

June 1st 2018

**The Splendid Record of the ULP and Comrade Ralph in Advancing
the cause of Women in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Part one**

Introduction

On Sunday, May 20, 2018, on the occasion of the Annual Convention of the Women's Arm of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), the guest lecturer, Marcia Hinds, reportedly said among other things:

“So, there is no specific role for us women ___ just a role. Indeed, I believe that if we understand we have a role and our role is often purposely blocked by men, like Ralph Gonsalves, then women must become ___ should become ___ far more mobilized, far more militant and political as a precursor and facilitative mechanism for political change.”

Now, Marcia Hinds, reportedly, has been referred to as “a Barbadian academic and activist” and as a “University of the West Indies lecturer”. Designations as “academic” and “lecturer” normally connote objectivity and the delivery of opinions or conclusions based on facts or a sufficient matrix of facts. But, of course, these are not “normal” times; activism gets in the way of facts; and these are the days when the “fake news” of Donald Trump are accorded a semblance of normality. At a political gathering of the NDP, Marcia Hinds, was in excellent company of some notorious dissemblers, purveyors of falsehoods and untruths, internet and associated crazies, and those who consider that natural disasters and climate change in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are caused by “spiritual wickedness”, not global warming.

Being in the NDP citadel of “fake news” and falsehoods, it was not surprising that Marcia Hinds, “academic and lecturer”, offered not one scintilla of evidence, not one iota of facts, to justify her assertion that men like Ralph Gonsalves “purposely blocked” women.

CONCEPTUAL DISCUSSION

Well, let us begin with a conceptual discussion, then go to the record of Ralph Gonsalves on advancing or not advancing the cause of women, their role in politics, and the state administration.

At the recent three-person protest a few months ago at UWI, Barbados, in a lecture hall full with over 150 students and lecturers, one of the protesters, Marcia Hinds, was led by another protester, Dr. Kristina Hinds, reportedly too from UWI, delivered herself of this outburst:

“I am not interested in historic struggles; I’m not interested in workers’ struggles; I am not interested even in ‘Black Lives Matter’; I am about “Women Lives Matter’.”

This outburst from one of the Hinds duet in the presence of students and lecturers was marked by its plain ignorance; she and her two co-protestors clearly need proper political education.

There is a letter written by Ralph Gonsalves, dated March 12, 2018, to Dr. Tennyson Joseph, a university colleague of Hinds, on her very declamation. We hope that Dr. Joseph showed this letter to the two Hinds and their single co-protester. In it, Ralph Gonsalves wrote about Hinds’ outburst as follows:

It is elementary that there is a profound inter-connectedness between anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggles, working people’s struggles, black people’s struggles, and struggles of women. Historically, and in the contemporary political economy, monopoly capitalism maintains its overrule by subjugating, and dividing, countries, the working people, ethnic groups, and gender constellations.

A liberation struggle, a struggle for the enlargement of freedom and our people’s possibilities, involves the nation and all groups within it, and their connections regionally and globally. I have been, and I remain, committed in theory and practice for the fullest freedom of our historically oppressed nations, working people, ethnic groups (indigenous, African, Asian), and women. How, for example, can a working woman attain her fullest freedom if the working man is not freed of all his shackles?

There is, of course, a bourgeois feminism to which I do not subscribe, that denies this analysis. Can a working woman be truly free under monopoly capitalism? Of course not! To be sure

altered relations of production do not translate automatically to “gender” freedom. So that a category “gender” has to be specifically incorporated into the overall struggles around other categories and so as to have a composite struggle based on nation, class, race, and gender linked to the global political economy and our like-minded allies within it. A dialectical rather than a mechanistic either-or approach is thus required always.

For the sake of improving the political education of the Hinds’ group and the NDP, they ought to read and re-read this succinct paragraph by Comrade Ralph; it is profound and clear.