



To the “343 Sluts” With My Warmest Regards

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ABSTRACT

Inspired by a powerful 1971 manifesto by French women, demanding abortion rights, the writer emphasizes a woman's right to bodily autonomy and advocates abortion rights that are an inspiration for today's struggles.

KEYWORDS

Abortion, bodily autonomy, manifesto, women's rights



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TO THE "343 SLUTS" WITH MY WARMEST REGARDS



Filmmakers, writers, actresses, singers, philosophers, academics, ladies and "salopes": This letter is being typed to you from the year 2024. Tragically, over half a century later we are still discussing the same thing here: right for abortion.

The Supreme Court in the United States recently decided against the right to abortion; many states banned abortion clinics; some states tended to criminalize the aid to abortion. This is going to sound bizarre. However, it would be enough to be a criminal to drive a friend to have abortion in some states nowadays. Rights and access to abortion are also at stake in many right-wing driven EU countries. Turkey, Poland, Russia and Hungary have been going only backwards in terms of feminist achievements and laws around abortion.

This shame list could unfortunately go on for a while ... It's dark, as you can see. That is why I would like to summon you all here and remember your manifesto:

France, April the 5th, 1971. A manifesto was published under the title "Un appel de 343 femmes" ("An appeal by 343 women") in the magazine *Nouvel Observateur*, starting with some facts, coming out with some "confessions", and ending with certain demands. "One million women have abortions each year in France..." "... I declare that I am one of them. I declare that I've had an abortion." "... We demand open access to contraceptives; we demand open abortion..." Alongside Simone de Beauvoir, all of you three hundred forty-three brave women signed a petition that highlighted the following points. Soon after it got a reputation as "the manifesto of the 343 sluts."

I will have a child if I want one, and no moral pressure, institution or economic imperative will compel me to do so. This is my political power. As any kind of producer, I can, while waiting for improvement, put pressure on society through my production (child strike).

I will have a child if I want one and if the society I will be bringing it into is suitable for me, if it will not make me a slave to that child, its nurse, its maid, its punchbag.

I will have a child if I want one, if society is suitable for both me and it, I am responsible for it, no risk of war, no work subject to whims.

I wanted to refer to your manifesto while picking up some motivations for having an abortion. I immediately realized that it would not be hard finding 343 reasons for abortion, but here are a few and I would like to address them directly to my unborn baby as this is *only* between me and it.

I'm not going to give birth to you because you're Armenian, Kurd, Gambian or Palestinian. You will be the other, and it is a kind of hell to be "other" here.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I want to keep you only to myself.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I don't want you to die under a missile attack in an adult war, or in "a complicated conflict" as those adults would call it.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I'm afraid that the world won't be able to take care of you as we don't take care of the world.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I want to raise myself.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I want you to be safe forever and sleep peacefully.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I don't want to.

I'm not going to give birth to you because there is so much pain in the world.

I'm not going to give birth to you because there are already too many people on earth.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I don't want to have a constant bad conscience.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I don't want to make such an important decision on your behalf.

I'm not going to give birth to you because I care more about your well nonbeing than I care about my own well-being, ego, and heritage.

...

However, it wouldn't be hard for me to find as many reasons as to give birth to a child, either. As a matter of fact, I've given birth once, and I may very well do it once again. Anyway, this would probably work better as a topic for another text and no, it wouldn't make me contradictory at all.

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