

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

ADOPTED MOTION

WOMEN, PRECARIOUSNESS AND HEALTH MOTION

Work, the lack of it, its nature and conditions are determining elements for the social conditions, rights and state of health of the population. Work never has a neutral effect on health: it either generates illness or generates health. As for women, in most cases generates illness, because we are in a labour market, either legal or illegal can be, that considerably increases the degree of risk, uncertainty, job insecurity, accidents and exploitation of the women in Europe.

This health concept must be understood as comprehensive of the women welfare global conditions, and consequently, must include the sexual and reproductive health, without any subordination to the economical interests of pharmaceutical transnational companies, and giving the same medical care to men and women.

Job insecurity has plenty of faces and is experienced as low wages, unsuitability of the studies and the occupation, part time job as the only occupational alternative, job instability, uncertainty about the future, the lack of autonomy and the ability to plan one's own life, a cause of accidents at work, emotional morbidity, dependence on the family, loss of rights and the lack of stable resources.

European Commission is promoting a deregulation of the working conditions under cover of flexicurity, without even considering its impact over the people health and welfare. It is a case of considering what the essential element is that has to guide our society: the people and their welfare or the financial enrichment that every day is shared out more unequally.

Generalised job insecurity establishes the general culture of fear, generating new forms of exclusion and social violence against women: physical and psychological mistreatment, moral and sexual harassment ...

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For young women, there is also the frustration about the probable unsuitability of the subjects they have studied and delayed entry to the labour market, a clear awareness of the risk of unemployment and the difficulties of getting a job that restrict their emancipation. Young people see their own life projects threatened in a first world of welfare that is supposedly opulent, but which tolerates temporary employment agencies, deregulated jobs and the illegal labour market.

Grown up women, specially the long term unemployed ones, see how their experience and knowledge is devalued and find themselves in the same unstable conditions as young women, in compulsory but very unequal competition. The rotation of contracts, having more than one job, the illegal labour market, very long working times, the rise in accidents, and low job satisfaction are other aspects of job insecurity. This situation is particularly bad for women over forty, who do not have suitable possibilities for training in order to be able to continue working in quality jobs earning decent salaries.

Job insecurity is particularly acute for certain groups such as handicapped women and immigrants. We ought to make special mention of the job insecurity that is already *de facto* the regular system of life and work of the immigrant women who are an inseparable part of the working class of every country and of Europe as a whole. The immigration laws are insufficient and too weak to guarantee rights and duties, and on the other hand the permissiveness in the face of outbreaks of xenophobia, the use of immigration for electoral purposes, the miserliness with which immigrants' access to citizenship rights is contemplated and the difficulty of implementing fairly the laws for family regrouping for men and women are at the heart of job insecurity.

As for the women who receive a retirement pension as their main income are explicitly exposed to conditions of insecurity if the attempts to privatise public pension funds and replace them with private funds, which are subject to instability, speculation and the interests of the major financial capitals, continue. Furthermore, you must add to this situation the irregularity in women career, which is the main cause that they do not earn decent pensions that cover even their elementary necessities.

This situation must be improved: Another Europe is possible. From the European Left Party we CALL FOR the coordination and action of the forces of the left, the trade unions and social organizations to organise the debates and take the necessary steps with the aim of DECENT JOBS prevailing, and HEALTH prevailing over JOB INSECURITY.

To get on with it is compulsory:

MOTION

1. Job stability, adequate minimum salaries and decent working conditions.
2. The fostering of job health, the assessment of job risks and their prevention.
3. Having available public, free and “friendly” psychological help in moments of job or personal crisis.
4. Complete medical care, including reproductive and sexual health.
5. Prohibiting all kinds of subcontracting that mean neglecting risks.
6. Guaranteeing that employers undertake to be responsible for ensuring health at work.
7. To intervene in the sphere of public and job health policy and to advocate trade union and political action.
8. To oppose the pressure applied to further deregulate the labour market and working conditions, risks at work, using unreliable or harmful products, working (paid or not) in unhealthy environments and conditions; to combat, inspect and denounce, whenever and wherever malnutrition, mistreatment, child labour, company mobbing, harassment and gender violence is observed.
9. To monitor pollution and housing conditions, and to combat the differences “between the different societies and within them and to take steps against inequalities, in terms of health, that arise from the rules and practices of these societies.”