

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

ADOPTED MOTION

Women are instigating peace

Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and recently Sudan... One of the propaganda lies on the US and Europe's new wars is that they were meant to liberate women, to secure women's rights. We are concerned about the severe situation in Iran, Palestine, Horn of Africa, and Myanmar.

In Afghanistan war is going on for 30 years now – as long as Europe is longest war lasted, devastating souls, regions and the whole of social life. In none of the countries infested by war, the situation of women has really improved, on the contrary: in Iraq and Afghanistan, it has seriously worsened. The majority of war victims are defenceless people – women, children, and the elderly. In these “new” wars, international law is broken; human rights are violated in an incredible measure. Outlawed and forbidden weapons like depleted uranium, land mines and splinter bombs are broadly used – with incalculable consequences for the coming generations.

As a partner, but more often as an open rival of the US, Europe is pushing with growing aggressiveness its own geo-political interests. EU Europe wants to become an imperial power, secure access to raw materials and markets, and participate in the fatal arms race. However, rearmament is killing without war. The billions spent on weapons are robbing the poor the basis of life. Urgently needed resources to fight hunger, provide clean water and affordable medicine, are eaten up by the war machine. Insane weapons production is pressing for war, sharpening global contradictions, preparing the soil for terror.

Women have had a long history an instigators of peace: Think of Aristophanes' Lysistrata, of the first Nobel prize winner Bertha von Suttner, who on the eve of WWI countered the saberrattling by her call “Lay down the arms!”, of Rosa Luxemburg, murdered by reactionaries for her fight against that devastating war, of Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria, becoming by her emphatic “No pasaran” the symbol of the fight against fascism, the women of Greenham Common known by their ten years of peaceful besiege of the nuclear arms base south of London, the Women in Black building bridges of understanding and conciliation over gulfs of hatred in former Yugoslavia, Palestine and Israel.

MOTION

We – the women of the European Left – feel united with all instigators of peace in Asia, Africa and America, with millions of women all over the world.

We demand to finally embrace the voice and the force of women for solving and preventing conflict, to involve women in overcoming confrontation. Referring to UN resolution No. 1325, we appeal to the governments of Europe and to the EU to recognize the potential and experience of women in the peace issue, to include them actively and consistently, to accord them powers and competences for resolving conflicts and safeguarding peace.

From the 2nd Congress of the Party of the European Left we demand:

- the withdrawal of all troops of European states from Afghanistan and Iraq, from the Horn of Africa, from Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sudan, Darfur and Chad;
- a minimum 50 % women's participation in all peace negotiations and conflict solution measures;
- compensation for war damage and support for reconstruction;
- the closure of all US military bases in Europe;
- no US anti-missile systems in Eastern Europe;
- no armaments obligation clause in the European reform treaty or any other European treaty, but a ban of all armaments exports;
- no European armaments agency, but a European disarmament agency;
- no EU military structure, but steps towards the dissolution of NATO;
- no out-of-area strategies, but armies only for self-defence as a step to full disarmament;
- no spending of billions on weapons, but for qualified development policies, for active conflict prevention with women playing an essential role.

“What the peace movement wants is not a dream of people withdrawn from earthly concerns, but the instinct of self preservation of our civilization.”

Bertha von Suttner