



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

Dear Comrades,

International Women Day 2018

We greet you all with renewed fighting spirit on this historic occasion of ***International Women Day 2018***, for advancement of the movement of the Women, Working class and to establish our rights in the banking industry as also in the society. Women's Day or Working Women's Day is a day of international solidarity, and a day for reviewing the strength and organization of women throughout the world. Looking back at the origin of women's day, we may recall that on 28th February, 1909, the women socialists of U.S.A. organized huge demonstrations and meetings all over the country demanding political rights for working women. This was the first "Woman's Day". In 1910, at the Second International Conference of Working Women, Clara Zetkin, one of the most famous leader and chief ideologue of the international communist and women's movement, brought forward the question of organizing an International Working Women's Day. The conference decided that every year, in every country, they should celebrate on the same day a "Women's Day" under the slogan ***"The vote for women will unite our strength in the struggle for socialism"***. It was decided to hold the first International Women's Day on the 19th of March 1911. Its success surpassed all expectation.

At present, the significance of Women's Day is increasing with each passing day, as the tentacles of imperialism are encircling the world of working people. The international trade under the regime of globalisation has not helped the developing countries anywhere in the world, which was evident even from the data trotted out by the World Bank. The number of poor in the world has gone up. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that about 795 million people of the 7.3 billion people in the world, or one in nine, were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2014-2016. Almost all the hungry people, 780 million, live in developing countries, representing 12.9 percent, or one in eight, of the population of developing countries. There are 11 million people undernourished in developed countries. The undeveloped and underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa and South America have miserably failed in improving the conditions of women.

Despite dramatic improvements over the past years, progress towards achieving education for all has stagnated. In total, 264 million children, adolescents and youth were out of school for the school year ending in 2015. As per the WHO figures, 33,000 children die every day in developing countries due to curable diseases, while

the prices of essential medicines are hiked by the profit-hungry pharmaceutical MNCs.

In the current situation, more and more women need to go out for employment. This urge for economic dependency is also the expression of aspiration to lead a normal, equal life, on the part of the women making a productive contribution to society. In turn, they are being more and more prone to exploitation of various nature. This can be termed as violence against women.

In India, the instances of women working as unpaid labourers are rampant. This is more so in unorganized sectors. We have still the feudal system of society to some extent and the toiling women do not find any justice in such an environment. Absence of any legal protection has led to severe exploitation of women depriving domestic workers of a decent wage and excessive working hours of work. Recently, draconian amendment of law of Industrial Employment is being introduced by the Central Govt. replacing regular employment.

In our country, gender biasness is so great that our male: female sex ratio is dwindling and this figure is around 1000:850 on an average or even less in some areas. This is due to rampant killing of female child while in the womb. Under these circumstances, resistance to the anti-people and anti-worker measures of the NDA government, which are more in tune with the retrograde policies of economic liberalisation has to mature from protest actions to more and more strong, united and sustained struggles of the working class.

In India atrocities against women are on the rise and have reached an alarming situation. Sexual harassments at workplace are also taking place and grievances are not addressed properly even though law prevails for redressals.

In this backdrop need for observance of the Day has assumed added importance. We call upon all our state level and bank wise Women's Committees to observe the International Day in a befitting manner during this month.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,

Nupur Ray
Convener
Women Sub committee