



Socialist International Women

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

International Women's Day 2020

DECLARATION

International Women's Day is an opportunity to focus our attention on recommitting ourselves to proactively ending gender inequality and eradicating the daily suffering experienced by millions of females worldwide. This year is a significant milestone in the international women's movement as we mark the twenty fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995. The Socialist International Women (SIW) warmly encourages all to celebrate this milestone and honour the numerous successes of individual women, the growing influence of local and international women's movements and the immense leaps that have been made towards valuing, nurturing and protecting the human rights of women and girls.

This year's International Women's Day theme of *I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights* aligns with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, *Generation Equality**. This inspirational initiative is a powerful reminder that our future is shaped by the actions of all of us, women and men, working together. In solidarity we can create a global society where the girls and boys of today grow up with a normalised expectation of cooperation, mutual respect, personal safety and gender parity of opportunity in all spheres of life which recognise and honour all human beings equally. All women have a vital part to play, to tell their stories of adversity and success, contribute to solutions and encourage all to challenge gender inequality and particularly violence against women in all political, public and private environments.

We are all painfully aware that the struggle for gender equality is far from over. However, there are immensely encouraging changes being initiated by women and girls who refuse to accept demeaning and debilitating gender inequalities and have the skills to harness the power of the media, particularly social media, to build support across geographical and social divides. Women can now quickly call out unacceptable behaviours, provide graphic evidence and testimony and challenge individuals, governments and organisations to be held to account in full view of us all. This is already strongly influencing how women work together and collectively demand meaningful change. The international women's movement has become far more visible, stronger and confident. Together we have the ability to further increase our influence, to educate our communities on gender equality issues, encourage, support and push for the political will to transform inspirational words into inspirational actions which create grassroots change. Together women are rejecting inequality and division and helping to create a socially democratic narrative which benefits all citizens.

In tribute to women and girls everywhere Socialist International Women encourages all of its members and affiliated bodies to honour International Women's Day by recommitting to challenging gender inequality, ensuring institutions of power and governments are held accountable for necessary changes and pushing the agenda of creating sustainable environments within our communities, nations and planet to ensure a peaceful and flourishing future for both women and men across our entire global community.

* <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>