



WOMEN IN BLACK XV INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER



THINKING ABOUT MILITARISM AND MILITARIZATION OF WOMEN'S LIFE AND BODY

From the 22nd to the 26th of november 2010

Bogotá – Colombia

ANNOUNCEMENT

WOMEN IN BLACK XV INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER RUTA PACIFICA DE LAS MUJERES

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Dear friends,

Receive, from Colombia, a lot of hugs and our wishes to welcome you in our country.

Through this letter we inform you of our proposal for having the Women in Black's International Encounter in Bogota-Colombia, from the 22nd to the 26th of November 2010.

First of all we want to express our gratitude to you, Women in Black in Uruguay, for your generosity in reviewing your proposal of having the encounter in your country, so that the XV Encounter might take place in Colombia. For the situation our country faces, we consider important to bring to our context the debates that the International Network of Women in Black makes from a feminist position. We will carry out this encounter in Colombia because we trust it will bring valuable factors for the orientation to a possible peace that we dream of and which we want to live, feel and enjoy.

We thank the International Network's members who expressed their support, making possible the Encounter takes place in Colombia. This way of backing us fill us with hope and encourage us to work arduously so that the event might be successful with relevant debates that open new outlooks.



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Getting the Encounter in November is the proposal. We take into account that this time of the year was welcomed when proposed by Uruguayans' women. Moreover the 25th of November is the date in which Latin American feminism makes memory about violence against women and declares a convincing NO to this violence. On that day the **Ruta Pacífica** and many others women's organizations and movements in Colombia make visible these violence and war's effects in women's life and body.

The aim of the Encounter we suggest it in relation to two crucial aspects for the development and strengthening of the Women in Black Network. First: with militarism and actual wars, war's impacts on the planet and its environment, weapons production in the North and wars in the South, multinationals and wars, security... Second: exchange and debate about the future of the Network regarding its intern, political and organizational issues.

We want to tell you that in Colombia we are living an armed conflict since nearly 60 years, with serious consequences regarding Human Rights. We endure a humanitarian crisis with deep impacts on women. There is an environment of militarization of civil life and an understanding of security centered on a policy of heavy armament, denunciation, violence as a way of processing conflicts and armed raids and authoritarianism. During the last years this armed conflict situation gets side effects on others Latin American's countries. We are conscious that others countries around the world suffer as well because of these problems for being in war or in post-war. We are convinced we all are concerned by this reality, in the North as in the South, in the East as in the West, as feminist and as part of the women's movement against war.

Along with this suggestion goes our request for your contribution to carry-out this Encounter. From our part we will put all our energy, our initiative and soul so that this event might unite and strengthen us.

To each one of you we ask for ideas, suggestions in view of the scale of the task. To make a go of this challenge will be possible with your support.

Meanwhile receive, all of you, our greetings and embrace,

RUTA PACÍFICA DE LAS MUJERES