



Socialist International Women

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

International Women's Day 2018

DECLARATION

In solidarity and recognition of the immense societal, economic and political achievements of women and girls worldwide Socialist International Women is proud to support International Women's Day (IWD) 2018. IWD celebrates the collective determination, bravery and actions of millions of women who continue to strive and push for radical progress on gender equality issues. It is a day to warmly applaud our successes and ensure that the specific needs and human rights of women and girls continue to be highlighted and solutions implemented at local, national and global levels.

Socialist International Women welcomes the UN Women theme of this year's IWD: "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives" to highlight the immense contribution of rural women to growing and rearing the food sources we all need to survive. Although women make up around 43 per cent of the worldwide agricultural workforce they are far too often isolated, voiceless and invisible while living precarious, back-breaking lives of extreme poverty and suffering. Working together rural and urban women are immensely influential catalysts for change capable of shifting even the most ingrained gender inequalities for the benefit of all women and men. IWD is a reminder that all women and girls matter and we all make a difference in the world.

In the past few months there have been extraordinary levels of women's mobilisation and solidarity which have pushed the realities of gender based abuses of power and the unacceptable suffering of women and girls to centre stage in the global socio-political arena. This is particularly true for the urgent issues of the pandemic of violence against women. Several powerful social-media led movements including #MeToo in the USA, #YoTambien in Mexico, Spain and other Spanish speaking countries and #Ana_kaman in the Arab states have ignited a powerful flame of protest from women and girls that continues to gain momentum. Women are now refusing to be shamed and scared into silence and will no longer accept their suffering alone. These movements have also helped to raise the profiles of other long-standing gender inequalities including in the areas of pay and employment, education, healthcare and property ownership rights. As a result this is a potent moment in the international women's movement and a hugely encouraging indication that a global society that supports gender equality, the empowerment of women and the elimination of all forms of violence against women is moving closer to becoming a concrete reality by 2030.

Socialist International Women urges all of its members and affiliated bodies to celebrate International Women's Day, show solidarity with our sisters everywhere and continue to help make gender equality an everyday reality for all women and girls worldwide.