



EUROPE - A YOUNG FEMINIST VISION

What do young feminists think about the European Union? What do they want for Europe? What are their concerns and hopes? What kind of European Union do they want to see? What is their stake at the upcoming European elections? Thirteen young feminists across Europe can tell us.

Young Feminist Europe, the platform that amplifies the voices of young feminists across Europe, has been campaigning for a feminist Europe - a European Union (EU) that goes beyond the gender equality discourse and truly commits to advance a feminist vision.

In February, the platform launched the **#HerEurope** campaign, which has provided an opportunity for young feminists to take up space in European politics, to present their hopes and aspirations for gender equality, and overall feminist vision for the next European mandate. The campaign has encouraged young people to vote and to vote for candidates that are committed to gender equality.

Thirteen diverse young feminists from 10 different EU countries, have written about the European Union they want to see (and build) after the next EU mandate and why Europe needs feminism now more than ever.



DEMAND EQUALITY

Ine Tollenaers writes about the #MeToo wake-up call in Belgium and in Europe. She claims that the demands raised in the #MeToo movement should also influence the politics of Belgium and the European Union to foster gender equality, in her ***Are we done now?! Feminism in Europe from a Belgian Perspective*** article.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Liang de Beer wants to see more women in politics and in the European Parliament, and she provides some top tips to make that happen. In the Netherlands, voting strategically for women in lower positions in the electoral list has proven to be effective. Read her article ***More Women in Politics – You Can Make it Happen*** to know what you can do to increase the number of women MEPs.



FEMINISM & PEACE



Miriam M. Müller talks about the importance of the EU's peace and security strategies to ensure fundamental rights inside and outside the EU. Those strategies need to be feminist and gender-sensitive to ensure women's rights. Taking political action and embracing feminist activism in EU policy-making is key, as she explains in her *Feminist Activism in Peace and Security* article.

PROTECT RIGHTS

Chiara Venturi analyses the impact of the far right on women's rights and gender equality in Italy and she is very clear: *Italy needs a Europe that protects gender equality more than ever*. With regards to rights, she states that we need EU's policy-makers' support to make progress and to hold regressing Member States to account.



FIGHT BACK



Nicoletta Enria also denounces the backlash on women's rights in Italy, and the established anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ+ discourses in her *Why Voting for a Feminist Europe Will Help Counteract Italy's War on Women* article. She believes that Italy doesn't need just women candidates, but feminist candidates.

NEXT GENERATION

Lucy Roche explains how the EU has been pivotal in progressing women's rights in Ireland. She provides a good overview in her article on the *History of Women's Rights in Ireland: What has the European Union done for us?* Lucy believes that the revival of feminist activism due to the recent referendum in Ireland is only the beginning of the fight of a new generation for gender equality, and reminds us that 'Ní Saoirse go Saoirse na mBan' - There is no freedom until the freedom of women.





ECO-FEMINISM

Jane Kenny wants to see a green and feminist EU, she and others are building an #ecofeminist Europe. She encourages young feminists and environmentalists to vote: the European Parliamentary Election 2019 is your next chance to stand up for the protection of equality, climate, and our health. She explains How to **Vote for an #ECOFeminist Europe**.

PROTECT WOMEN

Joana Gameiro condemns the system of violence against women and girls (VAWG) that prevails, still today, in Portugal. Against state structures (especially the judiciary) and traditional societal beliefs that tolerate and perpetrate VAWG, she believes that feminist MEPs can help in dismantling violence in Portugal. Read her article **Can Feminist MEPs Protect Women from Portugal's System of Violence?** to know how.



I'M VOTING

Aroa Fandiño wants to end violence against women too. She knows what to vote for in the European elections: **This time I'm Voting to Eradicate Violence against Women in Europe**. For her, the ratification of the Istanbul Convention should be made a priority for the next European mandate.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Valia Katsi explains why young intersectional feminists should vote in the upcoming EU elections in the midst of the growing far right and women's under-representation and traces some key developments of Greece's disengagement with the EU. In her article **What is at stake (or what is YOUR stake) in the 2019 European Union elections?** she encourages us to vote for democratic parties and candidates that are committed to fighting sexism, racism and homophobia in the upcoming elections.





GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Auste Martyna Asadauskas wonders if *Feminism can fit into Post-Soviet Societies and can combat gender stereotypes*. Although feminism might not be a very popular term in Lithuania and in Eastern Europe countries, she thinks that the EU played, and still plays, a key role in initiating and contributing to gender-mainstreaming policies in all member states, including Lithuania.

GENDER RESPONSIVE

Lur Fernández is committed to building a *Gender Responsive Europe*. She demonstrates why developing gender budgeting measures in EU is key now and in the next mandate. Lur believes that because the EU has been a strong partner in the fight for gender equality, its capacity and potential should be used to do much more and put the attention on the issue of gender budgeting.



TAKING SPACE



Alazne Irigoien, wants to see women and gender equality at the centre of EU politics. Adopting social policies with a strong gender perspective and implementing gender balance systematically would help to achieve EU's principle and official goal: to achieve gender equality in the EU. Read her article *Young women to sweep Social Democrats back in force*.

We want to thank all the young feminists that have contributed to the #HerEurope campaign - you make YFE!

And what about you? What changes do you want to see in Europe? In these elections - and after them - you can make your voice heard by voting for candidates that are committed to gender equality and by taking collective action for a feminist future. We are count on you.

Let us know what your hopes for Europe are and follow Young Feminist Europe on our social media channels. You can also stay tuned by subscribing to our emailing list at www.youngfeminist.eu.

The YFE team

