



**YOUNG  
EUROPEAN  
SOCIALISTS**

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## **Resolution**

### **6. Resolution on the IUSY World Festival 2017: «We see no borders»**

*Resolution submitted by the Feminist Network*

From the 14th to the 21st In July 2017 the IUSY World Festival 2017 took place in Jalë, Albania under the slogan «We see no borders». For a week, in the sense of socialist internationalism, we wanted to overcome the national and cultural boundaries which normally separate us. The World Festival offered us a chance to get to know our global umbrella organization, the International Union of Socialist Youth, make contacts with our comrades all over the world and find new friends.

While YES' work is, naturally, usually Eurocentric, we always appreciate the opportunity IUSY gives us to see a bigger picture of international politics. In many workshops, but also in bilateral meetings and during the discussions and celebrations in the evenings we experienced a real global exchange. We were proud to share this international solidarity and were immensely impressed by those participants who experience repression and illegalization in their homeland, and who risked imprisonment or worse just to take part in the festival. This solidarity is the best example of how we, as socialists, should see no boundaries between people.

Unfortunately, for many of the delegates, it was not just the national or cultural boundaries that were crossed at the festival. There were transgressions of an entirely different nature: Borders between consent and rejection, borders between pleasure and pressure, borders between dancing with new friends and being groped by a stranger, borders between supporting and disputing someone's experience, borders between victims and perpetrators, borders between security and danger.

We are shocked that even a one-week socialist festival is not a safe space against sexualized and anti-queer violence. The reasons for this were very diverse: information on possible problems was distributed too late, distributed unreliably or not distributed at all; some participants had not been prepared for the queer-feminist standards that applied to the festival and did not share these positions; the workload for the trust team was unrealistically and dangerously high; the responses to the problems on-site were sometimes slow and difficult.

It is important to emphasize that these problems can't be tied to a single entity, delegation or nationality: those affected by and those exercising violence came from all kinds of organizations and circles, and we, as participants in the festival and organisations that supported the festival, must all share the responsibility that such a situation could even come to exist. The issue at the core is that of toxic masculinity, meaning a climate of aggressive, patriarchal behavior that encourages violence and gender stereotypical behaviour.

We all have to acknowledge that such a situation would have been avoidable. Many committed people (especially the IUSY Trust Team and members of the IUSY and YES Presidium) worked day and night, oftentimes against obstacles, to increase the security of the delegates. Nevertheless, as YES, we have to draw appropriate conclusions. We have to take measures to ensure that never again can fundamental mistakes in the organization of a young socialist festival we are involved in create a poisonous culture

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and endanger the safety of our delegates.

YES resolves to:

- Ahead of all future YES summer camps and IUSY festivals, ask all YES member organisations to organise preparation meetings with all their delegates where they clearly discuss what behavior is acceptable and not acceptable. Especially new delegates that have never participated in an international summer event should be prepared.
- Write and enter a common resolution for the IUSY congress 2018 in order to discuss and analyse the events. The resolution should ask that:
  - o IUSY ensures basic security standards at all future festivals and camps IUSY hosts (such as strict and reliable entrance controls)
  - o Ahead of every future festival, IUSY sends out written information no less than a week ahead of the event detailing possible problems (including local laws and cultural attitudes towards women and LGBTQIA people)
  - o IUSY provides safe spaces at all future festivals
  - o IUSY enlarges their Trust Team and prepares a better concept of cooperation with the team
- Empower people from marginalised and underprivileged groups, such as women and LGBTQIA people, at YES and IUSY events, for example by organizing daily meetings for them.