

## Olof Palme Annual Conference 16 November 2019

### Programme

#### **SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER – TOPIC: THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE**

**10:00**            **Welcome to the Olof Palme Annual Conference!**

*Anders Ygeman*, chairperson, Social Democratic Party in Stockholm and *Marita Ulvskog*, chairperson, Olof Palme International Center.

**10:10**            **The Challenges of Social Democracy in a Globalised World (in English)**

More and more countries are ruled by authoritarian and intolerant leaders. Income gaps between people are widening. The number of refugees in the world is increasing with the number of conflicts. While Social Democracy is weakened in many places, progressive reforms are needed more than ever. How can the global social democratic movement make its comeback?

*Stefan Löfven*, Prime Minister and leader of the Swedish Social Democratic Party and international guest. Moderator: *Anna Sundström*, Secretary General, Olof Palme International Center.

**10:50**            **Global Justice – What Does It Mean? (in English)**

*Ann Linde*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Swedish Social Democratic Party and international guest. Moderator: *Johan Hassel*, International Secretary, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**11:30**            **Just Transition – From Vision to Action (in Swedish)**

We are facing the greatest challenge of humanity – climate change. What is the labour movement's role in the transition towards an environmentally sustainable world?

*Lena Rådström-Baastad*, Party Secretary, Swedish Social Democratic Party; *Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson*, chairperson, Swedish Trade Union Confederation; *Philip Botström*, chairperson, Swedish Social Democratic Youth and *Malin Malm*, chairperson, the Association of Social Democratic Students. Moderator: *Mattias Vepsä*, climate policy spokesperson, Social Democratic Party in Stockholm.

**12:10**            **Poetry** by *Oskar Hanska*, spoken word poet

**12:20**            **Lunch**

**13:15**            **Three Parallel Seminars on the Struggle for Democracy and Social Justice**

**A. Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans (in English)**

Free and fair elections are at risk in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. In Serbia, for example, the latest elections were influenced by state-led media, while the opposition was threatened and harassed. In Belarus, elections are neither free nor fair but are still taking place as means to legitimise the regime.

*Maja Ciganovic*, Democratic Party, Serbia, and *Valiantsin Askirka*, Belarusian Social Democratic Party (BSDP Hramada). Moderator: *Pyry Niemi*, Member of Parliament, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**B. Israel and Palestine (in English)**

The occupation, violence, and human rights violations continue. Contrary to international law, Israeli settlements are constantly expanding while internal Palestinian divisions and the absence of democratic elections persist. How does the conflict and occupation affect Israeli and Palestinian societies? What is the space of manoeuvre for moderate forces for justice and peace?

*Nidal Fuqaha*, Director General, Geneva Initiative/Palestinian Peace Coalition and *Tamar Zandberg*, member of the Knesset for Democratic Union. Moderator: *Evin Incir*, Member of European Parliament, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**C. Ethiopia (in Swedish)**

With over 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country. Authoritarian regimes have ruled the country for many years, but since the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office in the spring of 2018, a wide programme of political and economic reforms has been launched. What challenges lie ahead on the road towards a functioning democracy?

*Tezita Abraham*, activist, and *Ahmed Ali*, Ethiopian Radio in Sweden. Moderator: *Anders Österberg*, Member of Parliament, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**14:00 Three Parallel Seminars on the Mobilisation of a Progressive Counterforce**

**A. Democracy under Attack (in English)**

Democracy is in decline around the world. Today, more people live in countries with authoritarian tendencies than in countries that are making democratic progress. How is this affecting progressive forces and how can we support their mobilisation?

*Risa Hontiveros*, Senator and Leader, Akabayan, the Philippines; *Kunthida Rungruengkiat*, Future Forward Party, Thailand and *Isaac Maposa*, Director, Zimbabwe Institute. Moderator: *Kenneth G Forslund*, Member of Parliament, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**B. The situation in Turkey and Syria (in English)**

Turkey's invasion of the Kurdish areas of northern Syria has provoked international dismay and outrage. At the same time, Turkey is becoming more and more authoritarian internally. Opposition parties and organisations working for democracy and human rights are increasingly having difficulties operating freely. People are imprisoned on loose grounds. What does the future look like for the Kurds in Turkey and in Syria, and how will Turkey be able to change in a more democratic direction?

*Nazmi Gür*, Deputy Chairman of HDP, Turkey, and *Thomas Hammarberg*, Member of the Swedish Parliament. Moderator: *Helin Sahin*, Program Manager Turkey, Olof Palme International Center.

**C. Progress and Backlash for Gender Equality (in Swedish)**

Equality between women and men is a prerequisite for sustainable and peaceful development, for democracy and the equal rights of all people. Lately, the scepticism against the feminist struggle has grown stronger. How can we turn the development around?

*Carina Ohlsson*, chairperson, National Federation of Social Democratic Women in Sweden and *Linn Svansbo*, chairperson, Swedish feminist organisation Maktsalongen. Moderator: *Heidi Lampinen*, Association of Young Social Democratic Women, Rebella S-kvinnor.

**14:45 Coffee break**

**15:15 Three Parallel Seminars on Common Security, Dialogue for Peace**

**A. Dual threats – Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change (in Swedish)**

The threat of nuclear weapons grows with rising tensions in the world. Alongside the climate crisis, nuclear weapons represent the greatest threat against humanity. And they are interconnected.

*Veronica Sällemark*, Project Manager for Sustainable Peace and Security, Swedish Development Forum (FUF), and *Pierre Schori*, chairperson of Olof Palme Memorial Fund. Moderator: *Elin Liss*, Secretary General Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Sweden (IKFF).

**B. Social Dialogue (in English)**

Conversation on how social dialogue can advance peacebuilding and democracy. Examples from the Somali and Swedish trade union movement.

*Omar Faruk Osman*, Secretary General, Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) and *Mohamed Said*, Somali National Association in Sweden. Moderator: *Oscar Ernerot*, Swedish Trade Union Confederation.

**C. Women, Peace and Security (in English)**

Sweden's feminist foreign policy has a clear focus on strengthening women as actors for peace and security. Women's political participation is not only a question of rights, but also a prerequisite for sustainable peace.

*Wafa' Arbel Rahman*, Director Filastinyat – Palestinian women's organisation; *Thoko Matshe*, Country Coordinator Southern Africa, Olof Palme International Center and *Lway Poe Ngeal*, board member, Women's League of Burma. Moderator: *Olle Thorell*, Member of Parliament, Swedish Social Democratic Party.

**16:15 Global trends and Common Responses (in English)**

*Jan Eliasson*, former Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs and former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN. Moderator: *Anna Sundström*.

**17:30-21:00 Solidarity Mingle**