



BILBAO2018

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GSEF 2018: Gender equality and Social Economy

Declaration in favour of an inclusive economic and social model

On 8th March this year, thousands of women all over the world took part in an unprecedented general strike, affecting not only employment but also care and consumption, in an attempt to show society that when women stop, the world is shaken.

This general strike, which saw women protesting the urgency of guaranteeing gender equality and ending the different types of violence that affect their lives, was accompanied by mass demonstrations. In Bilbao, as in many cities all over the world, the demonstration filled the street with women, and men, calling for an end to gender inequality.

The social economy can only support these claims because, precisely, in many of our business and organisation models, we consider gender equality as one of our values. In many cases, these are not mere declarations of intentions but real situations that, day by day, women have been able to overcome.

However, despite actions run by social economy organisations in favour of gender equality, even though the progress has been made over the last few years, and the thrust and decisions that women make in their daily lives, challenges still remain.

And this happens because, often without realising it, we reproduce gender power relations. And this happens despite that fact that the values that we defend and on which we build our economic and professional projects focus our activities precisely on all persons, in an attempt to guarantee equal opportunities and equality as a fundamental pillar of the social economy.

Solidarity, cooperation, democracy are fundamental values of the social economy that should already be guaranteeing gender equality in a socially inclusive economic model.

In addition, to move forwards with full equality between men and women, from the social economy, and based on our values, we have to start taking important steps. Therefore, we are committing to:

- Promoting an inclusive work market that, by appreciating diversity and differences, guarantees equality opportunities for all persons and respectable, good quality employment.
- Categorically rejecting all forms of discrimination because, to help improve living conditions, the development model should be based on equal participation from women.
- Transforming our work processes to raise awareness on and consider all the tasks, productive and reproductive, that make the economy possible and sustainable, acknowledging the economic and social value of care.
- Generating protocols and immediate responses to reject gender violence to rid our organisations and society of this behaviour.



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- Working to improve the practices of organisations in the social economy in terms of equal pay and representation in our decision-making bodies, getting rid of the pay gap or glass ceilings.
- Promoting the social economy as a pillar of our future cities, helping to build spaces to live together equally and boosting inclusive citizenship.
- Raising awareness and generating critical awareness around us. Empowering, learning and training up in new skills to demand gender equality in all the necessary spaces, inside and outside the social economy.

And don't forget that the social economy can only be as such if it is a feminist, fair, supportive and participative economy!

