

## **Speech from the feminist strike 25.11.2023**

Hello everyone and it's great to see so many of you here, even in the cold! I'm here from the Feminist Strike Jena, a group that deals with wage labor struggles in social and educational services and fights for better working conditions in care work.

But what do labor struggles and patriarchal violence have to do with each other?

The feminist strike movement in Latin America has shown the way, because there it is very clear that violence against women and queer people does not stand alone, but is linked to our economic system, and is struck against together.

Many women and queer people work in social jobs such as nursing, kindergardens and in the public sector - these are so-called feminized jobs. This work is central and indispensable to our society, and yet they are particularly affected by precarious working conditions. Their industrial action shows us how poor the working conditions and financial appreciation of care work is in our society. This is no coincidence. Because our capitalist system can only be kept running if people from oppressed groups work in these jobs.

This is why women and queer people are disproportionately affected by poverty, and this needs to be scandalized! Because a life in poverty also means that:

1. financial dependence on perpetrators makes leaving an abusive relationship even more difficult
2. harassment is accepted in the workplace for fear of losing one's job
3. there is hardly any time to fight for one's own rights with the multiple burden of wage labor and care work!

Precarious working conditions, a lack of compensation payments against inflation, a shortage of skilled workers in the healthcare system and in kindergardens - all of this points to a crisis of care work in our society.

But when we watch the news, we also encounter a multitude of crises internationally. Be they of a political, social or economic nature. These crises affect us all, but they hit people from socially oppressed groups, i.e. women, queer people, migrants, people with disabilities and many other groups, all the harder. Crises of all kinds are always moments in which violence against oppressed groups in our midst increases. In which femicides, domestic violence, state repression or the restriction of the physical self-determination of women and queer people increases. In other words, social crises always mean an increase in the already lacking safety of women and queer people. We see the violence with which women are oppressed in Iran, we see the criminalization of abortions in Poland and the USA, we see queerphobic physical attacks on people because they do not fit into common gender roles, we see the failure of the state to provide assistance to refugees and migrants.

Where the physical safety of an individual is restricted, where self-determination over one's own body is restricted, where people have to live in poverty, where people cannot live in safety, in all these places, the safety of all of us and the freedom from violence for all of us are being negotiated.

Today and every day, we want to take a stand against the normalization of everyday violence against women and queers. Today and every day, we want to stand in solidarity with all those who defend themselves against patriarchal violence on a daily basis.

Because patriarchal violence is not an individual case. No matter what form it takes, it is an experience that we all share!

Patriarchal violence is political - and this violence is systematic: it is a reflection of our society!

Only together can we become stronger, only if we take to the streets together can we make our voices heard. We will no longer put up with it!

Fire and flame against the patriarchy! Fight sexism on the streets and in private!