

Internet:www.atik-online.net

E-mail:yenikadındergisi@yahoo.de

February 2012

## WE ARE OUT ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY THE EXTORTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS, AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION POLICIES WHICH IGNORE WOMEN!

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1857, in New York, women textile workers went on strike for better working and living conditions, during which 129 women workers were killed. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Socialist Women's Conference, which gathered in Copenhagen in 1910, **Clara Zetkin**, proposed that in memory of **the struggle of the female workers in New York** one day in the year should be named as **"Women's International Unity, Struggle and Solidarity Day"** and this proposal was accepted.

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1917 the torch is in Russia, in the hands of the women workers of Petrograd (St Petersburg). This struggle against Tsarism and poverty and which was the beginning of the October Revolution was another a reason for it being declared as "**The International Women's Day of Struggle and Solidarity**" Thus, March 8th, has become a day in which, for years, women in the working world, at the expense of their lives, celebrate the struggle for equality and freedom also of expression and a day in which the current requests and issues for women are conveyed.

155 years has passed since the first organised action of women on March 8<sup>th</sup> 1857. In this 155 struggle, women have gained many rights and have covered great distances. However, the economic crisis, unemployment and poverty which have grown like an avalanche as a result of the lust for profit of the owners of capital and the war policies that have grown from this have wiped out the gains of the working class one by one.

Women, who are the slaves of slaves are seen as deserving all forms of violence simply because they are women, for their education and discipline and oppressed twice over and killed in the name of honour. Their sexuality is seen as a means of income, is bought and sold, is faced with rape and molestation and seen as the spoils of war! Although they are the creators of life, they have no say in any area including in regards to their own bodies and lives. Due to their labour being seen as worthless and them being seen as a cheap, auxiliary work force, they are the first to lose their jobs in this crisis.

As the number of people unemployed in a family increases the social gender role that women have taken on due to being women carries more importance. Because, despite all the poverty it is the women who is responsible for keeping the family fed. As well as women being the first to lose the rights to education, health and social security which stop being a right and instead become sectoral they are also forced to take on responsibility for the care of the ill and elderly in the family. Unemployment has in many countries, resulted in women becoming the target of the sex industry. It also results in a rise in psychological problems within society and in domestic violence. Also, the murder of women and violence towards them has reached horrific levels worldwide.

In response to these injustices, this oppression and persecution there are protests in schools, strikes in factories and women do not hesitate to take their places in these fields. The torch set to burn in 1857 is today burning furiously in the hands of working women.

## Workers, dear female friends;

LET US FILL THE SQUARES ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> AND PROTEST LOUDLY ABOUT THIS LIFE OF SLAVERY THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO GET US WOMEN TO ACCEPT AND ABOUT POVERTY, THE USURPATION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS, THE GENDER DISCRIMINATION POLICIES WHICH DISREGARDS WOMEN.

- > LONG LIVE THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH, WORLD WORKING WOMEN'S DAY!
- **GLORY TO THOSE THAT CREATED AND WHO CARRY ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH!**