOT A CRIME  
HER TODAY COULD BE ME TOMORROW**

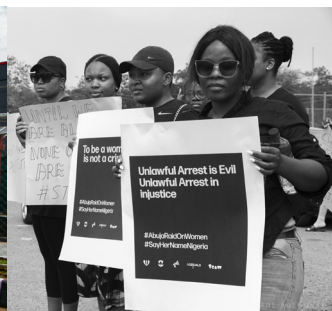




These words meant more to some than others. The group came to a halt at the gates of the Police Headquarters where they demanded to be addressed by the Police Commissioner who took long before appearing in front of the

aggrieved crowd. He then promised to take action against the police officers and to bring law and order once again to the country.

Till this day, nothing has been done in that effect.



IG @aladeaderonke





**"THINGS DO NOT CHANGE IF PEOPLE AREN'T HEARD."**

**GOVERNMENTS DO NOT HEAR IF PEOPLE ARE NOT LOUD."**

- Alice d'Hubert



# Eva Rico Narvæez

IWD, Malaga, Spain, 2019

Police officers are seen standing on guard at the entrance of Intimissimi shop as a group of women picketers chant slogans during the 24-hours General Women's Strike. This wasn't my first protest, but it was the first

with my smartphone ready to photograph. I heard women singing and holding their bras up, demanding to close the shop. Time to protest, not to sell... Peacefully and with creativity, the goal was achieved!



**“PROTESTS ARE NECESSARY, BECAUSE THE CHANGES NEED VOICES NOT SILENCE.”**



# Maria j Prados

IWD, Malaga,  
Spain, 2020

These photos are from a feminist association called "Colectivo Sórico Torrox". Last year it was the first time we went as a women's group to the International Women's Day protest in Málaga, Spain.

We felt really happy and it was a big push to go on with our project and claims. We are preparing our own virtual protest for this year.

## COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX



IC @mjprados74

## SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX SÓRICO TORROX COLECTIVO SÓRICO TORROX

# Jekaterina Saveljeva

Prochoice March,  
Dublin, Ireland,  
2013



On 28 October 2012 a woman named Savita Halappanavar died in an Irish hospital due to her request for an abortion following an incomplete miscarriage was denied. The reason was that granting her request would be illegal under Irish law.

The Irish struggle for abortion rights has been going on since the early 80s.

Following the death of Savita, the fight intensified with new energy.

After years of tireless campaigning and protesting, finally in a 2018 referendum people voted to legalise abortion in Ireland. Abortion is now permitted in Ireland during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, and later in cases where the pregnant woman's life or health is at risk, or in the cases of a fatal foetal abnormality.

If Ireland was able to come to this, trusting women, letting them choose how to live their lives, after bitter ideological battles, then the rest of the world will join one day too.



# Valeria Caballero Aguilar

IWD, Mexico  
City, Mexico,  
2020

I can't even remember how many times I've been at a protest about women's rights. I couldn't say a number, I've been going to them for as long as I remember. My mom is feminist so this has been a part of my life since I'm really young.

As a photographer maybe it is my third protest, there is something different about taking pictures in a march, and marching. It is not the same to be part of the march and to be making photos about the march, they are very different ways to live it. I like them both, when I'm marching I can listen more, when I'm taking pictures I see things I simply couldn't see if I was marching.

I think protests are very important in general. In my country, specially in the city I live in, they are part of the every day life. We have a long tradition of marching, inequality is a really big issue here and the abuse of power has been the rule for almost always.

Women's marches were especially badly seen, for many years we were very few but in the recent years they have been growing. Last year's march was really inspiring. Protest are not just to express our discontent. For us women they are a way of meeting and saying "Here we are and we say to society we are people, we are desiring subjects. No more a world without us!".



IG @valeriocaballeroa | www.aguazal.com

# AK Cespedes

Women's March,  
Los Angeles, U.S.  
21 January, 2017



I'M WITH HE  
I'M WITH HE  
I'M WITH HE  
I'M WITH HE  
I'M WITH HE

Shortly after I moved to LA, U.S., Trump was elected president and there was an infusion of anger felt throughout. When the march was announced, I knew I had to be there to document this event.

This was my first protest and I wasn't sure what to expect. As soon as I joined the crowds, I became emotional, chanting along with everyone. In between shouts I would photograph the scenes and I would approach a few individuals here and there that caught my eye.

Some people wore t-shirts expressing their discontent. Some with humor and some just direct. I believe that the Women's March was one of the first of many protests that took place during the 4 years of Trump. This meant that the country was changing, it was speaking up.

As a woman and as a photographer, I felt it was important to be part of this movement. Power is in numbers!



**BZECIÖZGE SEBZECIÖZGE  
CHA FERNANDA ROCHA FER  
AEZEVA RICO NARVÀEZEV  
KAMONON MUNTAKANO  
VJEKATERINA SAVELJEVA J  
ERTALICE D'HUBERTAE  
VAAERY DUISENOVAAD  
EMPEMAHÉ ELIPENAHÉ  
ZVANNESSA JIMENEZVAN  
DESAK CESPEDESAKCES  
KAJULIA ZABRODZKAJU  
ANNIBRUNA MASTROGIOVANNIBR  
OSTANIA RUBIÑOSTANI  
ONKEALADE ADERONKEALADE  
RAVALERIA CABALLERO AGUILARAI**