

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

ADOPTED MOTION

MANIFESTO FOR THE WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

Within the last fifty years, women acquired big advances of rights in industrial countries. We acquired a pretty good liberalization of morals. Who cares nowadays about a female dress code? Who worries about illegitimate children? We advanced in matter of our sexuality, access to jobs, to upper training in science, economics, culture or politics.

However, that is not enough: We are still very far from equality.

We must keep on struggling for freedom, peace, solidarity, dignity, education, health, culture and against a neo-liberal and patriarchal construction, which needs women's enslavement for the assertion of its status quo.

Although there are evolutions concerning the unity of actions of women, we must observe that within the feminist movement, feminisms also have distinct political options. That changes the conditions under which we, socialist women, have been campaigning during the last twenty years.

We need a European Left Party that respects and supports us. We need specific feminists' actions linked with women's movements and the trade unions.

For democratic and egalitarian societies, we must obtain that the entirety of social rights reach everyone, women included.

That means a process of transformation and change of the whole society.

This is why we are working for another Europe, with all the Left European politics, trade unions, associations and feminist associations.

Further, we have denounced, in Poland and other countries, the interference of the Church within public life, which reinforces the patriarchal stereotypes and brings a decline in women's rights.

We must go against ideological and political attacks of conservative forces and of Christian fundamentalism. Secularism is one of the fundamental objectives to build a Europe of equality between men and women.

Besides, we know that almost everywhere in Europe, women are maintained in the field of care work, children's education and responsibilities for the family-life. This allows the governments to steal from their responsibilities and to dismantle public services.

Fighting against precariousness and flexibility is fundamental. Let us not forget that women are those who are the most affected by poverty and social exclusion. We cannot any longer tolerate women's wages being still considered as a variable of adjustment to influence all the wages earners.

Among the measures for reduction of unemployment, we support the 35 hours' week without decrease of wages, and this should be supported by all the Left.

MOTION

We demanded right for men and women for a real security of work, trainings and measures compatible with professional, private and family life, notably by building public day nurseries, and allowing young people to have access to high-level public services.

We demand a real professional equality (equal pay for equal work), the guarantee of access to jobs at any levels of responsibilities. We demand the installation of boards of enquiry for equality in business trades, companies, public and private administrations with the duty of annual reports and the right to sanctions with the objective to make an annual point on the obligation of equality and the right to sanctions if it was noted that there was no advance.

It is even more complicated for immigrated women who have to endure more discrimination, in all fields. We demand equal rights for all migrants in the fields of civil, democratic, social, medical, and educational rights.

We must fight against the 21st century modern slavery. We must struggle against the slavery of women coming from the East, working in the fields of agriculture, and against the victimisation of women working in the textile industry in Europe, by leading political initiatives at the European level.

We must answer human needs by defending, developing, and creating quality public services, which can fit all women's necessities.

Concerning the right of women to dispose of their own body, we asked that the most advanced legislations should be applied through all Europe: right to contraception, free and free of charge abortion and self-determination. We demand the right to assume freely our sexuality, would it be for heterosexual, homosexual or lesbian couples.

The systematic violence of men against women is the most violent expression of male domination. We demand European laws against this violence, in order to prevent and sentence the acts and the culprits, with economic means to apply these laws. Education and prevention are a priority for overcoming violence.

We raise our voices against the war in Afghanistan, led as a strategy of domination and armament in this region. Living in a military occupied country, the rights of Afghan women and their living conditions got even worse. We demand the departure of the European troops from Afghanistan, Iraq and all countries abroad. We oppose US military basis and radar systems in Europe. We reject wars and are campaigning for an active role of women as peacekeepers on the line of the UN resolution 1325.

We feminist women are engaged in stopping the climate catastrophe and opening a new path of sustainable development by caring for nature and resources.

In matter of political democracy, women must have their place in political life at all the levels of every institution. Law on parity must be the rule, with coercive measures to have them applied. Without parity, half of the population is excluded. That is a severe attack to democracy.

It is necessary to re-think Europe, a feminist Europe from the Left. The European Left must assume and defend an integral feminist movement: that notably means equality in work, recognition of social rights, suppression of economical disparities for everyone, complete separation of the church and the state, equality of rights at all levels, right to free of charge contraception and abortion, struggle against gender violence and struggle for peace.

It is necessary to put in the agenda of the social transformation, women's requests to optimise the struggle against the capitalist and patriarchal system.