Women of the SPD (1985)

Abstract

In March 1973, the first federal-level conference of the Working Group of Social Democratic Women [*Arbeitsgemeinschaft sozialdemokratischer Frauen* or AsF] took place. When the Social Democratic Party (SPD) went into the opposition in 1982, the AsF devoted more time to combating discrimination against women within its own party. Whereas women made up 23% (1980) of the SPD membership, they accounted for only about 7-8% of its federal party conference delegates and fewer than 10% of its Bundestag representatives. Therefore, the AsF called for a quota system to increase the proportion of women holding mandates and offices. On August 30, 1988, the SPD federal party congress agreed on a quota system that required 40% of all mandates and offices to be given to women.

Pictured here:

1st row from left: Karin Hempel-Soos (AsF Speaker), Katrin Fuchs (MP), Inge Wettig-Danielmeier (AsF chairwoman), Anke Martiny (MP), Eleonore Güllenstern (mayor of Mühlheim), Sabine Zech (mayor of Hamm. 2nd row from left: Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (member of the EU parliament), Anke Brunn (Minister for Science for the state of North Rhine Westphalia), Eva-Maria Lemke (Senator for the Environment, Bremen). Back row from left: Ingrid Stahmer (district mayor, Berlin), Anke Fuchs (Deputy Chairperson, SPD parliamentary group), Marga Wollschläger (labor union secretary), Heide Pfarr (Vice President, Hamburg University), and Ingrid Matthäus-Maier (MP).

Source

Source: Original caption: Social-democratic women politicians in important positions in parliament [the Bundestag], local politics and industry call for an attack on the hierarchy of men and demand more leading posts for women in the public services of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as

the political parties. Sozial Report 8-85/Nr. 7. INP-Photo: dpa.

Courtesy of the German Information Center

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