

# THE PROBLEMS OF THE WOMAN ARE PROBLEMS OF A PROFOUNDLY POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTER *by LUMTURI REXHA*

***«A great historic victory is the liberation of the conscience of the working people from the spiritual shackles of exploiting societies, the emancipation of the woman, who has become an equal participant with man in our social life.»***

**ENVER HOXHA**

THE MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ALBANIAN WOMAN IN THESE FOUR DECADES OF PEOPLE'S POWER, WHEN SHE LEFT BEHIND THE BACKWARDNESS INHERITED FROM THE CENTURIES, AFFIRMED HER PERSONALITY AND OCCUPIED THE PLACE THAT BELONGS TO HER IN ALL FIELDS OF LIFE, FIGURE AMONG THE GREAT VICTORIES OF OUR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND ARE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF THE QUALITATIVE CHANGE MADE IN HER LIFE. THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE HOMELAND AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION FINDS THE ALBANIAN WOMEN IN STEEL UNITY WITH THE PARTY, HAVING MOBILIZED ALL THEIR FORCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASKS OF THE 8TH CONGRESS OF THE PLA, WITH A BETTER AFFIRMED PERSONALITY, WITH A HIGHER AUTHORITY AT WORK, IN SOCIETY AND IN THE FAMILY, ACTIVE BUILDERS OF SOCIALISM AND WORTHY SOLDIERS IN DEFENCE OF THE HOMELAND. WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE PARTY AND COMRADE ENVER HOXHA IN THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS, THEY ARE HAVING THEIR SAY WITH INCREASING AUTHORITY AS ABLE WORKERS, TIRELESS COOPERATIVISTS, PEOPLE'S INTELLECTUALS, AND CAPABLE MANAGERS IN ALL THE SECTORS THEY WORK AND LEAD.

The Party of Labour of Albania and Comrade Enver Hoxha have constantly dealt with and emphasized in our revolutionary practice the struggle for the complete emancipation of the Albanian women which is a component and indivisible part of the struggle for national and social liberation and the construction of socialism, a component and indivisible part of the socialist revolution.

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LUMTURI REXHA — President of the Women's Union of Albania

The Albanian woman found her road of liberation, the road to the winning of her rights, in the struggle for national liberation. For centuries on end in the past, before the liberation of the Homeland, the Albanian woman suffered under a merciless twofold exploitation — in society and in the family. The ruling classes had worked out laws and canons to justify the political, economic and social oppression that weighed heavy on her, to impose on her the reactionary concept of her physical and intellectual inferiority, to create a conservative opinion which held in contempt her role in society, which limited her activity within the kitchen or by the cradle of her child.

Being problems of a profoundly political and social character, those related to women could be solved only within the framework of a society emancipated from oppression and exploitation. And precisely in the conditions of such a free society, after November 29, 1944, with the establishment of the People's Power, a new legislation was enacted in Albania which guaranteed to the woman all her rights and created for her real conditions and possibilities to enjoy them in her life and activity. These rights won with bloodshed were a real overthrow in the condition of the Albanian woman in the present and in the future. But it was only the beginning. For equality to be achieved in life, too, because as Lenin says, «Equality by law is not yet equality in life»,<sup>1</sup> an important problem is the participation of the woman in productive activities.

Our Party has seen the participation of the woman in work not only as the contribution of her great force to the socialist construction of the country, but also as an important factor for the enhancement of her personality. Her participation in work was the main factor which gradually developed the Albanian woman. So much so that now work has become a vital daily necessity for the Albanian woman. On the other hand, the participation of the woman in work called for her

ideo-political, cultural, educational, professional and scientific uplift, not merely to be on equal terms with man, but also to express her opinion with competence and make her contribution to the socialist construction of the country.

In all her activity the Albanian woman has justified the trust and assessment of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, who says: «Only real life in all its diversity can give a true idea of the great vital forces the Party set free with the liberation of the woman, of the great progressive and creative forces that lay hidden in this great part of our people, of what wonders she has worked and will work in the future and with what incalculable moral and material values she will enrich our socialist life.»<sup>2</sup>

Today the Albanian woman cannot conceive her life apart from the whole life of society, apart from the problems of socialism. She considers her participation in production work not merely as a means to solve her economic problems, but also as a necessity for society and herself. Her interests have come out of the narrow circle of the family and children to a broader and more comprehensive field. All her efforts are aimed at the general advance of society, at actively assisting the development of our socialist society and, in this road, at enhancing her own personality, too.

Today's achievements are a far cry from those of the years when women were called on to engage in production work. Women today not only make up 46 per cent of the working people of the town and countryside, but they also play an important role in the scientific organization and management of the economy and culture. They attend middle schools, institutes of higher learning and universities and, together with the other working masses, promote science and the technical-scientific revolution courageously as an indispensable condition for the advance and progress of the country, and make their valuable contribution to the

solution of important problems in various fields. Socialism, which does not proceed by fits and starts, does not know stagnation, inflation and crises, but only the increasing stability of the economy, makes a high assessment of the woman's contribution to productive and social work, whereas capitalism calls for her contribution to work only when it needs her work power, especially in the intermittent periods of economic boom, and then throws her remorselessly into the street to swell the army of the unemployed which is made up 50-60 per cent by women. When we say that Albania does not know unemployment we do well know that it is socialism that created these conditions, that it is work in socialism that opened the way for all the rights the woman enjoys in our country.

The broad movement «To work for the further enhancement of the personality of the woman», which emerged immediately after the 9th Congress of the WUA which was convened in June 1983, has enveloped the whole mass of women in our country. It started at the «Enver Hoxha» Automobile and Tractor Combine and spread to the other women's organizations throughout the country. The objectives of this movement, namely that the worker, cooperativist, intellectual or activist women should meet better the requirements of the present stage of socialist construction, show that our women have made their own the demand of the Party for a broader understanding of the complete emancipation of the woman, for a correct understanding of the enhancement of her personality along with the development of society, such a personality as to respond not only to the requirements of the moment, but also those of the perspective, so that the woman, along her own emancipation, struggles also for the emancipation of the whole society.

Our women show themselves as builders and defenders of socialism also in the persistent struggle they carry out for the implementation and defence of the line of the Party in the whole life of the country, in the revolutionary class stands they maintain at social productive work and family life. The Party wants the woman to have her say with competence, to struggle unswervingly with difficulties in order to solve the problems she comes up against, to live up to the requirements of advanced technique and technology, it wants a woman with proletarian discipline, a woman that fights to raise work productivity, that struggles to raise her qualification and improve the quality of production. So the work of the WUA for a woman with her personality at work and in the family has to do, first of all, with education so that every woman becomes aware of the need for the fulfilment of the planned tasks, understands that the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) is realized in the difficult conditions of the imperialist-revisionist encirclement, in fierce struggle

with the internal and external enemy, on the basis of the great principle of self-reliance. Hence, the women's organizations call on every woman to acquaint herself with the situation in which she lives, to assess it correctly and precisely so as to be able to forge always ahead; call on women workers, specialists, and cadres to be well acquainted with the economic laws of socialism and consider every problem from the political angle.

The implementation of Marxism-Leninism by the Party of Labour of Albania in the concrete conditions of our country, the creation of new socio-economic conditions, our socialist reality itself have proved the interdependence existing between the socialist construction and the degree of emancipation of the woman. Our women have never lacked either the desire or the capacity for work. However, only socialism created such conditions and possibilities as to turn their desire into reality and brought about a powerful explosion of their physical and mental energies. This is what shows our vivid socialist life, the successes we have achieved in which, women, too, display their high sense of duty and their increasing abilities.

The Women's Union of Albania struggles for the ever better utilization of the many possibilities the development of our socialist economy has created and will create to facilitate women's work at the factory, in the field, at home and in the rearing and education of children so as to ensure an ever more active participation of the mass of women in the economic, political and social life of the country and satisfy their broad educational, cultural and scientific interests properly.

The more socialism is strengthened, the more the democratic rights of women are deepened and their direct participation in the whole life of the country and its government increases. Women are increasingly expressing their opinions with courage and competence on important problems of socialism while at the same time taking an active part in their solution. An evident expression of our democracy, of the emancipation of our women, is the place they occupy in the forums of the Party and the state and the innovations in our educational system. Women constitute 30 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly, 40.7 per cent of the members of people's councils of all instances, 30 per cent of the members of the High Court, etc. When we talk about the emancipation of the woman in our country, the question is not about one, two or several women raised to leading posts, a prime minister here or a minister there, as is advertised with great fuss in the bourgeois-revisionist world, but about a whole mass of emancipated women being members of the leading organs of the Party and the government, deputies to the People's Assembly, etc. While

before Liberation 94 out of 100 women and girls were illiterate, today all the girls are included in the 8-year education and constitute 50 per cent of middle school and 52 per cent of university students.

The struggle for the complete emancipation of the woman in our country, being a component part of the socialist revolution, has to do directly also with the further deepening of the ideological revolution which develops non-stop in our country to eradicate the leftovers of old mentalities and alien bourgeois-revisionist influences which hamper the emancipation of women and society in general. While keeping always sharp the edge of the struggle against the bourgeois and revisionist ideology which represents a threat not only for the present, but also for the future, the Party forcibly stresses also the need for a stern struggle against the remnants of the old reactionary ideology of the exploiting classes which are just as harmful, because they inhibit the revolutionary drive of the working people and their active participation in socialist construction. In the same context is carried out the struggle for the all-round emancipation of the woman against backward customs and old norms. The Party instructs us not to be satisfied with what we have achieved, nor to measure our results with the past, but with what socialism calls for. Therefore, with the educational work of the Party and its levers, every communist, cadre, social activist, people of different categories and age-groups are being more and more convinced that the woman should be considered an equal co-fighter for the construction of socialism.

The participation of the woman in productive, political and social activities has become an important factor in the progressive development of our family. As a result of the great changes in the social life as a whole and of the emancipation of the woman in particular, our new family has been constantly strengthened from the economic, ideological and cultural viewpoint. The role of the mother, wife and daughter has been enhanced. A powerful influence here is exercised by the creation of our new family on the basis of mutual acquaintance and love which is already predominant everywhere and which has made the woman an equal member of the family from an inferior being without any right she was in the past. The radical transformations that have been made in our socialist family are the result of a true revolution which is linked with the establishment of the socialist relations of production. The constant strengthening of socialist democracy in the family has further enhanced the personality of the woman and led to a more correct understanding of the need for making her house work easier. A new concept of the relationship between husband and wife, between parents and children, and between the different generations has emerged. In ge-

neral this concept expresses itself in mutual love and understanding towards each other. The woman works in production, but also reads, studies, takes part in cultural and artistic activities, is involved in political, economic and social problems, struggles to exercise a positive influence on the establishment of sound socialist relations in the family, tries to perform best her duty as the natural educator of the child, by setting her own positive example.

During the whole period of the socialist construction in our country the growth-rate of the population has been relatively high. Everywhere in Albania great work has been done for the correct implementation of the demographic policy of the Party and the protection of the health of mother and child. The extension and expansion of pre-school education, the many socio-cultural and sanitary institutions which work on scientific pedagogical bases serve the good upbringing of children and their education. And the Albanian mother sees her personality indissolubly linked with her noble duty of educating the new generation. She wants to have healthy children, a new generation of mountain eagles who, relying on the fine national traditions, will develop them further on the basis of the socialist ideology and the sound optimistic spirit that pervades the whole life of our country.

Great are the successes achieved in the emancipation of the woman. The Women's Union of Albania, under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania and as its militant lever, sees and measures its work by the degree of fulfilment of the demand that every woman should be a militant for the implementation of the line of the Party and maintain a revolutionary class stand always and everywhere. A major role in the communist education of the masses of women, in their ideological uplift, along with the materials of the Party, have played in particular the major Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha which, with their theoretical and scientific depth, with their truthfulness and incontrovertible arguments, have strengthened the convictions of the Albanian women in the correctness of the general line followed by the Party. These convictions, our socialist reality itself, are the basic factor that has actively involved our woman, just as the entire people, more and more in the life of the country and in the struggle for her own emancipation and that of the whole society, that has given her strength and courage to cope with any difficulty, that has made her a resolute fighter for the cause of the revolution and socialism.

1 V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, vol. 30, p. 422, Alb. ed.  
2 Enver Hoxha, «On Some Aspects of the Problem of the Albanian Woman», Tirana 1976, p. 280, Alb. ed.