

On the Occasion of the 8th of March women's International Day

During its 27-year ruling, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to make women's humiliation and oppression a normal phenomenon in the society relying on the dominant economic and social relations, using the educational institutions, the state-dependent press, putting Islamic laws into effect and expand patriarchal backward culture to all social aspects of life by considering woman worth half a man regarding testimony, inheritance, compensation and child care while women's humility has reached its peak.

Under these circumstances, the number of women who fall victim to the Islamic Republic's anti-woman laws and culture on a daily basis as well as girls who suicide because of forced marriage has been increasing all the time.

Despite women's confrontation with these terrible conditions, despite their progress in organizing and holding successful celebrations and actions on the 8th of march, despite their victorious demonstrations and struggles against inequality, their wide efforts for establishing women organizations and formations, their announcement of solidarity with working movements, their progressive social and artistic activities, arranging publications and web sites and despite having become an undeniable fact in Iran's social and political upheavals, women movements have not been able to hold the Islamic republic back from imposing its policies of sex apartheid and humiliating conditions on women due to the dominant political strangulations and lack of enough organization.

There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic and the patriarchal backward culture must be held back from violating women's rights and this can be done only by a strong social women movement with a clear perspective and horizon of women's emancipation.

Without the working and toiling women's wide participation, who form the majority of women in society, we can't talk about women strong movement. We must fight the inequalities and injustice targeting the women's rights, but since the dominant capitalist social and economic relations reproduce these inequalities, formal equality cannot uproot the sex oppression in the society.

Since the liberal feminism, in the role of opposition, is trying to hide the above-mentioned class facts, divert women's attention from grasping the root of the women's class-based oppression and save the capitalist system from the blast, it

cannot drive the mass of working women to the battle field, a mass who is getting to find the real root of women's class-based oppression by experiencing the daily conditions of work and life.

Having this strategy and horizon, this trend cannot attack the capitalist relations that are based on private property and as a result is unable to acquire even a formal equality for women.

Without providing unemployment insurance and economic independence, which are achieved by mass-wide attacks on the capitalist relations, it is not possible to efface male-exclusive rights on divorce and give the women the right to child care.

Without women's economic independence and other social insurances and benefits, women cannot be saved from being mere housewives and provided with an environment for their abilities to grow and prosper.

Even if legal rights are to be totally insured, which is definitely an important step toward improving women's social status in Iran, still it is women's comprehensive equality before the law that makes the start point for women's struggles for emancipation.

Thus, the only way for women movement to progress in their march toward real emancipation and equality is to challenge the capitalist system.

The socialist activists in the women movement must focus their struggle on working and toiling women in order to bring them to the field of struggle and establish a strong social movement.

Not only those women who are in the labor market as wage-workers and economically independent from the men have significantly grasped the roots of the women class oppression, but also those women who are outside social working life, their own experience of dependency on men and men's dependency on the economic rules has put them in such situation that they see the clashes between themselves and the existing society.

This huge mass of the women is the force that can stop the Islamic Republic of Iran violating women's rights.

Let's cherish the 8th of March, women's international day, by striving on a wider scale for involving working and toiling women in establishing a wider unity with the working movement and solidarity with women's world-wide movement against sex apartheid.

Central Committee of Communist Party of Iran
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