

NEWSLETTER


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN KURDISTAN

MARCH 8

On March 8, International Women's Day, women all over the world took to the streets and the Kurdish women's movement was also in action on this day. This newsletter from us, the Kurdish Women's Relation Office, summarizes the actions of the Kurdish women's movement in different parts of Kurdistan, Europe and Latin America.



repak_@outlook.com 

<https://www.facebook.com/repak.jin/> 



MARCH 8 IN ROJAVA AND NORTH AND EAST SYRIA

In the North and East of Syria, March 8 was celebrated from February 24 to March 8 by the Women's Action Platform with a campaign under the slogan "With women's free will we will defeat the policies of genocide, occupation and isolation". As part of International Women's Day, a series of diverse activities were developed by women, once again highlighting the level of women's organization in the region.

The slogan with which the women of the region greeted this day made it clear: In order to fight for women's freedom, it is necessary to fight against the policies of occupation and oppression, as well as against the isolation of Serokati and the isolation imposed on women on a daily basis. Kongra Star explained that Leader Apo's philosophy and paradigm is about women's freedom and an ecologically just society. With the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" they will strengthen their struggle and show that they will never accept enslavement in this region of the mother goddesses.

Last year, this day was greeted in the shadow of the earthquake in the region, but nevertheless it was also

marked with large demonstrations against the policies of the patriarchy and the nation states, which once again revealed themselves in their lack of response to the earthquake disasters and their victims. This year, March 8 was marked by fierce attacks on the women's revolution and its leading force.

Last year, many leading women such as Şehîd Zelal Zagros, Sorxwîn Rojhilat, Azadi Deri, Yusra Darwiş, Rihan Amûde, Servin Serdar and their comrades were martyred in attacks by the enemies of women and people. For this reason, they were not physically present this year to greet March 8 with and together, but their revolutionary spirit and our promise to follow their path are alive. With this spirit we have not only welcomed this day, but the women of Rojava have also promised to strengthen their struggle. And on this basis, the power of women in the March 8 activities has turned into creativity and the strengthening of the struggle for women's freedom.



As part of the campaign, many women's movements, institutions and organizations have developed numerous activities of various kinds and in different areas of life. To mark this day, the women's movement for culture and art Hilala Zêrin released a musical production entitled "Stranên Keziyê Sor". In addition, theater pieces were performed in many places, exhibitions of women's handicrafts were organized and a women's festival was held, highlighting the importance of building a free and revolutionary women's culture and art against the culture of the patriarchal system of capitalism.

The women of Rojava, who started the Women's Revolution, are aware that in addition to building a free culture, a spiritual revolution is also necessary. Therefore, many seminars have been held for women and all communities. In addition, trainings for men have been organized in many cities on the basis of "killing and transforming the dominant men".

This day was welcomed by the women in a united way, but also highlighted the diversity of cultures and colors of the different composition of the region. For example, the Assyrian Women's Union organized a march in Hesekeh on 7 March, in which everyone took part in their national costumes. In the liberated cities such as Raqqa, Tabqa and Deir ez-Zor, Arab women appeared under the umbrella of the Zenubia group and developed their own activities. Armenian women also carried out numerous activities.

On the occasion of this day, the messages spread in the Rojava region called for the unity of women and the strengthening of the struggle, Kongra Star wrote in a letter to all women worldwide who are in the resistance: "We stand with the Palestinian and Jewish women fighting against genocidal and feminicidal policies, we stand with the women fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan, against the Sharia regime in Iran, against the fascist regime of Erdoğan in Turkey, against the oppression in Baluchistan, against fundamentalist forces and states in the Middle East, we stand with the women fighting against the rise of right-wing politics, fascism and oppression in the heart of capitalism.

We salute all women who are resisting in the mountains, in the streets, in the factories, in every field and everywhere else, turning every place into the color of freedom. We call to unite and strengthen our common struggle and to turn the 8th of March protests into a worldwide women's revolution."

On March 8, the campaign ended with demonstrations and rallies in Qamişlo, Hesekeh, Kobanê, Şehba, Aleppo, Raqqa and Damascus. In each city, both women and people in general joined the march and expressed their strong position in the struggle for women's freedom with great enthusiasm.





CELEBRATING THE 8TH OF MARCH IN NORTH KURDISTAN AND TURKEY

CİZİR

Free Women's Movement (TJA) organized a meeting in Cizîr, district of Şırnak, for International Working Women's Day. Hundreds of women attended the meeting, including members of the Assembly of Peace Mother and Ayşegül Doğan (member of parliament of People's Democracy and Equality Party (DEM Party) in Şırnak). At the meeting, a banner was hung with the words "Towards freedom with jin jîyan azadî (women life freedom)". Other banners with slogans like "women life freedom", "children of the sun" and "Long live the resistance in prisons" were carried by attendees as well as shouted together.

RIHA

Urfa Platform of Women made a press statement about the 8th of March in front of the Ahmet Bahçivan Work Center. All platform participants attended the meeting and the co-candidate for the city from the DEM Party, Gulşen Ozer, also joined the statement. The banners read "Against war, violence, and poverty we defend peace, our life, and our rights" and "no to massacres of women", as well as "massacres of women are political".



DÊRSİM

Before the gathering on the 8th of March organized by Dersim's Women Platform, a march with the participation of hundreds of women that started from Art Street and continued until Seyit Riza square took place. Member of parliament of the DEM Party, Ayten Kordu, member of parliament of Party of Labor (EMEP) Sevda Karaca, and co-candidate of Dersim municipality Birsên Orhan attended the gathering. Women started the enthusiastic march with the banner of "women life freedom" and also danced with other colorful banners. Xeta Jinê (Line of Women), which is an organization of young women in universities, also attended the march with the banner of "Life is not possible without our leader". Women requested the freedom of political prisoners.

SËRT

People's Democracy and Equality Party (DEM Party), Free Women's Movement (TJA), and Democratic Regions Party (DBP) organized an event for International Working Women's Day on the way to Gurese village. After the celebration, the Election Office of Women of DEM Party was opened. At the event, banners of "Fight so you can break free, break free so you become beautiful, become beautiful and you will be loved", "without women revolution is not possible" and "women life freedom" were carried and the slogans of "women life freedom" and "without our leader there is no life" were shouted. The celebration attracted a lot of attendees in cultural dress and a lot of local attention.

GAZIANTEP

Within the frame of International Working Women's Day activities, the DEM Party Women Assembly sent cards to women in prisons in Gaziantep.

BATMAN

In the city centre of Batman, an International Working Women's Day gathering was organized. Hundreds of women attend the meeting under the slogan of "women life freedom".

CEYHAN

In this district of Adana, a celebration of women took place on the Belediyeevleri street, joined by hundreds of women in colourful dresses and including tributes and long traditional group dances.

AMED

At Diyarbakır on Station Square, an 8th of March gathering was organised and ended with the slogan of "Thousands of Greetings to Imrali Island". A gathering for 8 International Working Women's Day also took place in Yenişehir district. The meeting was organized by the TJA and the Platform of Women of Tigris Diyarbakır (DAKAP), and attended by hundreds of women.

KIZILTEPE

At the district of Mardin Kızıltepe in Station Square, an 8th of March celebration was organized by the Free Women's Movement and DEM Party Women Assembly. Women attended the gathering in their cultural dresses, crossed all the police barriers, and entered the meeting square. They danced to traditional songs with their green, red, and yellow dresses and colorful bandanas.

SERHED

In Iğdır, women held a meeting in the DEM Party's election office on Söğütlü Street. Women who attended meetings in the green, red, and yellow dresses danced traditionally with the drum. A march took place from Cumhuriyet Street to the election office of Zagros. In the march, slogans like "women life freedom" were shouted.

Wêranşar

In Urfa city, the Viranşehir district women's celebration was organized. Hundreds of women joined the celebration that took place in the garden of the DEM Party's elections office, wearing regional cultural dresses. The event started with a tribute to women who were killed, and their photos were carried.

The DEM Party co-candidate for the municipality read out the letter of the co-chair of the Congress of Democratic Society (KCD), Leyla Guven, who is in the Sincan Prison. In her letter, she wrote: "I am welcoming you with the excitement of the 8th of March. As you can also see, the world is changing, technology is progressing and capitalists are looking for places in space to live but Kurds are still in jail. People who tell the truth about this geography face many challenges.

We will always tell the truth regardless of what the conditions will be. We are getting our bravery from Zamanî (Mustafa Gezgor), our patience from prophet Ayyub, our love from Derweş and Edule."

Dep

In the Harput district, a celebration was organized by the DEM Party Young Women Assembly (DEM-GENÇ KADIN) and TJA to celebrate International Working Women's Day. Serap Doğan, the sister of Mazlum Doğan, also attended the meeting. Women wore their colorful dresses and marched from the bazaar to the event location. Women shouted "Women are stronger together", "we are women we are strong", "women don't want war", "we do not stay silent, do not fear, do not obey", "men kill, the state protects them". Women held banners which read "women life freedom", and "women will break the isolation".



IZMIR

A march took place by the DİSK union from Lemn Culture Center to Cyprus Martyr Street. Hundreds of women carried "we are against exploitation, violence and poverty" banners and marched with "women life freedom" and "do not stay silent, scream and say no to violence" slogans.

ISTANBUL

The platform of Feminist Night March organized the 22nd Feminist Night March for the celebration of the 8th of March in Taksim Square. Thousands of women gathered and they painted the Taksim Square purple with colorful banners. DEM Party's Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality co-candidate Meral Daniş Beştaş also joined the march. Women shouted the "women life freedom" slogan and carried banners saying "resistance is life", "our whole life we struggle" and "laws are written on streets".

ADANA

Edirne Women's Platform marched from the bridge of Kasım Gulek to Uğur Mumcu square with the slogans "We will establish an equal, free, fair world without violence" and "stand for the celebration of 8 of March International Women's Day" and then organised a women's meeting.

MERSIN

At Mersin Akdeniz district for the celebration of 8 March International Women's Day a fest was organized. Women gathered in the DEM Party Akdeniz building and marched to the fest place. Women sang and marched with "women life freedom", "Long live the resistance of prisons", and "Long Live 8 of March" slogans. At Guneş Street, the DEM Party election office was opened. After opening they marched to celebration place and held the banner of "Budget for women, not for war" and "who creates the life will govern the life" were carried.



ANKARA

Women's Health and Women's Section of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) made a press statement at their central office. The statement was read out by Ebru Demirel, and İlkey Çelik also read out the demands of TTB for the 8th of March.

ANTALYA

The office of Antalya of Health and Social Service Providers Union (SES) made an open statement at their office. SES's Women Spoker Nurcan Eglenti stated that they are getting their strength from history and they take care of their life. Eglenti also stated that they would continue their fight for freedom until capitalism and patriarchy will be eradicated, and then read out their demands.

CARDS WERE SENT TO PRISONERS

Thousands of women sent cards to women in prisons according to the action plan of 8th of March, International Working Women's Day. Women sent cards and showed their solidarity in the cities of Diyarbakır, Adana, Van, Mersin, Antalya, Bitlis and Şırnak.





8TH OF MARCH ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA

Kurdish women marched in Zurich, Switzerland on March the 8th in co-operation with 35 Swiss women's organizations and institutions. Women drew attention to the strategic importance of the joint struggle against patriarchal politics at the local and global level by burning a model maket of a war plane.

On the occasion of 8th of March, an event was held at the Kurdish Cultural Center in Geneva. In the event, the focus was drawn to the struggle of Kurdish women. The Feminist Night March was held in the same city.

At the call of many immigrant women's organizations, women gathered in the capital of Switzerland, Bern. With the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom" they drew attention to the violence of men and the state against women and the exploitation of women's labor. In Lausanne, the Women's Collective of the Canton of Vaud gathered and organized a march in Place Riponne to express their anger against patriarchy and inequality.

Different women's platforms organized a joint march in the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam. In the march, attention was drawn to the exploitation of women's labor. More than ten thousand women marched in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Women left their mark on the streets with their dances and music performances. Women marched in the Austrian cities of Graz and Linz: with the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadi" , they drew attention to violence against women, exploitation and fascism.

On the occasion of March 8, International Working Women's Day, activities were held in many German cities. In Munich, women marched protesting the violence against women, exploitation and fascism. Women celebrated the 8th of March with a music concert in Leverkusen, and held a march in Dusseldorf.



Different women's platforms organized a joint march in the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam. In the march, attention was drawn to the exploitation of women's labor. More than ten thousand women marched in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Women left their mark on the streets with their dances and music performances. Women marched in the Austrian cities of Graz and Linz: with the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadi" , they drew attention to violence against women, exploitation and fascism.

On the occasion of March 8, International Working Women's Day, activities were held in many German cities. In Munich, women marched protesting the violence against women, exploitation and fascism. Women celebrated the 8th of March with a music concert in Leverkusen, and held a march in Dusseldorf.

In Scandinavian countries, women who took to the streets on 8 March called for "no to exploitation and fascism". In the capital of Sweden, Stockholm, 10 women's organizations together held a joint activity. In addition to "Women, life and freedom", the slogans "We don't want sexists on our streets" and "No naye" were shared during the event. In Copenhagen, Denmark, a march was held through the city with drums and a banner reading "Feminisms Without Borders: Internationalist, Revolutionary 8th of March".

On the 8th of March, several actions were held in 160 centers in France. The women who took to the streets remembered the pioneers of Kurdish women who were murdered in France. They promised to fulfill their dream of women's revolution. The women also saluted the Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Ocalan for his devoted liberation praxis for women, and asked for his freedom from the prison.

In Strasbourg, women took to the squares of the city at the call of 25 women's organizations, including the Zin Women's Initiative. In this activity, all women raised the slogans "Women, life, freedom" in French and Kurdish.

In the United Kingdom, marches were organised across multiple locations: including in London, where a Feminist Strike for Palestine occurred under slogans like "no one is truly free until all of us are free",

and in Edinburgh, where a demonstration marched through the city centre under the banner "when we stop, the world stops with us" and with speakers from Kurdish and Palestinian communities.

There were numerous demonstrations, events and protests in Spain for the 8th of March as well. For example, in Malaga the march included the banner of Women, Life, Freedom - "Mujer, Vida, Libertad" - and logos of Women Defend Rojava.

International Working Women's Day was also celebrated in Latin America on 8 March. The women who took to the streets in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and the Caribbean took a stand against the killing of women and economic inequality and demanded the freedom of the people of Palestine.





MARCH 8 IN EASTERN KURDISTAN

This year, March 8 was celebrated in Rojhilat with the mothers of the martyrs as vanguards. The cemetery of the martyrs was visited and the slogan Jin Jiyan Azadî was shouted. In addition, mothers from all of the cities of Kurdistan and Iran delivered messages of congratulations. This had a great impact on society.

In addition to this, there were numerous activities such as distributing flowers and pamphlets in the city. This activity was organized by the Committee of Martyr Jina Emîni, Daughters of the Day, Sehid Tolhildan, as well as young girls in Eastern Kurdistan, most of them distributed flowers in the city of Sine, Seqiz, Urmiye and Mehabad.

The Young Women's Association of East Kurdistan issued a declaration for the March 8.

Tevna Zêrîn Committees, known as the Cultural Committee of KJAR, updated the clip of the group Rocyar and published it on International Working Women's Day.

Zeynab Jalaliyan wrote a message for the freedom of leader Abdullah Ocalan and the strengthening of the women's struggle on the occasion of March 8. In addition to her friend Zeinab, a group of women activists also celebrated this day in Evin Prison and spread their messages to the public.

KJAR also published a declaration along with media material for the day as well as a special issue of Zenan Şerq magazine. A seminar on the significance of the day was held in Europe.

The preparation committee of the Jin Jiyan Azadî Conference distributed the conference book, which included the text of the speakers at the conference.



MARCH 8 IN SOUTH KURDISTAN

In Southern Kurdistan and Iraq, women in various cities held actions on March 8 under the motto Jin Jiyan Azadi, which attracted worldwide attention. March 8 was the result of women's struggle against the violation of their rights and against the policy of confinement and silence. The actions raised a loud voice against domestic violence and the enslavement of women, and carried the belief that this cry and the struggle of women will lead to a democratic system and end the patriarchal system of power.

Kerkuk

The women's movement RJAK held a press conference in Kirkuk at the place where the martyr Faryal Sulaiman was murdered, in which they announced the March 8 program.

RJAK visited women's organizations in Kirkuk on March 6. The Women's Life Freedom brochure was presented to the women of women's organizations by the RJAK delegation, and the situation of women, especially women in Kirkuk, was discussed during the visits. The importance of the joint struggle of women was emphasized.

On March 7, women's organizations met at the Women's Union Center in Kirkuk. Those present gave messages for March 8 addressed to women from all four parts of Kurdistan. Afterwards, trees were planted by women.

Kandil Mountains

The women of Mount Kandil and the residents of the mountain celebrated March 8 with a ceremony which ended with song and dance. The RJAK made a statement in which they talked about the past struggle and the oppression they suffered, and how they continue to fight and sacrifice themselves for a free life despite these ongoing oppression attempts.

Qaladize

To celebrate March 8, a ceremony was held at the Karmi Institute of Arts and Culture in Qaladzi, and a festival for women's handicrafts was held on Husni Hill. Handicrafts, homemade Kurdish food, sweets and paintings were presented there. The ceremony was attended by several artists and musicians from East Kurdistan who also performed.

Sulaimani

The Kurdish Women's Relations Office REPAK organized a special ceremony on the evening of March 6 to celebrate International Women's Day, which was attended by numerous activists, politicians and journalists. At the ceremony, women were invited to build relationships and contacts to strengthen the common struggle against the capitalist system and threats of the occupation of Kurdistan, in order to make the 21st century the century of women's freedom. A movie was presented about the struggle of women and the artist Fermisk presented several works. Afterwards, representatives of Kongra Star presented REPAK with an award for their efforts. Then, the guests were served a meal prepared by women from all parts of Kurdistan.

For the first time, the Center for Culture and Arts in Sulaimani presented an activity for women on March 7. A film on female leaders by Karuza Alki was shown, and female members of the department were introduced. As part of the activities, the Kurdistan Free Women's Movement (RJAK) March 8 Organizing Committee distributed books to working women.

Men organized a solidarity action in front of the palace in Sulaimani under the slogan "equal work and equal wages". They read poems, demanded equal opportunities for women and criticized the hate speech and authoritarianism of a number of extremist religious groups. They ended with slogans such as "Women, life, freedom, no to oppression and injustice" and "No to hate speech and hate".

On the 8th of March, a demonstration took place in Sulaimani under the slogan "Women, Life and Freedom", organized by the RJAK. The women, wearing colourful Kurdish dresses, called on all the women of Southern Kurdistan. They proclaimed that it is time for women's freedom, that the only way to end patriarchal oppression is for women to unite and fight together, that only joint struggle will end all forms of oppressions and that Öcalan's thought and philosophy will not fall silent and will succeed.



Shengal

On March 5, the Arab Women's Council, the Young Women's Council and the Arab People's Council held a seminar in Sinjar on the topic of International Women's Day. It emphasized that March 8 is a day of action, of struggle and resistance and the source of women's freedom.

The Yezidi Women's Movement for Freedom TAJÊ and the Self-Administration in Sinjar held a seminar, a screening of the musical film *Stranêm Keziyên Sor* and a play in the surrounding communities.

A delegation from TAJÊ visited the fighters of the Sinjar Women's Units and congratulated them. They said: "We are living in the shadow of a war mainly against women, so this day is dedicated to the fighting women. We celebrate the resistance and all women who are moving towards freedom.

On the initiative of TAJÊ and with the participation of Arab women, a demonstration was held on March 8 in the Sunni city of Sinjar. Speeches were made by Riham Hassan and Famta Mustafa in Kurdish and Arabic, which called for the continuation of an active struggle. A special partnership between Kurdish and Arab women was affirmed.



Mexmur

A ceremony was held in Şehîd Rustam Cudy refugee camp. The residents of the village took part in the event with the slogans "Women, Life, Freedom" and expressed that the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan also means the freedom of women. Co-chair of the Democratic Council of Maxmur Fleiss Budak gave a speech and said: "We congratulate all revolutionary women. We women have created peace from death. Whatever happens, women and death will not be united again.

A two-day workshop for 135 women was held in cooperation with the March 8 Organizing Committee in Mexmur. The participants consider it important to open such projects so that women who make their products at home and have talents and skills can showcase their talents and products especially for women. These women can thus secure their economic independence.

Bagdad

On International Women's Day, Iraqi women spoke out against women being deprived of custody of their children and laws which justify murder and violence against women. At a protest in Baghdad, women said they had been trying to assert their rights for years. Activists emphasized their growing anger and worry over women not being able to raise their children, and demanded the end to violence enshrined in law. They also said that this day is important for the struggle of women.

Garmian

On the occasion of March 8, the Kurdistan Women's Alliance held a women's conference in the library hall of Kalari Municipality. Women from the city and surroundings, as well as experts from various areas took part in the conference on women's situation: they discussed opportunities and obstacles for women, and assessed the women's struggle of that last three decades. They concluded that the situation in South Kurdistan is still very bad in social and other areas. Several women were awarded the Victory Shield Awards as part of the continuation of the work of the Directorate of Culture and Arts of Haljaba.