



## STATE BANK OF HYDERABAD STAFF ASSOCIATION

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**CIR. NO. SA-CO/104/2015**

**Date: 26.02.2015**

**TO ALL THE MEMBERS:**

**Dear Comrades,**

**We reproduce hereunder the CIRCULAR NO. 27/96/2015/7, dated: 26<sup>TH</sup> February, 2015, issued by our National Organization – AIBEA, for your information.**

**With Greetings,**

Yours Comradely,

  
(JAGDISH M BHAVTHANKAR)  
GENERAL SECRETARY - SBHSA

Dear Comrades,

**Observe International Women's Day : 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**  
**Theme : "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity"**

On the occasion of the ensuing International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, we greet all our unions and convey our special greetings to our women members. Women are an integral part of the society. Working women are an inseparable part of the working class movement. But from time immemorial, women are being denied their due and equal share in every walk of life. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Socialist Women held in Copenhagen in 1910, the renowned German Communist and trade union leader Com. Clara Jarkin proposed that a day be observed every year as International Women's Day and since 1911 Women's Day is being observed the world over. From 1914, it is being observed on 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is an occasion to pledge ourselves to carry forward the struggle for equality of women.

This year too, when we celebrate the International Women's Day, we are gravely concerned about the increasing attacks on women and girls on their dignity and safety. Instances of attacks on modesty of women continue to haunt us every now and then. We really feel ashamed at the barbarity of our society and the cruelty against women. Unless the Government can take adequate steps, womenfolk will continue to suffer from such ignominy, shame and neglect.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, let us all take the pledge that we shall fight for the protection and safety of women and also for equality of women in our society. It is not a charity but is what is due to them.

In addition to such social injustices, women also continue to be the special target of exploitation under the present neo-liberal economic policies. Women workers are being pushed into more and more casual, contractual and informal labour with indecent working conditions, low and discriminatory wages, denial of maternity benefits, sexual harassments, etc. Poverty is not only on the increase but it is also being feminized. More than 60% of the poor workers of the world are women. In unemployment also women suffer more. More than 80 million women are unemployed in the world. Thus the women in general and

working women in particular are paying a heavy price due to these neo-liberal and pro-capital economic policies. Women are commoditised and womenfolk are commercialised.

Hence while we celebrate International Women's Day, we must focus and campaign on these issues and fight against these challenges as a part of our trade unions' role and responsibilities. We have to integrate women employees more and more in our organisational activities. In AIBEA, we are happy that women employees are increasingly playing an active role in our movement. We must enable them to play further greater role in our unions. Let this be our resolve when we celebrate the occasion.

This year, United Nations has decided that International Women's Day will highlight the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago that sets the agenda for realizing women's rights. While there have been many achievements since then, many serious gaps remain. This is the time to uphold women's achievements, recognize challenges, and focus greater attention on women's rights and gender equality to mobilize all people to do their part. The Beijing Platform for Action focuses on 12 critical areas of concern, and envisions a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination. To this end, the theme of this year's International Women's Day is the clarion call of UN Women's Beijing+20 campaign **"Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity"**.

Empowering women and empowering humanity are intrinsically and inseparably inter-linked. One cannot be achieved without achieve the other. This is an occasion to pledge ourselves to carry forward the struggle for equality and empowerment of women.

In our AIBEA's 7<sup>th</sup> National Convention of women bank employees, it was decided to observe this day, keeping the theme of Convention in mind.

- **Let us pledge to strive for a better society.**
- **Let us pledge to play our role for dignity and safety of women.**
- **Let us stand up and fight against increasing atrocities on women**
- **Let us pledge solidarity and support to the unorganised women with constructive programs.**
- **Let us stand up and fight against exploitation of women in this sector.**
- **Let us pledge to ensure job security in the banking industry.**
- **Let us pledge to resist anti- people banking reforms.**
- **Let us stand up & fight against increasing attacks on common people & working women, due to the liberalization- globalization policies.**
- **Let us fight against terrorism, against violence on women, and for social justice & a better society.**

**Together we can and together we must.**

We request all our unions to observe the occasion befittingly through meetings, leaflets, postering, social identification programmes, etc.

Yours comradely,



**C.H.VENKATACHALAM**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**