

UNTIL WE SUCCEED

When we started, in September 2016 by calling for the Black Monday Strike, we had no idea what was going to happen nor how it would end. We still don't know, but we know what we are going for and what we want for this to happen.

3rd October 2016, on Black Monday during the first All-Poland Women's Strike, we fought "only" against the tightening of the abortion law. In January 2017, we made a decision to go for more. We didn't want to keep the abortion law of 1993 which the Right, as well as moderate Right who pretend to be the Centre, together with the clergy falsely claim to be a 'compromise'. In 2017, we joined "Save Women II" action by collecting signatures in support of the new legislative proposal and on the first anniversary of Black Tuesday, 3rd October 2017, we organised a closing "Grand Collection" in over 100 towns in Poland. Earlier, on the 8th of March 2017, we co-organised International Women's Strike in over 60 countries around the world. The initiative, which started from agreement between women in two countries – Argentina and Poland.

In January 2018, when "our allies" from the opposition parties, betrayed us by rejecting by 8 votes the new proposal for the legislation of abortion, in action called "Déjà vu", we marched to the offices of PiS as well as PO and Nowoczesna.

Two months later, on the 23rd March 2018, on Black Friday, we stopped another proposal on tightening of the abortion law. At this time, our Argentinian sisters from their 15 years long campaign for legal, safe and free abortion, filed their proposal to the parliament for the eight's time. We cried together with them in August of the same year, when they lost at the Senate on the last lap of the legislative process. On the wave of their inspiration by the force of the Argentinian green, we fired off on the 3rd October 2018, our own Polish version of the

campaign #AbortionLegalYa (#LegalAbortionNow), as they did for aborto legal, seguro, gratuito, ie. legal, safe and free abortion.

In 2020, the year of the pandemic, we decorated 13 towns in Poland with green billboards #LegalAbortionNow and on the 8th of March we danced in public at #DiscoLegal on the Women's Rights roundabout in Warsaw. This is where our strike parliamentary deputy Katarzyna Kotula, presented a legislative proposal written by the Left. The proposal shortly after was filed at the Sejm and then abandoned. On the 22nd October, Ms Przyłębska made a statement about the tightening of the abortion law. Thanks to a wave of protests, it has not yet been published. On the 12th November, we co-created Citizen Committee for the Legislative Initiative, together with the people from feminist organisations (among them Federation for the Rights of Women and Family Planning, Abortion Dream Team, Centre for the Rights of Women) as well as female members of the parliamentary Left.



We are putting a stop to the tightening of the abortion rules. Every time it is necessary.

We fight for legal abortion. As many times as it will be necessary – until we succeed.

Marta Lempart

PS.

On the 30th of December 2020, The Senate in Argentina voted in a new law which allows for abortion up to 14th week of pregnancy. This is a historical decision and our compass.