

SOFIA 2005: 12-14 May INLW General Meeting

Congress Theme: Freedom and Security

INLW General Meeting 13 May

INLW resolutions submitted and adopted by L.I. Congress

Equal opportunities for women and men in politics

This Congress noting that worldwide women outnumber men. Although there certainly is progress in this field, there are still not sufficient women involved in political decision making.

Worldwide most women because of social, economic and cultural restraints cannot have political careers, although they are fully qualified.

Worldwide the lack of women in political decision-making is also a lack of true democracy.

Liberal International calls on all liberal member parties to:

Increase the number of women candidates, through training, gender-balanced working groups and gender-balanced campaigns in order to achieve true democracy;

Align themselves with the worldwide initiative by Madeleine Albright "Win With Women", calling for the full participation of women at all political levels;

Insist on structural changes in legislation and forms of positive action for women's political participation, as the basis of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

Monitor to ensure adequate mechanisms for gender-balance in establishing electoral lists in their own organizations, in their constituencies, for local, regional, national and international level elections.

Women and the right to development

This Congress noting that the Millennium goals agreed by the United Nations Assembly in 2000 calling for: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; improvement of maternal health; reduction by two-thirds of child mortality; fight against illness such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; promotion of sustainable environment; global partnership for development; will be very difficult to implement if women are faced with obstacles and constraints that prevent the development of full equality of Status of Women.

The Secretary General of the United Nations in February 2004 in New York called upon all member states to realise that: 'no tool is more effective for the development than the empowerment of women'; 'no tool is as likely to raise economic productivity or to reduce infant and maternal mortality' and 'no other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation'

Besides the benefits to society of investing in women, the most important fact is that women have the right to live in dignity and with freedom from want and fear

Therefore Liberal International calls on its member parties to:

Put pressure on their governments to sign and ratify the universal instruments known as the Treaty Body.

Ask the governments, who have already signed and ratified the different Conventions, to promulgate the necessary laws in order to implement the Millennium Development Goals, especially those which are beneficial to the empowerment of women: the right to access safe water supply, education for all girls, women's rights to sexual and reproductive health, promotion of women's property ownership, implementation of inheritance right's for widows and daughters, take measures for equality in employment.

To ensure that all official bodies and institutions involved in the application of legal orders respect and put into effect judicial decisions.

To ensure that the institutional mechanisms monitoring the Status of Women, receive the necessary financial and human resources to perform their task.