

Controlling my body is MY right! NOT the states, nor religion, nor anyone else!



In this unjust class world, subordination of women has become a “natural relationship” between men and women; as if we are born to be subjected to such crime. We women from every class, age, nation, religion and sexual orientation are born with the concept of having sexual violence experience. We experience it in all our life and even lose our lives due to severe sexual violence. Violence for us is not some news from the media or just a day in calendar. It is our daily life.

Today our biggest challenge is patriarchal system and gaining right to self-determination and control of our body. This system tries to control our destiny and our body through law and state, religion, society, culture and traditions. The state violence is the one which triggers, preserves and leads all other violence.

Although home is still the most insecure place for a woman, the source of this insecurity must be sought elsewhere. Either in developed imperial countries, or in the developing countries, governments are the source of this organized violence, which with the help of formal and informal forces, organizes and strengthens anti-women ideologies in the society.

Currently, with the escalation of crisis in the capitalist system, the domination of the right-wing and fascists groups all around the world that work on establishing and enforcing the most regressive and reactionary values and ideas, the issue of having control over women’s body has turned to an extremely challenging issue and concurrently the violence against women has increased substantially. It is no coincidence that with the different forms of violence such as, rape, prostitution, pornography etc., and the issue of “abortion right” is emphasized in the struggle of women for their rights. The influence and the pressure exercised by the extreme right, fascists and religious fundamentalists are connected to reclaim, limit or even eradicate this right. Since the abortion right, distinctively earmarks the woman’s right to have control over her body, hence the control of state, religion and man over woman’s body is redefined and strengthened. Furthermore, in imperialist countries with this specific form of violence against women there is a higher chance for the state, law or religion to clearly and visibly intervene. Certainly the right wings, fascists and religious fundamentalists are not worried about an ovule which was unwillingly impregnated, or embryo or a fetus. The issue first and foremost is the relation between man and woman, woman and the ruling class system. It is about strengthening and preserving the patriarchal relations of the capitalist system in order to maintain an inferior position for women within that system.

All of this is especially tangible for us, Iranian women. We know how Hijab, no matter if it is “*by choice*” or forced, makes us sexual objects that can be easily controlled. We saw how the theocratic regime of Iran, upon gaining power, organized its first attack against women by coercing Hijab on them to intimidate and reinforce its ideological Islamic fundamentalism. Hijab is not merely a form of clothing in the structure of Islamic regime. It is of high importance for this regime for depriving women from free will in choosing their clothing and also dictating the type of clothing they must wear.

In Iran, within the structure of Islamic regime women are solely means of reproduction and sexual objects, manifestation of seduction, corruption and depravity. In such system, it is inevitable that women are to be controlled and governed by men! Their “seduction potential” must be controlled by men through “legal” and religious means such as marriage and concubine! In such regime where women are considered to be properties of men and farming lands wherein men can spread their seeds, it makes perfect sense for women to be controlled by the “law”.

Forced Hijab declares that the Islamic state is a government in which women are subordinated and controlled by men. Unfortunately, this scenario was not limited to regime of Iran. It is repeated in all countries where Islamic forces have taken or sought to rule or control; in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia ... and even the “secular” Turkey. In all Islamic countries, the power relation between man and woman is established according to Islam, which Hijab is the hallmark of its most prominent symbol.

That is why we, the women dominated by theocratic states have been well aware of why our struggle for emancipation has been tied to the right to control women’s body, and why our struggles must simultaneously be against religious fundamentalism and patriarchal imperialist capitalism.

Historically, we have not been obedient victims. We have never feared the consequences of the revolt and rebellion, although we had to pay a lot for it. Today we announce that we are “abnormal” women because we do not recognize the control, obedience and domination relationship as “normal” phenomena and we dislike any form of violence in any way. Not only do we support women’s right to control their own bodies, not only we are in favor of freedom to choose what to wear, not only we support the right of abortion, not only we are serious critic of Islamic hijab, not only we support the emancipation of women, but also we are steadfastly calling for a change in this world through a deep and radical revolution in all the economic, social, political, and cultural relations. We are well aware that women will be one of the rebellious actors in this revolution.

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