



# Socialist International Women

## SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

International Women's Day 2023

### Declaration

**08 March 2023**

This 8<sup>th</sup> March – International Women's Day – we recall that equality between women and men is still far from being achieved and that the rights won by women are not permanent, but must be defended and promoted so as not to take steps back.

We remember the women victims of gender violence and discrimination in all its expressions and we stand in solidarity with all women and women's associations and feminists who work for women's rights, even putting their lives at risk for freedom and equality.

This year we draw attention to the terrible situation Iranian and Afghan women are suffering, and at the same time we convey our support and solidarity by showing our rejection to all violence and to the repression of expression and freedom.

The United Nations has chosen the theme 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality' which aims to show how technology and digitisation can be a tool for equality.

Digital technologies are key tools for activism and the global denunciation of gender inequality – of the rights violations suffered by women all over the world.

Likewise, advances in technologies and its tools offer the opportunity to respond to development challenges such as the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda as well as improve equal opportunities that traditional obstacles had conditioned.

However, access to digital technology and innovation reflects other inequalities between and within countries, as well as between women and men. Half of the people without internet access are women, only 1 in 3 people graduated in STEM studies (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) are women and in the case of telecommunications the ratio rises to 1 in 6.

In a labour market in which the technological component reaches, to a greater or lesser extent, up to 90% of jobs, training and technological facilities for girls and women are essential to improve working conditions and gender equality.

Likewise, through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) or social networks, women and girls are exposed to new forms of violence for which adequate and agile mechanisms and not always in place to combat these new forms of violence.

The digital gender gap is nothing more than another manifestation of the structural inequalities that women face in all areas of life. This is even more prominent in developing countries, and especially for women and girls with limited resources or in rural areas, where the connectivity infrastructure and access to devices is limited or even non-existent, thus widening the digital inequality gap. Other

groups that experience discrimination and digital inequality are indigenous women and girls, older women, refugee women and girls, and those with disabilities.

Consequently, the Socialist International Women calls on our member organisations in particular and the international community in general to:

- *Work* to remove the barriers that hinder access to ICTs for women and girls;
- *Promote* activities that generate the interest of women and girls in STEM disciplines;
- *Incorporate* the particular needs of girls and women in the processes of digitisation and access to information and communication technologies;
- *Draw* attention to the need to protect women and girls from the forms of violence that are carried out through ICTs.

The Socialist International Women appeal on 8<sup>th</sup> March to put all the necessary resources at the service of the mission to achieving a world free of all forms of violence and discrimination against women as a central pillar for the construction of free societies.

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