



Newsletter - December 2023



Holiday Wishes

by Janet Camilo, SIW President

As we approach the holiday season, we extend warm wishes to every one of you!

May this festive time be filled with joy, reflection, and the embrace of loved ones. Together, we have accomplished so much in the pursuit of equality and justice.

Let's carry the spirit of solidarity into the new year, continuing our journey toward a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a 2024 full of joy and success!

Happy Holidays from Socialist International Women!



Article on Gender Equality & Climate Change

by Hella Ben Youssef, SIW Vice-President for the Mediterranean North & South Region

The intersectionality of gender equality and climate action demands simultaneous efforts on the international and local fronts. Mobilizing climate finance and ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level are imperative for achieving a just transition. As we navigate these challenges, it is clear that the fight for gender equality is inseparable from the larger battle against climate change, highlighting the need for comprehensive and inclusive policies in the years to come.

[Read more.](#)

Report – Measures in Favour of Women's Rights in Wallonia

by Christie Morreale, SIW Vice-President for Northern & Western Europe Region

For the Belgian Socialist Party, the fight to strengthen Women's Rights is essential. In this context, since 2019, the Walloon Government has taken a number of important measures such as:

- Creation of nearly 300 new reception and housing places to deal with emergency situations for women victims of violence;
- Partnership with 1,800 pharmacies in Wallonia – relay points in the fight against violence against women;
- Free screenings for breast cancer and cervical cancer from 2024

[Read more.](#)





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Report on 2023 National Elections in Argentina

The SIW is gravely concerned over the election of Javier Milei who won the second round of the presidential elections in Argentina on 19th November with 55.7% of the vote.

Milei's victory poses a significant threat to the rights and equality of all Argentinian women and girls. His denial of gender-based violence, despite a femicide in Argentina every 39 hours, and of the gender pay gap in a country where women earn 27% less than men, is unacceptable. It is also deeply worrying that he is expected to launch a referendum designed to repeal the recent legalisation of abortion and to close the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, set up in 2019 to oversee public policy on gender issues.

The SIW stands with its Argentinian members, the Radical Civic Union (UCR). Together, we will not cease in our efforts to protect the rights of women and girls in Argentina. [The Juntos por el Cambio alliance, of which UCR is a member, has won 31 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two in the senate.]

Report on 2023 National Elections in Colombia



The SIW is proud to stand in solidarity with its member, the Liberal Party of Colombia, PLC, which received more than two and a half million votes in the local and regional elections, held on October 29th. The party won 200 mayoralties, seven governorships, nine co-governorships and the largest number of councillors in the country.

We congratulate the PLC and support their tireless campaign to ensure democracy, rights and freedoms for women and girls in Colombia.

Wider results, however, have shown a worrying rise to the right and centre. The success of the 2022 presidential election brought great hope for gender equality, welcoming an unprecedented number of women voted into office.

The SIW will continue to work with the PLC and all those supporting gender equality and women's rights in Colombia in the challenging times ahead.

Report on 2023 National Elections in Spain



A Spanish general election was held on July 23rd, after regional elections in May resulted in the dissolution of parliament.



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Whilst the election results left no overall winner, the wide support for SIW's member party, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, has not ceased and Pedro Sanchez was re-elected as Prime Minister of the Government of Spain 16 November 2023.

The SIW is proud that PSOE can now continue its path ensuring good governance and socialist policies.

Since 2018, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has stood for gender parity and women's rights. His Cabinet over the years has held a high representation of women and the highest number of female ministers in the country's history. The 2023 Equal Representation Law promotes gender parity in politics, business and public life. It is clear that Sanchez is committed to ensuring that women have an equal voice in policy decision making.

Report on 2023 National Elections in Turkey



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's victory in the second round of the presidential election, held on May 28th, marked yet another term for his Justice and Development Party, a distressing defeat for women's progress.

The unjust imprisonment of Ekrem İmamoğlu, Istanbul's mayor and CHP candidate, the arrest of 126 Kurdish lawyers, activists and politicians earlier in the year, and a wider media crackdown, deeply undermined the election.

Erdoğan's People's Alliance, which has called for gender segregation in schools and the elimination of Law 6284 that aims to prevent violence against women, amongst other misogynist policies, retained a majority in parliament.

Femicide is rising in Turkey, and the SIW remains deeply concerned over the ongoing opposition to gender equality and women's rights. The SIW stands with its members, the People's Republican Party, CHP, and the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party, HEDEP, and will continue its efforts to work together to combat and eradicate policies that are prejudicial to women.



Article

by Pia Locatelli,
SIW Honorary President

I was elected President of the Socialist International Women, SIW, in October 2003 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Latin America; I was confirmed for a second term at the next Congress in June 2008 in Athens, Europe; I then passed the baton to my successor, Ouafa Haji, in August 2012 in Cape Town, Africa.

Being president of SIW has been the most interesting, involving, passionate experience in my long political career. I was proud of holding this position and I strongly felt the responsibility of leading such an extensive network of women's political organisations to which the women worldwide owe a lot.

[Read more.](#)



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SIW Regional Meeting, Dominican Republic - March 2023

This regional meeting of the Socialist International Women (SIW) took place at the JW Marriott Hotel in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 26 March 2023 in the presence of a significant participation of Latin American leaders from the region.

The meeting had a special connotation as it was held straight after the First Regional Forum of Progressive Governments of the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the Socialist International – the first regional meeting of its type and which was chaired by the President of the Government of Spain, and President of Socialist International, Pedro Sánchez, and the General Secretary of the Socialist International, Benedicte Lasi.

[Read more.](#)

SIW Parallel Event during CSW67 - March 2023

At the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) which took place at the United Nations in New York, from 06 to 17 March 2023, the Socialist International Women (SIW) in collaboration with its fraternal organisation, the Socialist International (SI) held a parallel event on Monday 06 March 2023. The title of the event was 'Women and New Technologies – A Challenge towards Equality'.

The aim of this parallel event was to bring together prominent female leaders of our socialist family to discuss and provide their opinions on the topic of the event which was also the main theme of the CSW67.

[Read more.](#)



Declaration for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023

Each year the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women stands as a crucial call-to-arms for action to protect and ensure the safety of women and girls globally. Yet each year it is also a stark reminder of the abhorrence, and worldwide inequity, of gender-based violence that is taking place at staggering rates, and a reminder of the vast amount of work that needs to be done to counter and eradicate this heinous crime.

This year, we supported and welcomed the UNiTE Orange Day on the 25th day of each month as the constant reminder needed to raise awareness, highlight, and take action to end violence against women and girls.

[Read more.](#)



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Interesting Reports

Africa - How Women Grow & Stabilize Economies in Africa
(Available in English, French and Spanish)

Report by Anzette Were, Senior Economist at Financial Sector Deepening (FSD), Kenya

Unpaid care work denies women economic rewards for their time, effort and skills, while compromising their career and business trajectories. In Africa, women spend 3.4 more time in unpaid care work than men and women work more hours than men when unpaid care work and paid work are added together. Further, due to high fertility rates combined with women's high labour force participation rates, 85% of women in Africa are employed and have care responsibilities.

SIW's View: This is an absolute vital report to read. It highlights the injustice and impact unpaid care work has on women and girls in Africa. But there is hope. The report gives a series of realistic recommendations which if implemented, can transform not only the lives of women but that of their countries too.

[Read the full report.](#)

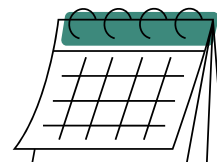
How Funding Women's Organizations Prevents Violence against Women (Available in English, French and Spanish)

[Report by UN Women](#)

Women's rights organizations are essential in tackling gender-based violence and driving progress toward a more equitable and violence-free world for women and girls. Despite the critical role of feminist activism to end violence against women, there has been a surge in anti-rights movements and backlash against women human rights defenders globally.

SIW's View: With International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women having just taken place. This report comes at a crucial time. It offers four reasons why funding women's organisations is essential for ending violence against women and girls. A must read!

[Read the full report.](#)



List of SIW 2024 Meetings and Event:

- **January 2024:** SIW Meeting of Latin America South, North, Central & Caribbean Region, Panama City, Panama.
- **March 2024:** Parallel Event at 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which will take place at the United Nations in New York.
- **April 2024:** SIW Meeting of the Mediterranean North & South Region, Rabat, Morocco.
- **Date TBC:** SIW Council Meeting .
- **October 2024:** SIW Meeting of the Mediterranean East, The Middle East and The Caucasus Region.

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