Internazionale

Women’s commission world federation of trade unions 25 november – international day for the elimination of violence against women



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Against all forms of violence, exploitation and oppression: women fighting for peace, work, rights and the freedom of peoples!

On the occasion of 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Women’s Commission of the World Federation of Trade Unions reaffirms its commitment to the struggle against all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and oppression affecting women throughout the world.

Violence against women cannot be regarded solely as an individual or private matter. It is rooted in economic and social inequalities, labour exploitation, precariousness, poverty, gender discrimination and the power relations that permeate society.

We cannot speak of women’s freedom and dignity whilst millions of them are forced to live in fear of war, hunger, unemployment, precariousness and a lack of prospects for themselves and their children.

War is one of the most brutal forms of violence against women and peoples.

Imperialist wars, occupations, military aggression and the arms race bring about death, destruction, displacement, hunger and the deprivation of fundamental rights. Women pay a

very high price: they suffer sexual violence, lose their homes, their loved ones and their means of livelihood; they bear the burden of ensuring their families' survival in extreme conditions; and they see their own futures jeopardised.

Whilst military spending is soaring and immense resources are being channelled into armaments, funding is being diverted away from healthcare, education, social services, child protection and employment policies. Sacrifices are being imposed on the working classes and ordinary people, whilst a war economy is being fuelled – one that does not produce security, but rather new inequalities and new suffering.

Women's security is not built on weapons. It is built on decent work, adequate wages, public services, the right to housing, healthcare, free education and social protection.

The WFTU Women's Commission expresses its full solidarity with the Palestinian people, with women, with girls and with all the victims of the genocide in Palestine. The destruction of Gaza, the killing of civilians, the devastation of essential infrastructure, hunger, forced displacement and the denial of fundamental rights constitute a tragedy that calls for international accountability and mobilisation.

Palestinian women resist every day to ensure the survival of their families and to uphold their people's right to life, land, freedom and self-determination.

There can be no peace without justice, without an end to the occupation and without recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. We call for an end to the attacks, the protection of the civilian population, access to humanitarian aid and respect for international law.

We also express our internationalist solidarity with the Cuban people, who continue to suffer the consequences of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States. The blockade affects the population's material living conditions, access to medicines, essential goods and services, exacerbating the daily hardships faced by families and, in particular, by women, upon whom the greatest burden of care and social reproduction often falls.

We reiterate our call for an end to the blockade and to all unilateral coercive measures that violate the right of peoples to freely determine their own future.

Poverty, job insecurity, the cost of living and difficulties in accessing decent housing are on the rise. Working women, young women, pensioners, migrant women and women from the most vulnerable social groups are particularly hard hit by the consequences of these policies.

Insufficient wages, precarious contracts, unemployment, involuntary part-time work, workplace discrimination and unrecognised care work continue to limit women's economic autonomy. Economic dependence can itself become a tool for blackmail and violence,

preventing many women from escaping situations of abuse.

This is why the fight against gender-based violence must also be a fight for full employment, equal pay, job security, maternity protection, the strengthening of public services, and the social and economic recognition of care work.

Students and young workers are taking to the streets and universities to protest against job insecurity, the high cost of living, the privatisation of education, the lack of prospects, inequalities and the militarisation of society.

Their struggles express a rejection of a future characterised by sacrifice, insecurity and war. They call for investment in education, healthcare, culture, employment and environmental protection, rather than in the production and purchase of weapons.

Young women must be able to build their own future free from discrimination, violence and exploitation, and without being forced to choose between economic independence and family life.

The WFTU Women's Commission recognises the value of youth participation and mobilisation and calls on trade union organisations to strengthen the link between the struggles of women, workers and the younger generations.

On this day, we reaffirm that the struggle against violence against women cannot be limited to denouncing femicides and assaults, whilst it is essential to combat all forms of physical, psychological, sexual, economic and institutional violence.

Action must be taken to address the root causes that fuel subordination and inequality. Women must be guaranteed economic independence, social rights, access to services, effective protection and full participation in political, trade union and social life.

The WFTU reaffirms that the struggle for women's emancipation is an integral part of the struggle for a society free from exploitation and oppression.

ON THIS DAY, THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION OF THE WFTU CALLS FOR:

- An end to all imperialist wars, military aggression and occupations.
- An end to the genocide in Palestine and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.
- An end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.
- An end to the arms race and the allocation of public resources to healthcare, education, employment and social services.
- The right of all women to stable, safe, dignified and adequately paid work.
- Equal pay, the protection of women workers' rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination and exploitation.

- Free and accessible public services; the right to housing, healthcare, education and social protection.
- Effective action to combat all forms of gender-based violence, through prevention, education, victim protection and institutional accountability.
- Recognition of women's role in trade union, social and political struggles, and the strengthening of their participation in the workplace and in class-based organisations.
- International solidarity amongst women, working women and peoples fighting for their own emancipation.

25 November must be a day of mobilisation, awareness and collective struggle.

Women are not asking for a place in a society founded on war, exploitation and inequality. They are fighting to transform it.

AGAINST VIOLENCE, WAR AND EXPLOITATION!

FOR EMPLOYMENT, RIGHTS, PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE!

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE!

HANDS OFF CUBA! END THE EMBARGO!

WOMEN AND MEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORKERS UNITED IN THE INTERNATIONALIST STRUGGLE!

Women's Commission
World Federation of Trade Unions