

Lesbian Visibility Day 2020

Today we celebrate Lesbian Visibility Day. We celebrate every lesbian who by their very existence have resisted and transformed the oppressive cis-heteronormative patriarchy. Today, young lesbians, together with our queer family, raise their voices with a clear message for the future: the cis-hetero-patriarchal system and its individualistic capitalist system have failed and there is no way back.

The global crisis has once again revealed the ugly face of capitalism and patriarchy. The capitalist cishetero-patriarchy causes **global social inequality, unequal redistribution of resources, and systemic injustices** that, in the hands of political and business elites, leave most people in **poverty and exploitation**.

This crisis has been **particularly severe for women**, as the **COVID-19 pandemic** continues to deepen gender inequalities. Given the **deeply embedded gender stereotypes and roles** that are still prevalent in our societies, the **duty of care** towards family members, especially for the old, the disabled and the ill, falls disproportionately on women. **Women whose work of care is either unpaid or under-paid**. The pandemic has disproportionately affected women, as they are the vast majority of **nurses** and now public health is on their shoulders. **Queer sex workers and domestic workers** are left destitute and unable to access the limited social assistance provided to other workers.

In the circumstances of lockdown or quarantine, women are **more vulnerable to domestic violence**, especially non-heterosexual women. Every day we hear stories of violence against lesbian women - by parents, relatives, acquaintances; stories of forced marriages, threats, blackmailing, silencing.

We bear witness to countless lesbian women who are **kicked out of their homes** by their parents, and those who experience **LBTI-phobia** every day. Women are doubly affected by economic oppression in times of crisis. Amid the exponential rate of **loss of precarious jobs** across the world, women often have **nowhere to flee from violence**.

Migrant (queer) women are not only facing the threat of Covid-19, they have to manoeuvre the **risk of death and sexual and gender-based violence in refugee camps and while migrating**. In addition, they are **victimised by European states**, that criminalise, detain and/or deport them. **Disabled and older queer women** are afraid for their lives and mental health, as they find themselves, all across Europe, **in isolated institutions and facilities**. **Triage protocols** in many countries are **biased against disabled persons, fat persons and women of color**.

The crisis does not ask you for your age. We, young LGBTQI people, feel especially vulnerable. With **limited financial resources, access to education, health work and services** during this time, we are **facing fear, discrimination, oppression, hunger and homelessness** now more than ever. The measures our governments are implementing are **simply not enough**. Equal access to **safe spaces, food, shelter, housing, health insurance, education, work and services, including psychosocial support services**, especially for those LGBTQI+ youth subjected to violence or who may be at risk of violence in quarantine, must be insured.

We stand together in this struggle for a better tomorrow. A better tomorrow where we don't need to fight for our basic needs - such as safety, home, food or education.

A better tomorrow where every young woman will be **treated with understanding** and **respect**, where every lesbian will be able to hold their partner's hand and **kiss in public without fear** of being attacked, where every love is celebrated and our diversity is our pride.

We call upon you to **raise your voice** louder than ever, **against the oppressive structures** that only benefit political and business elites, ruled and governed by cis-hetero white men.

We call upon **all young lesbian activists** to lead our queer family to a place, where we all live in **dignity** and **respect** on a planet that is cherished and protected.

[#LesbianVisibilityDay](#)

[#YoungLesbianActivists](#)

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