**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN TO THE WIDF EUROPE GROUP**

The president and executive committee of the National Assembly of Women send their greetings of sisterhood and solidarity to member organisations of the WIDF Europe group and express our admiration for all the work you have been doing since we last met in July to promote justice and equality for women in the wider context of the struggle for peace and socialism, in a world in which imperialist aggression is intensifying and interventions and wars becoming ever more numerous and destructive, with a particularly devastating impact on women and children. In that period, we have seen our own government play a leading role in undermining world peace, engaging in imperialist war games across the Indo-Pacific region with the US, Japan, and a host of regional allies, and concluding a dangerous military pact (AUKUS) with the US and Australia, including the provision of nuclear-powered submarines to the latter.

Today, we would like to congratulate once again the Federation of the Women of Greece on the successful holding of their 13th Congress in October and to thank them for their continuing support in regularly bringing together this WIDF Europe Group.

We would also like to congratulate our sisters in Cyprus, who successfully held the 14th Pancyprian Congress of POGO on 14th November. Our government bears a major responsibility, historically and at present, for the grave situation in your country in which illegal occupation of a significant part of your sovereign territory might now be further entrenched and partition made permanent. The NAW stands in solidarity with the affirmation of POGO’s Congress against occupation, partition, and chauvinism and for a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation.

The NAW held its first ‘in person’ meeting since the COVID lockdown of March 2020 in Birmingham in mid-October 2021. The event was a residential weekend on the theme of ‘The Changing World of Work for Women’ and sessions were led by two women trade union leaders and a senior policy officer of the Trade Union Congress. We talked about women in the workplace and in the trade union movement, covering the effects of the pandemic on women at work, occupational segregation, low pay, the gig economy and the impact of technology and automation on women and women’s jobs of the future. In an international session we addressed the struggle of women in Afghanistan and Britain’s role in stifling progress towards justice and equality there – through its past and present role as ally of the US – and the importance of countering mass media peddled misrepresentations of the situation to the British working class. We also updated those present on the work of the WIDF, which greatly interested everyone, and read a message of greeting from WIDF vice-president, Skevi Koukouma. This will be published in the next issue of *Sisters*.

The current issue of *Sisters* (Autumn 2021) carries articles on the ‘broken’ benefit system, hunger in Britain, where workers in the food industry cannot themselves afford food, women’s input to the struggle for climate change and women in Afghanistan and the importance of solidarity with them.

Next year is the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the NAW and we are currently planning how to mark this in a number of ways (watch this space!) that will raise the profile of the organisation.

The NAW is looking forward to participating in the postponed WIDF 17th World Congress, now set for 2022 in Venezuela and we would like to put forward the following proposals for key themes to be covered. These are some preliminary ideas only for those who are attending to take to the WIDF Secretariat in Mexico later this month:

1. Imperialist threats to peace, security and development and specific threats to the women’s struggle for justice and equality – updated analysis to which we can all contribute. The women’s struggle against capitalism and imperialism – developing knowledge, organisation, and cooperation at national, regional, and global levels. Building unity. Building our voice. Building for peace.
2. Comprehensive assessment of the impacts of economic crisis and COVID on working women and their families worldwide. What we learned – about oppression and exploitation and about how to renew and strengthen our struggle. Women in a post-COVID future.
3. Eliminating violence against and social exclusion of women – understanding its origins in class struggle and all its current manifestations. Misogynistic ideologies and their role. State and organised violence. Domestic violence. Ways forward.
4. Women and work – worldwide. The workplace and the labour movement. Women in labour struggles. What does the future hold? What we will fight for. Link to provision of quality childcare – essential.
5. Climate change and the environment – what women are doing and can do.
6. Understanding how to better build and promote the WIDF. Internal communications uplift and better access to up-to-date information on the organisation and its campaigns for all audiences. We need a website – urgently!

Apologies that our representative had to leave the meeting early.