

# The party of the feminist revolution

Feminist contribution for the Congress of Villeurbanne



"We are socialists, therefore feminists". If feminism weighs in words, in the political programs we carry, we socialists, women and men, are aware that feminist praxis is lacking in our political organization.

The observation is indisputable: we socialists, who claim to be feminists, still have too few women in our ranks. We do not know how to attract, value, and bring out new female figures to conquer power. It is true that the great metropolises of Marseille, Paris, Nantes, Lille and Rennes are led by women, but they are only highlighted because they are exceptional figures.

Because we are socialists and we believe in political organization but we know its shortcomings, we ask for the implementation of several measures in our statutes and within our organization to achieve equality.

## **1. Making the feminist revolution in our organization**

### **1.1. For militant parity: attracting women to our organization through attractiveness and sorority**

Today, women are under-represented in our organization and this weighs on the image of our political organization.

In order to promote the militant parity of our organization, we want :

- a targeted membership campaign implemented by the party that values committed women, we must be THE party that calls on women to take power ;
- the writing of our statutes and documents in inclusive writing ;
- the respect of the parity of experts and speakers in the trainings, workshops, conferences, etc. organized by our party, both at the federal and national levels: the predominantly or even exclusively male forums are a thing of the past;
- the implementation of real training courses for all newcomers, especially women, with a strong emphasis on public speaking;
- the obligation, in the federations, to hold meetings in an alternative format in order to be adapted to the constraints of everyone: alternating days, hours, evenings or weekends and times for video meetings;
- the implementation of childcare solutions allowing committed parents to participate in meetings of authorities or the financing of childcare arrangements ;
- the generalization of women's networks in all federations in order to set up mentoring systems, strengthen the sorority and ensure that new comrades have reference points outside their sections, have easier access to training or simply benefit from advice or more targeted listening;
- the inclusion of the national network of socialist women in our statutes and the possibility for the national commission for equality between women and men to communicate with all members.

### **1.2 A direction that leads by example**

Because our authorities and our governance are the showcase of our party, because a woman can better project herself if she sees other women in responsibility and because we have to look for women to find them, it is necessary that our internal parity policy be strengthened. We want to :

- the alternation at the head of all our bodies, when the incumbent is a man, there can only be female candidates;
- create the possibility of joint pairs at the level of section secretaries and first federal secretaries, we know that this is not a long-term solution because a woman can exercise

responsibility alone, but we are using it as a transitional measure to place women in a position of responsibility ;

- the effectiveness of parity in the national and federal authorities on all positions and especially on key positions (if the 1st federal secretary is a man, the number 2 of the federation will be a woman, and parity on other positions: treasury, federations, elections, membership).

We request that these rules be included in our articles of association and not in a separate charter or bylaws. It will therefore be appropriate for the party to fix before the end of the year 2020, the date of a statutory congress which will be that of the rights of women in our party, or which will not be.

## **2. Women and Elections: Putting an end to the adjustment variable that makes women "second-class men".**

Each election has its justification for placing women in a position of secondary importance. We know the argument of the incumbent, who is necessarily the first, the argument of the one "who weighs" because "times are hard", the question of agreements because men have more weight to resist mergers. Finally, there are the legislative elections, where places are expensive for women who find themselves in winning constituencies or in a situation of substitution, or even worse: in constituencies that cannot be won, and there is no shortage of examples.

Fortunately, the law went through this process and several positions were saved: parity lists for municipal and intercommunal/metropolitan lists (but not for the top of the list), parity pairs for departmental lists and regional lists (not for the women's positions maintained after the mergers of the lists and the top of the list). The observation is clear: the law has not - yet - imposed frameworks that allow real equality, fortunately our organization still has some weight, it can impose some...

Since candidates are nominated by the federal and/or national level, we ask that new rules be applied to electoral commissions:

- the presence of the SF in equality in all the commissions and the negotiations with the partners for the constitutions and list mergers with voting and blocking rights ;
- to promote conciliation between the limitation of the accumulation of local mandates and parity at all levels of responsibility, taking into account each local situation ;
- Ensure that parity is respected in the eligible constituencies, particularly in the senatorial elections, in the deputies, and at the head of the list of intercommunal bodies;
- ensure that the parity of socialist candidates on the union lists is respected.

We ask that a feminist charter be drawn up which all the invested candidates undertake to respect.

- the parity of the comrades rejected following the mergers ;
- parity of leaders: if a man is the leader of the list, he commits to having a female first assistant;

- parity within the political groups ;
- the non-accumulation of local responsibilities by limiting to two local positions (even outside the executive) by paying attention to local situations ;
- the attribution of non-gendered delegations to women in case of victory (finance, transport, etc.).

We believe that the application of all these measures will guarantee an equal representation of women in our organization. Politics is everyone's business, and everyone must be able to take their place in it.

We also demand the strict respect and application of the resolutions adopted unanimously by the National Board on November 28, 2017 and July 1, 2019.

We demand that each candidate for any election (internal to the party or territorial) must have previously undergone training in the fight against violence against women and equal rights between women and men. In other words, no training = no nomination.

Finally, we would like to affirm that the feminist struggle is not an exclusively feminist struggle. The quest for real equality concerns us all.

Socialists, therefore feminists.

It's time to move beyond the slogan and move from words to action.

### **First Signatories**

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