



GENDER EQUALITY

TO END POVERTY



www.whiteband.org

Feminist Task Force
"Gender Equality to End Poverty"



- IF GENDER EQUALITY IS NOT THERE, ERADICATION OF POVERTY IS NO WHERE!

GENDER EQUALITY IS CRUCIAL TO ADDRESSING THE INEQUALITIES OF TRADE, DEBT AND AID

There are more poor women;

Women make up nearly 70 percent of the world's poor and 65 percent of the world's illiterate.

The ILO report, *More & Better Jobs for Women* An Action Guide, finds that more than 45 percent of all the world's women (aged 15 to 64) are now economically active. Some of the main findings of the report include: "The majority of women earn on average about three-fourths of the male wage for the same work, outside the agricultural sector, in both developed and developing countries; the gap is not decreasing; "Women's unemployment rates run from 50 to 100 percent greater than for men in many industrialized countries; "Women hold less than 6 percent of senior management jobs in the world.

Discrimination starts early/Discrimination in education constitutes one of the main causes of female poverty and underemployment. Women account for more than two-thirds of the nearly 1 billion adult illiterates. In Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, and Togo in Africa, and Afghanistan and Nepal in Asia, more than 90 percent of women aged 25 and up have never been to school. Of the approximately 100 million children in the world without any access to primary education, 60 percent are girls. Even where education and vocational training are available, many institutions "continue to offer stereotyped 'feminine' skills for girls," such as typing, nursing, sewing, catering and waitressing as opposed to scientific or technical knowledge, the report says. In poorer countries, girls are much more likely than boys to interrupt or halt their schooling in order to tend to domestic tasks, in spite of the obvious benefits of increased education for girls. Gender discrimination, the report says, extends from education to the workplace. Among the most glaring forms of discrimination in job markets: "unequal hiring and promotion standards, unequal access to training and retraining, unequal access to credit and other productive resources, unequal pay for equal work, occupational segregation and unequal participation in economic decision making."

WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT AN END TO POVERTY



Feminist Task Force
"Gender Equality to End Poverty"

FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY IS A REALITY. ADDRESS IT!

GENDER JUSTICE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE KEY TO END POVERTY

Global Call to Action Against Poverty; together for equality

At the start of the 21st century more than a billion people are trapped in a situation of object poverty and gross inequality, 70% of them are women.

International Human Rights instruments protect the rights of all people to an adequate standard of living and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, clean water and medical care. Unjust governance, debt and aid conditionality and trade practices are undermining these rights.

To date the pledges to meet the Millennium Declaration efforts to tackle poverty, inequality, injustice and deliver sustainable development have been grossly inadequate. Governments too often fail to address the needs of the people within their territory, aid from rich countries is inadequate in both quality, and quantity, and promises of debt cancellation have not materialized. Rich countries have yet to act on their repeated pledges to tackle unfair trade rules and practices. We have the means to turn this situation around. It is high time governments took action.

Galvanised by this imperative, a group of civil society actors including NGOs, international networks, social movements, trade unions, women's organisations, faith based groups and other civil society actors met in Johannesburg in September 2004. They launched the Global Call to Action Against Poverty that has the following demands:

- Public accountability, just governance and the fulfilment of human rights
- Trade justice
- A major increase in the quantity and quality of aid and financing for development
- Debt cancellation
- Gender equality to be recognized as a central issue for poverty eradication.

www.whiteband.org

POVERTY WILL BE HISTORY ONLY IF GENDER JUSTICE IS ACHIEVED