



## **Resolution Date: 14/07/2015**

### **Resolution Title: Women Fighting Back**

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Resolution to support Women Fighting Back: International and Legal Perspectives, an international women's conference organised by the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers.

#### **This branch notes:**

1. In the UK the gender pay gap stands at 17%, with women on average earning £5000 less a year than male workers. The gap exceeds 20% where the woman is from a racial minority or if she has a disability. The gender pay gap is even greater in part-time jobs, reaching a 42% difference in pay.
2. Women workers are found mainly in precarious, low-paid and low-status jobs. 70% of those on the minimum wage are women.
3. More women than men live in poverty. There are also seventeen times as many single mothers as single fathers and two and a half times as many women old-age pensioners as their male counterparts who are living on social security.
4. Austerity is hitting women the hardest, not least because two thirds of those working in the public sector are women. In addition, women's unemployment has reached a 24-year high and unemployment is highest amongst black and minority ethnic women.
5. Cuts to benefits disproportionately affect women as benefits typically make up a fifth of women's incomes, as opposed to a tenth of men's incomes.
6. Internationally, only 1% of titled land is owned by women.
7. 85 million girls internationally are not allowed or not able to attend school.
8. Globally, approximately 800 women die in childbirth every day globally.
9. Around 14 million girls, some as young as eight years old, were to be married in 2014.
10. On a global scale, an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked into slavery each year; 80% of these children are girls.

This [trade union/organization] believes that:

11. Equality between women and men is a founding principle of socialism.
12. Despite the leading role that women workers play in the labour market, women encounter difficulties in achieving roles of responsibility at many levels including the economy, in politics and often also within trade unions.



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13. The reasons for the under-representation of women are structural, multifaceted, and intersect with oppression on the basis of class, race, disability, immigration status, et al. Women face gender stereotypes, discrimination, violence, and segregation in education and in the workplace.
14. Work done in the domestic sphere is valuable and should not be treated less favourably as work deserving of proper remuneration and respect.
15. Under capitalism women will never secure equality,. It is only the socialist transformation of society which will secure women's rights and equality.

This branch resolves to:

16. To sponsor the international women's conference: Women Fighting Back, whose prime organiser is the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers , and to agree to donate £50 towards the running costs of the conference.

\*cheques made payable to the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers. (write on back IWC conference)

Send to Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, PO Box 64195, London WC1A 9FD