



Socialist International Women

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Elimination of Violence against Women – A Global Strategy

RESOLUTION

Hidden, insidious, all pervasive in, town and country, violence against women is a social scourge. Violence against women, which is a very serious violation of human rights, threatens not only the quality of democracy but also national development. Socialist International Women (SIW) recognises that it will not be possible to live in just societies while more than half of the population who are women live in fear, under threat or suffering terrible discrimination, violence, torture and harassment of every kind.

Violence against women is rooted in the continuing inequality between men and women. Socialist International Women would like to affirm its commitment to combat violence against women in all its forms. From murders to street harassment, from abduction in the course of war, from violence by known persons, from intimate partner violence to child marriage or honour killings. Rape and all forms of sexual violence, female genital mutilation, or the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation are human rights violations to which we can neither become accustomed nor resign ourselves.

Among the different forms of violence, the Istanbul Convention mentions the economic violence, one of the most subtle and cruel forms of violence for many women and their children. Economic violence can take many forms, for example acts of control of a person's behaviour with respect to the use of money, restricting access to financial resources, education or the labour market, not complying with economic responsibilities... Economic violence, whose recognition is more recent than other forms of violence, has been recognized as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women by article three of the Istanbul Convention.

Ending the violence suffered by women is a shared objective for those of us who fight for equality, justice and human dignity and must always be at the heart of the agenda of our political organisations. SIW wishes to acknowledge the progress made in the fight to tackle violence against women. However, much remains to be done. Globally, 1 in 3 women aged 15-49 experienced sexual abuse and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in 2021. The fight against gender-based violence must be seen as a fundamental issue that affects the freedom, safety and life of half the population, constituting an obstacle for the political participation of women. SIW encourages all countries to adopt specific laws to address violence against women. SIW calls on society as a whole: political actors, the media and civil society organisations, government health, education and criminal justice departments, to make the fight against inequality between women and men a shared goal.

The role of feminist organisations and the organised women's movement has been key to achieving equality between women and men. Given their key role in maintaining progress along the path of equality, it is recommended that states grant them official recognition and financial support

According to the United Nations, 1.2 billion women and girls of reproductive age live in countries and areas with some restrictions on access to safe abortion and 102 million live in places where abortion is totally banned, even in some supposedly developed countries. The defence of sexual and reproductive rights is a central issue on the agenda of the Socialist International Women. Access to services promoting sexual and reproductive health, including access to safe abortion, contraceptives and sex education is essential to guarantee women's right to health.

SIW invites countries to develop and sign an international agreement for the protection of women in the face of digital violence and oblige GAFA (large digital companies) to contribute to putting an end to the phenomenon of digital violence, which violates freedoms and threatens the lives of women and girls. SIW calls for an effective fight against digital violence, an ever-increasing scourge that knows no borders and shatters lives (suicides, trafficking in women and girls, etc.).

SIW wants to highlight the serious rights violation, which means that women are unable to exercise their political rights equally. It is unacceptable that the cost of women's political participation is harassment, discrimination, violence or fear. Political violence against women violates women's right to political participation and, therefore, undermines the quality of our democracies. We cannot resign ourselves to the fact that women's political participation has to take place in contexts of inequality, we cannot normalise the violence and harassment suffered by women for representing citizens.

Proud of the road travelled and conscious of the goals that remain to be achieved, SIW demands for violence against women to be a political issue of the first order in every party, in every country, anywhere in the world. In general, this requires the adoption of policies of prevention engaging civil society alongside policies for the protection of victims and the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. SIW demands the respect of democratic institutions as a barrier against any form of violence against women. Equality as a goal, feminism as a pathway.
