

Such a development, for example, was recently observed in the United States where after decades, the criminalization of abortion was legalized again in 2022. This means that the **right to self-determination over one's own body was abolished once more for women by a Supreme Court ruling.** According to the PEW Research Center, two thirds of Americans still support the right to abortion. This shows us how important it is to remain vigilant. Even in a representative democracy, fundamental emancipatory achievements can be revoked.

Moreover, it doesn't matter where any of us were born.

That's why we stand together - and fight against patriarchy worldwide! Because as we can see, the system is not a matter of culture, religion, or nationality. It exists everywhere, only in different forms.

And as long as there are oppressed people in the world, no one is free!

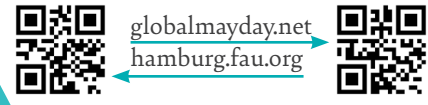


MYANMAR

Since 1962, not long after its independence from Britain, Myanmar is governed by various military juntas. Because these dictatorships are built upon patriarchy and racism, women and gender non-conforming people of different religions and ethnicities are oppressed and treated as lesser beings. In resistance to this oppression, women under these authoritarian regimes have continuously been fighting for equality, peace, the abolishment of workplace repression and the restoration of confiscated farmland. This resistance also continues since the violent coup by the military in February 2021: This is seen in the protest of thousands of textile workers who took to the streets and demanded the abolishment of the military dictatorship. As a response, many women and gender non-conforming people, including unionists, journalists and artists were robbed of their rights, exploited, arrested or killed. The fight against the military continues in various forms.



Mya Thwe Thwe Khine
 took part in protests against the military coup, murdered as first victim at the protests on February 19th 2021 by the police via bullet through the back of her head



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Day of feminist struggle



- do we even still need that?

For 16 years, Angela Merkel was Chancellor of Germany. Overweight and old women are allowed to participate in Germany's Next Top Model, too, and Riccardo Simonetti has his own show on German television. So why do we drag ourselves out today, on the international day of feminist struggle, to demonstrate in the city center?

Right now, the video game "Hogwarts Legacy" is breaking sales records. Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, who receives royalties for this, regularly riles up her fans against trans people on Twitter, allegedly to protect women.

She also wrote that she sees her continuing economic success as an endorsement of her views.

Some people buy the game specifically to support the transphobic children's book author, while others in the gaming community close themselves off to criticism, saying that it's just a game and that **the trans debate doesn't concern them.**

In fact, patriarchal structures in our society not only harm women and trans people, but everyone.

Boys are still raised differently from girls, and also later in life, men are taught that they should suppress feelings like sadness and inferiority. That they only fulfill their masculinity when they take on leadership roles. This, in turn, leads many men to try to maintain hierarchies and rise within them by keeping others small.

Truth is that in Germany every year, over 100 women are murdered by (mostly male) (ex-)partners, and the number of female victims of domestic violence is a lot higher. And even excluding these extremes, the patriarchy is by no means smashed: The fact that gender still plays a role in public life can be seen not only in the unequal pay of women and men: In 2022, this so-called **"gender pay gap" was at 18% in Germany.**

Here, the salaries of employees were compared, with women earning an average of 18% less than men, which is also due to the fact that women often work in generally lower paid professions.



More often than not, this manifests in hatred towards gay men and misogyny. **Thus a lot of men also live a self-conscious and unfree life under patriarchy.** They not only try to oppress others, but repress themselves, often lead more dangerous lives, die sooner and have a higher rate of suicide.



That trans and non-binary people have no place in such a rigid system, are suffering hostility and harassment, are threatened and get killed, is but one of the

merciless consequences. **Just last year the trans man Malte C was killed due to a physical attack at the Christopher Street Day in Münster.**

During the trial against the attacker mid February, there was speculation about whether he himself was gay and ostracised by his community in such a way that he took out his aggression on visitors of the Christopher Street Day. Should this be the case, the impact of patriarchy would be all too plain and directly noticeable.

So why international then?

Apparently we have enough problems on our own!

Patriarchy is not universal, but still can be encountered all around the world. We are not doing ourselves any favours by acting as though the injustices in other parts of the world are none of our concern.

They remind us that:

- Also in Germany **Women's right to vote had to be fought for and has only existed for a little over 100 years.** In Switzerland women may only vote since 1971, even, while in Iran, a country that is now struggling heavily with equality issues, the concept was already introduced in 1963.
- The degradation of non-male identities can easily become something more drastic at any point – for example when the murder of women is not consistently prosecuted or is even approved of.
- Patriarchical structures foster those hierarchies that enable repressive and totalitarian state violence.
- **Freedoms and rights, which we have already struggled to attain, may - under a suitable regime - be taken away quite quickly.**

IRAN

In 1963, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi presents a reform project in Iran that includes the improvement of women's status: Women are allowed to vote, and the laws on divorce and abortion are reformed. Women may study and choose their profession freely.

But from Qom, the spiritual center of the Shiites located around 180 kilometers south of Tehran, Ruhollah Musavi Khomeini calls for resistance against this so-called "White Revolution": For him, women's suffrage and prostitution are linked.

In 1979, he succeeds with his "Islamic Revolution". Back on March 8, 1979, more than 10,000 Iranian women in Tehran already demonstrate against Khomeini's prescribed dress code - without success.

Today still, women in Iran are legally disadvantaged. The laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran prohibit women from leaving the country without the consent of their husband. Women are also barred from certain professions such as judging. In addition, there are disadvantages in terms of right of testimony, marriage, divorce, and custody law.

In Iran, husbands also have the "right" to the sexual availability of their wives and may violently enforce it; thus legalizing marital rape.

Today, people are fighting for freedom from the patriarchal Mullah regime with the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadi" - "Women, Life, Freedom". Many are arrested, tortured in prisons, or even shot in the streets.

Jina Mahsa Amini

was allegedly not wearing her headscarf correctly, murdered on September 16th 2022 by the religious morality police and police



ZIMBABWE

The current government in Zimbabwe is made up of former war veterans. Because of this, they claim entitlement to almost everything in the country, including women, whom they believe they earned during the fight for independence. Despite quota regulations, there are very few female leaders in politics, and most of them take instructions from men. The few women who have tried to call the status quo into question are labeled "prostitutes"

because patriarchy do not like being challenged. Women in opposition are even more vulnerable, facing sexual, physical, and verbal attacks. It is not uncommon for activists to be abducted, tortured, and raped, and when they file complaints, they are asked to bring in the perpetrators so they can be arrested, which is almost impossible. While there are laws intended to protect women's rights, corruption often prevents their enforcement. Records and evidence regularly disappear.

Moreblessing Ali

organised protests critical of the government, murdered on May 24th 2022 by a brother of the local chairman of the government party ZANU-PF

