

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:  
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**  
2<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  **EuropeanLEFT**  
PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 23-25, 2007

**ADOPTED MOTION**

1. War is on the global agenda as a tool of governance. The present phase of politics we are witnessing is captured in a violent process for reaching the planet's resources --from the seas to the forests to people's labor, to our very genetic pools—. These policies which dominate capitalist globalization generate precarity, bad housing and job insecurity, destroy public services and social protection, and deepen social and gender inequalities. Moreover, they transform all the differences among people - are they ethnic, cultural, religious or sexual - in conflicts of one social group against the another and in the race for the survival. This general climate of violence increase the violence against women, mainly in the domestic life. We are living through an epochal transformation which is risking to create an anthropological catastrophe where “fear” and “security” are becoming more and more the heart of governmental politics.
2. This phase is generating intense and conflicting reactions especially in Europe where neo-liberal policies are disrupting the social fabric and threatening the welfare state. The European Union political life is currently undergoing a sharp turn to the right against the political interests of the majority of citizens. In many cases new conservative trends threatens gains women have made in freedom of choice, the right to abortion and the right to work. This gives the task to us: the European Left Feminist networks, of building a transnational political movement of women in reaction to the conservative and theocratic backlash of the recent years. We need to spread the awareness of how the persisting inequalities and the increase of violence and religious fundamentalisms, which are part of neo-liberal politics, are linked to the patriarchal roots of our societies.
3. The status of women and gender relationships are quite different across Europe. In some countries, like Poland for example, women have no right to abortion. More generally women in Eastern Europe are going backward instead of forward especially in the labor market. There are also new forms of slavery in the form of trafficking of women for prostitution. Immigrant women face greater barriers everywhere and appear as victims while often they are incredible resources for a real political transformation. Even in the West of Europe, notwithstanding the rhetorical of equal opportunities policies, the core EU catechisms of “competitiveness, cost-efficiency, productivity and economic growth” represents a multinational corporate agenda against the lives of many women, especially the most disadvantaged and the youngest. At the present in the EU countries the challenges of health care/care work constitutes the most crucial issues across Europe today both in terms of gender and economic politics. They have an impact on men's and women's lives in an asymmetrical way with ethnicity, age, citizenship as additional factors of social exclusion.
4. Rethinking Europe and developing a new policy, based on respect for human dignity, equal labor rights and solidarity to promote peace, means to understand and react against: the unequal distribution of the burden of neo-liberal economy between women and men, the backlash to gender based violence and violence against women as expression of male fragile identity, the increasing influence of religions and patriarchal

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stereotypes in the public life and ethics. Women and men, especially those of the European left who want a new policy for Europe and a new role for Europe in the world, have to reflect on how political and patriarchal power is currently used in our countries and try to enlarge power through direct and participatory democracy with a gendered vision. Only this gendered vision can strike at the root the new neo-liberal consensus which uses war, violence and social exclusion to force people to accept the capitalistic globalization.

5. As women of El Fem we want to make aware the whole EL party on the gendered nature of the main alarming issues of the present political phase in Europe. For all these reasons we propose some political priorities. Feminist holistic care-oriented economics are needed to stop the decline of social cohesion. We insist on a separation of church and state and oppose religious-based politics in the respect everyone's right to religious freedom. We demand in all countries: the right to contraception, free abortion covered by the public health system, the non-discrimination due to sexual orientation and respect of cultural and ethnic differences in the framework of human rights. The elimination of gender based violence must be seen as a priority for the creation of a peaceful environment. As for EL we ask for the full acknowledgement of the autonomous political agency of women, rather than co-opting them to participate in gender –blind political positions.