

**Resolution of European Women's Forum of the Left
WARSAW, 26-27 August 2011**

Preamble

After 100 years of constant struggle for gender equality, the necessity to redefine women's political rights appears. Participatory democracy demands women's activity and conscious participation in all areas of public life. The enhancement of civil rights has always been an important issue for the leftist organizations. New possibilities for women's participation in public sphere, gained due to the socio-political transformation, form a base for alignment of existential opportunities and enable women to access top positions, beforehand occupied by men exclusively.

Recalling rules proclaimed in the Polish Constitution, which recognize the inherent dignity, worth and equal and unassignable rights of all members of the humanity as the foundation of freedom, justice and recognizing the full equality of rights between men and women in all spheres of life as an essential element of democratic development:

We declare:

Discrimination is a shame of democracy. Moreover, women's absence in the public area in many ways: historically, socially, politically, philosophically is the evidence of political omission.

These are facts which preclude democratic participation over half of European community.

We therefore invoke: European Parliament, the Polish Government, political parties and other political, national governments and academic institutions and civic organizations for a coordinated, mutual support and cooperation in order to increase women's participation in decision-making areas, both politically and economically.

We point out the most important problems of poverty and the feminization of poverty, violence against women, rights of women restrictions and their civic participation, making the left-wing groups, and other responsible for solving these problems through their political agendas and social control.

Women are disproportionately affected by the results of transition and economic crisis, and their disability and marginalization in this area exacerbate the phenomenon of the feminization of poverty, the consequence is exclusion: social, political and civil;

Therefore:

We demand a radical improvement of the economic situation of women, consisting in achieving economic independence.

We demand to resolve problems connected with the labor market, equal payment for equal work, eliminating junk contracts, the introduction of flexible methods of employment, more employment place for women which ensure economic security and professional development.

We demand effective changes in the labor market by creating new place of employment and activating strategy, rather than ad hoc measures.

We demand provide full guarantees of social rights: pensions, which will ensure worthy life.

We demand effective action against discrimination, mobbing and sexual harassment in the workplace through the promotion of employment rights of women and strengthening assertive attitudes among women.

We demand increase women's participation in economic decisions, strategic for the EU and Member States.

We demand an effective social policy, particularly in terms of existential security of mothers raising children alone, the elderly and the sick.

We demand a common and free access to education and health services, day care centers for children (crèches, kindergartens), the elderly and the sick (hospices, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.)

We demand the right to free choice and universal sex education, and free prenatal tests. There should be increased access to contraception and contraceptive counseling, including girls.

We demand the creation of an independent European monitoring center involved in the fight against violence against women and children.

We demand equal participation of women on the boards of financial and economic institutions and companies - we demand parity.

We demand the introduction of the principles of gender budgeting to all institutions in which the distribution of wealth and material resources can affect the status of women and men (from the state budget and the allocation of funds from local budgets).

We demand effective actions i.e. programs and financial resources for women to increase civic competence, leadership and political education

Participants of the European Left Women's Forum gathered the European experience concerning absence of women in the public sphere. The absence of women's issues in public discourse and the lack of proper representation in the areas of decision-making have undoubtedly impact on the lack of explicit progress in the delivery of the Beijing Platform for Action in Poland.

We call out Polish Government and other European Union Members to comprehensive realization and comply the Beijing Platform for Action.

Enough illusion! Time for specifics!

There is necessity to make clear history of democracy and show the presence of women in it.

We demand the introduction of effective mechanisms of law, which will have an impact on increasing women's participation in public life in parliaments, governments and other institutions, including economic institution and political parties.

We demand strengthen the national institutional mechanism for implementing the national policy of gender equality, separation of the budget for its activities and commitment to work and cooperation with NGOs in the field of gender equality.

We demand the introduction of zipping system (list of candidates where women and men are staggered) to the electoral system at all levels with the sanction of prohibiting the registration list, on which this principle is not observed.

We demand balanced participation of women on boards of political parties.

The essential value of democracy is to provide all citizens equal possibility to influence their own lives through active participation in the public sphere. Lack of substantive equality, which, despite law guarantees, is still not fully implemented at all levels, brings consequences in the deformation of political, economic and civic participation for large social groups.

We call out Polish Government, regional and local governments to immediately implement the European Charter for Equality between Women and Men in local life, as an indispensable instrument for the implementation of equal treatment policy and sustainable development.

We call out the European Parliament to develop a European Charter on the Rights of Women, to effectively enforce the rights of women throughout Europe. The requirement for gender equality should be taken into account in all policy areas.

Previous experience indicates that two decades of socio-political transformation does not bring in its dynamic growth balance many demands. This condition results from the lack of universal citizenship education, which would consist of issue of freedom, rights, recognition and respect, and diversity and a positive image of social commitment.

Participants of the European Women's Forum of the Left believe that all taken in Resolution issues are a key element of participatory democracy.

In the politico-social area we have not reach a satisfactory level yet. Still, this requires the mobilization of resources and an integrated and coherent national and European policy.

European Women's Forum of the Left directs the call for the Third Congress of Women to cooperate and consolidate activities by this words : Shall we be beyond boundaries and shall we work out COMMON strategy for the future, recovering women's citizenship based on support and mutual respect.

Unconnected idea, mutual respect and commitment, expressed in joint activities to further allow the absence of women in history, and their absence in the public space. Unsupportive by the idea, mutual respect and commitment, expressed in common activities, we allow for further absence of women in history and public sphere.

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