March the 8th is a very big day that is celebrated by all women movement and organization in the whole world to celebrate International Women’s Day. DFL Indonesia Team together with Gender Equality Committee of KSBSI did a peaceful promoting action of International Women’s Day in a very hectic spot in the center of Jakarta – Bunderan HI. The goal is to promote the International Women’s Day among the people and of course the essence of the day which is to get a better condition for women in all aspects and to attract young women to join the trade union.

We started to gather at 8.00 am with about 60 persons. We prepared banners, posters, stickers, DFL campaign materials such as bookmarks, fan, and a statement paper to be disseminated to people and to the press.

Beside disseminating the campaign materials to the people, we also did an oration [by Ms. Yatini from Gender Equality Committee of KSBSI]. The oration is aimed to make people aware about the International Women’s Day and to do a little something for a better condition for women, anything possible they could do. Also we did a theatrical show about migrant workers that have a bad condition of working. They count as domestic workers which don’t get any working rights, allowance, and social protection. They still get violence, discrimination, and marginalization.
All the women that gathered were very enthusiastic doing the action, especially to give people the campaign materials. And also people were curious and enthusiastic to what we were doing. We were also surprised by the press, there were a lot of journalists covering our action, most of them are newspaper and magazine, also two tv channels INDOSIAR and TVONE.

Before D-day, we have also asked several women about women condition related to the International Women’s Day. Kindly check below.

As the celebration of International Women Day, 8 March 2010. DFL Indonesia Campaign Team asked several young women their opinion about:

1. What is your wish for women in Indonesia and in the whole world?

**Jiwa Tribuana, 23 years old, student of Universitas Pancasila, Jakarta Indonesia**

Mudah²an perempuan tu ngga diunderestimatin lagi, perempuan juga bisa doin something yang cowo banget.. Kaya orang teknik kan cenderung utk pake tenaga cowo drpd yang cewe.. Atlet beladiri juga kadang suka diragukan kemampuannya, jadi pembinaannya krg bagus klo dibandingin cowo.. Ngga ada sexual harassment, etc.. Yang pasti, menuntut perlakuan yang sama, tapi perempuan juga harus sadar sama apa yang udah jadi kewajibannya dan hak nya..

*Hope that there will be no underestimate anymore to women, women can also do something very masculine. For example, a company usually prefer to hire men for engineer position than women. The competency of female athletes in the self defense sport also got underestimated, that’s why there’s less development effort for the female athletes comparing the male athletes. Also I hope there’ll be no sexual harassment. One thing for sure, women demand equality of rights with men without forgetting the obligation.*

**Merta Anduri, 25 years old, Journalist**

To have the equal right as a men can have and no sexual abuse,,

2. How to improve the gender equality between women and men in the workplace?

**Zulfa Failasulfa, 23 years old, Account Executive**

By giving more chances and trust to women that they could work as strong as men. That there are no differences between men and women except their sex. Their brain, their power, are equal. So give them the supports and courage and women will prove it.

3. What is the main problem women facing nowadays to get their rights at workplace?

**Ika Dwipujawati, 25 years old, Admin Staff**
Well, in Indonesia the problem is related to the Islamic and our culture that put women lower than men. But I see now people are getting realize and change. So maybe we don't see it in big cities like in Jakarta, Bali, Bandung, etc. But there are still this kind of situation in small cities far away from the big cities.

As additional, below is the statement we made for International Women’s Day:

Today, Monday March 8th 2010 is a very big day that is celebrated by all the women movement and organization in the whole world as the International Women’s Day, by celebrating this day that means we co memorize and we appreciate the women fight to stop any violence and discrimination, that was pioneered by the movement of garment labours in New York City to protest their bad working condition and low pay check.

But when we see the condition of women in Indonesia nowadays, there are still a lot of violence and discrimination that is being done by the government to women, they get gender inequality or violence that is shown in the form of discrimination, subordination, marginalization and double roll because women position in social is in the low level.

The low social class structurally tends to get less access to every economic sector, health, even education. This factor makes women become poor, weak so that they can not have the political bargain power, even women usually get lower salary than men, the tax is counted as a single even though they are married or even with children, they don’t have access to get family allowance and things related to family protection. Even there are still some women that don’t get their right of reproduction health like menstruation time off and giving birth time off.

Ironically, there are a lot of women can not go in the formal sector of working, then they end up working as maid while until today the government doesn’t count maid as worker that has rights as the industrial labours have. But then the role of women in supporting the family is not accompanied by a law protection by the government.

Beside all the problems women from the low social class have, women from medium social class also have their own problems that is rarely exposed because women from this social class tend to cover it and keep it by themselves. Decisions for Life Campaign is trying to help these women by doing a personal approachment.

For all the women, in celebrating the International Women’s Day, we demand:
1. Stop discrimination in salary for women
2. The same income tax calculating with men
3. Stop the rights discrimination
4. Stop violence
5. To urge parliament to make regulation for maid profession as soon as possible
6. To ratify the Human Rights Convention 90 about protection for migrant labour and the family

We were very happy of the result of the event IWD Celebration. We hope that people are actually going to do something for a better condition of women, especially women themselves.

-- DFL Indonesia Team