

„Motion 3: Today, 60 per cent of women are not covered by any type of social protection. By 2030, universal and gender-responsive social protection systems will be available for everyone“

Dear...

Equality between women and men is a standard that is protected virtually by every binding legal instrument on human rights.

Also, two international agreements, as well as the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, protect the equal enjoyment of rights as a fundamental principle of the exercise of all human rights.

When we talk about any form of discrimination, whether it is discrimination based on gender, colour of skin, ethnicity, etc., we must bear in mind certain historical facts as well as empirical indicators observed over a longer period of time.

Therefore, the social protection system itself, on which Bosnia and Herzegovina, like other countries in the region, spends about a quarter of its GDP (mostly through pension and health insurance contributions), has certain shortcomings.

Speaking specifically on this topic today, that a relatively large percentage of women are not covered by any kind of social protection, the reason can be found in the historical fact, especially in post-socialist societies, that women have had the status of "unpaid supportive household member" especially in rural parts.

Furthermore, the imbalance in the labour market, where the search for employment becomes a problem which particularly affects women.

Naturally, the reason is not the lack of skills among women, on the contrary, throughout Europe women have, over the recent years, gained an advantage in education over men through their work and efforts.

Nevertheless, when we take a look at employment statistics, women are more likely to remain unemployed - perhaps the explanation lies in the fact that women still do lower paid jobs, are under-represented higher up the hierarchical levels or more often limit their working hours to raise children, etc.

Economically challenging times, such as this one today in which we are facing the COVID-19 pandemic, are fertile ground for discrimination in the field of labour and employment, as well as in society in general.

From our aspect, as female MPs and representatives of legislative power, our actions to increase social protection through improving the position of women in the labour market must be aimed at improvement through legislative solutions.

This is best achieved by combining economic growth policies with employment, social security and labour rights policies, with the joint efforts of legislators, the executive power, social partners and civil society.

Therefore, I personally believe that a woman should be a real force, not a "democratic ornament",

Through learning, investing in themselves, gaining experience and knowledge, through responsibility and clear attitudes, women can fight for better positions both in the workplace and in society itself.

Of course, this largely depends on the women themselves.

Thank you for attention.