This year, bloccupy is once again staging the European Protest Days in Frankfurt / Main to protest against the European Union’s crisis regime. On 31st May and 1st June 2013 we will join together to resist the politics of poverty, induced by the Government and the Troika – the ECB, the EU Commission and the IMF – and bring this resistance into the centre of the European crisis regime: to the headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) and to many German banks and companies – the ones profiting from those policies.

We are part of these protests and aim to enrich them with queer-feminist interventions: On Friday morning, there will be a queer-feminist dance blockade. We want to shake up the dominant social conditions! At the same time small care-mobs will be under way, carrying out decentralised activities and blockades all over the city. The aim of the care-mobs is to visualise the terms of reproduction and its crisis. In the afternoon we will join up to form a larger care-mob. During the protest on Saturday we will express our criticism. The queer-feminist block will call for a “Care revolution”! Come and visit the camp, ask your questions, bring your ideas and contribute to the resistance against the crisis. Help to make the restrictions in our lives more visible.

Let’s care.

Let’s dance.

Let’s blockupy.

The feminist way!

Our double burden: capitalism and patriarchy!

The current European policy of crisis puts immense pressure on all areas of social reproduction, be it in labour conditions in the health sector; in child-care, in education, nursing or the double burden in various forms of family or private life. While the public debate focusses on recovery plans for banks and states, we will focus on people’s living conditions and scandalise the current assignment of often oppressive tasks to women.

However, not only women – and not all women – are affected in the same way by capitalism, patriarchy and the current crisis policies. Capitalism and patriarchy are based on the concept of the white, heterosexual, well-off and healthy man, who neither works in reproduction and care, nor depends on them.

Capitalism and patriarchy reproduce power structures that affect all who do not comply or do not want to comply with this concept: it restricts their lives and can even lead to exclusion. The current crisis solutions are worsening all these restrictions. In typical neo-liberal manner care work is being shifted into the private sector; thus removing the care work crisis from public discourse.

The reproduction crisis has many facets. It is showing itself in every country and in different manners. Here in Germany we see that:

- Although the worsening of economic conditions has led to an increase in violence against women, women’s shelters, emergency hotlines, and counselling centres are often threatened by austerity measures.
- Youth education work takes place under precarious conditions.
- Hospitals are being privatised and decreasing staff numbers no longer allow for adequate care.
- Low wages and Hartz IV worsen everyday life for many people, especially those with...

Shake up social and economic conditions – the care revolution!
children; the number of people suffering from burn-out is on the rise.

- living conditions for people without papers or residency permits are worsening,
- waiting lists for child day care are growing,
- there are not enough sign language interpreters and personal assistants for people with disabilities.

These crisis effects are not in the public eye. The results are handled in the private sector and solved individually. In general, it is women who are made responsible for solving the problems, who „for love“ accept being exploited as normal. The crisis of reproduction is a global and diverse crisis that we can only confront with global resistance – resistance that has already begun. We are fighting separation and isolation with solidarity and are developing collective strategies.

A revolution does not have to begin in factories. We learn from rural, indigenous, anti-colonial and feminist movements. We stand side by side with the resistance in factories and we are expanding the resistance to the reproduction sector: Here, unpaid exploitation is cutting labour costs considerably, increasing profits, becoming part of the capitalist logic of valorisation.

Taking a broader view allows new perspectives and strategies for a life without capitalism. There are already numerous approaches all over the world that focus on life and living. In every country where the Troika enforces cutback measures and impoverishment, alternatives to capitalistic production - solidarity and resistance - are developing. We share our solidarity with those who are affected by the war of the rich against the poor. We share our solidarity with those who come together to build a new life and resist the destruction of mankind and nature.

Capitalism is the crisis, every day, all over the world. Since 2008 it has spread to regions that until recently have been in the slipstream of capitalism. We will carry resistance from the fringe of the crisis to the heart of the European crisis regime. We will mix the blockupy protests in Frankfurt with feminist mobilisation:

Take away the basis of patriarchy and capitalism: focus on life!

- Take part!
- Rise up!
- Take care!
- Dance!