

DS SERBIA: DANE KOZMANOVIC
Wladimir Todovic

Maria Bilal / MBO
Kecelic - MSP

Norman Heller

MARJA VIDENOVIC
DS SERBIA

Tanja - ANNA
FA 2002
MSP

GENDER EQUALITY PLATFORM

Endorsed by women's forums of South Eastern Europe
Socialist and Social Democratic parties

We as socialist, social democrats,
progressive left women declare:

- ♀ We will not live in poverty and autocracy!
- ♀ The rule of law, social justice and equality between women and men are the guarantees of democracy and progress!

Kristina Vignani

Kristen Mejer
PvdA
Netherlands

C.E.
FES Budapest

European Forum
for Democracy and Solidarity

CEE NETWORK
FOR GENDER ISSUES

E-mail: ceegendernet@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CeeGenderNetwork>
Twitter: @CEEGERNET
Blog: <https://ceegendernet.wordpress.com>

Alb

FORUM ATILU
- Marija Ljubic
- SOLIDAR

BUDAPEST, SPE CONGRESS
A QUEST OCCASION TO ENSURE THE
FUTURE (FOR ALL), 12 June 2015

SVELTANA UKOVIC - Democratic Party of Socialists
Montenegro

Radmila Shekerinska - Social Democratic Union of

Oruqa Hajji - Socialist International Women
FORUM, SD, SERBIA

NERA GRASIC - NLADI FORUM, SD, SERBIA

MICOL ADAMOVIĆ - SDCI, SRBIA

HOJCA - LEVA KOSOS, SLOVENIJA

PAJL GJONI, EQ, ALBANIA

BENEDEK ATILIA, MSP, HUNGARY

Jasheed Gulcher

ESF

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1 Based on the socialist, social democratic ideological socio-political goals, aspirations and secular worldviews, we are concerned about the developments in our countries and the region. The transition to a democratic, multi-party and market-oriented society has not brought the desired social transformation and the expected rapid economic and social progress and well-being. Conservative and clerical forces, and the neo-fascist right itself, continue to encourage nationalism, ethnic and religious intolerance, jeopardising fundamental human rights and the status of national communities. They are pulling us backwards and not taking us into the future.

2 The neo-liberal model of economic development has brought prosperity to a small segment of the population that has often enriched itself illegally through corruption, in collusion with political and business elites. We should decisively reject this model, because it resulted in social disintegration, unemployment, poverty and an unacceptable erosion of the welfare state, which is the main accomplishment of socialist, social-democratic and progressive movements.

3 Unemployment continues to grow, with women and young people being the most vulnerable groups, birth rates are not increasing, poverty and social problems are piling up, young people continue to go abroad in search of a better future, and old people are subjected to daily reductions in benefits and their human dignity is being violated as they are pauperised. **Unless we substantially change the political, economic and social policies in our countries they will be depleted of their most precious assets - human resources - educated, skilled and dedicated women and men, while young generations will seek a future elsewhere. National development will be jeopardised and peace, regional security and stability, already fragile, will be seriously undermined.**

4 **The constitutional and legal guarantees of equality between women and men are being threatened.**

Patriarchalism and conservatism are seriously eroding the achievements of our struggle for progress, attainment of gender equality and the emancipation of our societies. The most flagrant examples are reflected in the violation of workers' and social rights, reproductive freedoms, including the termination of unwanted pregnancy, as well as in the slow socio-legal measures to tackle violence against women. **Gender parity in political and economic decision-making has not been reached.**

5 **Our parties, which politically and ideologically, in their basic tenets/postulates/principles of politics, stand for human rights, social justice and emancipation of women and gender equality, cannot allow this kind of developments. Changes should start from ourselves and we should not allow ourselves to be derailed, split and defragmented! We should deliberately and through targeted policies and action push for:**

1. **Strengthening the rule of law and respect for women's rights as fundamental human rights:**

- ♀ encouraging by all means measures to combat violence against women
- ♀ giving women the right to decide about their body and procreation
- ♀ implementing a gender-sensitive active employment policy, to defend workers' rights and take measures against the unemployment of women, including the elimination of the pay gap between women and men

2. **Strengthening democracy and gender equality within the socialist, social democratic and progressive forces, parties and their policies through:**

- ♀ gender parity in party bodies, electoral lists (with the use of quotas to achieve a ratio of 50/50 to 2020)
- ♀ gender-sensitive political platforms and decisions, as well as adequate capacity building for party cadres for policy implementation
- ♀ allocation of adequate financial resources for party work in promoting gender equality in all spheres of life.

Finally, as social-democratic women, social democrats, progressive and democratic forces we declare:

- ♀ We will not live in poverty and autocracy!
- ♀ The rule of law, social justice and equality between women and men are the guarantees of democracy and progress!

We shall fight and take action for these advanced goals and policies within the party and the government, lead and collaborate with other progressive social movement.

Castells
PS (FRAGOR)

