

## Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Youth

Seventy-four women, girls, teenagers and children; activists of 24 countries; representatives of the young feminists, afro-descendant, indigenous, with disability, migrants, refugees, lesbians, bisexuals, trans, non-binary and of other identities, sexual workers, with HIV, of rural zones, farmers, urban, vulnerable and violated from Latin America and the Caribbean; reunited in Santiago, Chile, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, in the event of the Regional Youth Consultation on the Beijing+25 Platform for Action, we are her to make our voice heard.

We urge the States, international organisms, civil society, academy and private sector to take our demands into account and to commit themselves to materialize our human rights in: access to education of quality, laic, free and intercultural on all levels; free exercise of our sexuality with physical autonomy and Integral Sex Education; a life free of violence and discrimination; political participation; respect of lands, territories and natural resources of the indigenous populations; no criminalization of human rights advocates; labor rights; and access to free, intercultural quality services of health with a special focus on mental health; that our capacity for agency and leadership be recognized, and considering the particularities of our identities.

25 years after the Platform of Action for Beijing, the global context has changed, and issues have complexified. The outbreak of the climate crisis and the digital that is spreading exponentially transform completely the situation of life at the regional level and the way we relate to each other and to the planet, installing new preoccupations and giving us the opportunity to evolve as a community.

In relation to gender violence, we have put in evidence the lack of gender and intercultural perspective of the institutions in charge of providing and administrating justice, resulting in the re-victimization and institutional violence that make it difficult to access rights, especially for girls, LGBTIQ+, afro-descendants and indigenous people; thus, the absence of protection laws and protocols; and the absence of prevention programs which deconstruct social and cultural mandates, in order to ensure dignified and secure living for girls and young people. It is alarming to observe the sexual violence that girls, young people and women of the region suffer, with high rates of femicides and transfemicides, which impact even more on migrants and refugees. Furthermore, the gender violence is increased by poverty.

In the **economic** domain, issues of gender, race and class converge with the increase of poverty, there is a big salary gap between men and women, discrimination and barriers that prevent them from obtaining promotion or development in managerial or executive positions; the lack of public policies of care networks to ensure the working development of those who exercise unpaid care and domestic tasks; all of the above affects even more young indigenous people, afro-descendants, migrants, refugees, lesbians, bisexuals, trans, travesties, non-binaries, people with disability, among others.

Young people are displaced and precariously placed in employment policies, and many times have failed to consider our home care tasks that impede our professional, family and social development, and without security or social protection. We condemn extractivism and suggest a production model that is more considerate of women,

teenagers and girls who live among the most critical areas, finally, a series of unpaid and unrecognized works exists, which obliges women to live in an even more precarious way.

Regarding sexual rights and reproductive rights, our region's majority of countries does not have comprehensive education in sexuality in educational institutions, and if it exists it is deficient in dealing with children, adolescents and human rights and from a solely reproductive perspective. Young people, over all the members of historically vulnerable groups, are even more violated by not counting quality health services, access to contraceptive methods, methods of preventing HIV and STIs. Furthermore, the criminalization of the abortion violates the physical autonomy of women, girls and teenagers. The perpetuation of marriages and early and forced marriages, thus as pregnancy of teenagers and forced infant pregnancy, are a form of violence which infringes on our full development in society. These circumstances are particularly compromised by the rise of conservative and anti-rights movements that not only slow down development but also seek to roll back the rights already won. As young people, we will not take one step back from our autonomy.

In the climate justice domain, we are concerned by the little participation of women and youth in the decision-making process, which intensifies the ineffective compliance of rules, public policies, inversions and green projects for the sustainability of the planet. Furthermore, we identified the scarce training of teachers in environmental education, circular economy and system B, especially in vulnerable areas, indigenous or peripheral communities, which have been the main affected by the climate crisis.

Regarding participation and leadership, a big obstacle is that, in a few countries of the region, gender parity still does not exist in the public, political and social positions. We do not have reserved seats for the LGBTIQ+ community, indigenous and afro-descendant women, people with disability and women belonging to vulnerable groups. On top of this, the political participation of girls, teenagers and young people in spaces of decision-making is practically non-existent. Discrimination limits the representation of groups and identities mentioned. In our countries, the criminalization of the right to protest makes it difficult for girls, teenagers and young women to participate in the decision-making process in public, political and social spaces.

Regarding education and formation, we lack the promotion of the participation of girls, young people and women in all domains of knowledge, especially in technology and innovation, and in STEM careers (sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics). Furthermore, major governmental remedies are necessary to promote scientific and technologic public education in order to eliminate sexist education within these spaces. Universal access to free, feminist education of quality, with an intercultural, communitarian, trans-feminist and dissident, decolonial, inclusive and disability focus, both in formal and informal spaces, must be guaranteed. On the other hand, analphabetism in our region keeps evolving as one of the main barriers to the reduction of poverty, in which girls, women and young people do not have access to education due to the gender mandate in unpaid domestic and care jobs.

With that in mind, the Latin American and Caribbean young people identify as main challenges:

- Recognizing, providing incentive and legitimizing the diverse forms of being from a full human rights perspective, building cooperation and articulation process which help valorizing diversities of the people and encouraging equity for all.
- Articulating joint actions between States, NGOs, civil society and private sector, for the care of the environment in an intersectional and sustainable way; ensuring sustainable production and consumption and guaranteeing the protection of territory and natural resources advocates.

We demand/ urge:

#### To the States

- Audit, monitoring and effective budget allocation in the implementation of public policies addressed to young people.
- Implementation of laws and international agreements signed by respective countries in matters of youth and gender equality.
- Guarantee economic rights to structurally vulnerable groups, eliminating wage breach, recognizing non-remunerated works, exploitation and work insecurity; guaranteeing minimum income to lone mother; financing enterprising; and recognizing care economy; in favor of an inclusive economic model, sustainable, fair and solidary.
- Afford conditions to strengthen and secure our incorporation to decent work, with regard to sustainability and dignification of paid and unpaid work.
- Finance initiatives with social, economic and environmental impact led by Latin-American and Caribbean Youth, guaranteeing, in an intersectional way, women and youth participation in all of its diversity.
- Promote, strengthen, and implement antidiscrimination laws that protect all of our identities, categorizing feminicides, lesbian-hatred, homophobic, transphobic crimes in penal codes of each country.
- Implement sexual and reproductive health services and policies in a universal way, from HIV and infection preventions, including effective access to pleasure, family planning, contraception and physical autonomy.
- Guarantee universal access to free education, of quality and with gender, intersectional, intercultural, community, dissident, decolonial, inclusive and of disability perspectives, in formal spaces as well as informal, emphasizing Integral Sexual Education and promoting women participation and teacher training in matters of technology and innovation.
- Train health professionals in sexual and reproductive rights.
- Decriminalize, destigmatize, legalize and guarantee access to free, liberated and secure abortion to all pregnant persons.
- Tackle the climate change issue with a gender perspective, and promote actions for the environmental care in an intersectional and sustainable way, such as ratify and implement with urgency the Escazu treaty in all countries of the region.

- Stimulate women, youth, and structurally vulnerable groups political participation through spaces that promote civic formation, empowerment and organization, in an inclusive and nondiscriminatory way. In parallel, they must commit to the states and to decision makers to establish dialogues that guarantee direct, effective and decentralized participation.
- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Right of the Child, among other that directly impact our future.

To international organisms of the United Nations system and to international cooperation organisms, we demand:

- Recognize their eurocentric, colonial and adultcentred speeches and world views, guaranteeing the incorporation of diverse speeches and practices.
- Support the civil society in human, sexual and reproductive rights defense, giving economic and political support through project tied to continuity, representativeness, and democracy at local, national and regional levels.
- Recognize and categorically reject violence to social leaders.
- Establish training processes about the influence of United Nations mechanisms, specially to children and youth, from a real place, not just consultative.

To the private sector

- Promote the respect of human rights principles in all of its dimension, fulfilling international regulations and agreements, specially concerning gender, labor rights, environmental sustainability and responsibility and indigenous, LGBTQI+, and disabled persons, among other. Likewise, recognize and implement business regulations and policies according to Human Rights.
- Afford funds to girls, teenagers, young women and diverse identities movements without agenda imposition, and with autonomy regarding budget exercise.
- Secure to vulnerable groups the access to managerial positions, and decent work conditions for the full development of those who work in these areas.
- Responsible management of communications, without reproducing gender roles and stereotypes. And from another perspective, promote communicational campaign to educate to the no reproduction of gender stereotypes and responsible management of communication.
- Targeted funds to organizations that allow a better access for vulnerable, rural and displaced population.
- Create labor insertion policies with parity, eliminating gender breaches, youth employment, without labor insecurity, social security and in agreement with our experience and development.

To the civil society

- An active participation in decision-making spaces, elaborating proposals and incentives that represent society demands, as well as monitoring of public policies.
- That children and youth have voice within agendas and can be consulted.
- Organizations must be strengthened and categorized, referring to speeches and demonopolizing funds.

To the academy

- Be an interdisciplinary tool of action and social link mobilizing human rights agenda.
- Incorporation in school curriculums of an integral education with gender, sexuality, diversity, secular perspectives and scientific bases.
- Guarantee participation and research about lesbian, bisexual, trans, transvestite, non-binary, afro-descendent, migrants, indigenous women and persons living with HIV, with disability and in rural context.

## **AGREEMENTS**

As Latin-American and Caribbean Feminist Youth, we commit ourselves to:

- Use this declaration in our countries with other civil society organizations, replicating and bringing information, knowledge and tools about this consultation to our peers.
- Actively support collective struggles, respecting and valorizing diversities, from the union, the containment and different struggle spaces to strengthen youth participation in local, national and international processes and to influence so that demand turn into concrete and efficient actions.
- Realizing the monitoring, control, and incidence of legislation, public policies and action plans in countries so that youth rights in all of our diversity are guaranteed, regarding commitments produced in the “Regional Consultation of Youth to Beijing25+” through future reports and meetings, developing gender themes with the creation of women networks; and to evaluate from now on the advances and new challenges according to future contexts.

We are the present, the collective scream of a generation that daily struggles for a fairer and more equal world, that demands the elimination of injustices and that asks States of the region its attention, commitment and actions for the full enjoyment of youth rights in all our diversity.