



## Mission Statement – Young Women Project

If I don't burn  
if you don't burn  
if we don't burn  
how will the light  
vanquish the darkness?

**-Nazim Hikmet**

We are burning. The ground burns from under our feet. The world to which we were born is reaching a boiling point, threatening to consume everything. The rent is skyrocketing, a mortgage is but a distant dream to us, and public housing is an endangered species. Human kind is endangered. Humanity is endangered, when animals are property that can be exploited and killed.

Over a century of feminists that came before us made tremendous strides, yet they could not save our generation from revenge porn, from gang rape, from a culture which still diminishes responsibility from rapists and shames rape survivors. We are still being murdered in gendered hate-crimes that our society insists on calling “Crimes of Passion” or “Honor Killings”, as if the spilled blood of our sisters has a drop of passion or honor.

We are still 51% of human kind, and still hold less than 20% of all land, we are still only a quarter of the members of the Knesset. We are still being traded as property, still being harassed in the street and in the workplace, still return to a second shift of the unequal burden of raising children, still blackmailed in rabbinical courts and forced to give up what is rightfully ours just for the privilege of getting divorced. And we still need to ask for permission to terminate pregnancies.

The moment we are born, the first thing proclaimed is not the person – an entire world who came into existence; but our gender, a prison of expectations and norms which follows us



### פרויקט הצעירות

from cradle to grave, and will limit our enormous human potential to “women” or “men”, to what is allowed for women and what is allowed for men.

We are at the mercy of men. The sexual revolution of the past few decades made sexuality more accessible, but not safer for us. In a reality where the pornography of humiliation and violence replaces sexual education and enthusiastic consent, we refuse to view our own sexuality and masturbation as a source of shame. We will celebrate it in all its forms, we will celebrate the love of women, we will celebrate all those who rebel against the chains of sex and gender, as our feminism is a feminism of love.

Of love and of anger. For we stopped being afraid to show our anger. We are angry because there is not justice for Shireen Abu-Akleh and Eyad El-Halak, for Yosef Salamse and Moshe Silman, and for the mothers whose children have been kidnapped. We are angry because the Occupation has lasted half a century with no end in sight, because apartheid is already a reality but “Naqba” is a dirty word. We are angry because thirty years after the cold war has ended, the sword of nuclear holocaust still hangs over our heads.

We are young women, queer and straight, Jewish and Palestinian, Mizrachi, Ashkenazi, Russian speaking, trans and bisexual, who have not lost hope that our world can be different. That a world which has billionaires can not have poverty and hunger, that in a world which has mansions and private yachts no one should sleep on a bench.

We stand in solidarity with sex workers and sluts, and with every woman and man living under occupation, labeled and racialized, robbed of their land and culture. With all those who remain invisible to modern medicine, from the delivery room, through endometriosis and fibromyalgia, to the gynecologist's. We are citizens who see our sisters without status and climate refugees, and believe that humans cannot be “illegal” and that everyone deserves medical treatment.

Some of us use drugs, some of us don't, and we believe that drugs are a medical issue, not a criminal one. Because the stigma on the use of drugs does not eradicate it, it only hides it in the darkness, where it is a lot harder to minimize the damage and prevent addictions before they



### פרויקט הצעירות

become dangerous. We believe that punishment and incarceration have been tried and have failed, and that it is necessary to find solutions of restorative justice and rehabilitation for criminals, including sexual criminals.

We call on you to join us. Because our struggles are your struggles. Because we well know that men too will benefit immensely from a world of gender freedom and gender equality.

In the words of Arundhati Roy: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."