

## **FREEDOM TO ABORT, IT'S OUR CHOICE**

### **No to Gallardón's reforms. Keep abortion out of the Penal Code**

#### **Movimiento Feminista de Madrid (Madrid Feminist Movement - Manifiesto 8 February, 2014)**

In response to the government's approval of the draft abortion bill "protecting the lives of the unborn and the rights of pregnant women," we wish to express our absolute rejection of what is clearly an attack on the rights, autonomy and freedom of women.

Under this bill, 97% of women who decide to terminate a pregnancy will be forced to do so "illegally." Those who have the means will go abroad and the rest will jeopardize their health and lives by resorting to clandestine abortions, not to mention the legal uncertainty and vulnerability that this will cause healthcare professionals.

The primary aim of the draft bill is a so-called defence of life. However, this is the claim of a government that imposes unfair labour policies and cutbacks in access to nursery schools, which refuses to extend paternity leave or to make assisted reproduction available to all women, and which eliminates basic social services, in addition to cutting spending on healthcare and dependency. Faced with this reality, we ask ourselves what life they are referring to when they talk about life.

Claiming the right to abort freely means that it is unacceptable to force a woman to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term and question her decision to abort. The right to choose is a recognition of women as morally autonomous individuals able to make decisions regarding their lives, bodies and motherhood (to decide whether to have children or not).

Given that we are independent, responsible, free and equal citizens, we demand the following:

- The immediate withdrawal of this draft bill, which violates the rights of women and our autonomy, freedom, health, life and dignity.
- That abortion should not be included in the penal code. That all women be legally entitled to terminate an unwanted pregnancy without suffering any kind of discrimination.
- That affective-sexual education, free from sexist and homophobic stereotypes, be promoted and ensured. In contrast, the Wert bill promotes religious education in schools while excluding sex education taught by qualified professional from the classroom.
- That the autonomy of young women be respected, so that 16 and 17 year olds do not require the permission of their parents (let alone a judge) to decide on the question of motherhood.
- That conscientious objection be regulated so that no woman is left without healthcare.
- Women do not need the guardianship of others. This is nothing more than an attempt to impose a way of life that denies our status as citizens with full rights. We say NO to the proposal of the government and we demand that the right to abort be recognised.

#### **CHOICE FOR WOMEN, STATE GUARANTEES, RESPECT FROM SOCIETY, WITHOUT CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

Movimiento Feminista de Madrid – Join us on Friday 8 February 2014 at 12.00 noon, from Glorieta de San Bernardo to Plaza de Callao.