



Socialist International Women

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

Council Meeting

Luanda, Angola, 24 and 25 November 2015

Declaration on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

DECLARATION

Violence against women is a global issue of urgent concern, affecting women and girls of all ages, in all countries worldwide. Today, one in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, and of the 4.5 million people forced into sexual exploitation 98% of them are women and girls. Women remain vulnerable to violence in their homes, at work, in the streets of their own neighbourhoods, and are frequently specifically targeted for sexual and physical violence during war and conflict.

The behavioural pandemic of violence against women crosses all cultural and geographical boundaries. Even in countries which may be perceived as progressive in regard to women's rights, such as those in the European Union, 45 – 55% of women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15. There are also countries where one third of adolescent girls' first sexual experiences are non-consensual and violent.

The Socialist International Women (SIW) strongly believes that violence against women, in any of its forms, is entirely unacceptable and is a serious barrier to the realisation of the emancipation of women and true gender equality worldwide. The SIW supports the purpose and principles of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and will continue its agenda to eradicate violence of any kind towards women and girls worldwide.

The SIW strongly supports the launching on 25 November of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign and 16 day call for action, and the United Nations Framework on Preventing Violence against Women. The SIW commits to promoting the Framework amongst its members and member organisations to engender attitudes of engagement and action to make the vision of a global end to violence against women a reality.

The SIW asserts that policies, legislation and actions to end violence against women are urgently needed worldwide. The SIW further asserts that the active participation of women in decision-making processes is essential to secure the on-going effectiveness of any changes made.

The Socialist International Women (SIW) calls on all Governments, Member Parties of the Socialist International and NGOs with beliefs and core values similar to the SIW, to support the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and commit to taking action to promote the United Nations Framework on Preventing Violence against Women.

The SIW calls for urgent action to:

Promote the elimination of violence against women in local and national manifestos and literature.

Encourage local and national policies, practices and legislation which support the elimination of violence against women.

Implement policies and education aimed at changing the perceptions and behaviours which lead to violence against women.

Challenge gender discriminatory practices, particularly violence against women within local communities and national governance.

Ensure women have access to information, technologies, financial and social resources which enable them to seek help, report abuses and attain justice where violence had been perpetrated.
