



DAWN INTERACTIVE TIMELINE: 40 YEARS IMAGINING FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

An open letter by Leda Antunes, DAWN Communications Manager

For nearly three years, I have been a part of DAWN. During this time, our team has worked collectively to bring to life the **DAWN Interactive Timeline: 40 Years Imagining Feminist Alternatives**. This interactive tool is both a political and memory archive, rich in audiovisual and reading resources that bring together two intertwined histories: the evolution of global justice and feminist movements from the global South, and DAWN's own institutional journey.

From the initial spark in Bangalore in 1984, when women from across the South gathered to share their realities and lay the foundations for our first critical analysis of the debt crisis, the rise of fundamentalism, militarism, and nuclear testing, to our current struggles for digital and climate justice, this journey traces the genealogy of a movement that has systematically refused to accept dominant narratives.

Forty years ago, when the development agenda dominated global debates, DAWN's founders were already exposing its deepest contradictions and asking: What kind of development are we talking about? For whom? And

at what cost? We do not want a larger piece of a poisoned pie. We want to imagine and build something new.

It was, and still is, feminists from the global South who challenge the liberal feminist agenda of the North, who questioned the population-control science of the 1990s that blamed environmental degradation on population growth in developing countries, and who strongly reaffirm the connections among all the global crises.

Patriarchal oppression cannot be separated from oppression based on race and class, from the prevailing economic and political system, from conflicts or from environmental exploitation. No solution or alternative is possible without considering these connections. We must always look deeper. Think, articulate and act. This is what DAWN has been doing for more than 40 years.

Being able to immerse myself in this history has been a privilege. We dug through our archives in search of videos, photographs, books, texts and testimonies documenting pivotal moments in DAWN's journey. We revisited interviews from the Intergenerational Dialogues held in Mexico in 2019—an initiative that, in many ways, helped set this memory work in motion—and spoke with DAWN's co-founders and current and former members to reflect on what has happened since and bring the story into the present.

We are grateful to Nicole Bidegain Ponte and Claudia Ferreira for generously sharing their photographic archives, and to Kholoud Al-Ajarma and Flora Partenio for their collaboration and support throughout the process.

Special recognition goes to our designer, Marla Rabelo, and web developer, Bruno Borges, who transformed this material into beautiful and interactive experience. Our Digital Communications Officer, María Alejandra Gonzales Silva, is now bringing the timeline to wider audiences through a thoughtful and engaging campaign on social media and through a toolkit designed for allied organisations, educators, and movement builders who want to use the timeline as a resource for advocacy, training, and collective reflection.

This timeline does not claim to capture the full complexity and nuances of feminist movements from the global South, nor to exhaust DAWN's own history. What we have tried to do is highlight some defining moments along this journey while opening pathways towards many more readings and reflections. Bookmark it, take your time and explore in your own rhythm.

To understand the present and imagine the future, we must look at what came before. At a time when setbacks seem endless, and we often feel hopeless, may the loving, fearless and visionary feminist struggles from the global South continue to teach and inspire us.

In solidarity,

Lepa ANTUNES



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