2015 IS A VERY EXCITING TIME FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS, AND FOR THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT GLOBALLY AND IN EUROPE.

The international community will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, a fundamental human rights instrument for women and girls adopted in 1995. At the same time, the European Union (EU) will adopt its new Strategy on Equality between women and men, which should be the framework of the EU action on gender equality and women’s empowerment for the coming 5 years. At international level, a new global framework for development will be adopted, with new Sustainable Development Goals, amongst which women’s rights and gender equality will be the subject of a standalone goal.

An exciting and diverse new wave of feminist activism is bursting forth throughout the world and in Europe, connecting women and men in new campaigns and actions to combat discrimination and misogyny.

Also, in 2015 the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) will celebrate its own anniversary, 25 years of feminist action and activism all over Europe!

The Beijing Platform for Action calls for women’s empowerment and gender equality in 12 critical areas. Let’s make the most of the 12 months of 2015 to take action and bring words into reality for all women and girls in Europe!

We hope this calendar will inspire you, move you, mobilise you!

www.womenlobby.org
IN JANUARY, WE DEMAND
Women’s economic independence is the foundation of all rights.

“Not everything that counts can be counted; not everything that can be counted counts.”
Albert Einstein
IN FEBRUARY, WE WANT
Parity at all levels of political and economic decision-making.

“Women’s political participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace.”

United Nations and UN Women, 2011
IN MARCH, WE BUILD
The equality house: a sustainable and strong European Union architecture for women’s rights and gender equality.

“Institutional mechanisms play a vital role in accelerating the achievement of de facto equality between women and men within the European Union and that strong and sustainable mechanisms are needed for developing, implementing and monitoring the relevant policies, in order to ensure that gender equality remains prominent on the political agenda.”

European Union Council Conclusions, December 2013
IN APRIL, WE CALL FOR
A holistic approach for
the highest standards of wellbeing
and health for all.

“It is my aspiration that health finally
will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for,
but as a human right to be fought for.”
United Nations former Secretary - General Kofi Annan
IN MAY, WE DEMAND
Mirror, mirror on the wall... a fair and equal representation of women in the media in Europe.

“If media are a mirror of society as they should be, they certainly need to reflect better the fact that gender equality is a fundamental human right.”

International Federation of Journalists, Gender Equality in Journalism
IN JUNE, WE SAY
Women as agents of change for a sustainable people-centred world.

“We need to recognize women as change agents engaged in struggles over fossil fuel exploitation, pollution and environmental health, for food sovereignty, against privatisation of water, access to renewable energy, etc.”

Anita Nayar,
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
IN JULY, WE SPEAK OUT
I am a girl: equal and non-stereotypical education throughout the life cycle.

“Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons.”
Malala Yousafzai, nominee for 2014 Nobel Peace Prize
IN AUGUST, WE SUPPORT
Her future: empowering the girl child for the future of women’s rights.

“Empowerment of and investment in girls are the key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and in promoting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights.”

United Nations Resolution 66/170
IN SEPTEMBER, WE MOBILISE FOR

A culture of peace and respect for women’s human rights.

“It is perhaps more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in armed conflict.”

IN OCTOBER, WE STAND FOR
The female factor: empower women, eradicate poverty.

“Gender inequalities represent a violation of the human right to live in dignity. Poverty is a denial of human dignity.”

Investing in a Social Europe, Report 2012
IN NOVEMBER, WE CAMPAIGN FOR
A Europe free from violence against women.

“The mechanism of violence is what destroys women, controls women, diminishes women and keeps women in their so-called place.”

Eve Ensler, founder of V-Day
IN DECEMBER, WE REAFFIRM
Women’s rights are human rights.

“The human rights of women throughout the life cycle are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.”

World Conference on Human Rights, 1993
THE EUROPEAN WOMEN’S LOBBY

Women and girls are half of Europe’s population, and are entitled to the same rights as men and boys. Achieving substantive equality between women and men, promoting women’s rights and empowering women should be a priority of the European Union and its Member States. Gender equality is an essential part of democracy, social justice, human rights and dignity.

This is what strives the European Women’s Lobby and its member organisations. The European Women’s Lobby is the largest umbrella organisation of women’s associations in the European Union, working to promote women’s rights and equality between women and men, and representing a total of more than 2000 organisations.

If you also believe that women’s rights are human rights, and that feminist values are instrumental to make a change, then take action: join us, support us, like us, retweet us, contact us and tell your friends about us!

@EuropeanWomen
www.womenlobby.org
#Beijing20

Any donations welcome to support our work and ideals:
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