



Press review

MEWS PROJECT - 2018

Review : The International Women's Day

Today, the 8th March of 2018 is celebrated the International Women's Day around the world. The occasion for us, Mews fellows, to recapitulate how the subject was treated by the press in several countries. You will see that the battle is raging more than ever before. In 2018, fighting for your rights as a woman is still significant in more ways than one.

In America, according to the Vox, a general news site for the 21st century, women are "fucking pissed off".

Indeed, last year on the same day, women in more than 50 countries around the world went on strike because they were protesting President Donald Trump's administration as well as long standing issues affecting women and their families, including police brutality, racial and sexual violence. Yet, this year was particularly rough on many levels for women rights in America. For starters, this strike barely had an impact on the american politic world since the Supreme Court of America allowed the Immigration ban to go into full effect and it separated several families to this day. The President Trump were also accused of sexual misconducts by 19 women but it did not lead to anything. As a chain reaction, many women decided to run for the office and the #MeToo movement, denouncing sexual harassment, was created.

The article focuses on the interview of Rabyaah Althaibani, one of the organizers of the Yemeni bodega workers strike against Trump's immigration ban, who had joined forces with Women's March organizers to coordinate the New York strike.

Even though "the president of the United States is misogynist, sexist" hope still lies in November 2018 and the elections that follow. "We have to take back the districts" she says.

"One thing that I think may be a positive thing coming out of the Trump presidency is that we've all begun to see how interconnected we are and how all these issues really impact us. What I've seen in the past year since Trump came into power is that people are so willing to listen and to work together — people from all walks of life."

Let's focus on Europe with Euronews. In Spain, women went on strike out on the streets. They stopped to do chores for one day. It served to denounce "inequalities negationism" in the country and the usual violences committed to women. According to Euronews, they are right to be angry. Statistics shows activity rates are of 49% for 75% for men which is worrying. Unemployment is also superior when you are a woman than when you are a man.

France, country of human rights still have some way to go with women. It shows itself with one stupid controversy. The SNCF, public rail network in France, wanted to offer chocolates to women in first class for Women's Day. It starts from a good intention but in the end, it creates even more inequalities among people. The information got relayed and a wave of indignation arose. "They want to give us chocolates just like you give sugar cubes to a dog to calm it

down" says someone in Le Figaro.

Deutsche Welle, first radio service in Germany, does a retrospective on the #MeToo movement, explaining where it came from and what it created.

Actually, it originated in October 2017 in the name of the singer Alice Milano. It was meant to denounce sexual abuse but it developed to a very large extent when the Arabic women began to use it which is relevant as le Caire was nominated as "the most dangerous city for women". There is an uprising in the air and it's close.

"Ute Gerhard, a women's rights advocate and head of the first women's and women's rights research department in Germany, opposes critics: "I find it very important that the whole dimension of sexual harassment, humiliation and discrimination against women in professional life, and debates get the most attention when well-known people support them."

Ute questions herself on the place of women in Germany and says that for this cause to progress, it has to feature strong figures, such as Romney Schneider and Segha Berger. There is hope, though, because the latest manifestations rose self-awareness on the subject and women who stayed in shadows for decades begin to slowly come into light and fight for their rights.

A bright ray of light at the far end of the tunnel. Nowadays, this is how you can figure women struggle for their rights. Let's just hope that one day, women and men will be truly equals in terms of rights and work. That is all Mews can hope for our world.

Arnaud Delacomptée, Mews redactor, 08/03/2018

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