

## **Resolution in honor of the women's holiday**

A general meeting of the Federation of General and Special workers in Iceland (SGS) on October 24th of 2019 passed the following resolution.

SGS wishes to commemorate the fact that 44 years have passed since the first women's holiday took place on October 24th of 1975. On that day, Icelandic women got together and took the day off, thereby paralyzing the Icelandic economy to call attention to the incalculable contribution made by women in the Icelandic labor market and in the homes.

Alas, the development towards gender equality has been slow since the meeting was held, almost a half-century ago. Women have a visibly smaller share of power in society compared with men and are paid about a quarter less than men for the same work.

Of all the groups in society, unskilled working women are paid the least. It's safe to say that these women bear the heaviest burdens in Icelandic society. Many have long working days, as well as being the primary caregivers of the family members who live with them. This group is more likely than all others to suffer harassment and various kinds of degrading treatment in the labor market and is the most likely of all groups to go on disability benefits in middle age.

SGS is currently in the middle of a serious wage dispute with local authorities, the City of Reykjavík and the state. It represents populous women's professions in care-work. The Federation is appalled by the treatment of these women and by how the bottomless disregard for their wellbeing becomes evident during negotiations.

Enough is enough. It's long past time for the work of these women to be duly appreciated. Society must join hands in ensuring that they receive a satisfactory wage, and thereby respect, in our rich country. The public sector should, of course, lead by example in that regard.

SGS calls on the public sector to negotiate in good faith for the wages and working conditions of employees on their payroll. To ensure for them higher wages and a shorter workweek to work towards a decent living for them and for gender equality in society.