



# SOME IDEAS FOR FACILITATING A WORKSHOP ON ORGANIZING FEMINIST ACTIONS



This workshop is for all young feminists who want to think about the world in which we live, its impact on our lives and—especially—how to organize as feminists to make change! There are no requirements for participating in these workshops! You don't need to be up on feminist theory and politics; all you need is the desire to get involved and meet other young feminists! Yes, it's true—you're not alone!

## Workshop Goals

- \* Establish links among young feminists in the same community.
- \* Know how to select your means of action (based on a feminist analysis of the context).
- \* Think about feminist actions you could organize for IWD (March 8, 2009) and set up the means for carrying out this action(s).

*Before the workshop, we suggest that you read **How to Organize a Feminist Action for IWD 2009***

## Sample facilitation guide

### 1. Break the ice!

- \* Suggestion: do an ice-breaker activity: a dynamic way to get to know each other. Each young feminist can also say why she's there, if she was at Waves at Resistance or heard about it, etc.

### 2. Young feminists and the pan-Canadian day of decentralized actions for IWD 2009

- \* Briefly discuss the Gathering and the existing and potential follow-up activities
- \* Discuss the young feminists Manifesto ([www.rebelles2008.org](http://www.rebelles2008.org)). You can distribute copies of it if you want!
- \* Explain the decision of young feminists at the Gathering to organize decentralized actions across the country on IWD.

### 3. Share our analysis of the Canadian social, political, and economic context

- \* Discuss the social, political and economic oppression of young feminists resulting from the rise of the Right throughout Canada (impact and issues specific to young women) eg., Conservative Party in power in Canada, sexism, discrimination, racism, prejudice, hypersexualisation, economic inequality, etc.

*If you need it, use the discussion paper Young Women and the Canadian Context.*

### 4. Discussion about the goal of the action

What do the young feminists who are organizing the action want? What do we have the capacity to do? Who supports us? What do we want to denounce? What do we want to

propose? Do we have demands? Who do they address? In short, what is the goal of our action (denounce, demand, take back a public space, popular education, festive action, mobilize, raise awareness about feminism, discuss and broaden our analysis, confront, obtain reparations, justice, etc.)?

Some suggested goals: publicize the manifesto of young Canadian feminists, denounce the rise of the Right and attacks on women, make the voices of young women heard, etc.

- \* Focus on the fact that it isn't complicated to organize an action and that all the ways women take part in organizing or attending the action are valuable. There's room for everyone to get involved!

### **5. Choosing an action to carry out as young women and feminists!**

- \* This is the moment to brainstorm on possible actions for IWD 2009. Throw out ideas, dream, imagine, don't censure yourselves, it can be anything at all! You can brainstorm in a large group or sub-group; it's your choice!

*Questions to generate or revive discussion:*

- What did we identify that we wanted to change in society?
- What kind of action can we take in connection with this issue?
- What do we want to achieve with this action?

*Discuss the feasibility of different actions (energy, resources, etc.),*

*Discuss the action and make a collective decision*

Each sub-group (if applicable) presents their ideas. The young feminists then decide democratically and collectively on the type of action they want to organize. The creative and preparatory process of the workshop, i.e., the process of choosing an action, is as important—if not more so—than the action itself.

At the Gathering we used the following decision-making process to choose our actions: the group had to continue the discussion until all participants (if not, at least 75% or more of the women) were OK with the selected action. We wanted to create a non-hierarchical group dynamic in which each woman could be herself and express herself without fear of being judged. It's one example of decision-making. There are others. You decide what your process will be! In any case, it all worked out really well at the Gathering.

### **6. Move into action!**

- \* Feminist task division!  
(See: "How to Organize a Feminist Action for IWD 2009")

*Document prepared by the Toujours RebELLEs organizing committee, February 2009*