



Words of the president



Dear Sisters and Comrades,

The 20th Congress of the Socialist International Women in Cape Town saw the elections of a determined and committed Executive to carry our organisation forward for the next four years.

This commitment was reflected in the 2013 Action Plan adopted at the meeting of the Council in Lisbon, which laid down four main goals: to extend the recognition of economic and social rights; to consolidate political rights; to promote equal participation in decision-making; and to work towards respect for diversity.

The theme chosen for the first meeting of the Council, 'The International Financial Crisis and the Impact on Women' thus reflects a determination to engage with the contemporary situation and with women's own concerns.

Given this, I have sought since my election to strengthen the role of the Vice-Presidents so as to promote better contact and greater solidarity between member organisations, and to take greater account of the specific characteristics of the different regions.

Another important concern has been to strengthen the position of SIW and to promote the adoption of the 30% quota by member parties in preparation for the next step, the move to parity.

This Newsletter will allow you to follow the progress made, the resolutions adopted, and all the news from the organisation, throughout the year.

Fraternally,

Main News

- A meeting of the Executive and Council of the Socialist International Women was held in Lisbon on 1 and 2 February under the theme of 'The International Financial Crisis and the Impact on Women'...
- Attended by members and political figures from all over the world, the first meeting of the SIW Council after the Cape Town Congress was held on 1 and 2 February, under the theme of 'The International Financial Crisis and the Impact on Women'...
- The Council adopted an Action Plan for 2013 for the organisation, and a resolution on 'The International Financial Crisis and the Impact on Women'...
- It also passed an emergency resolution on 'Gender-Based Violence in India – A Human Rights Issue'...



What's New?

- 'Ending the War against Women', a joint article by Ouafa Hajji, President of the Socialist International Women, and George Papatreou, President of the Socialist International, published by 'Project Syndicate', the largest opinion-focused syndication organisation, which reflects opinions from all over the world from different professional, national and cultural backgrounds...
- **SIW Congress Resolutions, Cape Town**
Held on 27 and 28 August 2012, the SIW Congress, under the theme of "International Solidarity – Women Working Together Towards A Better World For All", adopted a number of important resolutions...
- **The Congress also saw the elections of a new Executive Committee for a four-year term...**
- **Meeting of the Executive**
Hosted by the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) the first meeting of the Executive following the Congress in Cape Town was held in Rabat on 2 November 2012. It was attended by Ouafa Hajji, SIW President, and Vice-Presidents Purificacion Causapié of Spain, Miguelina Vecchio of Brazil, Luzia Inglês of Angola, Ivonne González Rodríguez of Colombia, Enke Enkhjargal of Mongolia, and Deniza Slateva of Bulgaria. The meeting was an opportunity to examine the draft Action Plan for 2013.
- **Statement – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 November 2012**
On 25 November, declared the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the UN General Assembly in 1999, SIW published a statement...
- **Participation in the 57th Session of the CSW**
The 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the UN headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013. It was attended by representatives of Member States, UN bodies, and NGOs accredited to the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from every region of the world. The 2013 session focused on the following key areas:

Priority Theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Review theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Indicator Violence Against Women

7/10

Up to 7 out of 10 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime, according to UN Women. Furthermore, 603 million live in countries where domestic violence is still not considered a crime.