

2026WOMEN

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2026WOMEN is an international cultural project and a women-led movement that aims to raise awareness about violence and injustice against women worldwide. Representing the rich diversity of both the European and global community, women's groups from four major port cities such as Antwerp, Rotterdam, Marseille and Barcelona join forces in a unique exchange that serves as a reflection on the past 50 years since the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women.

By educating and empowering women from all social and cultural backgrounds, enabling them to make their voices heard in cultural, academic, and political forums, we work towards developing strong and inclusive local and international networks and safe spaces, stimulating support and solidarity.

Since 2023, locally, bi-monthly discussion groups and artistic workshops take place in each harbour city, where the women participants explore and express their reflections and experiences. Internationally, the groups exchange regularly, and gather once per year to share their artistic and personal testimonies during a workweek, with a public performance, exhibition and exchange programme. Our goal with these events is to develop public debate, civic engagement, and social change. By prioritising the voices and experiences of women, we aim to foster opportunities for co-creation and collaboration with decision-makers, stakeholders, and others on the issue of violence and injustice against women.

From 25 to 28 March 2026, across Brussels and Antwerp, a large-scale public event will be organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Tribunal on Crimes Against Women (see background below).

Hosted in Antwerp at the Arenberg theatre, it will offer opportunities for a broad network of women, and their organisations, to exchange and participate in a diversity of women-led activities such as workshops, debates, exhibitions, performances, concerts and more. The Tribunal will also include a public performance of the 2026Women initiative, involving 40 women performers from Antwerp, Rotterdam, Marseille and Barcelona. A collective of organisations, from Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Spain and beyond, will collaborate on the organisation of the Tribunal26 event, led by Madam Fortuna. Together they will develop a full program of ARTivist and ACTivist interventions, focused on the issue of violence against women.

A detailed schedule will be shared closer to the date — stay tuned for the full programme via our official channels: <https://www.2026women.org/tribunal/>





THE 2026 WOMEN'S TRIBUNAL @ ANTWERP (BE)

From March 25 to 28, 2026, a large-scale public event will be organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Tribunal on Crimes against Women (see background below).

Hosted at the Arenberg theatre in Antwerp, Belgium, this two-day event will offer opportunities for a broad network of women, and their organisations, to exchange and participate in a diversity of women-led activities such as workshops, debates, exhibitions, performances, concerts and more. The Tribunal will also include a public performance of the 2026Women initiative, involving 40 women performers from Antwerp, Rotterdam, Marseille and Barcelona, directed by Alix Konadu, who already staged the 2026women show "Simawe / See My Way" in November 2024 at CC Het Oude Badhuis. A collective of organisations, from Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Spain and beyond, will collaborate on the organisation of the Tribunal26 event, led by Madam Fortuna . Together they will develop a full programme of ARTivist and ACTivist interventions, focused on the issue of violence against women.



BACKGROUND: THE 1976 TRIBUNAL ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

From March 4 to 8, 1976, the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women was held at the Brussels Palace of Congress. Over two thousand women from forty countries participated, sharing personal testimonies that documented numerous instances of violence against women worldwide. The opening speech was written by Simone de Beauvoir. Topics addressed included medical and economic crimes, rape, political prisoners, crimes against lesbians, domestic violence, prostitution, pornography, and femicide. Many written statements were also submitted by women who could not attend the tribunal in person.



This tribunal was the first large-scale gathering on this topic and was organised by a small group of feminists, including the renowned feminist writer Diana Russell, the Belgian journalist Nicole Van de Ven, and the Belgian activist Lilly Boeykens. Inspired by the International War Crimes Tribunal, a people's tribunal for crimes committed during the Vietnam War, this tribunal aimed to share experiences, empower women, and send a clear message to governments. The tribunal also had a significant symbolic role in breaking society's silence issues related to women. Both the tribunal and the book written about it had a considerable impact on international legislation and local initiatives, such as shelters and welfare programs. It laid essential foundations for all feminist movements that have emerged since. In 2026, the Tribunal marks its 50th anniversary, and we want to commemorate this milestone. Not only by paying tribute to the historic initiative, but also by reflecting on the past five decades to assess which essential changes have been implemented and where the situation of women in the global society remains precarious.

[DOWNLOAD 'Crimes Against Women: Proceedings of the International Tribunal' \(PDF\)](#)

MORE INFO & CONTACT

www.2026women.org

Project and artistic Coordination

Céline di Maccio

+32 (0)468 25 39 58

celine@madamfortuna.be

Tribunal Coordination

Anna Cooper

+33(0)783473497

anna@madamfortuna.be



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Madam
Fortuna
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