

WIDF Steering Committee Moscow 27 April – 2 May 2014

Final Declaration

We, the delegates of 20 countries from all continents, members of the WIDF Steering Committee, met in Moscow, on April 27- May 2 2014, in an effort to reassert our commitment to the organised struggles of women around the world in order to demand all the contemporary rights which they deserve and the exploitative system deprive them, we declare:

Nowadays, new technologies and science have elevated labour productivity and all women should have a stable and permanent job with a salary which should cover today's needs, with labour and insurance rights, with free public health, education and welfare services and protection of motherhood.

Instead, women all over the world are victims of poverty, violence, trafficking, unemployment, flexible, part-time and unsecured work conditions, reductions of salary and pensions, privatization of education, health and welfare system.

The overthrows in the work and social insurance achievements targets to make cheaper workers for the employers thus increasing the profits and the competitiveness of the capital. The capitalist crisis increases this trend for all the working class people and especially the women. Those barbarous anti-labor and anti-popular measures are implemented by either neoliberal or social democratic governments.

The multifaceted discrimination and violence against women is linked with the aggressiveness of the exploitative system and is in the front line of our struggles.

The multinationals companies and the policy which supports them destroy the environment and the future of our children in order to increase their profits.

The difficulties that capitalism faces in order to overcome its crisis aggravate inter-imperialist contradictions and strengthen the aggressiveness of imperialism. The struggle among imperialist centers is focused both on the control of resources (natural gas, oil, water etc.) and the paths and sea routes of goods transport. The danger for more generalized regional conflicts or even a generalized imperialist war is increased.

We, the progressive women of the world voice our deep concern for the wars and invasions adopted by USA, EU, NATO and their allies. They do not hesitate to promote and bring in power fascist forces, as in Ukraine, in order to serve their interests. Historic experience shows that fascism is being used as the weapon of the system against the class and the fighting popular movement.

We, the women of the world, express our continuous, firm solidarity with the people and women of Cuba, Venezuela, Latin America and Caribbean. We support the popular struggles for progressive change within this continent, and especially to Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua, and Brazil. We continue our struggles for the liberation of the five Cuban Patriots and we take relative initiatives all around the world.

We continue to defend uncompromisingly the struggle of Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and demand the vindication of the struggle of Palestinians for an independent and sovereignty Palestinian state with the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital and the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions. We demand the release of the Palestinians prisoners from the Israeli jails.

We condemn the imperialist threats against the Syrian people by the U.S., Israel, NATO, Turkey and their allies. We express our solidarity with the Syrian people who should be left to decide themselves only for their present and their future. We express our solidarity with the people of Lebanon suffering from a constant aggression by Israel. We condemn all interventions in its internal affairs.

We condemn the Turkish invasion and occupation in Cyprus and we demand the just solution of this issue for termination of occupation, demilitarization of the island and the reunification of the country. For Cyprus a Bizonal - Bicomunal Federation with single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality with political equality of the two communities as defined in the UN resolutions.

We will remain by the side of the peoples of Europe who resist the threats of EU and struggle for the disengagement from this imperialist mechanism and its ally NATO.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Western Sahara who live under the Moroccan occupation since 1975 and we reaffirm our support in their struggle for sovereignty.

We support the right of DPRK to defend the sovereignty and dignity of their people from the constant war threats by US and to reunify the country independently by the Korean nation itself.

We are in solidarity with the African women in their struggles to face poverty, diseases, illiteracy and imperialist invasions for the exploitation of their recourses.

We reaffirmed our decision to call the women of the working class and the popular strata to reject fatalism and compromise, call them to up rise and get organized, trust their power and join WIDF movement targeting to open the path for a society without exploitation which is the only one that can guarantee the women's equality and emancipation.

WIDF Resolution – Dismissal of Umut Kuruc

We, the women of WIDF SC, that convened in Moscow on April 27- May 2 2014, we condemn the unjust and abuse dismissal of our Turkish fellow militant, Umut Kuruc by her employer, the UN Refugee Agency due to her participation in the WIDF solidarity mission to Syria and her meeting to Basar Al Asad.

This dismissal shows the unacceptable intervention of UN organization in the private life and political stance and activities of their personnel.

This action consists of terrorism against the anti-imperialist struggles.
We demand the Umut Kuruc reengagement at her previous work.

Report of the European Office

The capitalist economic crisis that occurred in a synchronized way in imperialist centers, such as the USA, the EU and Japan and embraced a lot of imperialist states – regardless of the social-democratic or neo- liberal governance- was used as an excuse for the escalation of a ruthless attack against the rights of the working people and especially, the youth and the women who became the first victims. The dramatic increase of unemployment, the complete subversion of working relations, the increase of part time employment, the worsening of the working conditions, the constant cuts in wages and pensions, the undeclared and with no security rights work, the raise of retirement age, the privatization and commercialization of the health, welfare and education systems, are aspects of the reality faced by the women of the working class and the popular strata.

The difficulty of the capitalist system to tackle its crisis aggravates the inter-imperialist rivalries, intensifying the imperialist aggressiveness.

The struggle among imperialist centers is focused both on the control of resources (natural gas, oil, water etc.) and the paths and sea routes of goods transport. The regions of the Black Sea, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Africa, the Sea of South China and the Arctic are some of the most characteristic examples. The danger for more generalized regional conflicts or even a generalized imperialist war is increased.

The EU aims at establishing its position in spots and places of critical geostrategic importance all around the world, with military interventions in Somalia, the Horn of Africa and the region of Sahel, that is, sub-Saharan Africa, as well as Libya, Syria, the South East Mediterranean region, North Africa, Mali, Central African Republic, Ukraine etc.

The blunt intervention of the US and EU in Ukraine is being unleashed in the framework of competition with Russia, for the above- mentioned reasons.

The arbitrary seizure of governance by reactionary forces, with the participation of fascists and Nazi, has put the people of Ukraine in great dangers. In reality, both the EU and the US support and use even the armed fascist forces, for the promotion of their geopolitical objectives in the Eurasian region. Those forces' stance and critic, with regards to the developments in Ukraine and the referendum in Crimea, stand as an illustrative example of hypocrisy, since these very same forces played a leading role in the break up of Yugoslavia and the detachment of Kosovo, in the imperialist interventions against Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, in organizing coups against governments they didn't like. The same was attempted in Syria and is now being attempted in Ukraine.

While naming "totalitarianism" every governmental change that does not comply with bourgeois choices, while condemning violence, the EU does not hesitate to use the Hitler's followers and their violence in order to overthrow governments and serve its interests. This proves that fascism- Nazism is part of the bourgeois ideology and policy which has developed all its characteristics, such as racism, anti-communism etc to the most. That is why the bourgeois class uses fascism every time they estimate that this way the monopolies interests are better served. The "two extremes" theory and the dangerous identification of fascism- Nazism with communism, that ignores history, is a formal EU position that "breeds" the action of Nazi formations in all the European countries. They try to identify fascists with their only historically consistent opponent, the communists, and the working people's movement, who can fight for the eradication of capitalism that gives birth to fascist formations. The Lenin's and other Soviet and anti-fascist monuments were not accidentally in the "spotlight" of the ideological "purge" of History undertaken by nationalist and fascist armed forces. The people, especially in the countries of the former USSR, lived in peace and prosperity during socialism. This is why the majority of the population in these countries reminisce socialism, despite the fact that more than 20 years have passed and the new generations have not experienced its conquests.

The EU intervention in the Central African Republic, under the pretext of civil conflicts that have been provoked by imperialists, is now being launched. The EU effort for deeper infiltration with military means, in the African continent is being reinforced by a military mission of hundreds of soldiers from EU member states.

As far as the Cyprus issue is concerned, 2014 marks 40 years since NATO's double crime against Cyprus which led to the occupation of 37% of its territory by Turkey and the de facto partition of the island and the people of Cyprus. With the resumption of the negotiations Cyprus aims at the termination of occupation, demilitarization of the island and the reunification of the country through involvement of the Republic of Cyprus into a Bizonal - Bicomunal Federation with single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality with political equality of the two communities as defined in the UN resolutions. It is also very clear that Cyprus does not need the guarantee powers of Turkey, Britain and Greece and should continue fighting against the plans for Cyprus accession to NATO or to the NATO programme "Partnership for Peace"

The so-called "multi-polar world" of the "new international affairs architecture" is not the world of peace and security for the peoples, but the world of intense inter-imperialist rivalries. In this world, International Law no longer exists as it was introduced to the people after the Second World War, since it no longer expresses the correlation between capitalist and socialist countries, but the correlation among capitalist states. International Law is nowadays the law of imperialist interests and the expression of the interrelation of imperialist forces. It is an illusion. Therefore, it is an illusion to believe that there can be a peaceful world without offending the foundations of the exploitive community in which we live, that is the capitalist society.

The recent dismissal of our fellow militant from Turkey, Umut Kuruc, from the UN Refugee Agency due to her participation in the WIDF solidarity mission to Syria and her meeting with Basar Al Assad, stands as a further proof for the role played by the UN nowadays. The WIDF ought to condemn this unacceptable act and demand that the UN rehire our Turkish fellow militant.

Dear fellow militants,

The women of the entire EU are facing the grave problem of unemployment and the destruction coming up from the capitalist reforms. The EU is a mechanism that has been created to serve the interests of the European business enterprises, for the increase of their profits and the improvement of their competitiveness towards the upcoming forces such as Russia, China, Brazil, India. The EU is a wolf-pack coalition nourished by the sweat and work of the workers in its Member States. That is why it does not change, why it can not be reformed. It can not get any better. We can only expect the worst from it. The character of the EU makes obvious that any management policy within the EU will have the same results; That is, the 27 million unemployed, the 7.5 million young people living without work and education, the 120 million workers living below the poverty threshold. Therefore, with or without memoranda, the policy is common to all the peoples of the EU, from Cyprus to Spain and from Ireland to Greece through mechanisms of permanent surveillance of their economies.

Despite their sounding proclamations, what they really do with their policy is deepening the inequality against women. The "reconciliation of work and family life" was the Trojan horse for further promotion of part-time work, job rotation, and generally flexible working relations. At the same time, the state is exempt from the responsibility for social policy putting that weight on women's shoulders, a weight that becomes more unbearable as it is converted to expensive merchandise.

The capitalist crisis that broke out in the EU countries have accelerated the implementation of anti-people policies and escalated the inequality of women. The strike against the working and popular rights and conquers is a common place for all the EU people. The only difference is time and the given quantity each time. The women unemployment rate in Greece has soared to 32% (the highest rate in the EU). The lowest rates of women unemployment in EU are in Germany (5.1%), in the Netherlands (7%) and in Great Britain (6.7%). However, these countries have established flexible work relations and part time jobs as the dominant employment model; that is, the part time employment rate for women in the Netherlands soars to 77%, in Germany to 45,6% and Great Britain to 43,3%. 7, 5 millions of working people in Germany make a living with 400 euro per month. This policy is being promoted for all the EU member states.

The recovery that will come will be the capitalist recovery, built on the ruins of the workers' achievements and lives; it will be a weak and temporary, leading to a new crisis. However, even during the recovery phase the armies of millions of unemployed will still exist in the EU, as the schemes for unemployment recycling and employment rotation won't be enough for its reduction. The flexible working relations, "free" of labour rights will become the main employment model paving the way for further dramatic cuts in wages, sweeping changes in the public pension systems, in the health sector, in social welfare benefits and services.

The EU strategy, serving the need of monopolies to increase their profits and safeguard their competitiveness against the other imperialist forces, lies upon the exploitation of many cheap women working hands in production and services. That is the reason why the first goal set in the EU strategy "Europe 2020" is the increase of employment at 75%. This goal is being implemented with the expansion of part- time employment and "active ageing", in other words part time working until deep old age.

At the same time, further privatization and commercialization of Health, Education and Welfare have forced women to and their families to pay lot for these services, while in many cases they are deprived of them. The domain of reproductive health in the EU, as well as the services for prenatal care, pregnancy and childbirth, has become a very profitable gift for business in the Health Sector. Greece is pushed to develop medical tourism, with services that will be profitable for the businessmen, but very expensive for the popular families. The promotion of

banning abortions in Spain is a measure that mostly strikes women of popular families, as those are deprived of free contraception and family planning services etc. On the other hand, bourgeois women can overcome the obstacles, even the legal ones, as they can afford a trip to a foreign country where they can proceed to an abortion in a hospital of their choice. On the contrary, women of popular strata are forced to resort to illegal practices with all the possible consequences for their lives or keeping a baby against their will.

These anti-people changes are swept under an ideological carpet that revives reactionary and anachronistic views, such as the banning of abortion, that strike the women reproductive rights of the working-popular family. The abortion cannot be considered a crime. We are going to stand against those who attempt to ban and penalize it.

In the eve of the elections for the European Parliament, they attempt to persuade us that the participation of more women in the Decision Making Centers (DMC) stands as a proof for the conquest of equality by women. Of course on our side we defend the more participation of women in the popular movement. But, the questions for the participation of more women in the Decision Making Centers raised are the following: Which women will be elected in these centers? They usually are women of bourgeois elite expressing the interests of their own class and therefore, they cannot fulfill nor struggle for political solutions for the women of the popular strata. Furthermore, we raise the question which is the policy these women will implement? Naturally the policy serving and promoting capital's profit. We should consider that the most reactionary measures not only against women, but all the working people have been and are being promoted by women in Decision Making Centers. We have to mention the role of women in big imperialist interventions in the 21st century (for example Thatcher, Allbright, Raiz, Clinton, Aston etc.)

Thus, the EU is a coalition of vultures; The EU is not consistent with the women equality. The only way for the women to meet their contemporary needs is a society with the wealth in peoples' hands without exploitation and discrimination

That is the reason why in the upcoming elections for the European Parliament, we, the European Organizations of the WIDF, call the women to drop in the ballot a vote that condemns all the political powers that have supported this imperialist mechanism that is the EU and its policies. Above all we call them to take part in the organized/ coordinated and collective struggle against what causes our problems, against the policy that oppresses us. Our enemy is whoever profits from our sweat and takes advantage of the wealth that is produced by the workers and the popular strata.

At this moment we should continue to enhance our solidarity actions towards Cuba, Palestine, Lebanon, Venezuela, Gabriella (Philippines), National Women of Saharawis Women, the Syrian people, African women. We should also enhance our struggle against NATO focusing at its dissolution.

Within the frame of WIDF the European Region will exert every possible effort to mobilize the women to participate in our struggle.

Estimation for last year's action plan and proposed new action plan.

The European Office of WIDF during the meeting of Cyprus in April 2013 decided to hold a seminar about the danger of a generalized war in front of the capitalist economic crisis. We implemented this decision by organising a seminar in Athens on 24/11/2013 with the participation of WIDF European and Arab organizations.

Regarding the decision of WIDF to expand affiliated organizations in Europe, we are in the process of contacting new ones and we expect to have results in the near future.

Our action plan from now on is related with the overthrow of labour, insurance rights and the further privatization of Health and Welfare which has multiple negative consequences on the lives of women of the popular strata. Therefore we propose our movement, for next year, to proceed with common activities of our organizations in each country for:

- exclusively public and free of charge Healthcare and Public Services System where employees are paid on time and private commercial activities are restricted.
- focusing on protection of reproductive rights of women
- to inform women about EU's policy in these areas and to organize protests addressing these issues in anti-monopoly direction.

All the European organizations reported their activities orally at the Plenary