

laws or enact national policies that support the establishment of labour laws to ensure the protection of all women workers, including safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice.

para 166(l): Safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights, including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value and non-discrimination in employment, fully implementing the conventions of the International Labour Organization in order to achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Recommendations

The Canadian government undertake the following actions and encourage other governments, particularly the ones in developing countries, to:

1. Recognize unremunerated work that women do, including caring for dependents, working for family farms and businesses and working in the community (para 165(g)).
2. Establish and reform labour laws to ensure the protection of all women workers including safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice (para 165(r)). These laws must ensure that women are free from forced labour, that they work at a fair wage and for an appropriate number of hours a day, that women are not discriminated on the basis of age, and that child labour is prohibited.
3. Implement and, where in existence, improve and/or enhance maternity leave rights (para 165(c)).
4. Ensure that transnational companies adhere to international labour codes and standards so that women producing corporate products in all countries are ensured safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice (para 165(l)).
5. Pressure all countries and transnational corporations which import products into Canada to apply fair and equitable labour laws which ensure the protection of all women workers.
6. Work towards amendments to international trade agreements to include the ability to impose tariffs on any goods produced by transnational corporations under adverse, unjust work conditions.

■ Women and Poverty

Platform for Action

para 58(b): Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes—including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments and employment... with respect to their impact on... family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

Recommendations

The Canadian government recognize poverty within an holistic paradigm and encourage and lobby other governments, particularly those of developing countries, to do so. For example, child poverty cannot be separated from the issue of debt reduction and GNP. Food security, child care, housing, fair wages and global restructuring are all important areas that must be addressed when discussing poverty.

