



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

# 1st WORLD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Brussels (Belgium) 19 – 21 October 2009

## Resolution Violence against Women

*The first World Women's Conference of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), held in Brussels from 19 to 21 October 2009, bringing together 450 women trade unionists from 110 countries:*

- Noting the violence that women continue to face in the workplace, both as workers and as trade unionists. This violence all-too-often extends beyond the workplace, to the family, the community and society at large;
- Taking into account the drastic situation women are facing across the globe, and particularly in countries such as Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkey, Afghanistan, Burma, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Palestine and Honduras;
- Underlining the extreme vulnerability of women in general to gender based violence and particularly so during armed conflicts and occupation;
- Expressing its concern about the sharp escalation in violence against women and young girls, manifested in numerous forms and on the basis of ethnicity, race and other characteristics, including in areas not plagued by war;
- Recalling that violence against women is used as a weapon of war and accelerates the spread of HIV/AIDS;
- Opposing the continued practice of female genital mutilation;
- Reiterating its deepest concern as regards the phenomenon of femicide in many countries across the continents;

*The ITUC World Women's Conference is therefore:*

- Launching an appeal to the international community, and in particular to the governments of the countries concerned, to take decisive action to bring an end to the violence perpetrated against women, based on their status as women or as trade unionists, especially in the case of conflict and in situations where violence against women - and rape - is used as a weapon of war;

- Insisting that these measures be comprehensive and cover aspects such as medical care, psychological support, social protection, reintegration within society, including access to decent work and, where necessary, the possibility of returning to their place of origin;
- Urging the international community, including the governments of the countries concerned, to take every step necessary to eradicate femicide and female genital mutilation, through the passing of legislation and the application of existing legal texts;
- Urging the affiliates of the ITUC, backed by their women's committees and/or structures, as well as human and trade union rights networks, to launch campaigns aimed at proposing solutions and eradicating violence against women;
- Calling on the international community to make every effort to create conditions of peace to enable working women and men to have decent work and live in peace

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