

ΣΟΣΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ Ν.Α. ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ • REGIONAL MEETING OF S.E. EUROPE

20/2/98

**ΟΙ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ
ΓΙΑ ΜΙΑ ΝΕΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ**
«**MOBILISING WOMEN FOR A NEW POLITICS**»

20-21 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ
FEBRUARY
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ΑΘΗΝΑ - ATHENS - ΖΑΠΠΕΙΟ ΜΕΓΑΡΟ



**Socialist
International
WOMEN**

ΣΟΣΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ Ν.Α. ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ

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**Socialist
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WOMEN**

ΣΟΣΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ
Περιφερειακή Διάσκεψη ΝΑ Ευρώπης

“ΟΙ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΜΙΑ ΝΕΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ”

Ζάππειο Μέγαρο
Αθήνα, Σάββατο 21 Φεβρουαρίου 1998

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

Σάββατο 21 Φεβρουαρίου 1998

10:00 - 13:00 ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ:

Audrey McLaughlin,
Πρόεδρος της Σ.Δ.Γ.
Παρασκευάς Ανγερινός
Αντιπρόεδρος του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου,
Γραμματέας των Διεθνών Σχέσεων και μέλος
του Εκτελεστικού Γραφείου του ΠΑΣΟΚ
Γιάννος Κρανιδιώτης,
Υφυπουργός Εξωτερικών.
Αννα Καραμάνου,
Γραμματέας του Τομέα Γυναικών του ΠΑΣΟΚ,
Αντιπρόεδρος της Σ.Δ.Γ και Ευρωβουλευτής

ΚΥΡΙΕΣ ΟΜΙΛΗΤΡΙΕΣ:

Βάσω Παπανδρέου,
Υπουργός Ανάπτυξης
Ingrid Shuli,
Βουλευτής,
Γραμματέας του Τομέα Γυναικών
του Σοσιαλδημοκρατικού Κόμματος, Αλβανία
Michele Kefala,
Καθηγήτρια της Κοινωνιολογίας στο Πανεπι-
στήμιο Κυπρου, Στέλεχος της ΕΔΕΚ

Συζήτηση

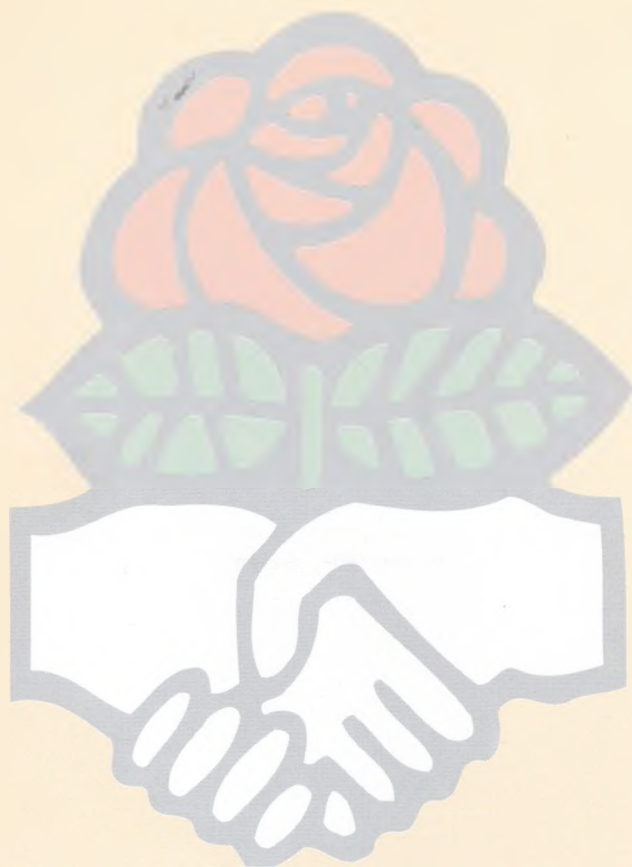
13.15-14.00 Συνέντευξη Τύπου

14.15-15.00 Γεύμα

15.00-18.00 Συζήτηση

20.30 Δεξίωση

(θα παρατεθεί από το Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών)



Socialist
International
WOMEN

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN
REGIONAL MEETING OF SE EUROPE

MOBILISING WOMEN FOR A NEW POLITICS

20-21 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ
FEBRUARY
1998

ATHENS - ZAPPIO CONFERENCE CENTRE



**Socialist
International
WOMEN**

ALBANIA

Social Democratic Women of Albania
Social Democratic Party, PSD

ARMENIA (observer status)

ARF Armenian Socialist Party

AZERBAIJAN (observer status)

Women's Organisation

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**(observer status)**

Women's Forum of Democratic Alternative
Social Democratic Party of
Bosnia & Herzegovina, SDP BiH

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (observer status)

UBSD Women
Union of Bosnian & Herzegovian
Social Democrats, UBSD

BULGARIA

Women's Clubs Federation
Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, BDP

CYPRUS

Socialist Women's Movement
EDEK Socialist Party of Cyprus

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**(observer status)**

Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, SDUM

GEORGIA (observer status)

Citizen's Union of Georgia, CUG

GREECE

The Women's Organisation
Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK

MOLDOVA

Social Democratic Party of Moldova

MONTENEGRO (observer status)

Women's Forum
Social Democratic Party of Montenegro, SDPM

TURKEY

Republican People's Party, CHP

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN
Regional Meeting of SE Europe****"MOBILIZING WOMEN
FOR A NEW POLITICS"**

Zappio Conference Centre
(opposite hotel Grande- Bretagne)

Athens, Greece, Saturday 21 February 1998

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday 21 February

10.00-13.00

WELCOME ADDRESSES:

Audrey McLaughlin
President of SIW
Paraskevas Avgerinos,
Vice-President of the European Parliament,
General Secretary of Public Relations of
PASOK and member of the Executive Office.
Giannos Kranidiotis,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Anna Karamanou,
Chair of the Women's Section of PASOK,
SIW Vice-President and MEP

KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS ON THE THEME:

Vasso Papandreou,
Minister of Development, Greece
Ingrid Shuli,
MP, International Secretary of the Social
Democratic Women of Albania
Michele Kefala,
Lecturer in Sociology at the University of
Cyprus, Member of Socialist Women's
Movement, EDEK

QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL OF KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS

13.15-14.00 hrs Press Conference
14.15-15.00 hrs Buffet Lunch hosted by PASOK
15.00-18.00 hrs Contributions from participants and debate
20.30 hrs Reception hosted by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Socialist International Women



The quota for women -
promoting gender equality



Socialist International Women is the international organisation of the women's organisations of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties affiliated to the Socialist International, at present numbering 96.

Socialist International Women is a non-governmental organisation with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, at the Council of Europe and at UNESCO.

OBJECTS

The aims and objectives of Socialist International Women are:

- * to strengthen relations between the members comprising Socialist International Women;
- * to exchange experiences between its members on ways and means of promoting, among the women of their respective countries, a knowledge and understanding of the aims and tasks of democratic socialism;
- * to seek to extend relations between members of Socialist International Women and other socialist-oriented women's groups not in membership, which desire co-operation;
- * to promote action programmes to overcome any discrimination in society, including any inequality between men and women and to work for human rights in general, development and peace.

STRUCTURE

The highest body of the Socialist International Women is the Conference, which usually convenes triennially. The last Conference took place in 1992. At the Conference delegates decide on the main political issues, the action programme for the inter-conference period and elect the Executive Committee.

Between conferences the Bureau meets twice a year. Each member organisation has the right to be represented at the Bureau meeting which discusses all political decisions of Socialist International Women. In addition the Socialist International, the International Union of Socialist Youth and the International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educational International are full members of the Bureau.

The Executive Committee, which convenes four times a year, prepares the political issues for discussion at the Bureau meeting. The committee consists of the president, general secretary, and sixteen vice-presidents who reflect the regional representation of the member organisations of Socialist International Women.

The secretariat which is situated at the seat of the Socialist International, at present in London, deals with the administration of the organisation, and in cooperation with the president or the vice-presidents with urgent political matters.

EQUALITY IN DEMOCRACY

by Pia Locatelli, SIW Vice-President

Changes in cultural patterns, in education, in health in a broad sense, in employment and participation in economic life are four pillars on which women can build an active presence in political life. Yet these pillars themselves are not enough; one could say that these conditions are necessary but not sufficient to guarantee this presence.

If one looks at the world, the reality is self-explanatory: women's representation in national parliaments or legislative bodies is around ten per cent; in cabinet positions this percentage drops to almost half; throughout history only twenty-one women have been elected as head of state or government.

These figures lead us to the conclusion that notwithstanding the positive changes towards the closing of the gap between women and men, the lack of access to political opportunities and to decision-making power is a universal problem. However different the electoral systems are in various countries, women's political under-representation is constant.

This means that no electoral system, by itself, is a guarantee of equal opportunities. Only if we provide and apply rules which have been designed and tried for this specific purpose, can we reach an effective balance in political representation.

The use of quota systems in political and public life have proved to be the most effective means to redress the balance between women and men and thereby promote gender equality. We are aware that the need to intervene to repair the present democratic deficit is not simply a question of numbers.

Our target is to achieve equality in democracy and we are committed to working for this as in the past the suffragists did for the right to vote. Today nobody contests the right to vote for women; we feel confident that the same will apply to the right to equality in the democratic process.

Democracy without women belongs to the past, equality in democracy to the future.





SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, LIMA, PERU, JUNE 1986

from the Congress Resolution

In terms of our own internal organisation, we believe that the emergence, both within the International and without, of a dynamic women's movement requires that we transform our organisation from a male-centered organisation to an integrated one, giving justice to a very large part of our membership and electorate. Such an initiative would be welcomed by women all over the world. As a sign of our determination in this area, we must follow the lead of a growing number of our member parties which have adopted quota regulations for encouraging and assuring the full participation of women in decision-making bodies. These quota regulations range from a very modest 15 percent to 50 percent. The ideal figure would, of course, be that of the percentage of the female population.

The World Action Programme for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women stresses the desirability of promoting women's participation in political organs. The Socialist International invites its member organisations to work for the establishment of machinery, preferably a ministry or secretariat of state, for implementing programmes to ensure equality between women and men. The Socialist International calls upon its member parties to facilitate women's participation in political life on an equal footing with men, ensuring women's representation on all party levels: as candidates for local, regional and national elections; and on all delegations to meetings of the Socialist International.

The Socialist International to this end declares its full support for the goals of the 'Socialist Decade for Women' announced by Socialist International Women at their Lima Conference.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, PARIS, FRANCE, DECEMBER 1988

Resolution on women in the democratic socialist movement

A basic value of socialist and social democratic ideology must be equality for women and men. There is no equality if women are not equally represented in decision-making processes, at governmental, parliamentary, municipal and party level.

The Socialist International continues firmly to believe that equality, development and peace will never be achieved without the equal participation of women in these struggles and in leadership positions. Ignoring the importance of women's full participation endangers democracy.

Women's vital participation in the struggle for human rights, social justice and peace is appreciated by their parties, but appreciation is not enough. If their work is truly appreciated, women must be represented on an equal footing with men in political power structures.

Although women engage in 70 per cent of the world's work, they own less than one per cent of the world's wealth. Although women comprise 52 per cent of the population, they hold less than ten per cent of all elected positions. These are just two examples of the inequality which still exists between men and women in our societies. Nowhere is this inequality more evident than in the sharing of economic and political power.



The Socialist International declared its full support for the goals of the Socialist Decade for Women, announced in 1986 by Socialist International Women in Lima, namely an increase in the number of women in all positions of power in SI member parties and as candidates for elections. To this end, affirmative action is necessary, be it quota or other regulations in party statutes, with the right of women's organisations to have a say in the selection process.

The SI has noted a modest increase in the number of parties who have introduced such regulations and welcomes an increase in the number of women in delegations to its meetings and expects that those member parties who, most regrettably, still fail to include women in their delegations will very soon take steps to rectify this situation. However, we are far from satisfied with the pace of progress and are concerned at the resistance from our own parties to the implementation of positive action programmes such as quota regulations.

The Socialist International calls upon its member parties to carry out the Lima Resolution. The SI, throughout this Socialist Decade for Women, will closely monitor the progress made and will continue to support women's organisations in member parties in their struggle to achieve equality in political representation and power; bearing in mind the divergence between the older democratic systems and the newly established democracies, the SI demands that all socialists should aim to achieve equal representation (50/50) of women at all levels, national and local, both legislative and organisational, within the next ten years.

The SI emphasises the importance of women's organisations in achieving equality and social justice in society. The SI calls on its member parties to strengthen by organisational and financial means their respective women's organisations.

The SI calls upon its member organisations to give political power for women the highest possible priority, including educating and encouraging its members to take leadership positions.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, JUNE 1989

from the Congress Resolution: Women's rights

The rights of women in particular need special attention. Our long-standing campaign on women's rights will go forward with renewed vigour in the 1990s. Our agenda includes provisions on working conditions and equal treatment; family and child care facilities; the elimination of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and positive discrimination in certain key areas where women are disadvantaged.

Equality between women and men is a basic socialist and democratic value. To ignore women's full participation in the decision-making processes endangers democracy. The Socialist International reaffirms the aims of the Socialist Decade for Women announced in Lima in 1986, and demands that all socialists should aim to achieve equal representation (50/50) of women at all levels, national and organisational, within the next ten years. Member parties will also strengthen the organisation and financial status of their women's organisations.



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, DECEMBER 1994

Resolution on the implementation of the quota

In its Council resolution of December 1988 in Paris, the Socialist International declared its full support for the goals of the Socialist Decade for Women announced by Socialist International Women in Lima in 1986, namely an increase in the number of women in all decision-making bodies of SI member parties and as candidates in elections.

To this end, the Socialist International recognised that positive action was necessary, be it quota, which is a means of dismantling all forms of discrimination, or other regulations in party statutes, and called upon its member parties to implement the SIW's Lima resolution, demanding that all socialists should aim to achieve equal representation (50/50) of women at all levels.

Socialist International Women has since then been monitoring the implementation of the Lima and Paris resolutions and supporting the struggle of women's organisations in member parties to achieve equality in political representation. At its Bureau meeting in Lisbon in October 1993 the progress made and the difficulties encountered were discussed.

The SI welcomes the fact that a growing number of member parties have, over the past years, adopted some kind of quota system, but notes that the majority have not yet adopted quota or other measures of positive action to promote equality for women. SI member parties in Canada, the USA, Sweden and France have already adopted a 50/50 quota, either for the party structure or for candidates' lists. Other parties (in Germany, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Israel) have introduced a 40 per cent quota for both genders. Most have quotas between 20 and 33 per cent for women or proportional quotas according to the percentage of female membership in the party.

The SI congratulates women's organisations on their success and welcomes progress made in SI member parties and acknowledges that the SI is making an important contribution to the promotion of women in decision-making bodies.

However, while quotas are generally applied at national level, they are less likely to be implemented at local level. The SI notes with concern that at higher levels of responsibility, fewer women are represented and resistance of parties to elect or appoint women to positions of influence becomes stronger.

The SI also notes that women often find quota regulations offensive and belittling, because they never encountered obstacles in their own career and resent the 'protection' aspect of quotas for women. Men often consider quotas as an unfair preference of women, even as discriminatory against men. Younger women who have matured politically in an environment of gender balance often do not understand the continued need for measures securing this balance.

Therefore the SI stresses the necessity that member parties:

- * support the principle of quotas for both genders which are generally perceived as enhancing inner-party democracy;
- * monitor closely the way in which quotas and other regulations are implemented;
- * elaborate and include precise implementing regulations when quotas are introduced; the lack of such regulations frequently results in non-compliance;

propose women for decision-making bodies of the party structure at all levels; prepare women to hold political office by offering them political education and by training women candidates;

- * ensure that party work (timetables, agenda of meetings etc) be adapted to women's needs, thus changing the political culture which at present is mainly geared at men's participation. Party work should be made compatible with work schedules and family commitments of both men and women;
- * demand a ten per cent increase in women candidates for every election in order to reach the 50 per cent gender-balance by the year 2000.
- * make national reports on the number of women in their parliamentary party groups every two years.

The SI calls on member parties to point out that quotas are transitory tools to overcome gender imbalances and that anti-discrimination formulas for both genders are to be considered as permanent democratic guarantees to achieve and maintain politics based on equal opportunity. The SI underlines that in the nineties and beyond, a truly progressive and comprehensive social-democratic policy cannot be implemented without women's full contribution. The SI stresses that in the light of the principle of the parity of women and men, quotas should not be taken as short-term measures for achieving equality, but as a means of putting into effect the principles of democracy for all.



THE QUOTA FOR WOMEN IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Member parties that have introduced a quota system for women (as of July 1995)

ARGENTINA	
Popular Socialist Party	30%
AUSTRALIA	
Australian Labor Party	35% by the year 2000.
AUSTRIA	
Social Democratic Party of Austria	40% for both genders.
BELGIUM	
Socialist Party, PS	20%
Socialist Party, SP	25%
CANADA	
New Democratic Party	50%
CHILE	
Radical Social Democratic Party	20% for party organisation.
Party for Democracy	20%
Socialist Party of Chile	20%
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Czech Social Democratic Party	20% for party organisation.
DENMARK	
Social Democratic Party	40% for both genders.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
Dominican Revolutionary Party	25%
FINLAND	
Finnish Social Democratic Party	50%
FRANCE	
Socialist Party	30%
GERMANY	
Social Democratic Party of Germany	33.3% for candidates' lists; 40% for party organisation; by 1998, 40% for lists for both genders.
GREAT BRITAIN	
The Labour Party	40% for party organisation. by the year 2000, 50% in the parliamentary party.
GREECE	
Panhellenic Socialist Movement	proportional, according to female membership of the party.
HAITI	
Party of the National Congress of Democratic Movements	25%
IRELAND	
The Labour Party	20%
ISRAEL	
Israel Labour Party	20%
United Workers' Party of Israel	40% for party organisation and both genders.

ITALY

Italian Socialists	newly-formed party (formerly PSI which had a 20% quota). 40% for both genders.
Democratic Party of the Left	
IVORY COAST	
Ivory Coast Popular Front	30%
LITHUANIA	
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	25%
MALTA	
Malta Labour Party	20%
NETHERLANDS	
Labour Party	33%
NICARAGUA	
Sandinista National Liberation Front	30% minimum.
NORWAY	
Norwegian Labour Party	40% for both genders.
PHILIPPINES	
Philippines Democratic Socialist Party	25%
PORTUGAL	
Socialist Party	25%
SENEGAL	
Socialist Party of Senegal	25%
SPAIN	
Spanish Socialist Workers' Party	33% minimum.
SWEDEN	
Swedish Social Democratic Party	50% for all lists.
SWITZERLAND	
Social Democratic Party of Switzerland	40%
TURKEY	
Social Democratic People's Party	25% for both genders.
USA	
Democratic Socialists of America	50% for internal organisation. (DSA does not run candidates for public office).
VENEZUELA	
Democratic Action	30%

THE QUOTA FOR WOMEN IN LEGISLATION

In Argentina, an amendment to the electoral law was passed in November 1991. It stipulates that candidates' lists must include a minimum of 30 per cent women candidates for the posts up for election and in proportions which offer the possibility of being elected. Lists which do not comply with these requirements will not be made official.

In Belgium, legislation was passed in May 1994, stipulating a quota of one in four places on parliamentary candidates' lists from 1 January 1996 to 1 January 1999, to be increased thereafter to one in three. Sanctions consist of limiting the number of candidates: for example, where the one in four rule applies, of 25 candidates, 6 must be women. If there are only 4 women on the list, 2 places remain empty.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

On 17 August 1907, fifty-eight delegates from European and overseas countries met at the first International Socialist Women's Conference at Stuttgart and decided to establish an international secretariat with Clara Zetkin of Germany in charge. The Conference adopted a resolution on women's franchise, which was to become the starting point of an untiring struggle for women's political rights.

This stand on women's franchise was endorsed by the great Socialist Congress which followed the women's conference. At that time, various types of women's organisations existed, but most of them still weak. Some trade unions catered for women, but the wage rates for women were very much lower than those paid to men. In most states the women had no political rights whatever. There were exceptions: in Finland and Norway the franchise for women had already been won. One of the Finnish delegates to the Stuttgart Conference, Hilja Parssinen, was a member of parliament. At the Stuttgart Conference a woman delegate from India, mentioned as comrade Rama from Bombay, and the Japanese delegate, Tokiyro Kato, spoke of the unimaginable poverty, exploitation and lack of rights of women in their countries.

The second conference, which took place in Copenhagen 1910 adopted a resolution to set one day in the year aside as International Women's Day and on that day agitate for women's suffrage and the political emancipation of women.

The conference adopted also a resolution on peace. Socialist International Women's plea for peace in 1910 was timely, but it could not stop events. In 1912 the Socialist International held an extraordinary conference in Basle to monitor peace and ask for an end to the Balkan war. Clara Zetkin gave a much applauded speech at this conference, appealing for a 'Krieg dem Krieg' (war against war).

But all was spoken and written in vain. In 1914, World War I started, only days before the third Women's Conference should have taken place in Vienna. The idea of international socialism and its organisation had been smothered by the war. Nevertheless Marianne Pollak writes in her brochure in 1948: "But - and we women are proud of it - the women were the first ones, sooner than the men, to find their senses again". In March 1915 in Berne, there was an International Women's Conference, the first international conference of Socialists after the beginning of the war.

After the first world war the women's movement was restructured. In 1925, Edith Kemmis then took charge of the Women's Secretariat in Zurich, under the guidance of Friedrich Adler, Secretary of the Labour and Socialist International, who valiantly supported the women's cause.

Martha Tausk, Member of Parliament in Styria, took over the post of International Women's Secretary in 1928 and gave it up only in 1934, at the time of the persecutions against the Austrian Socialists when many of them had to go into exile. A year later, the Secretariat of the International moved to Brussels and Alice Pels was the secretary until 1940.

The themes discussed at conferences between the two world wars, were 'Women and Mobilisation', 'Women and Fascism' and 'The Economic Crisis'. The outbreak of the second world war made the work of the International impossible. Once again the organisation was destroyed. In March 1941, Mary Sutherland and the British Labour Women organised an International Women's Day where comrades of the countries under fascist regimes gave speeches in their mother tongue. This was the last International meeting of women for some time.

In 1955 the International Council of Social Democratic Women was founded, following a series of international women's conferences demanding the renewal of the movement. The name of the organisation was changed to its present name, Socialist International Women, in 1978.

ACTIVITIES AND RESOLUTIONS SINCE 1985

As well as actions and statements on topical issues, conferences, seminars and statutory meetings of Socialist International Women over the last decade have dealt with and adopted resolutions on the following themes:

- * A socialist decade for women
- * Young women - our future
- * After Nairobi - women's participation in the development process
- * Women - a key factor in the economic development of Africa
- * Disarmament for development
- * Women and political power
- * Women's work; women's right to health services; children's rights
- * Prevention of sexual exploitation - a challenge for action
- * Discrimination against women in legislation
- * Foreign debt - how can women break the cycles of affluence and poverty?
- * Organising and educating women in politics
- * Women and health
- * The family - women's responsibility?
- * Women in changing economic systems
- * Women and violence in society
- * Ideological changes - continuing male dominance
- * Women changing places
- * Women's education - the key to economic development

(copies of resolutions are available from the SIW secretariat)

MEMBERS OF THE SIW EXECUTIVE

President:	Anne-Marie Lizin	Belgium
Vice-Presidents:	Türkan Akyol	Turkey
	Emna Aouij	Tunisia
	Helen Clark	New Zealand
	Helle Degn	Denmark
	Ligia Doutel de Andrade	Brazil
	Alejandra Faulbaum	Chile
	Irmtraut Karlsson	Austria
	Manae Kubota	Japan
	Ester Levanon-Mordoch	Israel
	Pia Locatelli	Italy
	Christine Riddiough	United States
	Ilonka van Rijn	The Netherlands
	Ixora Rojas	Venezuela
	Sofía Leonor Sánchez	Dominican Republic
	Clare Short	Great Britain
	Mata Sy Diallo	Senegal
General Secretary:	Marlène Haas	The Netherlands

THE GABRIELE PROFT FUND

The Gabriele Proft Fund was established in 1969 to provide support for women's projects in developing countries. Its founder, Gabriele Proft was born in Austria in 1879. She was elected secretary of the women's organisation of the Austrian Socialist Party in 1909 and was amongst the first women to be elected to the Austrian parliament in 1919, to which she belonged until 1934 and again from 1945 to 1953. In January 1945 she was arrested and sent to a concentration camp where she remained until the end of the Second World War. Gabriele Proft was president of the Austrian Women's Organisation until 1959, when she was made honorary president for life. She was actively engaged in reconstituting SIW after the war. Gabriele Proft died in 1971.

Since 1987, 35 donations have been made to women's projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The aim of many of the projects supported is to help women become economically independent: funds have been given to assist women in setting up or developing small income-generating projects such as breeding cattle or poultry, growing vegetables, making pottery, weaving cotton as well as handicraft and sewing projects. Support has also been given for training women in areas as diverse as midwifery, sewing, marketing, vegetable-growing and accountancy. In addition, assistance has been given to health care centres, women's shelters and counselling centres for the victims of violence and rape.

The Gabriele Proft Fund exists on voluntary contributions from individuals and SIW member organisations. Donations are welcome and should be sent to:

Socialist International Women
Account N° 22244441
National Westminster Bank
145 Clapham High Street
London SW4 7SZ
United Kingdom

WOMEN AND POLITICS

Women and Politics, the quarterly journal of Socialist International Women, seeks to illustrate and analyse the situation of women all over the world. It provides a unique forum for exploring the crucial topics of the day and the issues that affect women's lives from a global perspective. *Women and Politics* also covers the activities of Socialist International Women, reporting on meetings held and resolutions passed.

To subscribe to *Women and Politics*, please send a cheque or money order (UK £12, other countries £15), payable to The Socialist International, or alternatively, the number, expiry date of your Visa/Mastercard/Access card together with your signature to: Socialist Affairs Subscriptions, Regency Fulfilment Services Ltd, 120-126 Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3HP, United Kingdom.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- ALBANIA
Albanian Social Democratic Women's Organisation, Social Democratic Party of Albania (consultative member)
- ALGERIA
Front of Socialist Forces, FFS (consultative member)
- ARGENTINA
Women's Secretariat, Popular Socialist Party, PSP
- ARUBA
People's Electoral Movement, MEP
- AUSTRALIA
Australian Labor Party Women
- AUSTRIA
Women's Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ
- BARBADOS
Barbados Labour Party Women's League
- BELGIUM
Inter-Federal Commission of Socialist Women, Socialist Party, PS
Socialist Women, Socialist Party, SP
- BENIN
Democratic Union of Progressive Forces, UDFP (observer member)
Movement for Democracy and Social Progress, MDPS (observer member)
- BOLIVIA
Revolutionary Left Movement, MIR
- BRAZIL
Democratic Labour Party, PDT
- BULGARIA
The Women's Organisation, Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, BSDP
- BURKINA FASO
Party for Democracy and Progress, PDP
- CANADA
Participation of Women's Committee, New Democratic Party, NDP/NPD
- CAPE VERDE
Organisation of Women of Cape Verde, African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde, PAICV (consultative member)
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Women's Movement, Patriotic Front for Progress, FPP (observer member)
- CHILE
National Organisation of Women of the Radical Social Democratic Party, PRSD
Party for Democracy, PPD (consultative member)
Union of Socialist Women of Chile, Socialist Party, PS (consultative member)
- COLOMBIA
Liberal Party, PL (consultative member)
Democratic Alliance M-19 (observer member)
- COSTA RICA
Women's Movement of the National Liberation Party, PLN
- CURAÇAO
Movement for a New Antilles, MAN
- CYPRUS
Socialist Women's Movement, EDEK Socialist Party
- CZECH REPUBLIC
Social Democratic Women, Czech Social Democratic Party
- DENMARK
Commission for Equality, Social Democratic Party
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Federation of Social Democratic Women, Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD
- ECUADOR
Women's National Secretariat of the Democratic Left Party, PID
- EGYPT
National Democratic Party, NDP
- EL SALVADOR
Socialist Women of El Salvador, National Revolutionary Movement, MNR



ESTONIA
Women's Department, Estonian Social Democratic Party, ESDP

FIJI
Fiji Labour Party (consultative member)

FINLAND
Finnish Social Democratic Women, Social Democratic Party, SDP

FRANCE
National Secretariat for Women's Rights, Socialist Party, PS

GERMANY
Federation of Social Democratic Women, Social Democratic Party, SPD

GREAT BRITAIN
Labour Party Women

GREECE
The Women's Organisation, Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK

GREENLAND
SIUMUT (consultative member)

GUATEMALA
Democratic Socialist Women, Democratic Socialist Party of Guatemala, PSD

GUYANA
Working Peoples' Alliance, WPA (consultative member)

HAITI
Movement of Socialist Women, Revolutionary Progressive Nationalist Party of Haiti, PANPRA
Organisation of KONAKOM Women, Party of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, KONAKOM (consultative member)

HUNGARY
Women's Alliance, Hungarian Social Democratic Party, MSzDP (observer member)
Women's Organisation, Hungarian Socialist Party, MSzP (observer member)

ICELAND
Women's League, Social Democratic Party, SAK

IRELAND
Labour Women's National Council, The Labour Party

ISRAEL
Women's Section, Israel Labour Party
Women's Section, United Workers' Party, MAPAM

ITALY
Women's Movement, Italian Social Democratic Party, PSDI
Women's Department, Italian Socialists, SI
Democratic Party of the Left, PDS

IVORY COAST
Women's Organisation, Ivory Coast Popular Front, FPI (consultative member)

JAMAICA
Women's Movement, Peoples' National Party, PNP

JAPAN
Social Democratic Party of Japan, SDPJ

LATVIA
Social Democratic Women's Organisation, Latvian Social Democratic Workers' Party, LSDSP

LEBANON
Women's Union, Progressive Socialist Party, PSP

LITHUANIA
Lithuanian Social Democratic Women's Union, Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, LSDP

LUXEMBOURG
Socialist Women, Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, LSAP/POS

MADAGASCAR
Women of the Party for National Unity, VITM (consultative member)

MALAYSIA
Women's Section, Democratic Action Party, DAP

MALTA
Women's Central Committee, Malta Labour Party

MAURITIUS
Mauritius Labour Women, Mauritius Labour Party

MONGOLIA
Women for Social Progress, Mongolian Social Democratic Party, MSDP (consultative member)

MOROCCO
Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP

NEPAL
Nepal Women's Association, Nepali Congress Party (consultative member)

NETHERLANDS
Red Women of the Labour Party, PvDA

NEW ZEALAND
Women's Council, New Zealand Labour Party

NICARAGUA
AMNLAE, Sandinista National Liberation Front, FSLN (observer member)

NORTHERN IRELAND
Women of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, SDLP

NORWAY
Norwegian Labour Party Women

PAKISTAN
Pakistan People's Party, PPP (consultative member)

PARAGUAY
Revolutionary Febrerista Party, PRF

PERU
Women's Action of the Peruvian Aprista Party, PAP (consultative member)

PHILIPPINES
Philippines Democratic Socialist Party, PDSP (consultative member)

PORTUGAL
National Department of Women of the Socialist Party, PS

PUERTO RICO
Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP

SAN MARINO
San Marino Socialist Party, PSS

SENEGAL
National Movement of Socialist Women of the Socialist Party of Senegal, PS

SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Slovak Women's Social Democracy Community, Social Democratic Party of Slovakia

SLOVENIA
Women's Section, Social Democratic Party of Slovenia (observer member)

SPAIN
Secretariat of Women's Participation, Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE

ST KITTS-NEVIS
St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (consultative member)

ST LUCIA
Working Women's Organisation, St. Lucia Labour Party, SLP (consultative member)

ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
Women's League, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party, SVGLP (consultative member)

SWEDEN
National Federation of Social Democratic Women in Sweden, Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP

SWITZERLAND
Social Democratic Women of Switzerland, Social Democratic Party of Switzerland

TUNISIA
Permanent Women's Secretariat, Constitutional Democratic Assembly, RCD
Popular Unity Movement, MUP (consultative member)

TURKEY
Social Democratic People's Party, SHP

URUGUAY
National Women's Secretariat, Party for the Government of the People, PGP (consultative member)

USA
Feminist Commission, Democratic Socialists of America, DSA
Women's Department, Social Democrats USA, SDUSA

VENEZUELA
Women's Action, Democratic Action, AD
Women of the People's Electoral Movement, MEP (consultative member).





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ΣΟΣΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ΜΕΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΤΕΛΕΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ

που θα συμμετέχουν στην Συνεδρίαση της Ε.Ε και
στην Περιφερειακή Διάσκεψη στις 20-21 Φεβρουαρίου 1998

ΒΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΑ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑΤΑ

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Socialist
International
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Socialist International Women

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Socialist
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Women

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

Regional meeting

'Mobilising women for a new politics'

Athens, Greece, 21 February 1998

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Socialist International Women

Audrey McLAUGHLIN
Marlène HAAS

Member Organisations

ALBANIA

Social Democratic Women of Albania

Ingrid SHULI
Zhaneta HARKA
Lidia KALTANJI

ARMENIA

Armenian Socialist Party, ARF

Araxe APELIAN KOLANIAN

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Women's Forum, SDP BiH

Mira WINTERHALTER-JADRIC

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

UBSD Women

Mevlida KUNOSIC-VLAJIC

BULGARIA

Women's Clubs Federation, BSDP

Valia MIHAILOVA SHIROKOVA

CYPRUS

Socialist Women's Movement, EDEK

Roula MAVRONICOLA
Anna YANNACOU
Michèle KEFALA
Marcia ALEXAKI
Themis SAVVIDOU
Georgia MARCOU
Erasmia PANAYIOTOU
Kety STYLIANAKI

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, SDUM Radmila SHEKERINSKA

GERMANY

Federation of Social Democratic Women, SPD Lissy GRÖNER

GREAT BRITAIN

National Women's Organisation, Labour Party Brenda ETCHELLS

GREECE

Women's Section, PASOK Vasso PAPANDREOU
Anna KARAMANOU

ISRAEL

Forum for Gender Equality, MAPAM/MERETZ Ester LEVANON-MORDOCH

ITALY

Women's Commission, SI Pia LOCATELLI

MONTENEGRO

Women's Forum, SDPM Kaca DURICKOVIC
Gordana MUGOSA
Sladana PEJOVIC

THE NETHERLANDS

Labour Party, PvdA Sharon DIJKSMA

SENEGAL

Socialist Party Aminata MBAYE

Guest Organisations

CROATIA

Women's Forum, SDP Diana CIZMADIJA



Socialist
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SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

Executive meeting & Regional meeting

'Mobilising women for a new politics'

Zappio Conference Centre
Athens. Greece. 20-21 February 1998

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday 20 February

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 09.00 - 13.00 hrs | Executive Meeting |
| 13.30 - 14.00 hrs | Meeting with Costas Simitis, Prime Minister |
| 14.15 - 15.00 hrs | Buffet lunch hosted by PASOK |
| 15.00 - 18.00 hrs | Continuation of Executive Meeting |
| 20.30 hrs | Dinner hosted by Elizabeth Papazoi, Minister for the Aegean Sea |

Saturday 21 February

Regional Meeting

10.00 - 13.00 hrs Welcome addresses:

Audrey McLaughlin, President of SIW

Anna Karamanou MEP, Chair of the Women's Section of PASOK and SIW Vice-President

Paraskevas Avgerinos, Vice-President of the European Parliament, General Secretary of Public Relations for PASOK and member of the Executive Office

Giannos Kranidiotis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Key-note speakers on the theme:

Vasso Papandreou, Minister for Development, Greece

Ingrid Shuli MP, International Secretary of the Social Democratic Women of Albania

Michèle Kefala, Lecturer in sociology at the University of Cyprus, Member of Socialist Women's Movement, EDEK

Questions to the panel of key-note speakers

13.15 - 14.00 hrs	Press conference
14.15 - 15.00 hrs	Buffet lunch hosted by PASOK
15.00 - 18.00 hrs	Contributions from participants and debate
20.30 hrs	Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sunday 22 February

morning	Visit to the Acropolis
	Lunch



Socialist International WOMEN

Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JW, United Kingdom
Telephone (44 171) 627 4449 Telefax (44 171) 720 4448/498 1293 E-mail socintwomen@gn.apc.org

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Socialist International Women is the international organisation of the women's organisations of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties affiliated to the Socialist International. The organisation has no individual members, only member organisations can join. There are currently 125 member organisations in all parts of the world. The aims and objectives of Socialist International Women are to strengthen relations between its member organisations; to promote action programmes to overcome any discrimination in society, including any inequality between men and women and to work for human rights in general, development and peace; to promote a knowledge and understanding amongst women of the aims and tasks of democratic socialism; to extend relations between its members and other socialist-oriented women's groups not in membership, which desire co-operation. Socialist International Women is a non-governmental organisation with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and at the Council of Europe.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- Albania**
 - Social Democratic Women of Albania, Social Democratic Party, PSD
- Algeria**
 - National secretariat for human rights and women's affairs, Socialist Forces Front, FFS
- Angola**
 - Organisation of Angolan Women, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA (observer member)
- Argentina**
 - Women's Secretariat, Popular Socialist Party, PSP
 - Radical Civic Union, UCR (consultative member)
- Armenia**
 - Armenian Socialist Party, ARF (observer member)
- Aruba**
 - People's Electoral Movement, MEP
- Australia**
 - National Policy on Women Committee, Australian Labor Party, ALP
- Austria**
 - Social Democratic Women of Austria, Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ
- Azerbaijan**
 - Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, SDPA (observer member)
- Barbados**
 - Women's League, Barbados Labour Party
- Belgium**
 - Inter-Federal Women's Commission, Socialist Party, PS
 - Socialist Women, Socialist Party, SP

- Benin**
 - Democratic Union of Progressive Forces, UDFP (observer member)
- Bolivia**
 - Revolutionary Left Movement, MIR
- Bosnia & Herzegovina**
 - Social Democratic Party, SDP BiH (observer member)
 - Union of Bosnian and Herzegovinian Social Democrats, UBSD (observer member)
- Botswana**
 - Women's League, Botswana National Front, BNF (observer member)
- Brazil**
 - National Women's Movement, Democratic Labour Party, PDT
- Bulgaria**
 - Women's Clubs Federation, Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, BSDP
- Burkina Faso**
 - Party for Democracy and Progress, PDP
- Cameroon**
 - Social Democratic Front, SDF (consultative member)
- Canada**
 - Participation of Women Committee, New Democratic Party/Nouveau Parti Démocratique, NDP/NPD
- Cape Verde**
 - African Independence Party of Cape Verde, PAICV
- Central African Republic**
 - Patriotic Front for Progress, FPP (observer member)
- Chile**
 - National Women's Organisation, Radical Social Democratic Party, PRSD
 - National Women's Secretariat, Party for Democracy, PPD
 - Union of Socialist Women of Chile, Socialist Party of Chile, PS
- Colombia**
 - Liberal Party of Colombia, PLC (consultative member)
 - Women's Secretariat, M-19 Democratic Alliance (observer member)
- Costa Rica**
 - Women's Movement, National Liberation Party, PLN
- Curaçao**
 - Movement for a New Antilles, MAN
- Cyprus**
 - Socialist Women's Movement, EDEK Socialist Party of Cyprus
- Czech Republic**
 - Social Democratic Women, Czech Social Democratic Party, CSSD
- Denmark**
 - Commission for Equality, Social Democratic Party
- Dominica**
 - Dominica Labour Women, Dominica Labour Party (consultative member)
- Dominican Republic**
 - Dominican Federation of Social Democratic Women, FEDOMUSDE, Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD
- Ecuador**
 - Women's National Secretariat, Democratic Left Party, PID
- Egypt**
 - National Democratic Party, NDP
- El Salvador**
 - Democratic Party (observer member)
- Equatorial Guinea**
 - Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS (consultative member)
- Estonia**
 - Women's Department, Mõõdukad
- Fiji**
 - Fiji Labour Party (consultative member)
- Finland**
 - Social Democratic Women in Finland, Finnish Social Democratic Party, SDP

- France**
 - National Secretariat for Women's Rights, Socialist Party, PS
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
 - Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, SDUM (observer member)
- Gabon**
 - Gabonese Party of Progress, PGP (consultative member)
- Georgia**
 - Citizen's Union of Georgia, CUG (observer member)
- Germany**
 - Federation of Social Democratic Women, ASF, Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD
- Great Britain**
 - Labour Party Women, The Labour Party
- Greece**
 - Women's Section, Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK
- Greenland**
 - SIUMUT (consultative member)
- Guatemala**
 - Social Democratic Party of Guatemala, PSD
- Guyana**
 - Working People's Alliance, WPA (consultative member)
- Haiti**
 - Socialist Women's Movement, FANM, Revolutionary Progressive Nationalist Party of Haiti, PANPRA
 - KONAKOM Women's Organisation, OFEK, Party of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, KONAKOM
 - Lavalas Political Organisation, OLP (observer member)
- Hungary**
 - Women's Alliance, Hungarian Social Democratic Party, MSzDP (observer member)
 - Women's Section, Hungarian Socialist Party, MSzP
- Iceland**
 - Women's League, Social Democratic Party of Iceland
- India**
 - Women's Wing, Janata Dal (observer member)
- Iran**
 - Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, PDKI (observer member)
- Ireland**
 - Labour Women's National Council, The Labour Party
- Israel**
 - Women's Section, Israel Labour Party
 - Women's Section, United Workers' Party, MAPAM
- Italy**
 - Women's Movement, Italian Democratic Socialist Party, PSDI
 - Women's Commission, Italian Socialists, SI
 - Democratic Party of the Left, PDS
- Ivory Coast**
 - Women's Organisation, Ivory Coast Popular Front, FPI
- Jamaica**
 - Women's Movement, People's National Party, PNP
- Japan**
 - Women's Bureau, Social Democratic Party of Japan, SDP
- Latvia**
 - Social Democratic Women's Organisation, Latvian Social Democratic Workers' Party, LSDSP
- Lebanon**
 - Women's Union, Progressive Socialist Party, PSP
- Lithuania**
 - Lithuanian Social Democratic Women's Union, Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, LSDP
- Luxembourg**
 - Socialist Women, Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, LSAP/POSL

- Madagascar**
- Party for National Unity, VITM (consultative member)
- Malaysia**
- Women's Section, Democratic Action Party, DAP
- Mali**
- African Party for Solidarity and Justice, ADEMA-PASJ (consultative member)
- Malta**
- Women's Central Committee, Malta Labour Party
- Mauritius**
- Mauritius Labour Women, Mauritius Labour Party
- Mauritius Militant Movement, MMM (consultative member)
- Mexico**
- Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD
- Women's Congress, Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI (consultative member)
- Moldova**
- Social Democratic Party of Moldova (observer member)
- Mongolia**
- Mongolian Social Democratic Women's Movement, Mongolian Social Democratic Party, MSDP
- Montenegro**
- Social Democratic Party of Montenegro, SDPM (observer member)
- Morocco**
- Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP
- Mozambique**
- Mozambique Liberation Front, FRELIMO (consultative member)
- Nepal**
- Nepal Women's Association, Nepali Congress Party (consultative member)
- The Netherlands**
- Labour Party, PvdA
- New Zealand**
- Women's Council, New Zealand Labour Party
- Nicaragua**
- Sandinista National Liberation Front, FSLN
- Niger**
- Party for Democracy and Socialism of Niger, PNDS (consultative member)
- Northern Ireland**
- Social Democratic and Labour Party Women, Social Democratic and Labour Party, SDLP
- Norway**
- Norwegian Labour Party Women, Norwegian Labour Party, DNA
- Pakistan**
- Pakistan People's Party, PPP (consultative member)
- Panama**
- Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD (consultative member)
- Paraguay**
- Revolutionary Febrerista Party, PRF
- Peru**
- Women's Political Action, Peruvian Aprista Party, PAP (consultative member)
- The Philippines**
- Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines, Philippines Democratic Socialist Party, PDSP (consultative member)
- Poland**
- Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland, SdRP
- Union of Labour, UP
- Portugal**
- National Women's Department, Socialist Party, PS
- Puerto Rico**
- Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP
- Romania**
- Women's Organisation, Romanian Social Democratic Party, PSDR (consultative member)
- Women's Organisation, Democratic Party, DP (consultative member)

- **San Marino**
San Marino Socialist Party, PSS
- **Senegal**
National Movement of Socialist Women, Socialist Party of Senegal, PS
- **Slovakia**
Slovak Women's Social Democratic Community, Social Democratic Party of Slovakia, SDSS
- Party of the Democratic Left, SDL
- **Slovenia**
Women's Forum, United List of Social Democrats, ZL
- **Spain**
Participation of Women Secretariat, Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE
- **St. Kitts-Nevis**
St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (consultative member)
- **St. Lucia**
Working Women's Organisation, St. Lucia Labour Party, SLP (consultative member)
- **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**
Women's Arm, Unity Labour Party (consultative member)
- **Sweden**
National Federation of Social Democratic Women in Sweden, SSKF, Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP
- **Switzerland**
Social Democratic Women of Switzerland, Social Democratic Party of Switzerland
- **Territories under Palestinian Authority**
Fatah (observer member)
- **Tunisia**
Permanent Women's Secretariat, Constitutional Democratic Assembly, RCD
- Popular Unity Movement, MUP (consultative member)
- **Turkey**
Republican People's Party, CHP
- **USA**
Feminist Commission, Democratic Socialists of America, DSA
Women's Department, Social Democrats USA, SDUSA
- **Venezuela**
National Women's Secretariat, Democratic Action, AD
People's Electoral Movement, MEP (consultative member)

FRATERNAL ORGANISATIONS

International Falcon Movement/Socialist Education International, IFM/SEI
International Union of Socialist Youth, IUSY
Socialist International, SI

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

International League of Religious Socialists, ILRS
International Union of Socialist Democratic Teachers, IUSDT
Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists
Party of European Socialists, PES

STRUCTURE OF SIW

The highest body of the Socialist International Women is the Conference. The Conference usually convenes tri-annually. The last Conference took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York in September 1996. At the Conference delegates decide on the main political issues, the action programme for the interconference period and elect the responsible functionaries. Between conferences the Bureau meets twice a year.

Each member organisation has the right to be represented at the Bureau meeting. In addition the Socialist International, the International Union of Socialist Youth and the International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educational International are full members of the Bureau. The Bureau discusses all political decisions of Socialist International Women. For special themes and broader issues, conferences and seminars are organised separately.

The Executive Committee of Socialist International Women which convenes four times a year is mainly concerned with administrative matters but it also prepares the political issues for discussion at the Bureau meeting.

The members of the Executive are elected to reflect regional representation of the member organisations of Socialist International Women.

The Secretariat which is situated at the seat of the Socialist International, at present in London, deals with the administration of the organisation, and in cooperation with the President or the Vice-Presidents with urgent political matters.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED IN SEPTEMBER 1996

PRESIDENT:	Audrey McLaughlin	Canada
VICE-PRESIDENTS:	Emna Aouf	Tunisia
	Helle Degn	Denmark
	Sharon Dijkema	The Netherlands
	Ligia Doutel de Andrade	Brazil
	Brenda Etchells	Great Britain
	Lissy Gröner	Germany
	Anna Karamanou	Greece
	Ester Levanon-Mordoch	Israel
	Pia Locatelli	Italy
	Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye	Senegal
	Shigeko Mieno	Japan
	Margaret Reynolds	Australia
	Christine R. Riddiough	United States
	Ixora Rojas	Venezuela
	Sofía Leonor Sánchez Baret	Dominican Republic
	María del Carmen Viñas	Argentina
GENERAL SECRETARY:	Marlene Haas	The Netherlands

A BRIEF HISTORY

On 17 August 1907, fifty-eight delegates from European and overseas countries met at the first International Socialist Women's Conference at Stuttgart and decided to establish an international secretariat with Clara Zetkin of Germany in charge. The Conference adopted a resolution on women's franchise, which was to become the starting point of an untiring struggle for women's political rights.

This stand on women's franchise was endorsed by the great Socialist Congress which followed the women's conference. At that time, various types of women's organisations existed, but most of them still weak. Some trade unions catered for women, but the wage rates for women were very much lower than those paid to men. In most states the women had no political rights whatever. There were

exceptions: in Finland and Norway the franchise for women had already been won. One of the Finnish delegates to the Stuttgart Conference, Hilja Parssinen, was a member of parliament. At the Stuttgart Conference a woman delegate from India, mentioned as comrade Rama from Bombay, and the Japanese delegate, Tokyiro Kato, spoke of the unimaginable poverty, exploitation and lack of rights of women in their countries.

The second conference, which took place in Copenhagen 1910 adopted a resolution to set one day in the year aside as International Women's Day and on that day agitate for women's suffrage and the political emancipation of women.

The conference adopted also a resolution on peace. Socialist International Women's plea for peace in 1910 was timely, but it could not stop events. In 1912 the Socialist International held an extraordinary conference in Basle to monitor peace and ask for an end to the Balkan war. Clara Zetkin gave a much applauded speech at this conference: Socialist women of all countries, she said, fight in indestructible unity with the Socialist International against the war. The modern war is mass destruction and mass killing. But war is only the expansion of the mass killing that capitalism is perpetrating every hour of every day against the proletariat. Year after year, there fall on the battlefield of work in the capitalist developed nations, hundreds of thousands of victims, more victims than in any war. Women are a growing number of these victims. War is only the maddest form of mass exploitation through capitalism. It is the sons of the proletariat who are led against each other, to kill each other. Women and mothers deplore such a crime but do not think only of the mutilated bodies of their own relatives, they also think of the emasculating of souls. War threatens all that mothers have taught their children about solidarity and international community. Women can fill their children with profound feelings against war, but this does not mean that women are not willing to make sacrifices. They know that it is necessary to fight and to die in the struggle for freedom. Both fights, the fight against war and the fight for freedom, cannot be fought without women. With the appeal "Krieg dem Krieg" (war against war), she closed her speech.

But all was spoken and written in vain. In 1914, World War I started, only days before the third Women's Conference should have taken place in Vienna. The idea of international socialism and its organisation had been smothered by the war. Nevertheless Marianne Pollak writes in her brochure in 1948: "But- and we women are proud of it - the women were the first ones, sooner than the men, to find their senses again. In March 1915 in Bern, there was an International Women's Conference, the first international conference of Socialists after the beginning of the war".

After the first world war the women's movement was restructured. In 1925, Edith Kemmis then took charge of the Women's Secretariat in Zurich, under the guidance of Friedrich Adler, Secretary of the Labour and Socialist International, who valiantly supported the women's cause.

Martha Tausk, Member of Parliament in Styria, took over the post of International Women's Secretary in 1928 and gave it up only in 1934, at the time of the persecutions against the Austrian Socialists when many of them had to go into exile. A year later, the Secretariat of the International was moved to Brussels and Alice Pels was the secretary till 1940.

The themes discussed at conferences between the two world wars, were 'Women and Mobilisation', 'Women and Fascism' and 'The Economic Crisis'. The outbreak of the second world war made the work of the International impossible. Once again the organisation was destroyed. In March 1941, Mary Sutherland and the British Labour Women organised an International Women's Day where comrades of the countries under fascist regimes held speeches in their mother tongue. This was the last International meeting of women for some time.

In 1955 the International Council of Social Democratic Women was founded, following a series of international women's conferences demanding the renewal of

the movement. The name of the organisation was changed to its present name Socialist International Women in 1978.

ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS SINCE 1990

Socialist International Women meetings over the last six years have debated and adopted resolutions on the following themes:

Discrimination against women in the legislation
 Foreign debt - How can women break the cycles of affluence and poverty?
 Indigenous peoples of the Americas
 Abolition of capital punishment
 Referendum in Western Sahara
 Organising and educating women in politics
 Women and health
 The family - women's responsibility?
 Women in changing economic systems
 An end to war and the abuse of women and children in former Yugoslavia
 Women and violence in society
 Ideological changes - continuing male dominance
 The implementation of the quota for women
 Women changing places
 Women in Tibet
 The UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo
 Women and the social summit 1995
 Azerbaijan
 Women's education - the key to economic development
 Fourth world conference on women 1995
 Socialist women in the nineties and beyond - new ways of organising
 Equality in the new millennium
 Women in Burma
 The rights of women in the mediterranean region
 Women and the globalisation of the world economy

SI MEMBER PARTIES THAT HAVE INTRODUCED A QUOTA SYSTEM FOR WOMEN

Argentina	
PSP	30%
Australia	
Labor Party	35% by the year 2000
Austria	
SPÖ	40% for both genders
Belgium	
PS	20%
SP	25%
Botswana	
BNF	30%
Brazil	
PDT	20% for party structures only
Canada	
NDP/NPD	50%
Chile	
PRSD	20% for party structures only
PPD	20%
PS	30%
Czech Republic	
SDP	20% for party structures only
Denmark	
SDP	40% for both genders

Dominican Republic	
PRD	25%
Finland	
SDP	40%
France	
Socialist Party	30%
Germany	
SPD	1994 - 33.3% for candidates' lists; 40% for party structures 1998 - 40% for lists for both genders
Greece	
PASOK	proportional quota, i.e. according to women members in party
Haiti	
KONAKOM	25%
Ireland	
The Labour Party	20%
Israel	
Israel Labour Party	20%
MAPAM/MERETZ	40% for party structures only and for both genders.
Italy	
PDS	40% for both genders
Ivory Coast	
FPI	30%
Lithuania	
SDP	20%
Mali	
ADEMA-PASJ	30%
Malta	
Labour Party	20%
Mozambique	
Frelimo	30%
The Netherlands	
Labour Party	33%
Nicaragua	
FSLN	30% minimum
Norway	
Labour Party	40% for both genders
Philippines	
PDSP	25%
Portugal	
Socialist Party	25%
Senegal	
Socialist Party	25%
Slovakia	
SDL	20%
Slovenia	
ZL	33%
Spain	
PSOE	33% as a minimum.
Sweden	
SDP	50% for all candidates lists
Switzerland	
SDP	40%
Turkey	
CHP	25% for both genders
USA	
DSA	50% for internal structures only. (DSA does not run candidates for public office).
Venezuela	
Democratic Action	30%