A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE OF THE SOLUTION OF WOMEN'S PROBLEM

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Today, the Korean women are powerfully turning forward a wheel in the wagon of revolution. They are now carrying out revolution and construction with a high pride and consciousness of being the genuine masters of the country and society. Article 62 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reads:

"Women are accorded equal social status and rights with men.

"The State affords special protection to mothers and children through maternity leave, shortened working hours for mothers of large families, a wide network of maternity hospitals, creches and kindergartens and other measures.

"The State frees women from the heavy burden of house-hold chores and provides every condition for them to participate in public life."

Complete sex equality is thus a fundamental right enjoyed by women in the DPRK. In many developing countries, the movement for women's rights aims at achieving "equality of men and women before law" or "no discrimination on the ground of sex." In the developed capitalist countries of Europe and North America, which boast so much about freedom for women, what rights the women possess is "equal rights with men to vote."

(In some countries even this limited rights, that
is, "equal political rights" and so-called "guarantee against discrimination in the application of law," are still denied to women.) Equal status in society and equal economic rights are yet to be won by women.

However, in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, we find a different picture.

In Korea, a land which was a colony of Japanese imperialism before liberation, women are today completely emancipated not only from social inequalities but also from the burden of household chores and this thing is stipulated in the constitution.

The Socialist Constitution expressly stipulates that women hold equal rights with men in all fields of social and family life and that women and children are specially protected. Thus it affords a sure guarantee for consolidating the social status and rights now enjoyed by women and further increasing their role in socio-political life and socialist construction.

This constitution and the rights enjoyed by the women of Korea are attributable entirely to the wise guidance and warm solicitude of the great leader President Kim Il Sung. It is thanks to his loving care that the Korean women have been able to advance vigorously turning forward a wheel of the wagon of revolution.

Equal right for women is an urgent necessity in the interests of Korean revolution and socialist construction.

The great leader President Kim Il Sung has said:

"If a society is to run normally, women who account for one half of the population must play their role satisfactorily; if we are to revolutionize and working-classize the whole of society, we must also revolutionize and working-classize women. Just as a wagon cannot run smoothly when only one of its wheels functions, so a society cannot develop on a sound basis when only men fulfil their duties."
In Korea the work of protecting women's rights was conducted as part and parcel of Korean revolution. Korea's liberation from the colonial yoke of Japanese imperialism and the establishment of socialist system in the northern part of the Republic brought about a complete emancipation of women in the DPRK. Today sex equality in Korea does not merely mean "recognition of equal rights of women in law," but equal participation of women in all fields of the revolution and construction. Women in Korea hold responsible posts and work energetically in all fields of society—politics, the economy and culture.

Family is the cell of society and if a family is constituted on the basis of inequal status of men and women, the social system as a whole will be weakened. If women are not freed from the heavy burden of household chores it is impossible to emancipate them completely in society as well. Because they will have to work in society and also undertake all the drudgeries of the household. As such real emancipation of women presupposes emancipation from household chores. The constitutional provision for freeing women from household chores is the legal expression of the idea of final solution of the women's question.

From the first days when President Kim Il Sung set out on the road of revolution, he regarded the women's emancipation movement as one of the fundamental questions of social revolution, and on the basis of the Juche idea, created an original thinking and theory on the solution of women's question. During the days of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, President Kim Il Sung illumined the way to free women from the fetters of old society.

The revolutionary tradition of sex equality established in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle served as the basis of complete sex equality in Korea.

President Kim Il Sung organized and mobilized a large number of women revolutionaries to put an end to Japanese colonial rule and achieve national liberation.
After liberation President Kim Il Sung proclaimed the Law on the Equality of the Sexes as an inseparable part of the democratic reforms. President Kim Il Sung also set forth an original line of revolutionizing and working-classizing women and led them to carry it out.

As early as 1961 President Kim Il Sung declared that the state should assume full responsibility for the construction of all the facilities needed for women's public activities. In the absence of such facilities, the legal provisions for rights of women remain only in paper and women cannot get opportunity to work outside homes. Today the DPRK is providing all conditions for enabling women to work. In Korea there are now well-furnished nurseries and kindergartens at all places where women work. These nurseries and kindergartens are run entirely at state and social expenses.

The mass-production of kitchen utensils, the expansion of networks of service establishments and development of food industry are the important measures to free women from the heavy burden of kitchen and household chores. Under the wise guidance of the great leader, the Government of the DPRK allows women with three or more children to work 6 hours a day and get 8 hour workday pay. Working women are granted paid maternity leave and holidays regularly every year and when they choose to go to rest homes the state bears their food expenses, living charges and travel expenses.

When women enjoy such state protection, naturally they can take an active part in state and social activities. Today the Women's Union of Korea is launching a vigorous campaign to make all women communist mothers and fine communist educators for the New generation. In home education, mother's responsibility is greater than father's. She is the first educator of children.

Today women in the DPRK, are performing successfully their duties of bringing up the rising generations as true communist builders boundlessly faithful to the great leader and
reliable successors to the revolution. Women are playing an important part in developing sciences and techniques and in bringing socialist culture into full bloom.

The ideal of complete emancipation of women is being

realized admirably in the DPRK under the sagacious guidance of President Kim Il Sung. President Kim Il Sung is the father of feminist movement in Korea and a great inspirer and a brilliant guide for the feminist movement throughout the world and particularly for the women’s liberation movement in the third world countries.