

# Joint Observance of International Women's Day

## STRUGGLE IN UNITY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

CITU, AIKS, AIAWU, AIDWA, DYFI, SFI

### Charter of Demands for International Women's Day 2023

#### For Campaign and Action

March 8 - International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated all over the world to reiterate the struggle for equality, justice and an **exploitation, discrimination** and violence free life for women. IWD emerged from the women's struggle against class exploitation and for political rights. The German revolutionary Clara Zetkin proposed in the International Socialist Women's Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark in August 1910 that March 8 be celebrated as International Women's Day. The United Nations began celebrating this day from 1975.

India is reeling under the twin attack of escalating price rise of all essential commodities and unprecedented unemployment. Due to the pressures to keep the home fires burning, women are pushed into the most insecure and low-paying unorganized sectors, resulting in greater exploitation. The recent Union Budget of the BJP regime has underlined the withdrawal of the state from vital sectors like food, health, education and employment, and has vastly increased the burden on women who have to bear the responsibility of providing the care facilities at home. On the other hand, it has shamelessly showered tax concessions on the rich, at a time when the Oxfam Report has highlighted the shocking incidence of inequality in our country.

IWD is being celebrated in India this year at a time when all citizens believing in the values of democracy and secularism must come forward and speak up. All that India stands for is today under threat. The Indian Constitution, which is a product of the aspirations of our freedom struggle, is sought to be replaced by the regressive Manusmriti. Neoliberalism coupled with retrograde communal and casteist ideology is challenging the very existence of our democracy. These are ominous signals for the backward and exploited sections of our population, especially women.

Situation in various countries including advanced capitalist countries are no different from ours with the exception of socialist countries. Wars and conflicts imposed by imperialism are making things worse.

Upholding the legacy of the struggles and internationalism, Let us all observe International Women's Day this year unitedly and propagate the following just demands.

- 1. Recognise women's work and include women's unpaid and underpaid work in the GDP. Take specific measures to reduce women's unpaid work. Make arrangements for childcare (crèches) and elderly care.**
- 2. Ensure 200 days' work in MNREGA at Rs600 per day with timely payment of wages. Enact the Urban Employment Guarantee Act for urban areas.**

3. Regularise scheme workers as workers/employees; Pay minimum wage and give social security as per the recommendations of the 45<sup>th</sup> ILC, immediately. Pay gratuity as per SC order.
4. Ensure equal wages for equal work for women in all sectors.
5. Ensure legal measures to promulgate amendments in all laws for joint pattas and ensure women's equal land rights. Give special priority to women-headed households including widows, abandoned, deserted and single women.
6. Give complete loan waiver and increased pension to all farmers and agricultural workers families. Women farmers must be made eligible for all government schemes for farmers.
7. Strict implementation of POSH Act in all work places, educational institutions and sports federations. Form ICCs in all institutions.
8. Take effective measures to prevent violence against women; implement Justice Verma Committee recommendations. Increase allocation for Nirbhaya Fund.
9. Ensure the Rights of transgenders and LGBTQA+. Take concrete measures to end discrimination and social stigma against them.
10. Make alternative arrangements for shelter and economic support to victims of domestic violence. Enact a law against honour killings.
11. Enact a law to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies at the earliest.
12. Ensure quality public health services, housing and pension to all. Expand healthcare facilities with universal coverage. Ensure provision of clean water.
13. Earmark 6% GDP for education. Ensure quality education to all. Scrap New Education Policy 2020. Take measures to stop girl students' drop outs. Ensure special scholarships to girl students.
14. Arrest Price Rise. Withdraw the increase in the price of cooking gas and other petroleum products. Ensure subsidized cooking gas to all. Ensure free ration at 10kg per person per month and all essential items through the PDS to all. Delink AADHAAR from ration and pension. End the use of biometric machines for rations.
15. Ensure income support of Rs.7500 per month to all non-income taxpaying families.
16. Create more job opportunities for women. Ensure collateral and interest free loans to women, SHGs and DWACRA groups. Stop harassment by MFIs. Start special schemes for income support to all those who lost jobs.
17. Withdraw the four Labour Codes and Electricity Amendment Bill. Implement labour laws including minimum wage and social security. Ensure legally guaranteed MSP@C2+50% with procurement for all crops.
18. Stop selling off the country through privatisation of PSEs and services.
19. Ensure democratic rights of all citizens. Scrap draconian acts like UAPA, Sedition, etc. Release all citizens, human rights activists and journalists wrongly jailed for dissenting with government policies.
20. Defend secularism and unity, oppose communalism, casteism and hatred.