CALL FOR A WOMEN'S STRIKE 24 OCTOBER 2023



You call this equality?

On 24 October 2023, women and non-binary people are encouraged to stop both paid and unpaid work for the whole day, just like women in Iceland did on that same day back in 1975, in UN's International Women's Year. In a historical event, 90% of women in Iceland went on strike that day in 1975, to demonstrate the importance of women's contribution to society.

Today, despite a decades-long battle, we still live in a society in which gender-based and sexual violence is a persistent and widespread pandemic, and where women's contribution to society is brutally undervalued.

In some ways, Icelandic society seems to have resigned to the situation, waiting for time to naturally bring equality — even though we acknowledge that it will take at least a lifetime.

Therefore, over thirty associations of women, queer people, and working people now call for a new Women's Strike. We strike to demonstrate that when we use our collective power, we are unstoppable. We strike to call for societal changes and for equality.

There will be demonstrations, symbolic events, and other performances, all around the country, and we encourage women and non-binary people to come together under the slogan **You call this equality?**

We encourage women and non-binary people living in the proximity of Reykjavík, including Borgarnes, Akranes, Selfoss and Suðurnes, to show solidarity and participate in the demonstration in Arnarhóll at 14:00.

There will also be demonstrations in West, East and North Iceland. Further information will be available on <u>kvennaverkfall.is</u> We encourage those who cannot attend a meeting, to demonstrate solidarity under the hashtag **#kvennaverkfall**, and by encouraging others to participate.

As has been the case in past Women's Strikes, we expect workplaces to make arrangements to enable women and non-binary people to participate in the Women's Strike, and related events on that day, without losing any pay. We also expect fathers, grandfathers, uncles and brothers to take on the second and third shifts on that day, e.g. by taking care of children, the elderly and sick relatives, as well as any organising related to family and household.

Solidarity,

Organisers of the 2023 Women's Strike

Organisers of the 2023 Women's Strike:

Aflið, Akureyri (association for abuse survivors) Alþýðusamband Íslands (Icelandic Confederation of Labour, ASÍ) Bandalag kvenna í Reykjavík (The Federation of Women's Societies in Reykjavík) BHM (federation of university graduates) BSRB (federation of public worker unions) Druslugangan (Slut Walk) Druslubækur og Doðrantar Delta Kappa Gamma (organisation of women educators) Feminísk fjármál (feminist budgeting) Femínistafélag HÍ (University of Iceland's feminist association) Félag íslenskra hjúkrunarfræðinga (The Icelandic Nurses' Association) Félag kynjafræðikennara (association of gender studies teachers) Félag um Fjöruverðlaunin, bókmenntaverðlaun kvenna á Íslandi (association for the women's literature award in Iceland) Hagsmunasamtök knattspyrnukvenna (organisation of women in football) IceFemin (Icelandic Feminist Initiative) Kennarasamband Íslands (Icelandic Teachers' Union) Knúz.is Kvenfélagasamband Íslands (Icelandic association of women's associations) Kvennahreyfingin ÖBÍ (ÖBÍ women's movement) Kvennaráðajöfin (The Women's Counselling) Kvennasögusafn Íslands (The Women's History Archives) Kvenréttindafélag Íslands (Icelandic Women's Rights Association) Rótin Samtök um kvennaathvarf (Women's Shelter) SSF (The Confederation of Icelandic Bank and Finance Employees) Samtökin '78 (The National Queer Organisation of Iceland) Soroptimistasamband Íslands (Icelandic Soroptimist Federation) Stígamót (center for survivors of sexual violence) UN Women Ísland Ungar athafnakonur (Young Professional Women in Iceland) WIFT (Women in Films and Television) W.O.M.E.N. in Iceland (Women of Multicultural Ethnicity Network in *Iceland*) Q - Queer Student Association

Öfgar