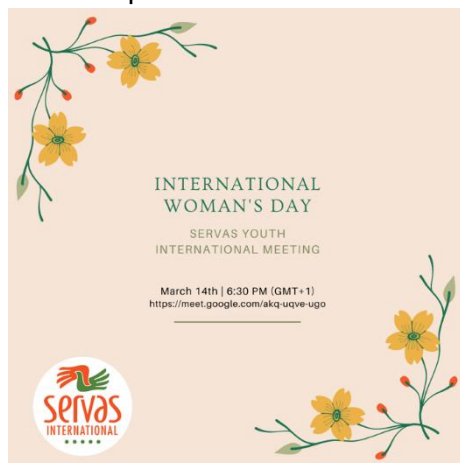


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SERVAS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Hello everybody,

With this post we would like to tell a wonderful experience that took place on March 14. It was attended by a large number of young Servas present in different corners of the world.



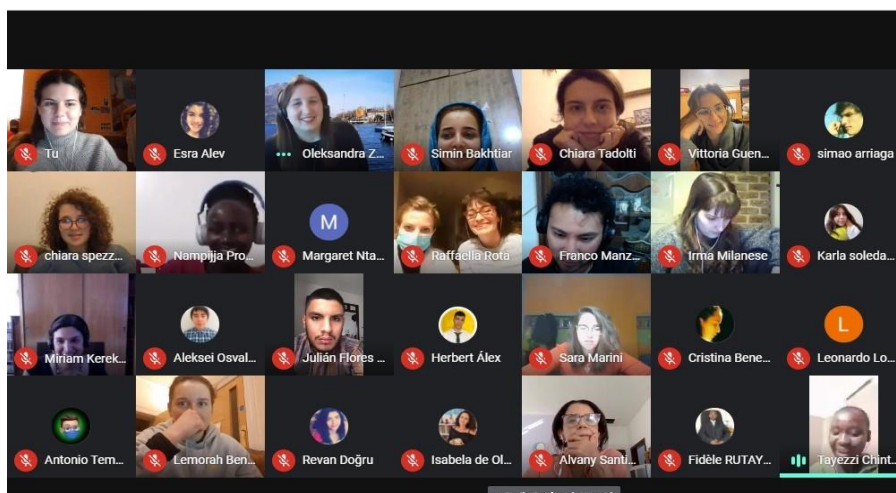
For some months now, attempts have been made to organize an international meeting with the aim of getting to know each other and reflecting together on some important issues.

In this particular period, it is increasingly difficult to meet in person, to keep in touch and make new connections. so, we have thought of the online mode.

As it is the month of March, Servas Giovani Italia in collaboration with some young people from different countries, thought of concentrating on Women's Day by analysing both the origins and traditions of this day, and focusing on the situation of women in different countries.

On March 14 we held a Servas International Youth Meeting, on Zoom Platform.

Among the interventions made we have Servas Italia with the presentation of Giulia who presented the history and traditions linked to this day in Italy,



telling through historical points and photos the different stages of the feminist movement in this country. In Italy, the tradition is to give women a mimosa, certainly remembering that this is not just a party but the goal of hard work over the years and that it is important to continue both in the present and in the future.

The evening continued with a video presentation by Maggie and Prossy, Servas Uganda. The video is about a group of work and mutual support that was created among the women of the neighborhood who, seeing this particular period, decided to create a network and understand what their contribution could be. In the video we had the pleasure of seeing some extracts from these days and experiencing for a moment the joy that was transmitted through traditional music and dances.

In the following intervention, Isabela from Brazil shared, how much the issue of Violence against Women is still very present in her country, also bringing as an indication some very impressive statistics on femicides in the family.

Myriam, from Servas Portugal originally from Cape Verde, surprised us with a beautiful song about women, sang in her native language (crioulo). She was then followed by Simão with the story of "Padeira de Aljubarrota", a woman symbol of the independence of Portugal and by Raj, who brought a testimony of a woman who invested heavily in her education and the people around her, bringing with her commitment an improvement against the discrimination of women with respect to study and subsequent work.

Vittoria from Italy, on the other hand, presented a songbook of women's protest, highlighting the relevance of traditional songs and how the suffering and critical "feeling" of today's women has its roots in the experiences of our past. The song gave voice to the poorer social classes, so that the claim of their rights could be heard by all. It is thanks to the traditional song that the "powerless", that is the people exploited by the rich bourgeois classes, have been able to bring up to our days the demand for social rights for all. (*"Canti della Protesta Femminile" aa.vv. ed. Paperbacks Poeti, 1977*)



We continued with Simin's presentation which described the great change that took place for the rights and possibilities of Iranian women after the 1979 revolution and in the beginning of the regime. In recent years, despite all the restrictions, Iranian women are still very active in the world of music and sport, also investing heavily in their studies and their future.

Esra, from Servas Turkey, on the other hand, brought to light a decidedly important but also very sad topical issue. Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Treaty against Violence against Women, taking a big step backwards which greatly undermines the security and growth of women in the country. Over the last few weeks, many women have come out on the street to express their disappointment about this choice. The young Servas are also very shaken by these changes.

The evening ended with Julián, a student of Miriam, Servas Mexico, playing a piece on the saxophone, followed by a video recommended by Miriam entitled "What happens when a woman takes power".

An important point was raised during the evening by Fidèle, Servas Rwanda, and Dalton, Servas Kenya, on which we can only agree, is that it is men above all who must fight alongside women and ensure that their rights are respected.

To enrich the interventions of the Servas friends, there was also Tayezzi of Servas Malawi, who underlined the beauty of the Servas network in this historical moment and the importance of these online meetings, which together with the Penpals initiatives and the international

workshops of Servas Peace School, directed by Servas Turkey, are a light of hope and solidarity.

Hearing all the different experiences made us understand that the struggle for women's rights is a very important issue in all corners of the world and above all how much work there is still to be done.

It was a very touching meeting both for the artistic parts and for the delicate topics discussed. Thanks to all the FRIENDS of Servas who participated, shared experiences, opened new questions and new paths for the future.

Regards,
Italy Servas Youth