

## Speech of Carolina Müller-Möhl at «Women of Impact» 29.09.2019

- *Es gilt das gesprochene Wort* -

I'm highly neurotic. I worry about politics, pollution, cancer, diseases in general, gene defects, death. I am afraid of being killed by a psychopath. If my ear hurts, I think I might have cancer. In addition, I have a pronounced fear of flying. I am also constantly worried about the people I love. When I can't reach someone, I panic. After two hours without a call back, I am convinced that they are dead.» A quote from Julie Delpy.

I love Julie Delpy for her relentless openness, cynicism, subtle humour, independency, creativity, eagerness, vulnerability and courage. Because all this and much more is needed, if you want to be a successful actress, screenwriter, songwriter, musician and film director.

«Especially in Hollywood you have the feeling that freedom for women is limited. (...). Hollywood has a problem with female directors. They hardly appear. There is no solidarity between them, they don't strengthen each other. Generally nobody helps you in Hollywood. Directing quickly becomes a dead end.» That is what Julie Delpy - who calls herself a feminist - said 2016. And she is right!

Especially women amongst each other – in solidarity – must stand up for equality!

- Equality means that every girl around the world can go to school.
- Equality means that women all over the world are allowed to own property in their respective countries.
- Equality means that all women are allowed to work and therefore have their own income.
- Equality means that all women have «a right to say» in politics AND family affairs.
- Equality means that women receive equal pay for same work.
- And, last but not least, equality means that women in the film industry receive the same amount of funding and the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

A report from San Diego State University finds that of the top 250 films of 2018 women made up just 8 percent of the directors involved.

I have to admit that it increasingly annoys me when – women in particular – leave the fight for THEIR equality to «others». Too often I see female colleagues and friends silent or even in denial of the fact that women and girls around the world are not treated equally. Everybody – and certainly women in privileged positions have to engage, they at least have to use their political vote for equality. Otherwise, ladies and gentlemen, equality will not happen.

Or as António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General said this month: «We cannot accept a world that tells my granddaughters that equality must wait for their granddaughters` granddaughters and their granddaughters` granddaughters. The world's most per-vasive manifestation of discrimination affects more than half of

human kind: women and girls. Let`s never forget gender equality is a question of power.

And power still lies mostly with men – as we see from parliaments to boardrooms, and even this week in the halls, corridors and meeting rooms of the United Nations. We will shift the balance, when we truly see women`s rights and representation as our common goal.»

As we all know: Progress doesn`t go at a steady pace. We need endurance and shouldn`t stop until the opportunities available to women and girls are equal to those available to men and boys in EVERY way.

By the way, the new strong woman of the EU, “future President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen” shows that it CAN work. Von der Leyen does deeds to follow on her words: The Commission she proposes this year is made up of 13 women and 14 men. WE too at the “Zurich Film Festival” can celebrate a success in approaching gender equality: At this years Festival the founders and directors of the Festival: Nadja Schildknecht and Karl Spoerri will show 55 of the 170 first-class films by FEMALE (!) directors.

Furthermore: To mark the 5th anniversary of our «Women of Impact» Event, we have redesigned our logo. In the spirit of gender equality, we have divided the word women with a SLASH, now we talk about: WO-MEN and Men – Since, dear guests, everyone is needed for the « Equal Rights and Equality » project: Women and Men!

Ladies and Gentlemen,we keep at it! And I keep at it personally,in my work, my foundation, with my colleagues and friends.

If we don`t see them we cannot believe they exist: So true to the motto seeing is believing, we have succeeded in bringing true “Women of Impact” in the Filmindustry on this stage.

It is a special pleasure and honour for me to spend an evening with Julie Delpy, true sister in crime in standing up “for what is right” – Generations of girls worldwide will hopefully benefit from.

Nothing is successful without a great team and real teamwork. It is time to say thank you to the “Women of Impact“-TEAM for what you have put together in the last 5 years. Thank you Zurich Film Festival and thank you Nadja and Karl for the amazing work you have done over the last 15 years!

And now, also in the name of my Co-Founder Nadja Schildknecht, I wish you a great evening with lots of «Women and Men of Impact» at the Zurich Film Festival, and I give the floor to our co-sponsor represented by Senior Vice-President Communications Birgit Berthold-Kremser.