

“The moment we choose to love, we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love, we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom.”

- bell hooks, “Love as the Practice of Freedom”

The world is going through revolutionary times. The past few months have seen a pandemic that has exacerbated structural inequalities and systems of power and oppression that the Women’s Major Group (WVG) has always fought against. The effects of this crisis have been heavily gendered and racialized. At the same time, the movement in defense of Black lives in the United States and globally has sparked a revolutionary moment of historic uprisings. We have marched and protested against white supremacy and structural and state violence all over the world. We grieve the murders of countless Black people who have been murdered globally at the hands of state violence, militarism, and white supremacy. In the past month, we have also witnessed attacks on trans lives, particularly on the lives of Black trans women. Through these interlocking crises, we’ve seen increasing restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights, such as the right to universal safe abortion, an increase in gender-based violence, as well as the attacks on the lives and livelihoods of sex workers. We recognize and understand the interlinkages of systems of power and how the cis-hetero-patriarchy is a product of white supremacy as well. In the words of Audre Lorde, **“there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”**

As the Women’s Major Group, our very existence as a feminist collective serves to dismantle and call attention to systems of oppression and structural inequalities, and to use our intersectional activism and transnational advocacy to demand change and transform oppressive, extractive systems into ones that are built on intersectional feminism, justice, equity, and solidarity. Therefore, we are sharing this statement as a way to return to our core principles and to be clear on how they guide our work together in this moment of intersecting crises. Let us be guided by these co-created feminist values in our collective work towards the liberation of all, and not a selected few, in this moment and beyond.

While we grow angrier with each trans life lost due to hate crimes and systemic transphobia, we recognize and honor the role of trans feminists in the recognition of women’s rights, gender equality, LGTBIQ rights and sexual and reproductive rights. As the Women’s Major Group, we see feminism as the fight against all forms of oppression, including against the hetero-patriarchal cis oppression. The role of trans people, in particular Black trans women, in our joint struggles for liberation has been indisputable and essential. We owe so much to Black feminists and our trans sisters and siblings. If feminist movements exclude Black, queer, and trans communities, their work is not fighting against any systems of oppression. Any movement is incomplete without trans and Black leadership and power.

Feminism is a political theory and social movement that is also built from lived practice, from different life experiences. Its objective is to put the livable futures of all people at the center of the system, free from violence, oppression and discrimination. Feminism is also a continuous

and constant process of identification and deconstruction of all kinds of privileges. White supremacy, transphobia and any other form of discrimination and privilege should be dismantled, within and outside of our movements, and the systems that utilize these privileges should be transformed.

Our feminist work at the Women's Major Group works for the liberation of *all* women and gender-oppressed peoples across the world. Any feminist's exclusion of transgender women, Black women, non-binary people, or gender non-conforming people, actively reinforces the patriarchy and white supremacy. These oppressive systems gain power from upholding false gender binaries and hierarchies. These binaries are violent, constrictive, and marginalize transgender women, two-spirit individuals, and those who do not identify with the binary in many different ways. Let us take on love as the practice of freedom and ground ourselves in our principles of collective liberation. This means knowing that our liberation is always tied up with one another's.

As WMG, we are holding ourselves accountable, always transforming, and growing as an intersectional feminist collective. We are committed to making our spaces, including our listservs, safe for trans women, and we will continually work to center our Black and Indigenous sisters and siblings, to whom we owe so much. Part of this accountability means returning to our principles and making sure our membership reflects these core values. **If you are in disagreement with this statement and the principles reflected, we ask that you please leave the WMG listservs.** Trans women matter. Black lives matter. Trans Black lives matter.

Let us continue together in our struggle and our solidarity as we embark on HLPF, the Decade of Action, and our feminist recovery from COVID-19.

The Women's Major Group OPs and Secretariat