

**PREPARATION BOOKLET FOR THE MARCH 26th AND 27th 2016 WOMEN'S
CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG STUDENT UNIONS**

Final version

Place

CAP St-Barnabé
1475 Bennett Avenue, Montreal

Time

Call to order on Saturday March 26th at 9:00 AM

Participation costs

To be determined

Useful documents for the Congress (available at www.asse-solidarite.qc.ca):

- Bylaws

- Codes and procedures

- Minutes of the previous Congress (February 20th-21st 2016)

ASSÉ OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Reflection texts

Critical reflection text on the ASSÉ Women's committee and the place of feminism in our organization

“Women are generally considered as beings that offer others support through “kindness”; they are expected to maintain solidarity in groups by providing comfort to their members, by praising them and by elevating their status”.

Kathy Ferguson, Bureaucracy and public life: feminising the political apparatus

In recent weeks, the Women's committee of the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (WC-ASSÉ) and the feminist committee of the SECMV (WC-MV) exchanged e-mails that, at first, could've initiated a certain collaboration but that unfortunately left us with a profound feeling of bitterness. (It's possible to consult the entire history of these exchanges, which is annexed to this message). The objective of the WC-ASSÉ was to give the WC-MV the task of receiving the upcoming feminist training camp, solely in the optic of a logistical collaboration. Before this exchange, the WC-MV had never been in contact with ASSÉ or with the provincial Women's committee, despite the effervescence of the WC-MV's activities since last fall. The members of the WC-MV therefore considered that it was legitimate for us to establish the terms of such a collaboration by taking into account the local needs, expectations, and realities. These members, concerned over the respect of their mandates and the goals of their committee, therefore issued clear conditions as a response to this request: equal collaboration allowing feminists at Marie-Victorin to participate in all aspects of the organization of the camp. Our conditions were:

- No workshops offered simultaneously. We wanted to avoid a differentiation that would suggest that there are “beginner” feminists and “expert” feminists. We consider that such a hierarchy doesn't favour learning and that it's preferable to solicit the participation of activists from different horizons in order to collectively build knowledge. For us, it's certainly possible, and even desirable to prepare workshops that adopt an inclusive approach where each person can find their place, without any regard to the amount of years of experience in the feminist or student movements.
- That ASSÉ hand over every receipt or bill for all expenses made for the training camp, as a matter of transparency. We would've proceeded as we usually do: all our receipts for activities organized by the SECMV are available to anyone who wishes to consult them.
- That the workshop given by members of the CALACS [Quebec Coalition of Sexual Assault Centers] (which was also on the programme last year) be replaced by a workshop on the process for denouncing sexual assault, in the perspective of transformative justice and in conformity with the mandates of the SECMV and ASSÉ, and keeping in mind that the survivors are in the best position to decide which is the most effective way for them to begin the healing process.

- That the workshop on prostitution take the form of a panel, in order to allow for the expression of a diversity of points of view in order to enrichen the discussion on this contentious issue in student and feminist spaces.
- We also wanted to add at least one workshop to the programme whose objective would've been to allow for an exercise in self-criticism with the idea of better understanding the participation of women in struggles within the student movement. Our suggestions were the following: "National power dynamics" and/or "Historical analysis of the ASSÉ Women's committee".

To this day, the WC-ASSÉ has ignored our terms and hasn't responded to us. Their request that we host the training camp has been withdrawn and was replaced with a request to host the Women's Congress; the WC-ASSÉ preferred to change the subject rather than have a real discussion with us. Its members clearly disagreed with regards to our clearly stated conditions, by adding that the way in which we formulated our demands was impolite. However, our goal was simple: that we be treated as equals.

Solidarity without anger?

The members of the WC-MV were particularly shocked by the paternalistic and infantilising tone employed by the WC-ASSÉ in their last response: *"Also, we'd like to add (you may not be aware) that between feminist groups, there's generally/historically been a relationship of solidarity and that we felt, by reading your first e-mails, rather surprised by the tone which we interpreted as impolite and harsh"*. This lack of solidarity of which we've been alleged surprised us because, on the contrary, the WC-MV was proposing to the provincial committee that we establish a certain reciprocity, which we were hoping for at Marie-Victorin. We're convinced that our proposal would've been closer to a proper expression of solidarity than to merely accept to offer classrooms, to unlock doors and heat up spaghetti during the actual training camp.

In that sense, and with the idea of decentralizing power, all women's committees and groups should take part in the coordination and elaboration of such an event, and simply be expected to communicate decisions taken elsewhere. All this with the idea of including as many women as possible, to better share skills concerning the coordination of such projects, and, especially, to present participants with a greater diversity of feminist tendencies. In our opinion, feminist spaces within ASSÉ are gravely lacking in these regards, but we must be careful to not confuse lack of solidarity with a difference of opinion. Women's struggles constitute a movement that encompasses many divergent and sometimes conflicting feminist currents. Unfortunately, it seems like the majority of people involved at the provincial level have a vision of this movement that is homogeneous and centralized. There is a resistance to criticism and debate at the provincial level, and, as feminists, it's difficult for us to see a place for us in it. This comes from the fact that over the past few years, ASSÉ has attempted to coalesce together student associations that are too far removed from its original positions, by being lax with regards to the respect and application of its core principles.

Is the Women's Congress really feminist?

Regarding the Women's Congress, it was presented as an instance where women are the spokespeople of their student association. Since the Congress is strictly "feminist", its demands must also, according to the Bylaws, concern specifically feminist issues. However, feminist struggles are cross-sectional, and non-parallel to other struggles. We must therefore ask ourselves why couldn't a non-mixed Congress also have decision-making power over the entirety of demands, action plans, structures, and finances? Especially since all of our motions include, or at least should include, a feminist angle or dimension. We therefore see a contradiction in the agenda of the two types of Congress: on one hand, those that aren't specifically "feminist" (based on what, exactly?) and on the other hand, those that are specifically feminist. We strongly believe that everything that is of political interest is of feminist interest. As a matter of fact, it's by separating what is of feminist interest from what's not supposed to be that we weaken the feminist analysis, and therefore, its political potential. If feminists often criticized activists for separating between so-called productive and reproductive work as well as between public and private issues, it would seem questionable to reinforce this binary thinking. This is how we believe that feminism must be put into practice in all of the provincial level's structures. Even more so when just a few days ago at Congress, during the round table, so few student associations stated having feminist principles, practices and demands. These discussions were followed by a non-mixed caucus where certain members of the provincial team mentioned that the Women's Congress aimed to create a space for discussion where student associations who are lacking at this level can learn and better integrate feminist positions and practices at a local level. That being said, if so few associations can actively take part in the Congress and if so few motions, demands, or action plans can be discussed, what's the point?

In this sense, we question the use of having a "Women" item on the agenda during Congresses. ASSÉ's patriarchal structure (the one referred to when we say that the union isn't outside society) contributes to this separation and maintains feminism as a secondary issue. If we follow this logic, at the very least there should be a "Women" item at each and every item on the agenda! Otherwise, the "Women" item becomes the only moment where it's possible to discuss and take position on the issues that concern women's struggles. Unfortunately, the reality is that this item often becomes "optional" because it isn't reached before the end of the Congress, due to lack of time and interest, and when we do happen to make it there, the few motions and demands remain barely skimmed, are generic, or are tabled (whether they come from Marie-Vic or not...) because most associations don't have mandates in that sense. Whether we blame the local associations that didn't bring up feminist issues in their general assembly, or the provincial team, that didn't properly train or mobilize the students at a local level (or a bit of both), doesn't really matter. What guarantees the consideration of a feminist angle and of the specific interests of women in all issues is without doubt the organization of feminist committees that benefit from absolute or partial local autonomy at all levels of the movement.

False feminism at the provincial level

Calling yourself feminist or pro-feminist is well-regarded these days, but the consequent application of the principles that form the basis of these political identities often falls short of these pretensions. Domination dynamics, violence towards women, paternalistic attitudes, rape culture and everyday sexism are part of the daily reality of many if not all activist women. We believe that these phenomena are due in large part to ASSÉ's patriarchal structure which, let us remember, has historically adopted a mandate on this subject: "That ASSÉ include in its discourse an anti-patriarchal and anti-sexist analysis" (adopted in the Congress of February 10th, 11th, and 12th). This isn't new: several prejudicial dynamics contribute to this system that is detrimental to women, for example by systematically granting more credibility to what men say or by granting more credit to them for the work they do. Also, in the different instances, men tend to take more speech turns and to speak louder. As a matter of fact, even in positions of power, women are a minority at the provincial level, holding 3 out of 8 seats on the Executive Council despite the fact that article 27 of the Bylaws state that "The Congress is responsible for ensuring 50% of Executive Council positions are filled by women. However, the Congress retains sovereign power over the final decision." (Annex 2). That being said, the fact that the Congress practically has equal representation but that there's a silent mass of women is itself problematic. In either case, it's now a known political reality that equal representation of the sexes in decision-making bodies doesn't allow for the elimination or even the significant reduction of the objective conditions that allow the reproduction of the domination and exploitation of women in an organization, even less so in a movement. University BODs, regional governmental bodies and even multinationals tend to have equal representation, which doesn't make their decisions more legitimate or valid for the populations who endure them. We therefore believe that it'd be more effective to focus on the development of a non-bureaucratic and horizontal political culture within the feminist and student movement.

The student movement is also plagued by the hierarchisation of knowledge, one of the more blatant examples of this situation being the differentiation between Cégep and University students, purportedly due to experience, the texts they read, the "I also thought like you do when I was in Cégep but now I've changed". It's also a recurring problem at ASSÉ, between elected people and the... others. In fact, this dynamic is, according to us, the cause of the observable centralization of power at the provincial level: while the elected members should benefit from absolute trust, we don't trust the "simple member" when it's time to take on responsibilities and to be accountable, to think about workshops, to give their opinion on political matters, etc. Handing out information material produced by others, reserving classrooms and contributing to its funding... These are appropriate tasks for non-elected people! The members of the WC-MV consider that it's more than time that we break this barrier; knowledge is something that we acquire and that is shared through experience, collaboration, and true respect.

The members of the SC-MV are aware of the difficulties that the members of the WC-ASSÉ can experience, since they're so few. This situation has gone on for several years within

the WC-ASSÉ. Some texts have already been written on the subject. Remember that one of the primary objectives of this committee is to ensure the promotion of different feminist issues through ASSÉ's instances and even in society at large, as described in article 42 of the Bylaws (Annex 3). The responsibilities of the WC-ASSÉ should be to help with the foundation, galvanization and autonomy development of local feminist committees rather than develop a provincial structure in which these committees are optional, or even excluded. The majority of women's committees are organized as affinity groups and as autonomous committees; the provincial level should consider this aspect, instead of vainly attempting to reform feminists. A formerly elected member of the Training committee recently stated in her resignation letter that she doubted that ASSÉ "can still be a vehicle that can effectively fight against neoliberal policies". We share this belief for the organization of feminist students.

It is for these reasons that the members of the WC-MV will not be attending the feminist training camp. Regarding the Women's Congress, we'll be attending but as observers, and not as a delegation. Furthermore, the SECMV feminist committee will soon organize a feminist training camp, open to all, and in collaboration with anyone (person, committee, collective, etc.) who wishes to be involved in this project.

Valérie Berthiaume
Alice Brassard
Chanel Fortin
Ariane Renaud
Members of the SECMV feminist committee

ANNEX 1

E-mail exchange between Chanel of the feminist committee and the ASSÉ Women's committee

Sent January 23rd 2016 by Chanel

Hello,

I'll get back to you regarding the training camp at Marie-Victorin.

The committee at MV will adopt a position this Tuesday! As soon as an answer is ready, I'll send you it!

Thank you, Chanel Fortin

Member of the SECMV feminist committee and SECMV External affairs coordinator

Received January 23rd 2016 at 10:46 PM by the ASSÉ Women's committee

Thank you. If you need any additional information regarding the training camp, don't hesitate to contact us. Also, will you be discussing this with the women's committee?

Sent January 23rd 2016 at 10:52 AM by Chanel

Sorry I didn't write my message properly: the feminist committee*** of Marie-Vic will take a position on this question this Tuesday.

May I have all the information available until now on the training camp?

Received January 24th 2016 at 11:47 AM by the ASSÉ Women's committee

Yes. So every year the ASSÉ Women's committee organizes a feminist training camp during a week-end in March. This year, it's planned for March 5th-6th. We're trying to have the most diverse workshops as possible on many different issues. Although the training camp is mixed, there may be some non-mixed workshops. This year, we think it's particularly important that it take place because the Women's Congress is only a few weeks later (March 26th-27th) and we'd want the students to be as informed as possible in order to bring feminist reflection and demands to ASSÉ. The Women's Congress is likely to take place in Quebec City and that's why we'd like the feminist training camp to be in Montreal. Regarding the organization, the Women's committee, in collaboration with the rest of the national team, is working to ensure the event's success. Furthermore, since there's an active women's committee at Marie-Victorin, we thought it'd be a good place. Obviously, that requires a certain amount of logistical collaboration for the renting of spaces in the Cégep and for other material, like projectors for a movie, we also need to have access to a kitchen and a cafeteria, and of course to organize activist lodging.

Sent January 23rd 2016 at 12:00 PM by Chanel

And regarding the themes of the workshops? Any ideas?

Received January 24th 2016 at 12:52 PM by the ASSÉ Women's committee

For beginners, or for those who wish to be initiated to feminism, there are workshops such as ABCs of feminism, everyday sexism, and domination dynamics. There will also be a workshop on antifeminism and the masculinist movement, women and austerity, women in higher education, black feminism, LGBTQ struggles (lesbian feminism), intersectionality, Native women, and a workshop on prostitution. Also, we're going to contact CALACS for a workshop on how to receive denunciations of sexual assault. Not all of these workshops are 100% confirmed, but this should give you a general idea!

Received January 25th 2016 à 11:43 AM, sent by Laura

Hi, I'm on the ASSÉ Women's committee and I was given your name because I'm trying to reach the women's committee at Marie-Victorin regarding this semester's feminist training camp! Actually we'd like to know if you'd like for it to take place in your Cégep? We were thinking that since you have an active women's committee it'd be really fun and relevant. Maybe we can talk by phone? My number is ****. Have a nice day!

Sent January 25th 2016 at 11:51 AM by Alice

Hi Laura, Chanel messaged me about this. We have a meeting tomorrow and we'll bring it up. So I'll give you news tomorrow. Is that ok with you?

Received January 25th 2016 à 11:53 AM, sent by Laura

That's perfect, thanks a lot! Do you need any additional information or is it ok?

Sent January 25th 2016 at 11:54 AM by Alice

It'd be preferable if we had all the information so we can better discuss it, if possible.

Received January 25th 2016 à 11:57 AM, sent by Laura

Yes. So every year the ASSÉ Women's committee organizes a feminist training camp during a week-end in March. This year, it's planned for March 5th-6th. We're trying to have the most diverse workshops as possible and that concern different issues. Although the training camp is mixed, there may be some non-mixed workshops. This year, we think it's particularly important that it take place because the Women's Congress is only a few weeks later (March 26th-27th) and we'd want the students to be as informed as possible in order to bring feminist reflection and demands to ASSÉ. The Women's Congress is likely to take place in Quebec City and that's why we'd like the feminist training camp to be in Montreal. Regarding the organization, the Women's committee, in collaboration with the rest of the national team, is working to ensure the event's success. Furthermore, since there's an active women's committee at Marie-Victorin, we thought it'd be a good place. Obviously, that requires a certain amount of logistical collaboration for the renting of spaces in the Cégep and for other material, like projectors for a movie, we also need to have access to a kitchen and a cafeteria, and of course to organize activist lodging. We're looking for speakers for the workshops at the moment and that's it for now.

Sent January 25th 2016 at 12:08 PM by Alice

Did you already have any workshops in mind??

Received January 25th 2016 à 12:41 PM, sent by Laura

We have a few ideas but no confirmations yet since it's in 2 months after all.

Sent January 25th 2016 at 3:05 PM by Chanel

The women's committee is willing to host the ASSÉ feminist training camp on March 4th, 5th and 6th, at the Cégep de Marie-Victorin. However, we'd like to take part in the organization, and have a say regarding the training workshops, the speakers and the general organization.

It is unacceptable for the Marie-Victorin feminist committee to host an event that doesn't follow the committee's mandates. Furthermore, this would allow the MV feminist committee to maintain a certain level of independence with regards to ASSÉ, which is important to us.

We want to have a say regarding which workshops will be given, with regards to their content, the speakers, and the mood-watchers.

Conditions:

- No workshops offered simultaneously. We want to avoid differentiation that would suggest that there are "beginner" feminists and "expert" feminists. We consider that such a hierarchy doesn't favour quality learning.
- That ASSÉ hand over every receipt or bill for all expenses made for the training camp
- That the workshop given by members of the CALACS (which was given last year) be replaced by a workshop on the process for denouncing sexual assault, in the perspective of transformative justice and in conformity with the mandates of the SECMV and ASSÉ
- That the workshop on prostitution take the form of a panel, in order to allow for the expression of a diversity of points of view in order to enrichen the discussion

We'd also like to add to the list:

- National power dynamics
- Historical analysis of the ASSÉ Women's committee

Obviously, we understand that the schedule is already heavy, so we'd therefore accept that there be only one of the two, of your choosing.

We'd be willing to cover the costs and logistics of a full day's worth of meals.

For any other questions, don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

The Marie-Victorin feminist committee

Facebook message exchange between Alice of the SECMV feminist committee and Laura of the ASSÉ Women's committee.

Received January 25th 2016 at 4:23 PM, sent by Laura

Hey Alice, I was wondering if you'd had your meeting or not, because we got an e-mail with a list of conditions and I was wondering if that was coming from the women's committee or the exec!

Sent January 25th 2016 at 4:24 PM by Alice

Yes, we had a meeting at an earlier time than expected, and we sent you that e-mail.

Received January 25th 2016 at 4:25 PM, sent by Laura

Perfect thank you!

Exchanges between the SECMV feminist committee and the ASSÉ Women's committee

Received on: February 2nd at 11:09 AM Object: Feminist training camp

Hello!

We were wondering if it'd possible for Laura (she's in Montreal) to attend your meeting this week or next week to discuss the organization of the camp with you.

We'll be expecting news,

In solidarity,

The ASSÉ Women's committee

Félicia St-Arnault Raffaella Abbate Laura Martin

comite-femmes@asse-solidarite.qc.ca <https://www.facebook.com/femmeasse>

Sent on: February 4th at 4:00 PM Object: Re: Feminist training camp

Hello! We have no objection to one of your members coming to meet us before our meeting on February 9th, so around 6:00 PM (our meeting is at 6:15 PM) in order to discuss the modalities of the training camp. However, it won't be possible for Laura to take part in the meeting as it's only open to members of the SECMV feminist committee.

Thank you for understanding!

The SECMV feminist committee

Received on: February 2nd at 11:09 AM Object: Tuesday meeting and much more (!)

Hi, I'm sorry, I think my previous message concerning Tuesday's meeting wasn't received so I'm sending it again (Laura).

I'm unavailable Tuesday evenings, but I think we can manage by e-mail and that it'd be simpler (if my e-mails arrive, of course).

We'd also like to ask you if it'd be possible for Marie-Victorin (the women's committee) to welcome the Women's Congress instead of the training camp. This change in plans is due to unforeseen changes regarding the spaces we were planning on using in Quebec City for the Women's Congress (26th-27th of March). Since they'd be available during the training camp (5th-6th of March) but not for the Congress, and in case you at Marie-Victorin were more motivated/available for the Congress, this would greatly simplify the logistical organization.

Also, we'd like to add (you may not be aware) that between feminist groups, there's generally/historically been a relationship of solidarity and that we felt, by reading your first e-mails, rather surprised by the tone which we interpreted as impolite and harsh. We're not on the national team to bother the members but rather to work on feminist struggles and the mandates that we've been given.

In solidarity,

The ASSÉ Women's committee

Félicia St-Arnault Raffaella Abbate Laura Martin

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<https://www.facebook.com/femmeasse>

ANNEX 2

The Executive Council is made up of 8 positions, to which candidates may be elected at each Annual Congress for a one (1) year term. The positions are:

- 1. Coordinating Secretary:** responsible for keeping meeting minutes and archives, applying Bylaws and procedures, coordinating the work of the Executive Council, convening and preparing the latter's meetings. He or she is also responsible for convening and preparing Congresses and Coordination Council meetings, in collaboration with the General Secretary of the latter body.
- 2. External Relations Secretary:** acts as a representative of the organization to non-member student associations and non-student organizations. He or she represents ASSÉ to the student movement outside Quebec.

3. Finance Secretary: ex-officio signing officer for all bank accounts; responsible for managing the organization's assets, for preparing the financial statements and budget estimates that must be submitted to each Congress, and for ensuring that the budget adopted by the Congress and the Executive Council's financial decisions are respected.

4. Internal Relations Secretary (2 positions available): communicate with member associations and Regional Councils, collect notices of motions, complaints, etc. Ensure delegations are prepared to participate in the organization's decision-making bodies.

5. Information Secretary: coordinates production and distribution of informational material (newspapers, handbills, flyers, website, etc.) in collaboration with the Newspaper Committee and the Working Committees.

6. Academic Affairs Secretary: evaluates government policies and reform proposals, acts as the point person for the anonymously submitted grievances of member associations, examines all other matters pertaining to the pedagogical and academic aspects of education.

7. Communications Secretary: promotes and defends ASSÉ's core principles and action plans in the public sphere; elaborates media strategies, contacts media during specific events and prepares the Executive Council for public statements. He or she also rigorously keeps track of current events and ensures analyses of the current conjuncture are produced.

The Congress is responsible for ensuring 50% of Executive Council positions are filled by women. However, the Congress retains sovereign power over the final decision.

ANNEX 3

ARTICLE 47: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Women's Committee aims to promote the women's struggle in education and in society in all of ASSÉ's various bodies. It must be able to provide the Annual Congress with a report on women's issues. It may also:

- 1.** Produce material related to its field of intervention in collaboration with the Information Committee;
- 2.** Be allocated a women's section inside the ASSÉ newspaper, or any other official publication;

3. Organize women's actions jointly with regional and local mobilization committees;
4. Participate in Coordination Council meetings, where it has the right to propose and second motions;
5. Nominate one person responsible for coordinating the Committee's work, in order to establish a close working relationship with the General Secretary of the Coordination Council and with the Executive Council.

Summary

Motions

0. Call to order

1. Procedures

1.1 Preasidium

1.2. Motion to adopt the agenda

1.2.1 Be it resolved that the following agenda be adopted

- 0. Call to order
- 1. Procedures
- 1.1 Preasidium
- 1.2. Motion to adopt the agenda
- 1.2 Motion to adopt the minutes
- 2. Welcoming new members
- 3. Summary
- 4. Demands
- 5. Action plan
- 6. Notice of motion
 - 6.1. Submission of notice of motion
 - 6.2. Deliberation on notice of motion
- 7. Varia
- 8. Adjournment
 - Submitted by the Executive Council*
 - (Submitted March 15th, 2016)*

1.2 Motion to adopt the minutes

2. Welcoming new members

3. Summary

3.1. *Whereas it is important that the Women's Congress be a space for discussion where all can be heard,*

Whereas it is important that regional issues and more specifically feminism in the regions be discussed,

Whereas women experience different realities according to their geographic location,

Whereas it is important that we have moments for non-mixed discussion, considering the previous instances

Be it therefore resolved that we hold a non-mixed caucus for one 1.5 hour (Montreal, Quebec, regions) and that each caucus hold a summary presentation in Congress based on the themes that were discussed in their caucus as well as on the summaries of the local student associations.

Be it further resolved that this be followed by a one hour plenary period on the topic of feminism at the local level and on feminism in regions (on inter-region solidarity regarding feminism).

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 17th, 2016)*

4. Demands

4.1. *Whereas the problem of rape culture and sexual assault in educational settings is an inherent part of patriarchy,*

Whereas it is a problem that is present on every Cégep and University campus,

Whereas administrative responses and the resources at our disposal are ill-suited when it comes to the question of rape culture and of sexual assault,

Be it therefore resolved that we hold discussions in groups of about 10 on the topic of “rape culture and sexual assault in school settings” for 45 minutes and that these discussions be followed by a 45 minute plenary period.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 17th, 2016)*

4.2. *Whereas there is a plurality of experienced oppressions and considering the importance of a plural and inclusive feminism at ASSÉ,*

Whereas there is presently an increase in racism and xenophobia, impacting the conditions of racialized women and non-binary people,

Be it therefore resolved that we hold a racialized people / white people non-mixed-caucus for one hour and that each caucus hold a summary in Congress based on the themes that were discussed in their caucus.

Be it further resolved that the caucuses be followed by a 30 minute plenary period based on the topics that were discussed in the said caucuses.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 17th, 2016)*

4.3. *Whereas there exists institutional violence towards sexual assault survivors when they file complaints through the official channels of their places of study,*

Whereas their denunciations can be met with contempt, or even threats,

Be it therefore resolved that ACSSUM denounce the violent and insufficient responses that frequently occur within the instances responsible for receiving sexual assault complaints.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM call upon ASSÉ to include this question in its campaigns and that it also be called upon to undertake actions against all educational institutions that present this problem, whether or not the students are members of ASSÉ.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM encourage the creation of student activist groups within these institutions so that they may work to create spaces for advocacy and accompaniment, by specifically addressing the questions of sexism as well sexual harassment and assault.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM denounce the lack of institutional and non-institutional spaces and channels for the prevention and response to sexist violence in a manner that is concerted with the survivors.

*Submitted by ACSSUM
(Submitted on March 23rd, 2016)*

4.4. Whereas problematic behaviour, such as the questioning of patriarchy and of non-mixed spaces during recent instances, has been observed in certain individuals, whether in Congress or in training camps,

Whereas women should have the legitimacy to intervene when these situations occur as well as to exclude these people in order to make these instances safer,

Whereas these dynamics are also observed in our local associations and that solidarity vital in order to face it,

Be it therefore resolved that we hold a one hour plenary period on the topic of antifeminism at ASSÉ.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 24th, 2016)*

5. Action plan

5.1. Be it resolved that we hold a one hour plenary period on the topic of the possibility of a feminist campaign at ASSÉ.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 24th 2016)*

5.2. Whereas it's an important issue that we face every day,

Whereas rape culture is omnipresent,

Whereas the support offered by educational institutions towards survivors is too often deficient,

Be it therefore resolved that ASSÉ hold a national campaign against sexual assault and rape culture in educational institutions.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ call for the restructuring of policies against sexual harassment, of denunciation processes, and of support structures for survivors in educational institutions.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ not accept any assaulter on its national team.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 17th, 2016)*

6. Notice of motion

6.1. Submission of notice of motion

6.2. Deliberation on notice of motion

6.2.1. *Whereas the 7th core principle and article 5 of the second chapter of the Bylaws, modified in 2013 are to be considered,*

Whereas feminist principles, demands and practices are expected to be plural,

Be it therefore resolved that the Congress invite the associations affiliated to ASSÉ to apply and organize more feminist practices.

Be it further resolved that AGECD, AGEBdB, AGES, RÉÉSUM, AGEECLG, ABEILL and AGEEM must prove that they have feminist demands.

Be it further resolved that AGECAL, AECS, SCPASA, ACCSUM, FASA, AÉÉCSGUM, AELCUM, AÉMUM, Asso-CETASE, AEHUM, ADÉPUL, AÉÉA-UL, AGEPP-UL, AGÉÉTUL, RÉÉAV, RÉsul, AHCSSA, AGEMDELCUS, MEDIAS, AECSSP-UQAM, and AGEcov must prove that they have feminist principles, demands, and practices.

Be it further resolved that AGEcFXG must prove that it has feminist principles and practices.

Be it further resolved that the Liberal Arts Society must prove that it has feminist principles.

Be it further resolved that AECSAUM must prove that it has feminist demands and practices.

Be it further resolved that these mandates be sent on ASSÉ-Support.

Be it further resolved that if these conditions aren't met by the annual Congress, that the Congress consider these associations as non-members.

Submitted by AFESH-UQAM

7. Varia

7.1. Be it resolved that we hold a roundtable about the course of the week-end in order to hear the opinions of the delegations having attended the Women's Congress and to hear their feedback.

Be it further resolved that the comments and stated feedback be considered during the preparation of the next Women's Congress.

*Submitted by the Women's Committee
(Submitted on March 24th, 2016)*

8. Adjournment

ANNEXES