



MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

8th of March, International Women's Day was minted by socialist and socialdemocratic progressive women and men more than a hundred years ago. They fought for equality, social justice, workers' and women's rights. But throughout the history of our movement, we have fought for PEACE and solidarity. Women have always been in the forefront. Keeping with our heritage, principles and politics we have again today to rise to the occasion with two urgent tasks:

- To raise our voices for peace in Europe and the world, for peace in a sovereign and independent Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops to stop the killing and destruction. Women and children are again the most vulnerable victims. Women in Ukraine have bravely taken up arms to protect their homeland. Our hearts and our solidarity go to them. We also stand in solidarity and support with the democratic and peace-loving women and men of Russia who are collateral victims.

Women of the Balkans have suffered the same fate in the nineties of the last century. We know what misery, sorrow, and tragedy this has brought the region short term and long- term. Women have borne the brunt of insane, irrational power grab testosterone politics. Nobody asked them what they wanted. This must stop. Socialdemocratic women and men of the Balkans, of Europe cannot and should not remain silent and passive faced with the war and threat of further escalation.

Slava Ukraini!

- There cannot be progress and development without peace. We urgently need to concentrate our efforts for peace so that we can recover, rebuild, and retool our societies after the Covid 19 pandemic. We should do our utmost not to be derailed from the task of building a brave new world of social justice, equality, democracy, and stability. Gender equality and women's rights to equality in politics and social standing, labour rights and equal pay, a life free of violence and harassment, full reproductive rights and care are non-negotiable.

Europe and the world need a new peace, security, stability, and cooperation framework to respond to global shifts and realities. Progressive and socialdemocratic women stand firmly by their principles and politics and are ready to roll up their sleeves in the fight for peace and development, for a safe, stable, just, and equal Balkans, Europe and the world for future generations. It is our right and our duty.

This 8th of a March let us remember the lessons and victories of our past and the lofty goals of our future that are all worth fighting for.

Unite and react!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ana Saino Siboni".

Chair, International Board

Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues