

AV86.8

International Congress of Women.

THE HAGUE

— APRIL 28th 29th 30th 1915 —

HOLLAND

Headquarters in the Hague: HOTEL WITTEBRUG.

FINAL PROGRAMME.

Recommendations of Resolutions Committee.

The following agenda is based upon the resolutions which were framed last February together with the amendments and new resolutions which have been sent in. These have all been thoroughly considered by the Resolutions Committee (which consists of representatives of all the countries taking part in the congress) and they recommend them in the form and in the order in which they are here printed.

General Rules of Debate.

1. Discussions on the relative national responsibility for or conduct of the present war shall be outside the scope of the Congress.
2. Resolutions dealing with the rules under which war shall in future be carried on shall also be outside the scope of the Congress.

Agenda.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27th, 8 p.m. Reception given by the Dutch Congress Committee to Members and Visitors in the „Dierentuin.”

FIRST DAY.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28th, 9—1. Business Meeting in the „Dierentuin.”

- I. Opening of Congress.
- II. Appointment of Chairman, International Committee, etc.
- III. Appointment of Interpreters.
- IV. Report of the Dutch Committee of Management, and Roll Call.
- V. Report of the Committee on Resolutions.
- VI. Discussion of the Resolutions.

A. Principles of a Permanent Peace.

1. ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION.

This International Congress of Women, believing that war is the negation of progress and civilisation, declares its conviction that future international disputes should be referred to arbitration or conciliation; and urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to adopt these methods in future.

2. INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE.

This International Congress of Women urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to unite in bringing pressure to bear upon any country, which resorts to arms instead of referring its case to arbitration or conciliation.

3. DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF FOREIGN POLICY.

Since war is commonly brought about not by the mass of the people, who do not desire it, but by groups representing particular interests, this International Congress of Women demands that Foreign Politics shall be subject to Democratic Control; and declares that it can only recognise as democratic a system which includes the equal representation of men and women.

4. TRANSFERENCE OF TERRITORY.

This International Congress of women affirms that there should be no transference of territory without the consent of the men and women residing therein.

5. WOMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

This International Women's Congress is convinced that one of the strongest forces for the prevention of war will be the combined influence of the women of all countries and that upon women as well as men will rest the responsibility for any outbreak of war in the future. Therefore as women can only make their influence fully effective if they have equal political rights with men, this Congress urges women to work with all their force for their political enfranchisement.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th, afternoon, members of the Congress will be welcome at the Headquarters at Hotel „Witte Brug.”

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th 8.15. Public Meeting at the „Dierentuin.”

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29th 9.30—1. Business Meeting in the „Dierentuin.”

Minutes of Business Meeting of April 28th.

Discussion on International Federation.

Suggestion as basis for discussion.

This International Women's Congress is of opinion that with a view to the peaceful organisation of the Society of Nations, the work of the Hague Conferences should be developed. The Hague Conference should be given a permanent organisation and meet at regular intervals.

Women should be included in the deliberations of this body.

Discussion of the Resolutions Continued.

B. General Resolutions.

1. PROTEST.

We women, in International Congress assembled, protest against the madness and the horror of war, involving at is does a reckless sacrifice of human life and the destruction of so much that humanity has laboured through centuries to build up.

2. WOMEN'S SUFFERINGS IN WAR.

This International Congress of Women opposes the assumption that women can be protected under the conditions of modern warfare. It protests vehemently against the odious wrongs of which women are the victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women which attends all war.

3. ARMAMENTS.

This International Women's Congress sees in the private profits accruing from the great arms factories a powerful hindrance to the abolition of war. It urges that by international agreement each country should take over as a state monopoly the manufacture and control of arms and munitions. *as a step to complete a final disarmament.*

4. PROMOTION OF GOOD FEELING BETWEEN NATIONS.

The members of this International Congress, which in itself is evidence of the serious desire of women to bring together mankind in the work of building up our common civilisation, pledge themselves to do all in their power to promote mutual understanding and good will between the nations and to resist any tendency to hatred and revenge.

5. EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

This International Congress of Women urges the necessity of so directing the education of children that their thoughts and desires may be directed towards the ideal of constructive peace.

6. WOMAN SUFFRAGE RESOLUTION.

This International Women's Congress urges, that in the interests of civilisation the Conference of the Powers which shall frame the Peace settlement after the war should pass a resolution affirming the need in all countries of extending the parliamentary franchise to women.

7. WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE POWERS AFTER THE WAR.

This International Congress of Women urges that in the interests of the future peace settlement, representatives of the people should take part in the conference of the Powers after the war and claims that amongst them women should be included.

8. FINAL RESOLUTION.

In International Congress assembled, we women of different nations, classes, creeds and parties unite in expressing sympathy with the suffering of all, whatever their nationality, who are fighting for their country or labouring under the burden of war.

For the sake of suffering humanity, we fervently hope that this devastating war may be speedily brought to an end, and we appeal to those who have the decision in their hands to arrange a settlement at the end of the war that will make another such catastrophe impossible.

Note. The Resolutions Committee recommends the above as a substitute for the following resolution. The following was printed on the original programme but the Committee recommends that the Congress does not adopt it.

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Plea for definition of terms of peace.

Considering that the people in each of the countries now at war believe themselves to be fighting, not as aggressors but in selfdefence and for their national existence, this International Congress of Women urges the Governments of the belligerent countries, publicly to define the terms, on which they are willing to make peace and for this purpose immediately to call a truce.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29th, Afternoon, Members of the Congress will be welcome at the Headquarters at the Hotel „Witte brug.”

THURSDAY, APRIL 29th, 8.15. Public Meeting at the „Dierentuin.”

THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 30th. 9.30—1. Business Meeting in the „Dierentuin.”

Minutes of the Business Meeting of April 29th.

Report of Resolutions Committee.

1. Proposed. Action to be taken on the Resolutions.

- a) That an International Women's Peace Union be formed.
- b) That an International Committee of Women appointed by this Congress should make recommendations to the Hague Conferences.
- c) Proposal that a manifesto be published embodying the decisions of the Congress.
- d) That the following suggestions and any others that may be sent in should be referred to a Committee.
 - (I) That the Congress take steps to ensure that an International Meeting of Women be held in the same place and at the same time as the Conference of the Powers which shall frame the terms of the peace settlement after the war.
 - (II) That the Committee of the Congress shall urge as many womens' societies as possible in the countries represented at the Congress to arrange for Massmeetings ~~on the 18th of May~~, the resolutions carried by the Congress to be placed before the meetings for their adoption.
 - (III) That in every country represented at the Congress efforts shall be made to obtain as many signatures as possible to the resolutions before a certain date. The resolutions with all the signatures appended shall then be bound and deposited in the Peace Palace at the Hague as a record of the attitude of women in 1915.
 - (IV) That an International Peace Badge be adopted.

2. Methods of influencing the press.

3. New Resolutions received since the Programme was printed and recommended by the Committee.

4. Any other business.

FRIDAY 8.15. Public Meeting in the „Dierentuin.”

CLOSE OF THE CONGRESS.

*General
recommendation
action*

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