

## Women's Rights in Contrasting Realities

As it is said that the hand that rocks the baby in cradle moves the world, women play a significant role in the development of history. Despite this fact, their rights are often ignored in different parts of the world.

It is regarded as a commonplace in many countries that women are differentially treated. For example, when businesses have to cut jobs due to a depression, they put female workers first on the layoff list. In most of the countries across the world female workers are paid much less than their male colleagues. In America such wage gap is still higher for female workers of African or Latin-American origin.



Women in French out in the street against job cut

Women also fall prey to all sorts of violence and human trafficking. According to data available, as many as about 240 000 to 350 000 women and children in America are now forced to work as sex slaves. A local newspaper published an article titled “It is high time when we should launch a new war against slave system and human trafficking,” highlighting the country’s dire situation where women are under the targets of human trafficking. The article drew much public attention. The case is the same with other Western countries. About one third of women around the world are not provided with basic human rights.

However, the women’s rights are thoroughly guaranteed in socialist Korea, not as a legal phrase but in reality.

In this country women enjoy equal political freedom and rights with men and receive preferential treatment and respect in social life. Women from all strata of life, whether they are workers, farmers, intellectuals, sportspersons or artists, become heroes, deputies to the Supreme People’s Assembly (the parliament of the DPRK), officials of power organs and public institutions and enterprises, professors and doctors.

Their dignity and pride have reached the highest stage thanks to General Secretary Kim Jong Un, the country’s supreme leader.

Under his care national celebrations take place on every March 8 International Women’s Day. That day women are given bouquets, congratulatory cards and souvenirs as a token of respect and love for them.

Kim Jong Un made sure that November 16 was designated as Mother’s Day and grand meetings were organized to highlight the pride of the Korean women. In December last year the Fifth National Conference of Mothers was held in his presence in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK. In the conference he made a speech inspiring the mothers across the country. In the speech he clarified the steadfast will of the WPK to struggle more dynamically, regarding it as its honourable duty to try its best to realize mothers’ dream and desire to bring up their children well on the beautiful land of socialism and communism. He sincerely wished all the mothers across the country good health and happiness along with the hearts of all their sons and daughters on this land. In the conference some women were awarded the newly instituted Communist Mother Honour Prize in recognition of the distinguished services they had rendered to the country by discharging the responsibility and duty they assumed as mothers before the society and their families. And gifts were conveyed to all the participants.



Participants in the Fifth National Conference of Mothers held in December 2023



A woman are moved to tears after she was awarded the Communist Mother Honour Prize