

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Egaux - Responsabilités Egales



ACTION PROGRAMME 2008-2010

adopted at the XXXIV IAW Congress, Delhi, India, November 2007

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

Women's rights are human rights.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

The International Alliance of Women (IAW) affirms that full and equal enjoyment of human rights - as laid down in treaties, conventions and declarations - is due to all women and girls.

The IAW maintains that a prerequisite to securing these rights is the universal ratification and implementation without reservation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). IAW and its members urge governments to ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

The importance and value of women's contribution as equal partners has been acknowledged in the numerous United Nations world conferences held from 1975 through to the present time. Of particular relevance for women is the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, as amplified in 2000 and 2005, to which 189 member states have committed themselves.

The IAW calls on its members to monitor the fulfilment of these commitments. After more than 100 years the IAW faces dramatic new challenges to its goal of achieving equal rights and equal responsibilities for women. Today, as it was in the beginning of the IAW, peace is important for women, both as sufferers of non-peace and as suppliers of skills in keeping peace.

FOR THE YEARS 2008-2010 THE IAW HAS DEFINED FOUR PILLARS SUPPORTING ITS ACTIONS: JUSTICE - HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE

JUSTICE – HUMAN RIGHTS

Goal: To fully implement CEDAW and its Optional Protocol; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Protocol; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols; the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, especially that on Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children; the Convention on Corruption and human rights treaties relevant to women at the regional level

Action:

- * urge governments to ratify and implement CEDAW and its optional Protocol;

- * support and promote legislation to apply CEDAW nationally and contribute to the preparation of national shadow reports;
- * urge governments to ratify and implement all above mentioned international treaties and support and promote legislation at the national level;
- * enhance legal literacy of women;
- * campaign for legal instruments on violence against women;
- * secure women's sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- * ensure gender mainstreaming in the institution building of the Human Rights Council;
- * combat trafficking in women and girls;
- * support women's human rights defenders;
- * support candidates for public office – male or female – who are in favour of feminist goals.

DEMOCRACY

Goal To achieve equal participation in political, economic and social decision-making

Action:

- * work for good governance;
- * mobilize and train women for representation in politics;
- * assure gender parity at all levels of society including the institution of quotas when necessary;
- * train women to understand the globalisation process, governments' responsibilities in a globalised world, and the need for NGOs and civil society to participate in international decision making;
- * promote gender-sensitisation of authorities and media;
- * draw attention to misinformation by governments and companies;
- * relate economic issues to social issues;
- * promote equal access to adequate social services, particularly health and education;
- * campaign for a woman's right to control her fertility as a prerequisite to equality and participation in development;
- * resist all patriarchal structures which subjugate women.

PEACE

Goal: To end war, civil conflict and achieve peaceful conflict resolution

Action:

- * work actively to promote peaceful conflict resolution;
- * popularize and promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325;
- * monitor and evaluate the UN peacekeeping structures in conflict and post conflict operations for gender mainstreaming;
- * promote women's training in negotiating skills and their participation in peace negotiations;
- * work for the control and reduction of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and fight against their illicit trade;

- * support the International Criminal Court in its work to hold governments and individuals accountable for their violent acts particularly against women in times of war and civil conflict;
- * advocate for improved protection of women in violent conflict and post conflict situations;
- * help to prevent conflict over resources by protecting the environment and by supporting environmental education;
- * promote intercultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- * form coalitions with other peace and anti-war activists.

ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE

Goal: To eliminate all forms of violence against women

Action:

- * say no to violence;
- * treat violence against women as a violation of human rights and as a crime;
- * promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- * support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking;
- * support programmes to prevent violence against women, to protect victims and pursue the prosecution of perpetrators of such violence;
- * raise awareness about the socio-economic and massive health consequences of violence against women;
- * encourage self-defence training for girls;
- * use the mass media to focus on all forms of violence against women and children;
- * ensure that rape is labelled violence, not sex;
- * fight against racism and sexism whenever and wherever it occurs;
- * provide education, emphasizing the need for a change in mentalities concerning role stereotyping and the construction of masculinity.

The **Health Commission** is also continuing and information can be found on the IAW website

www.womenalliance.org