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Draft Resolutions and declarations

FEMINIST RESOLUTION

Submitted by Elisa Gambardella, YES Feminist Network coordinator

Tens of thousands of people, mostly women, boycotted work and classes on the 3rd of October in Poland to protest against the conservative Government proposals, which if enacted would have imposed a blanket ban on abortion, including in instances of pregnancy as a result of rape or incest, and allowing terminations only to cases where mother's life is in danger. Under the rejected plan, women and doctors would have faced up to five years in jail for performing an abortion. The mobilization was massive and indeed effective. Poland's Parliament has overwhelmingly - by 352 votes to 58 - rejected plans for a near-total ban on abortions, marking an important setback for the conservative government and the Catholic church. But above all it has been a fundamental evidence of how much in danger women's rights always are, and therefore how much attention is needed on them. The guard must be kept high until women's rights won't be diffusely and deeply considered fundamental human rights. Every conservative government attempts to decrease women's rights, as a part of the broader counter revolution that they support: it happened in Spain, in Poland, and in other instances. Nonetheless, even under the current legislation - which allows a termination when the life of the foetus is under threat, when there is a grave threat to the health of the mother, or when the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest - women in Poland are sometimes denied an abortion when a doctor invokes moral or religious objections. The call upon this kind of objections is spread especially in the mainly catholic countries - being Italy the worst case, with more than 90% of gynaecologists who declare themselves *conscientious objector* and therefore are legally allowed to refuse to practice terminations, making it slower and harder for women to have an abortion.

The movement that went to the streets on the 3rd of October - so-called Black Protest - was asking not only for the rejection of the plans, but also for a further liberalization of the reproductive rights. In times of weakened political participation, and youth widespread mistrust towards politics, Young European Socialists firmly support and express deep solidarity to the women rights movement in Poland, congratulate the whole movement on the success of the action, and also urge the Polish Parliament to further liberalize and protect reproductive rights, as tens of thousands of people asked going to the streets. Moreover, Young European Socialists refuse any kind of compromise with the conservative plans of decreasing human rights, at national and European level.