

«By Woman..»

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The usual brightness of the rituals, the speeches, the receptions, the demonstrations, the daily conventions due to the celebration of «Woman's day» might leave to some people a kind of bitterness.

Such bitterness is possibly due to the fact that in the year 2001 AD there is a need for a yearly celebration, manifestation, special emphasis, promises, announcements for the social, political and economic position of Women in the modern society.

An objection that there is the need to take action concerning the reestablishment of the equality of both sexes, the equal chances that a Woman should have towards man, the equal rate of male and female presence in positions of responsibility maybe aroused and so on...

It is fairly obvious that action must be taken in international, global and national level, but why the need for this action is only underlined once a year (the 8th of March always...) while it is already known that:

- From 50.000.000 refugees that are registered 40.000.000 are Women.
- During the last two decades, 60.000.000 Women are murdered by their relatives only because they were born female.
- 600.000 female die globally every year during birth because of lack of medical means and care.
- Yearly 2.000.000 Women are submitted to mutilation of their genital organs.
- In several countries 5.000 Women are murdered yearly because according to the opinion of the Parents of their husbands, their dowry was small.
- From the 876.000.000 illiterate people globally the rate for Women is 67%.
- The unemployment of Women in Greece under the age of 24 is up to 37%.
- The representation of Women in the Greek Parliament is very small.

- The participation of Women in the other levels of political power, Regions, Prefectural Administration, Organizations of Local Administration is almost non-existent.

- The occupation of administrative positions in the DEKOs from Women remains a distant dream for them.

- The evolution of Women in positions of great responsibility in jobs that are usually occupied by men is very difficult.

In spite of the previous we must bare in mind the situation that was established in Greece earlier. In the savior year 1986 AD Greece submitted to the commission of the United Nations the 1st Report for the elimination of any kind of discrimination towards Women, which among others referred to:

«Women in Greece have passively accepted both the discrimination that happened at their expense and the role that has been given to them in the patriarchic society. They lived under the power of the Father, the Husband, the Brother in distance from the public, economic and social activity of the country despite their dynamic presence in the national liberation wars of our country and the productive offer in the progress of this place»...

Occupied Women (%)

Country	Working force of Women (% of the total)		Employment of Women in Agriculture (% of the women's working force)		Employment Of Women in the Industry (% of the women's working force)		Employment of Women in the Services (% of the women's working force)	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998
Year								
Austria	41	40	-	8	-	14	-	78
Belgium	34	41	0	-	-	-	-	-
France	40	45	7	-	22	-	71	-
German	40	42	-	3	-	19	-	79
Denmark	44	46	4	2	16	15	80	83
Greece	28	37	-	23	-	13	-	64
U. Kingdom	39	44	1	1	23	13	76	86
Ireland	28	34	-	3	-	15	-	79
Spain	28	37	18	6	21	14	60	80
Italy	33	38	16	7	28	22	56	72
Holland	32	40	-	3	-	10	-	85
Portugal	39	44	35	16	25	21	40	64
Sweden	44	48	3	1	16	12	81	87
Finland	47	48	12	5	23	14	63	81

Source: U.N.O., I.L.O., U.N.O.: Report World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics.

«From the previous century till the beginning of the twentieth century various enlightened and cultured Women began the effort and the struggle for the education of Women. These are the years that parents consider a great progress to let their girls learn to write and read. Some magazines that concern Women start to be published and the first Unions of Women are instituted»...

«In general, these first Unions and the magazines were mainly aiming in cultural demonstrations to protect our National Heritage and Culture and in charities of the social welfare. However, Women who are active in these Organizations realize the abilities of their sex. In the meantime, the industrial revolution in Europe makes women realize the exploitation of their sex because they are paid half of what men are paid in the same positions. The injustice towards them in their place of work awakens them as far as the general social injustice they face. Therefore, feminism is born and of course starts to influence Greece»...

«In the beginning of the 60's and especially in 1964 the Greek Union of Women is instituted (Π.Ε.Γ.). The Women's Movement continues its fights with the help of the State and demands the full accession of Woman with equal rights and obligations in all aspects of social and economic life of the country»...

«Likewise all the women in the world, Greeks are exposed to social contradictions that exist in every social level and have to face the additional oppression because of the discriminations between the two sexes»...

«The main problems of direct or indirect discrimination that Greek Women face, have their roots in the following:

a. Although the Constitution of 1975 defined the principle of equality of both sexes as a social and personal right, the institutional frame usually includes samples of open discrimination towards women.

b. In the field of social services there is a lack of benefits that are necessary for the working woman. As a result a part of the working force of the country remains in the border.

c. The social prejudices that aggravate the working woman with double working time because of the notion that they were initially born for the role of the Mother and the Wife. These deeply rooted prejudices have influenced the position of Women in many aspects of life, especially in the field of work and education».

It is a fact that things have improved in many levels. For example the situation of Women in educational and occupational training matters has ameliorate. However, great efforts must be done to improve the specialization of Women and to facilitate their access not only to employment but their return to it after a period of a pause.

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Τόμ. Α'
Β' έκδοση

Αθήνα, 2000

LE DROIT DE L'UNION
EUROPEENNE

Vol. A'
Préface

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ATHENES, 2000

The persistence in social and cultural patterns that; they have been inherited from the past, results on the one hand to an insufficient differentiation of the school and professional choices of Women and on the other hand a limited access to positions of taking decisions. So many Women leave scientific and technical fields, new technologies, administration and prefer (because of submission to the conditions, lack of information, bad self-judgement) professions that are reputed to be female, make easier to handle both family and professional life but establish more uncertain some carrier choices and the access to positions with the competence of taking decisions or the establishment of the creative businessman.

In that framework, education and training can contribute to equal chances in order to make the interested factors sensitive to the risks of this differentiation of the choices. In addition, they can help Women that follow the less chosen by Women orientation and also have the need of new chances or support to transform the insecure positions of employment to a creative step in the procedure of accession in the social beware.

For these who are keen on admonitory endings, it is emphasized that the position of Woman has thoroughly changed in the modern society. The benefit of equal chances to both sexes tends to be an everyday practice in the western societies. The future position of Woman in the rapidly transforming societies, (in which «new ideas», «revolutionary thoughts», «radical views» are «constantly» and «impudently» intruding) depends only on the degree of awareness of her nature, role, abilities, and ambitions...