

Hamburg 11 November 2007

-INLW Management Board Meeting

INLW ACTION PLAN

Introduction

INLW is an association of women from countries world-wide who support the principles of liberalism and seek to help liberal women play an active part in politics at local, national and international levels.

INLW is a full member of Liberal International which enables INLW to send delegates to the Liberal International Congress and representatives to the Liberal International Executive Committee.

INLW is an established international network.

INLW has Special Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

INLW is rooted in Political Liberalism which considers men and women as equal participants in politics.

New developments leading to globalisation of INLW

At the Marrakech General Meeting of November 11th 2006 the Constitution was adapted so that each region (South America, Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe/North America) is now represented on the Board of INLW

Objectives

Based on our Liberal Principles:

- Freedom
- Human Rights
- Market Economy
- Open, dynamic, participatory society
- Respect of religious beliefs

we strive to achieve the following objectives:

We aim to;

- to support women and women's groups in achieving their full rights and responsibilities
- to encourage equal representation of women and men in governments, public administration, political parties and trade unions
- to promote the presence of women in the highest positions in private companies
- to strengthen and facilitate relationships between liberal women around the world
- to exchange information
- to promote liberal ideas and values around the world
- to empower women, boys and girls, which will help combat poverty, trafficking and violence against women, boys and girls

Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our objectives is:

- to reinforce INLW structure
- to promote new Liberal womens organisations around the world and support existing groups
- to set up an agenda for 2007-2010

We endeavour to realize this Strategy by the following actions:

- to evaluate and reconsider the internal organisation of INLW: set up By-Laws for INLW
- offering assistance and expertise in training and capacity building programmes in the following areas

1. political empowerment
2. new technologies
3. communication and leadership

4. good governance (for example participatory processes and political strategy)
5. promoting health education for women, boys and girls
6. promoting education for women's economic and social independence, including equal legal rights

-Resolution proposed by the International Network of Liberal Women and adopted by L.I. Executive

Trafficking in Human Beings "A barrier to freedom"

Noting that:

Every year an increasing number of people fall victim of trafficking, mainly for sexual exploitation (43%), but many for underpaid illegal labour. Such trafficking is the modern form of slavery, which treats human beings as a commodity to be bought and sold, to be put to forced labour, usually in the sex industry, but also, for example in agriculture, households, declared or undeclared sweatshops, to be paid a pittance or nothing. Trafficking is the third largest source of illegal income after drugs and arms.

In 2000 the United Nations Member States agreed to a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and supplemented this Convention with two Protocols. One against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the other to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children.

In 2000 the Congress of Liberal International in Ottawa, Canada, adopted a resolution on i°Trafficking and Prostitution, a modern form of slavery.

In 2005 the Member States of the Council of Europe adopted a Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

In 2006 in Bucharest the European Liberal Democrat Reform Party/ELDR Congress adopted a resolution on Ending trafficking of human beings.

The council of Europe has now opened the Convention for signing, also by non members, in the hope to speed up the entry into force of this Convention.

In 1981 the International Treaty on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women/CEDAW, which was adopted two years before by the United Nations General Assembly agreed in article 6 that States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

The International Network of Liberal Women notes with concern, that Human Trafficking is a form of slavery that should fill us all with shame. As Liberals we are committed to freedom, dignity and rights of the human being and therefore call on Liberal International, liberal member parties, liberal governments and other liberal organisations to:

- Urge their governments to sign and ratify Conventions and Protocols against Trafficking in Human Beings if they still have not done so, in order to bring these instruments into force.
- Implement legal measures to protect and rescue victims of human trafficking, particularly the more vulnerable, who are usually women and children.
- Intensify cross-border cooperation with more connected and efficient law enforcement networks to prosecute the traffickers.
- Oppose all proposals of laws and legislation for the legitimization of trafficking in human beings, who are forced to a life of prostitution.
- Raise the awareness on Trafficking in Human Beings with campaigns to increase citizens awareness of these new challenges facing our Society.