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Russia anti-war

Statement from Russian Feminist Anti-War Movement

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We, the women of Russia, refuse to celebrate the 8th of March this year:

- ▶ **Don't give us flowers, better to go out and lay them in memory of the dead civilians of Ukraine (about 300 people lost, there are children among them), against whom our country has unleashed aggressive military actions. If you are in Russia, go and lay the flowers already gifted at the monuments to the fallen: flowers are better than bullets. If you are another country, go and lay flowers at Ukrainian embassies worldwide.**
- ▶ From 12:00 to 16:00 o'clock, we invite everyone to lay the flowers at any monument to the Second World War in Russian cities, as well as at Ukrainian embassies worldwide. Victims of that war are shamelessly used by the Putin government as a cover while it commits war crimes against civilians of another country. Show the people of Ukraine, women, and children of Ukraine that you are grieving with them, show them that mothers and wives of Russia are not ready to receive their sons and husbands in zinc coffins. No, do not only show solidarity, fight to stop bloodshed!
- ▶ March 8 is the day of struggle for women's rights. Today we are fighting for peace for Ukrainian women and men, we are fighting for freedom for Russian political prisoners, among whom there are more and more women every year. This year, March 8 is a day of rage and mourning for us: we ask you to come without posters and organise minutes of silence while at the monuments.

The concept of today's campaign is standing in solidarity.

For many years, the state propaganda machine has used May 9 to its advantage. [\[1\]](#) A thirst for war was hiding behind the ostentatious words of peace. We live in the reality of "we can repeat" instead of "never again". This year March 8 is the new May 9: the day of struggle against militarism, imperial wars, and terrible losses on both sides.

For those in Russia: we cannot guarantee that you will not be detained. We believe that if detentions happened at a mourning site, they will only demonstrate the lack of honour and any principles of this police state and an authoritarian regime.

How to join:

- ▶ If in Russia: choose any WWII monument in your city (it does not matter how remarkable it is, it could be a stela, a monument, a commemorative plaque, etc.);
- ▶ If abroad: go and lay flowers at the Ukrainian embassy (if there is one) in your city;
- ▶ Cooperate with other people in advance or lay the flowers alone;
- ▶ Have a minute of silence at the monument;
- ▶ Do not give in to provocations;

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- ▶ Be ready for detention - read the memos of the OVD-info;

You can take photos of the campaign and post them with the hashtag #FeministAntiWarResistance so that we can find you.

PS:

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[1] May 9 is the official holiday commemorating the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945.