



## We Insist, We Resist and We Move Forward

Beijing celebrates its 25 years, the Fourth World Conference of Women was not just another conference, we arrived at it with the accumulated experience and the unquestionable advances that had been made previously, in particular the Vienna Conference, in which women's rights were recognized for the first time as human rights, and in the Cairo Conference, in which reproductive rights were introduced, leaving the door open for sexual rights. And here we are, 25 years after, and **WE INSIST** on:

Ratifying the Beijing Platform of Action, as well as the CEDAW, Rio, Vienna, Cairo and Durban agendas as road maps, reclaiming the role that we, women and feminists' movements, have played in building and sustaining these agendas and calling on States, governments and other diverse social actors to join us in recognizing equality as a good and a horizon for humanity.

We, feminist and women organizations, manifest our concern regarding the economic and political context in the region and the world. It is an economic predatory system, structurally extractivist, not only of nature but also of work (paid and unpaid), of times, of territories, of natural resources and of bodies.

Actual leaders of extractivism, production and consumption are incompatible with the sustainability of life. It is expressed in social resistances in the region, with an active presence of feminisms, in articulation with social movements that fights for racial, ethnical, generational, economic and gender justice, who raise their voice to confront life's marketisation.

Therefore, **WE RESIST** and we claim the right to social protest, which should not be criminalized; we reject that, by opposing ourselves to mega projects, we should be deemed accountable for the shortcomings in socio-economic development. We will not allow extractivism to do to our lands and territories what the patriarchy does to our bodies, and for this, we reclaim our growing organization, from grassroots, farmers, community, indigenous, migrants, young, afro-descendants, trade unionists and urban and rural women's organizations that resist and challenge linguistic barriers and structural inequalities that reproduce precarious life conditions and extreme poverty.

We are used to repeating that Latin America and the Caribbean are the most unequal regions of the world, and now we are going to get used to saying that we are also the regions with the most powerful and mobilizing feminism of the planet.

Our permanent activism, resistance and defense of rights, are expressed in the States and weak and fragile democracies' frameworks, in which conservatism capable of criminalizing and repressing social protest is installed. Defending human rights, the territory and exercising journalism, have converted in high risk activities. **Thus, in this context of State violence, we resist.**

We have encountered as some point cultural dispute, in which gender equality faces obvious risks of backlash versus the powerful articulation of a capitalist, misogynistic, lesbotranshomophobic, racist and colonial patriarchy, which is expressed in religious, political, economic and cultural fundamentalisms. Now more than ever, we claim the laic state, as a framework for the advance of women and girls' human rights.

In this context, we ratify our position according which democracy -without discrimination, or any form of exclusion, is a basic condition for the exercise of citizenship and human rights, thus it is fundamental to ensure the conditions which make possible civil society participation, in particular that of feminist and women's organizations.

## **WE KEEP MOVING FORWARD**

Since the approbation of the Platform of Action for Beijing, we have moved forward, however, little has been achieved and the challenges remain and demand the articulation of the State, the civil society, multilateral organisms and others. Thus:

We demand to the States that agreements turn into concrete actions in favor of equality and rights of women that rely on sufficient budgetary allocation to improve needed policies, with gradual mechanisms that guarantee income and wealth redistributions.

We demand legal, secure, liberated and free abortion throughout the region, its penalization and hampering must be categorized as state violence insofar as sexual and reproductive rights are human rights.

We demand that women's bodies stop being conquest territories for repressors, concerning all forms repression included the use of sexual violence as a tool for police and military controls in the middle of crisis of our countries, especially for recent assaults on Chilean and Nicaraguan women or the answers to migratory crisis in several countries.

We demand that States give an account of their compliance with international obligations and recommendations of human rights bodies, with which they have committed themselves.

We insist on the understanding that, once and for all, peace without women is not sustainable, and that without restorative justice, there is no possibility to build peaceful societies.

We urge States to guarantee that political participation of lesbian, transvestite, bisexual, trans person and non-binary women is exercised without fear of reprisals and

violence, so that a necessary institutionality that guarantees access to justice, for all women – especially afro-descendent and indigenous, participate to the governance of States having a parity of representation.

We call governments to recognize that development models built on spoliation, limit possibilities of economic autonomy for women, as well as girls, indigenous women, afro descendent, young, migrants, workers, including sexual workers, generic sex dissidents, with disability, and those who lived with HIV.

We urge the elimination of institutional racism and xenophobia, implementing policies with intersectional perspective, and support from public services and social protection programs for black, migrants, indigenous women and the others that suffer from racial or ethnic discrimination.

We demand immediate consideration of climate change and its effects throughout the region, with emphasis on the Caribbean.

We urge States to adopt required measures to eliminate the reproduction crux of economic inequality, guaranteeing access to decent work, remunerated and of quality, to food security and sovereignty, to a life free from harassment and discrimination in sports, to promote a socially co-responsible care organization, universalizing social protection, access to public services of quality, access to education, including Integral Education of Sexuality, to health and social infrastructures at all levels.

We demand immediate progress on eradication of all forms of violence against women, especially femicides and harmful practices, for which we demand that, sexual violence, forces union, marriage and pregnancy on girls and teenagers stop keeping happening. Guarantee a life free from violence is an urgent task.

We demand immediate consideration of discrimination, violence and harassment that women face in the professional world, especially journalists, insofar as media transformation and digital communication and their sexist approaches is necessary to the cultural change we aspire to.

Beijing keeps following our agenda and we demand its compliance without reduction or simplifications. Today States affirm that “we do not want to leave anyone behind”. **We are those who do not accept no setbacks and we will not allow them to leave us behind.**

Nothing about us, without us!