

Feminist economists call for debt moratorium for Greece

Resolution of feminist economists gathering at the IAFFE Conference

in Berlin, July 16-18, 2015

We are shocked that the EU institutions and European leaders are imposing on the people of Greece a further program of austerity that will severely undermine the living conditions of women and men and plunge them into a deep crisis of deprivation. This hits Greek women particularly hard as they will have to provide the safety net of last resort through intensified work of taking care of their families, friends and communities.

As feminist economists, as well as many other economists, have stressed over many years, the debt burden is unsustainable, this fact has recently even been acknowledged by the IMF. Thus, the hardship imposed on Greek people will not resolve the problem of its indebtedness, but it will rather worsen the great depression.

The fate of women, men and their families should not be abandoned by EU institutions and politicians and left in the hands of financial powers. The same neoliberal political perspective under the name of “structural adjustments”, has led to enormous sufferings and political instability in Latin America, Asia and Africa. As we know, the vicious circle was only interrupted by a drastic change in political perspective and policies.

Women across Europe, although in different ways according to class, citizenship and ethnicity, have already been disadvantaged by the neoliberal policy of the EU institutions and member state governments. The proposed action against Greece will further damage women’s economic and social status and autonomy in all EU countries.

In addition to jeopardizing the independence and democratic basis of a Member State government, austerity imperils women’s and men’s power to design and implement transformative policies for a sustainable and democratic future that puts women’s and men’s well-being at the center.

Painful lessons of history, especially of the First and Second World War, should never be forgotten. Europe has to be alert to the political and economic dangers that are embedded in this austerity approach. Furthermore, history teaches us that these problems can only be solved by significant debt reduction, as for example in 1953, and by international solidarity and collaboration.

We call upon EU leaders and in particular the government of Germany to come to an agreement with Greece respecting the dignity of Greek people and democratic processes, including

- an immediate moratorium on Greek government debt and negotiate a write-down of this debt,
- a progressive fiscal policy that takes into proper account the distribution of income between labour and financial capital; sustains the process of social reproduction that enables women and men, in their life cycle, to live and work with dignity; promotes the creation of high-quality jobs, aiming at a substantial reduction of working hours for all, and investment in public services and care infrastructure.

Berlin, 19 July 2015

Signed by*

Agata Chelstowska	Institute of Public Affairs, University of Warsaw, Poland
Alena Krizkova	Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences
Alicia del Olmo	IEHPA, Spain
Alina Sobotta	Student, Germany
Amaia Perez Orozco	Eje de Economia Feminista, Spain
Amparo Garica	Spain
Annet Adong	Economic Policy Research Center, Makerere University, Uganda
Anni Donaldson	Scottish Women's Budget Group, Scotland
Anupama Uppal	Punjabi University, India
Ana Sanchez	Eje de Precariedad y Economic Feminista, Madrid, Spain
Andrea Collins	IAFFE
Angela O'Hagan	Glasgow Caledonian University and Scottish Women's Budget Group, Scotland
Anna Zachorowska	GEM-Europe, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Antje Schrupp	Publicist, Germany
Antonella Picchio	Center for Analysis of Public Policy, Department of Economics, Modena, Italy
Ariane Götz	IASS
Baer Bei Holzheuer	Germany
Barbara Hopkins	Wright State University, USA
Bilge Erten	Northeastern University, USA
Bina Agarwal	University of Manchester, UK
Birgit Erbe	Frauenakademie München, Germany
Brenda Boonabaara	Makerere University, Uganda
Caitlin Kieran	
Carla Dohmewirth	Independent Researcher, Germany
Carlo D'Ippoliti	Sapienza University, Rome, Italy
Carmen Castro	Spain
Carmen Diana Deere	University of Florida, USA
Carol Frances	Independent, USA
Cassandra Guamri	University of California, USA
Catharina Schmitz	Indevelop, Sweden
Christa Schlager	Beigewum, Austria
Christine Curley	Colorado State University, USA

Clair Brown	University of California, Berkeley, USA
Clara M. Park	International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands
Corina Rodriguez Enriquez	DAWN-GEM LAC, Argentina
Danislava Marinova	Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany
David Kucera	ILO, Geneva, Switzerland
Değer Eryar	İzmir University of Economics, Turkey
Diane Elson	Essex University, UK
Dorene Isenberg	University of Redlands, CA, USA
Doris Weichselbaumer	Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria
Drucilla Barker	University of South Carolina, USA
Ebru Kongar	Dickinson College, USA
Eirini Petratou	Leeds University, Business School, UK
Elaine McCrate	University of Vermont, USA
Elisabeth Klatzer	Femmes Fiscales, Austria
Elizabeth Stiefel	Köln Agenda, Germany
Emel Memiş	Ankara University, Turkey
Emily Thomson	Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
Emmanuel Petit	Bordeaux University, France
Erofilu Grasp	University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa
Eugenia Correa	Mexico National University, Mexico
Ewa Ruminiska-Zimny	GEM-Europe, Polish Academy of Science and Congress of Polish Women, Poland
Farida C. Khan	University of Wisconsin-Parkside, USA
Felizitas Sagebiel	University of Wuppertal, Germany
Fiona Carmichael	University of Birmingham, UK
Firat Cengiz	University of Liverpool, UK
Francesca Bettio	Ingenere Editorial Board
Francisca Pereyra	Universidad Nacional General Sarmiento, Argentina
Francisco Cos	LSE Gender Institute Alumni, UK
Gary Dymski	Leeds University, Business School, UK
Geert Dhondt	John Jay College, The City University of New York, USA
Giovanna De Giusti	Maseno University, Kenya
Gloria Alarcón	University of Murcia, Spain
Gulay Gunluk-Senesen	Istanbul University Turkey
Günseli Berik	University of Utah, USA
Haris Gazdar	Collective For Social Science Research, Pakistan

Hasan Tekgüç	Mardin Artuklu University, Turkey
Heidi Hartmann	George Washington University, USA
Ida A. Mirzaie	Ohio State University, USA
Idoye Zabala	University of Bask Country, Spain
Indira Hirway	Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad, India
İpek İlkkaracan	GEM-Europe, KEIG and Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Ina Praetorius	Freelance
Indira Hirway	Centre for Development Alternatives
Inge Stemmler	Gender Budgeting Promotion Foundations, Netherlands
Irina Kalabichina	Moscow State University, Russia
Jayati Ghosh	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
Jayoung Yoon	Korea Labor Institute, Korea
Jen Broadhurst	Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
Jennifer Olmsted	Drew University, USA
Jennifer Twyman	
Jerome de Henau	Open University, UK
Jhon J. Mon	
Joan Hoffman	John Jay College of Criminal Justice, NY, USA
John Davis	Marquette University, WI, USA
Joelle Leclaire	Suny Buffalo State, USA
Jooyeoun Sun	University of Oxford - Center for Time-use Research, UK
Joyce Jacobson	Wesleyan University, USA
Judy Robinson	Castleton University, VT, USA
Julia Schuster	Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria
Juliet Allen	
Kade Finnoff	University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA
Kanchana Ruwanpura	University of Edinburgh, UK
Karin Hovde	Centre for gender equality, Norway
Katrien von Aelst	University of Antwerp, Belgium
Katrin Schneider	Independent
Kazuyo Yamada	Chiga University, Japan
Kate Bahn	The New School for Social Research, USA
Kijong Kim	Levy Economics Institute of Bard College; USA
Kimberly Christensen	Sarah Lawrence College, NY, USA
Kimie Kondo	Osaka Prefecture University, Japan

Kumiko Ida	Osaka Prefecture University, Japan
Lisa Alano	University of Amsterdam
Lourdes Beneria	Cornell University, USA
Lee Badgett	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA
Lucia Perez Fragoso	Equidad de Genero AC and GEM-LAC, Mexico
Lynn Duggan	Indiana University, USA
Maja Bosnic	Gender Budgeting Project, Ukraine
Malee Sunpuwan	Mahidol University, Thailand
Manuelita Mancini	Ingenere Editorial Board, Italy
Manuel (Butch) Montes	The South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland
Marcella Corsi	Ingenere Editorial Board, Italy
Margunn Bjørnholt	Policy and Social Research, Oslo
Mariella Gramaglia	Ingenere Editorial Board, Italy
Maria Dolores Martinez Senano	University of Murcia, Spain
Maria Letzgas	Independent Researcher
Maria Laura Di Tommaso	University of Torino, Italy
Mariama Williams	GEM- LAC and Caribbean Dawn
Mariko Adachi	Ochanomizu University, Japan
Marilyn Power	Sarah Lawrence College, NY, USA
Marion Boeker	Beratung für Menschenrechte & Genderfragen, Berlin
Marjorie Griffin Cohen	Simon Fraser University, Canada
Marsha Scott	Scottish Women's Budget Group
Marta Murray-Close	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA
Martha MacDonald	Saint Mary's University, Canada
Mary King	Portland State University
Marya Hillesland	Independent Researcher, Germany
Marzia Fontana	Independent, UK
Maxine Molyneux	University College London, UK
Meltem Arioğlu Pultar	KEIG Platform, Istanbul, Turkey
Mike Danson	Heriot-Watt University, Scotland
Monica Das	Delhi University, India
Myra H. Strober	Stanford University, USA
Naila Kabeer	London School of Economics, UK
Nancy Ettliger	Ohio State University, USA
Nancy Folbre	Political Economy Research Institution, UMass, Amherst, USA
Nata Duvvury	NUI Galway, Ireland

Neha Hui	University of Reading, UK
Nelly-Eleni Pavlidou	Aristotle University of Thessaaloniki, Greece
Nina Banks	Bucknell University, USA
Nilüfer Çağatay	GEM-IWG, GEM-Europe and University of Utah, USA
Nitasha Kaul	University of Westminster, UK
Nobako Hara	Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan
Norma Schmitt	DIW, Berlin, Germany
Nuria Alonso	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain
Olagoke Akintola	University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa
Paola Cagna	UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Switzerland
Paula Cirujano	IEHPA, Spain
Peter Mburu	University of Nairobi – ICIDE, Kenya
Prue Hyman	Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
Radka Dudova	Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences
Radhika Balakrishnan	Rutgers University, USA
Radhika Desai	Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba
Randy Albelda	Winnipeg UMass, Boston, USA
Regenia Gagnier	University of Exeter, UK
Renata Moreno	SOF-USP, Brazil
Renata Serra	University of Florida, USA
Rhys Jenkins	University of East Anglia, UK
Rihab Khalifa	United Arab Emirates University, UAE
Rita Heq	
Roberta Carlini	Ingenere Editorial Board
Rosalba Todaro	Centro de Estudios de la Mujer, Santiago, Chile
Ruth Pearson	University of Leeds, UK
S. Charusheela	University of Washington, Bothell, USA
Sakiko Fukuda-Parr	The New School for Social Research, NY, USA
Sanjukta Chaudhuri	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, USA
Sara Cantillon	Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
Sara Davisac	New York University, NY, USA
Sara Lafuente Funes	CSIC-Spanish National Research Council, Spain
Şemsa Özar	Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, Turkey
Serena Natile	University of Kent, UK
Santosh Nandal	M.D. University Rohtak, India

Shaienne Osterreich Sheba Tejani	Ithaca College, CT, USA The New School for Social Research, NY, USA
Sheila Quinn Silke Steinhilber	Independent Gender Researcher, Ireland Research, Evaluation and Capacity Development for Gender Equality, Germany
Silvia Berger	Ministerio de Economía Buenos Aires, Argentina
Smita Ramnarain	Siena College, USA
Smriti Rao Soledad Salvador	Assumption College Worcester, MA, USA Ciedur, Uruguay
Soma KP Srinivas Raghavendra	Gender, Development and Livelihoods, New Delhi, India National University of Ireland, Ireland
Stephanie Seguino Sucharita Sinha Mukherjee Susan Himmelweit Susanne Ross Suzanne Bergeron Tamar Khitarishvili Tamaradee Kuumya	University of Vermont and SOAS, London Saint John's University, Minnesota, USA Open University, UK Queen Margaret University, Scotland University of Michigan Dearborn Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, NY, USA Kasetsart University, Thailand
Thalia G. Kidder	Oxfam, UK
Thera van Ocsch	Foundation for the Economy of Care, Netherlands
Thomas Masterson	Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, USA
Tomoko Nakahara	Kobe University, Japan
Tindara Addabbo Tülây Atay-Avşar Ulla Grapard	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi, Antakya-Hatay, Turkey Colgate University, USA
Uma Rani Ursula Haggard-Mlynarek Usa Kukuo	International Labour Organisation, Geneva Service Employees International Union, Local 73, Illinois, USA University of Amsterdam
Valeria Esquivel	UNRISD, Geneva, Switzerland
Valentine M. Moghadam	Northeastern University, USA
Vanda Narciso	University of Leeds, UK
Vicky Grandon Wendy Olsen	Scottish Women's Budget Group University of Manchester, UK
Yana Rodgers Yasmine Ergas Yayoi Sugihashi	Rutgers University, NJ, USA Ingenere Editorial Board, Italy Kanazawa University, Japan
Yelda Yücel	Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey
Yolanda Jubeto	University of Basque Country, Spain

Yves Jeanrenaud
Zofia Lapniewska

Germany
London School of Economics, UK

Zohreh Emami
Zuzana Uhde

Alverno College, USA
The Czech Academy of Sciences

** Affiliations of signatories are for identification purposes only, and do not necessarily represent endorsement of the statement by the organization.*