

Greetings to participants at the historic Women's March, January 21, 2017

Be bold, be loud, be brave – mobilize against Trump and the far-right

It's no accident that angry women have built the first massive action in defiance of the Trump administration. The Misogynist-in-Chief has enraged millions with his degrading insults and boasts of sexual harassment. Women are part of every group targeted by Trump and his reactionary backers — people of color, victims of police violence, immigrants, queers, workers and the homeless. The safety and survival of women, our families, allies, and children are at stake.

Now's the time to forge a united opposition through spirited open discussion, democratic decision-making and a multi-issue program that doesn't leave out any oppressed group. The recently released statement of Women's March Unity Principles (www.womensmarch.com/principles/) is a strong platform that includes fighting racism and assaults on Muslims, defending reproductive justice, winning equal pay and affordable childcare, and more. Radical Women hopes these principles will turn into action after the march. However, the decree for a silent march by Seattle organizers is of great concern. It is a dangerous concession to the right wing which already silences women, especially women of color and marginalized people.

Silence = submission. Some say the idea of marching silently is a tribute to the civil rights movement. But let's remember: Southern civil rights marches were *not* always quiet. The tactic was used periodically in the midst of confronting a murderous police state. We're not in that situation — *yet*. Radical Women looks to another tradition of the civil rights movement that sings out, "It isn't nice to block



the doorways, It isn't nice to go to jail... But if that's freedom's price, we don't mind."

Welcome to Trump's world. The U.S. economy is teetering on the verge of global catastrophe. Anything not immediately profitable is expendable — civil liberties, Native sovereignty, the health of Planet Earth, and women's independence. Racism, sexism, xenophobia, and bigotry toward queer and trans people are extremely profitable because they keep the 99% at war with itself instead of winning higher wages and necessary social services.

Gaining the movement's demands will take uprooting the source of inequality. And that means confronting the powers-that-be, whether Democrats or Republicans, who allow for only minimal reforms and will not make systemic changes because that would challenge profits.

Change from the root. Radical Women believes in building a revolutionary movement. Working class and poor women have a joint interest in ending capitalism — the source of our oppression. In its place, humanity needs a system that puts its highest priority on people and the planet, a socialist economy where we-the-people decide to fund war or education, build prisons or housing, promote environmental destruction or safe energy. The radical leadership of women, especially women of color, can create this reality.

If you agree, join Radical Women! See the calendar on the back and get involved!

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