

# First International Conference of Socialist Women

at Stuttgart, Liederhalle

Saturday, the 17 August, 9 o'clock a. m.

N°4  
déléguée de  
G. C.

---

## Provisional agenda:

- 1° Reports on the Socialist Women's movement in the various countries.
- 2° Establishment of regular communications between the organized Socialist Women of all countries.
- 3° Woman's Suffrage.

pourrait  
également  
exister  
sur les  
microfilms  
d'Amst.  
à vérifier

---

## Resolutions and Motions.

### I. Resolutions on Woman Suffrage.

The demand for Woman Suffrage arises from the economic and social transformation caused by the capitalist system of production, especially, however, from the revolutionising of woman's labour, of her position and her mind. It is by its nature a consequence of the bourgeois democratic principle, which calls for the setting aside of all social distinctions that do not rest on property, and proclaims in the sphere of public as well as of private life the complete legal equality of all adults as a right of personality. For this reason Woman Suffrage has always been demanded by individual thinkers in connection with every struggle which the bourgeoisie ever took up for the democratisation of political rights as a necessary condition of their political emancipation and class rule. Efficient force as a demand from the masses has, however, first accrued to it from the increasing number of women who have to earn their living, and especially owing to the numbers of the female proletariat who have been drawn into the modern industry. Woman Suffrage is necessarily bound up with the economic emancipation of woman from the household and her economic independence of the family on the strength of her activity as an earner.

From the standpoint of principle the active and passive suffrage means for the female sex, as a whole, the recognition of their social maturity; from the practical point of view it is the means to obtain political power, so as to remove the legal and social hindrances which stand in the way of the development of woman's life and activity. But owing to the class antagonisms, which are just as influential in the world of women as in that of men, the value and main object of the suffrage is different for women of the different classes. The value of the suffrage as a weapon in the social struggle is in inverse proportion to the size of the property possessed by the individual and the social power conferred by that property. Its principal object differs, according to the class position: it is either the complete legal equality of the female sex, or it is the social emancipation of the proletariat through the conquest of political power for the purpose of abolishing class-rule and bringing about the Socialist society which alone affords a guarantee for the complete emancipation of woman as a human being.

In consequence of the class antagonisms between women, the bourgeois woman's movement does not march united, with closed ranks and the highest development of force, in support of Universal Woman Suffrage. The proletarian women, consequently, must rely on their own strength and on that of their class for the conquest of their full political rights. The practical needs of their struggle for emancipation, together with their historic insight and sense of justice, make the proletariat the most consistent champion of the

complete political emancipation of the female sex. The Social-Democracy, as the political fighting organisation of the class-conscious proletariat supports, therefore, Woman Suffrage both in principle and in practice. The question of Woman Suffrage gains increased importance as the class-war increases in severity. In the ruling reactionary parties the tendency grows to strengthen the political power of property by the introduction of a limited Woman Suffrage. The limited Woman's Suffrage is not so much to be looked on as the first step to the political emancipation of the female sex, as far more the last step in the social emancipation of property. It emancipates Woman not as a personality but as the bearer of a certain income and property, and thus becomes in effect a plural suffrage for the propertied classes, leaves large numbers of the proletariat Women without political rights and in consequence does not mean the political equality of the entire female sex. For the proletariat the necessity grows of revolutionising the minds and of placing their adult members, without distinction of sex, well armed in the front of the battle. The fight for Universal Woman Suffrage is the best means of making the situation serve the interest of the proletariat's struggle for emancipation.

In accordance with these considerations the first International Conference of Socialist Women declares:

The Socialist Woman's movement of all countries repudiates the limited Woman's Suffrage as a falsification of and insult to the principle of the political equality of the female sex. It fights for the only living concrete expression of this principle: the universal woman's suffrage which is open to all adults and bound by no conditions of property, payment of taxes, or degrees of education or any other qualifications, which exclude members of the working class from the enjoyment of the right. They carries on their struggle not in alliance with the bourgeois Women's Righters, but in alliance with the Socialist Parties, and these fight for Woman's Suffrage as one of the demands which from the point of view of principle and practice is most important for a complete democratization of the suffrage.

The Socialist Parties in all countries are bound to fight with energy for the introduction of Woman Suffrage. Consequently their fight for the democratization of the Suffrage in the legislative and administrative bodies in the State and Commune must especially be fought also as a struggle in favour of Woman Suffrage and this demand they must raise in their propaganda as well as in Parliament and insist on it with all their power. In countries where manhood Suffrage is already far advanced or completely achieved the Socialist Parties must take up the fight for the universal Woman's Suffrage, and with that naturally put forward all the demands which remain in order to obtain complete citizenship for the male proletariat.

It is the duty of the Socialist Woman's movement in all countries to take part in all struggles which the Socialist Parties fight for the democratization of the Suffrage, and that with all possible energy, but also to see that in this fight the question of the universal Woman Suffrage is insisted on with due regard to its importance of principle and practice.

The Socialist Women of Germany.

II. That as all Socialist recognise that the freedom of women must include both economic as well as political freedom before it can be complete, every effort should be made by Socialists to assist the Women's Suffrage, the Women's Trade Union and the Women's Co-operative movements in their respective countries and to arouse the workers in all these movements to the necessity for uniting together for the realisation of Socialism.

Women's Labour League, England.

III. That the women of the Socialist and Labour movement, standing especially for the protection of home and family and believing that the interests of the different countries are identical, and not antagonistic, urge that strong efforts should be made to spread ante-military feeling and to promote international fraternity.

IV. That this Conference urges the adoption of a system whereby necessitous mothers shall receive monetary assistance at the time of the birth of children, and whereby mothers with children dependent upon them shall receive continued adequate support to enable them to attend to their children without having to work for wages.

The Women's Labour League.