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Dear Community,

What a year. Rapid change and deep introspection about the world have been themes in our day-to-day lived realities and for Women’s March Global. In January (can we even remember it?), you all came together for marches, speak-ins, and gatherings for The March For Our Human Rights. With over 50 events across 6 continents you showed everyone that we will not back down, and that now, more than ever, women’s human rights matter.

Little did we know how our collective rights would be challenged in the coming months. As January rolled into February and then March, COVID-19 ravaged the globe – the pandemic has laid bare the systemic inequalities our societies are founded on, the ones we here at Women’s March Global try to fight against every day.

In the wake of COVID19 we’ve seen a rise in domestic violence and violence against women and girls. We’ve seen women leave the workforce in droves, forced to choose between their children’s safety and their ability to hold a job. And we’ve seen the economic destruction of the most vulnerable, women and women of colour who’ve either lost their jobs or are forced to choose between poverty and risk of death.

Then in May the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Milwaukee, Minnesota police in the U.S.A. sparked weeks of global protests around police brutality and the racial systemic inequities in the United States and beyond. The conversations about racial discrimination broadened into far-reaching reckoning touching every level and facet of society. It is why Women’s March Global joined over 600 global organisations and the families of victims of police brutality in the United States to call on the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate the escalating situation of police violence and repression of protests in the United States. The discussions are ongoing and the issues hardly solved. Just at the end of August (on the 23rd August), Jacob Blake was shot in the back seven times at point-blank range by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. We must keep pushing, not just for reform but for a complete reimagining of our society. One where Black Lives Matter.

As we go into the final months of this unprecedented year, the Women’s March Global team is working to recommit to our beloved Community. We will continue to stand together and to speak out about the injustices we see everyday. We hope you will join us.

In Solidarity and Community,

The Women’s March Global Interim Committee
On 18 January 2020, millions of women and allies around the world joined the fourth annual March of Women’s March Global, a yearly Event that brings together all those who are committed to fighting for equality, justice, and women’s human rights worldwide. 2020’s Event, March for Our Human Rights, focused on bodily autonomy, which is the right to have control over one’s own body without coercion or external pressures. This includes abortion rights, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), sexual consent, period equality, family planning, access to healthcare services and information, and more.

In the last year alone, women’s sexual and reproductive and other human rights have experienced a massive rollback around the world. At a recent United Nations General Assembly meeting, the United States joined 19 member states, including Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen in declaring that women have no international right to abortion. The member states who denied women access to safe and legal abortion represent 1.3 billion people.

These attempts to subvert women’s human rights are what drives Women’s March Global and their local Chapters and Members to bring international attention to these pressing issues. The consequences of inaction are profound and can jeopardise the significant progress women have made in their push for civil and social equality.
Women's March Global joined in the call with Global Women's Rights groups for a Global Women's Strike on the 8th of March. We asked that feminists and their allies withdraw their work on this day (formal, informal and unpaid), recognising the roots of International Women’s Day in women’s solidarity strike actions throughout history, and showing to the world, that if women stop, the world stops.

Our Global Community mobilised to take action and joined together for a day of global solidarity including WM Global Chapters in Groningen, Montpellier, Semarang, Bali, Lampung, Cirebon and Blitar.
Starting on 13 September 2019, Women’s March Global and Stand with Kashmir launched a mini-course webinar series on the current crisis in Kashmir.

The most densely militarized region in the world, Kashmir is in the midst of incredible conflict and struggle. The mini-course has encompassed a range of topics and speakers in an effort to share knowledge and educate people on the complexity and history of the conflict.

We continued the webinar series this year with two additional webinars on:

**April**
The Place of Kashmir in Bollywood: Violent Nationalism and Colonial Fantasy

**May**
Detainees Across Borders: Kashmir, Palestine and Guantanamo.
The Free Saudi Activists Coalition work continued over the first half of 2020. As a member of the coalition we held:

A Webinar marking 600 days of imprisonment for Saudi Activists with PEN America and Lina AlHathloul (sister of imprisoned Saudi Activist Loujain AlHathloul)

Additionally on the 15th of May – 2 years that Saudi Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) have been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia the Free Saudi Activists coalition took action online and called for the public to join the Global Tweetstorm and Webinar


Loujain Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

Earlier this year Loujain al-Hathloul was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize!

Since 2014 Loujain has been working to raise awareness around women's human rights in Saudi Arabia. Loujain was arrested nearly two years ago and continues to remain in prison where she has been tortured and sexually assaulted while in custody.

Women's March Global supported the campaign to nominate Loujain for the Nobel Prize by designing the nomination packet. We look forward to seeing more nominations and will continue in the fight for the freedom for Loujain and all Saudi Activists and Women Human Rights Defenders.
"We know all oppression is connected. When we show up together, we acknowledge that each issue feeds a system that oppresses and binds us all. When we show up together for each other, we put cracks in the foundations of those systems." - Uma Mishra-Newbery

Amongst the many Black Lives Matters protests around the world, Women’s March Global Chapters took action to stand in solidarity with the Global Black Lives Matter Movement.

Women’s March Global signed onto a letter with over 600 rights groups from around the world and the families of victims of police killings in the US, calling on the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate the escalating situation of police violence and repression of protests in the United States.
