

Convention Amendment

Women and the Third Camp Statement

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The I.S. has always stood for the liberation of women, and have considered this to be part of our Third Camp world view. While the draft of the Third Camp Statement briefly mentions the effect of the crises of Stalinism and capitalism on oppressed groups, this is not developed in the document. Another hallmark of our politics has been the unequivocal support of the right of oppressed minorities to organize independent liberation movements. Once again, the document alludes to, but does not develop, this idea. These ideas, along with an analysis of minority and national oppression, and lesbian and gay oppression, should be more fully developed in the Third Camp Statement.

The following ideas are outlines, presented as "sense amendments" to be developed and worked into the completed version.

All class societies, whether capitalist or ostensibly "Communist," contain an inherent tendency toward special oppression. This oppression is a structural support of the systems. The availability of jobs for women, childcare, abortion, the social attitudes towards the family, intolerance of lesbians and gays -- are dependent on the economic and social needs of the societies as perceived by the ruling classes. (Many examples can be given.)

Beyond standing for liberation of the oppressed, we support the independent movements of minorities, women, lesbians and gays in both capitalist and Stalinist societies. These movements can win gains for oppressed groups, while increasing the consciousness and militancy of the individuals involved. They assure that the demands of the groups be taken seriously, thereby challenging divisions in the working class, and helping to build a socialist movement that can be meaningful to oppressed people.