

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



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To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

Dear Comrades,

A Defined International Women's Day - March 8, 2021 #ChooseToChallenge#IWD2021

Greetings of the country's largest banking trade union in supervisory cadre on the meaningful occasion of **International Women's Day - 2021!**

It is at the turn of the last century that oppression on the women and inequality in society were spurring the women to become more vocal and active. The year 1908 witnessed an epoch-making event, when more than 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and voting rights. The idea of an 'International Women's Day' was first floated by a woman leader, Ms. Clara Zetkin in the Second International Conference of Working Women held in Copenhagen in the year 1910, which got unanimous approval from more than 100 women delegates from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, and working women's clubs. The relationship of the working-class movement with the IWD is thus interwoven.

International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975. Adoption of an annual Theme was prescribed by the UN in 1996 - which was 'Celebrating the past, Planning for the Future'. Since then, a Theme is being proclaimed for the IWD of every year. The Theme of IWD this year is: **'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.'**, while the theme for campaign is: **'#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021'**.

Many of the most successful responses to the COVID-19 pandemic were led by women – be it health care workers, caregivers, innovators or community organizers. A Report released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has revealed one of the most shocking news that around 47 million women have been pushed to poverty because of the pandemic. Post COVID-19, the entire humanity is required to re-build a new order of life. We need to act differently. In that paramount task ahead of us, Women can be instrumental in bringing desirable changes.

In the banking industry, over 35% of the workforce is womenfolk. The Confederation is destined to fight for equal rights to women and ensuring their due share in the organisation, the institution and the society. The challenges faced by our women in the workplace need to be addressed by all of us together. We, therefore, call upon each of our Affiliates and all the State and District Units to raise awareness against bias, take action for gender equality and seek out and celebrate women's achievements on each day of the year.

Presently, we are in the mode of agitation including two days' strike on 15th and 16th March 2021 - demanding strengthening of public sector banks and opposing the sinister design of the government of privatisation of banks and introduction of retrograde reforms in banking sector. AIBOC rejects all these policies of the present government serving the interest of the crony corporates including multinationals to maximise their profits and amassing their assets and wealth continually at the cost of cut in wages, benefits and jobs, absence of social security and replacing 'defined benefits' on superannuation to 'defined contribution without any responding guarantee on defined payments back, gradual reduction of importance of social banking, diversification of public funds in the coffer of a few billionaires and loss of livelihood by common man - which are responsible for causing much greater causality in the form of inequality of women in every sphere of our society at this difficult time. We salute to each of the women in the banking industry as well as to those in the families of all our members besides millions of women customers of banks and look forward to having their wholehearted and active support in our fight against privatising the profits and nationalising the losses.

On this **International Women's Day - 2021**, let all of us take oath for:

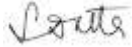
Thinking globally and acting locally!

Ensuring equality in its true sense and making everyday as International Women's Day!

**We will fight we will fight, till we succeed we will fight.
#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021**

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,



Soumya Datta
General Secretary

Down with the World of Property and the Power of Capital!

- Alexandra Kollontai