



elektron

Bulletin of the **ENERGY WORKERS' FRONT**, of **MEXICO**

Affiliated organization to the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
www.fte-energia.org | prensa@fte-energia.org | <http://twitter.com/ftenergia>
<http://ftemexico.blogspot.com> | *Volume 11, Number 11, January 11, 2011*

16th World Trade Union Congress, 6-9 April 2011, Athens, Greece
Proposals of the FTE of MEXICO

11. The working women

ABSTRACT: The world's women are not a separate contingent of the labor movement but face the class struggle in more difficult conditions than other workers. It is necessary to struggle for equal employment and social rights without discrimination of gender.

1. Introduction

The global capitalist crisis strengthens the plight of poor and working women. 70% of 1 300 million poor people in the world are women.

However, according to the United Nations (UN), between 50 and 80 percent of food production and marketing is in the hands of women. Many, however, are out of paid work, and others, participate in many working hours, low pay or no pay.

The UN and the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) believe that two thirds of the 876 million illiterates are women. At 18 years, women have an average of 4.4 years less education than boys their own age. Of the 121 million children out of school worldwide, 65 million are girls.

In health, more than half a million women die each year in the world, as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, which is directly related to poverty and marginalization.

Violence against women is one of the biggest problems of modern society as it affects more people than any other global problem. Each

year at least 2 million girls between 5 and 10 are bought and sold in the world as sex slaves. Every two hours, a woman is stabbed, stoned, strangled or burned alive to "save" the family honor.

During armed conflict the attack on the human rights of women (murder, rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy) is used as a weapon of war. Worldwide, 135 million girls and women have undergone genital mutilation. The figure is increasing by two million each year. According to the World Bank (WB), at least 20 percent of the world's women have suffered physical abuse or sexual assault.

2- Employment, unemployment and discrimination

The UN estimates that the unpaid work of women in the household accounts for one third of global economic output. For the International Labor Organization (ILO), women of working age, it does (outside the home) only 54% compared to 80% of men. Women play the most poorly paid and least protected jobs.

It has significantly increased the number of women migrating to different countries of Europe and the United States, both legally and

2011, elektron 11 (11) 2, FTE of Mexico illegally, in search of employment. These immigrant women are those who suffer most are the over-exploitation and all forms of abuse.

According to the ILO, globally the number of unemployed in 2008 was 193 million, 112 million were men and 81 million were women. From 1998 to 2008, employment of adult women with respect to the total population was 40.4% of 3 000 million employees worldwide. Most worker women are located in services (43.6%), agriculture (36.1%) and industry (18.3%).

As for wage discrimination, the Report on Equality between Men and Women of the European Community in 2007 women earned on average 15% less than men for every hour worked. According to ILO, in urban Brazil, Chile, El Salvador and Mexico, the hourly wage of women was around 80 percent relative to men. In 2008, however, the World Economic Forum report said that in Mexico the wage gap reaches 53 percent of lower perceived economic status of women relative to men.

The ratio of women with a vulnerable employment condition, it means, the categories of unpaid family workers or self-employed, fell from 56.1 percent to 51.7 percent since 1997. However, the vulnerability is still greater for women than men, especially in the poorest regions.

3- Conclusions

The incorporation of economically active women to the work field is increasing, although it is lower than that of men. But the unemployment rate is higher than the first, in the first case, of 6.4% compared to 5.7 in the second.

The women's labor problems are more serious than others but are not separated from the same class conflict. On the contrary, they are expressions of the same class struggle, with their specific characteristics of gender.

Some women are highlighted in several areas of work, some with high level of specialization, but most live socially discriminated.

PROPOSALS

The FTE of Mexico presents to the 16th World Trade Union Congress the following proposal:

- 1- The WFTU struggle for labor and social rights of men and women under equal circumstances and without discrimination based on gender.
- 2- The WFTU calls for working women to join the trade union movement and fight unified by common class interests.

Energy Workers' Front (FTE), of Mexico
energy@fte-energy.org