



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) salutes women worldwide on this day marking “International Women’s Day”, where we commemorate and reclaim the historical struggle of women to achieve equal opportunities, better working conditions, to eradicate violence against women, along with other very significant aspects in the quest for Social Justice and in defense of Women’s Rights.

We agree with the Declaration of Beijing which maintains that “the empowerment of women and their full participation, with equal conditions, in all spheres of society, which include participation in decision-making processes and access to power, are fundamental in the achievement of equality, development and peace” and that “Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal distribution of family responsibilities between men and women and a harmonious partnership between them, are indispensable for her well being and the well being of her family, as well as for strengthening democracy”.

Social workers have a fundamental role in the contribution to the democratization of social relations between men and women, to build citizenship from the perspective of gender, to implement strategies to avoid violence against women and children, to generate opportunities for access to health, education and decent housing, to eradicate poverty and promote women’s rights.



Statement issued by Dr Silvana Martinez

Countless, are the contributions of social workers to achieve better gender equality in all areas in which women are unfolding. They’ve conducted research and published books, they participate in local and global campaigns in defense of women’s rights and they have denounced the situations of violence and oppression that millions of women have suffered. They have formed NGOs to work with the victims of human trafficking and gender violence, to provide job-training, to campaign for reduction in illiteracy rates, among so many other efforts.

While progress in legislation and public policy has been made in several countries, we also know that many times laws are not complied with, that poverty has the face of a woman, that men earn higher wages than women for doing the same job, that the seats of power and decision-making are mostly occupied by men, that women are raped and subjected to verbal abuse, that there hasn’t been a decrease in the cases of female murder, that women still don’t have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and to enjoy their sexuality.

Therefore, we call for a reflection and summon all stakeholders in our society, all governments and their officials, and all national and international organizations to intensify efforts and to

make a firm commitment to improve and revert these situations of domination and oppression that millions of women suffer around the world.

From the International Federation of Social Workers we want to thank you and congratulate each and every social worker who, day to day, contribute with their daily work to the construction of a more just and humane world and who raise the flags of social justice and the unrestricted defense of human rights way up high.

To the women of the world, we'd like to say you are not alone and that together we can continue achieving equality, justice, peace and respect for all women. Because, as long as there are situations that threaten and infringe upon the rights of women, we shall continue to raise our voices and we will be heard around the world.

Statement issued by Dr Silvana Martinez, IFSW Regional President Latin America and Caribbean on behalf of IFSW Global. 5th March 2015