

Bi regional webinar:

Commitments for action of the Gender-based Violence Coalition: Euro-Latin American visions and proposals to improve care and shelter for victims of gender-based violence

Tuesday 29 June 2021 -

10:00 Mexico - 17:00 Brussels

11:00 Uruguay 09:00 - Honduras- 15:00 Iceland

Gender equality is more than a fundamental human right; it is one of the essential pillars for building inclusive and sustainable development. Achieving equality and empowerment of women and girls represents a challenge for States and societies, as it involves efforts ranging from adapting legal frameworks and reorienting public policies to promoting profound cultural change to eradicate discrimination against women and girls in all spheres of the public and private fields¹.

In none countries gender equality has become the norm, and significant disparities remain to be addressed in the areas of women's economic autonomy, decision-making autonomy and physical autonomy. The challenges are multiple and persist with similar urgency in different geographical contexts.

The figures in relation to violence against women remain alarming. One out of three women in the world has been a victim of some form of physical or sexual violence at least once in her lifetime². In 2018, in Latin America and the Caribbean, 64% of children under 15 years old have regularly experienced some form of violence (emotional aggression or corporal punishment) and 1 in 2 children are subjected to physical punishment³. At least 3,287 women have been victims of femicide or femicide in 2018, a figure that increases when considering only the records of feminicides committed at the hands of the victim's partner or ex-partner, to 3,529 women⁴. The situation in Europe is no less worrying. One out of 10 women has suffered from some form of sexual violence since the age of 15, and one out of 20 women has been raped after the age of 15⁵. Furthermore, 1

¹ INMUJERES (2018), México hacia la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de todas las mujeres y las niñas. De los compromisos a la implementación: la igualdad de género en el desarrollo sostenible México hacia la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de todas las mujeres y las niñas, Intervención , Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible - 2018 Santiago de Chile, abril de 2018 https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/news/files/presentacion_marcela_eternod_mexico.pdf

² Global database on violence against women: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>

³ UNICEF (Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia) (2018), Disciplina violenta en América Latina y el Caribe: un análisis estadístico, Panamá, abril.

⁴ CEPAL (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe). (2020c). "Observatorio de Igualdad de Género de América Latina y el Caribe" [En línea] <https://oig.cepal.org/es/autonomias/autonomia-la-toma-decisiones>

⁵ Agencia de los Derechos Fundamentales de la Unión Europea (FRA), Violencia de género contra las mujeres: una encuesta a escala de la UE, 2014 [En línea]: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_es.pdf

out of 5 women has suffered from physical and/or sexual violence by their current or previous partners⁶.

This is why the international community has made several commitments to gender equality, the most recent being the agreements made by States on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda⁷.

Measures at European level addressing violence against women include the Victims of Crime Directive (2012/29/EU) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) entered into force in 2014 and ratified by 34 states, which is the first binding regional instrument in Europe to comprehensively address different forms of violence against women, as well as the monitoring mechanism GREVIO (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) and the Committee of the Parties. In Latin America, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee of the Parties (CoP) are worth mentioning. At the Latin American level, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém Do Para) entered into force in 1995 and ratified by 32 states, as well as its follow-up mechanism MESECVI.

In order to strengthen these agreements and twenty-six years after the historic Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, this year 2021 is being held the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), a global meeting promoted by civil society in favour of gender equality, convened by UN Women and jointly organised by the governments of Mexico and France.

This global forum brings together a diversity of actors and has promoted the formation of Action Coalitions, innovative and multi-stakeholder global alliances involving governments, civil society, international organisations and the private sector with the following objectives: i) to promote collective action; ii) to foster intergenerational exchange; iii) to promote greater public and private investment; iv) to achieve concrete and transformative intergenerational outcomes for girls and women.

The themes chosen for the Equality Generation Action Coalitions are: 1. Gender-based violence, 2. Economic Justice and rights, 3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), 4. Feminist action for climate justice, 5. Technology and innovation for Gender equality and 6. Feminist movements and leadership.

EUROSociAL +, the European Union's Programme focused on institutional strengthening and public policies implementation support for Social Cohesion between Latin America and Europe, joins these efforts and commitments in order to elaborate Roadmap with the following objectives:

- Providing technical support so that the Latin American institutions that lead the different Coalitions can develop inputs that are translated into Action Plans with tangible and irreversible results for gender equality within the framework of the GEF.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", includes gender perspective in a transversal y and sectorial way.

- Promoting, among the various Latin American countries that are not part of Coalition leaders, adhesion processes to the Coalitions for Gender Equality Actions that include global and innovative alliances with the participation of government, civil society, international organisations and the private sector in Europe and Latin America.
- Strengthening the capacities of the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAWs) to develop action plans and/or instruments for monitoring commitments within the framework of the Coalitions.
- Strengthening the link between Latin American MAWs and European institutions to exchange relevant experiences in order to improve Latin American countries' commitments to the GEF.

At the heart of the reflections on care for victims of gender-based violence are key concepts such as comprehensive and multidisciplinary care, the one-stop shop (all identified needs must receive a response either through direct care or referral), and, as a cross-cutting element, the empowerment of victims⁸.

Shelters are emergency solutions that, in addition to guaranteeing physical safety and life safety, facilitate the recovery of the victim of violence and allow her to overcome the multiple consequences of violence in order to rebuild her life.

It is State's obligation to provide these services⁹, but in practice they are often provided by or in collaboration with civil society organisations, according to different legal frameworks, levels of coordination and organisational models, which raises the need to define minimum standards in terms of legal framework, availability, accessibility, safety, duration, funding, sustainability etc¹⁰.

This is why, in the framework of the GEF and the coalition "Gender-based Violence", EUROsociAL is organising the Bi-regional Webinar: "Euro-Latin American visions and proposals to improve the care and shelter for victims of gender-based violence" to be held on 29 June at 5 p.m. in Europe.

The general objective of the webinar is to generate a bi-regional dialogue between Europe and Latin America to reflect on and learn about best practices in the provision of care and shelter services for victims of gender-based violence.

Specific objectives:

1. Sharing the transformative commitments of the Gender-based Violence Coalition assumed by leaders institutions from both regions in terms of combating gender-based violence and care and shelter services for victims.
2. Identifying the remaining challenges, specific needs and key actors with regard to the provision of these services, and in particular shelters.

⁸ Bénédicte Lucas, « Las Casas de Justicia y del Derecho francesas: un modelo de referencia para el fortalecimiento de los servicios de acceso al derecho en América Latina », David Hernández Carrachano (Coord.), *Qué interesa de Europa a América Latina. Algunas políticas públicas compartidas en EUROsociAL*, EUROsociAL, Estudio n°22, serie Análisis, área Transversal, Madrid, 2016, p.42-43; EUROsociAL 2015, *Modelo para la prestación de servicios de acceso al derecho y buenas prácticas en su implementación en América Latina*, vv.aa, EUROsociAL, Documento de trabajo n°35, serie Guías y manuales, área Justicia, Bogotá.

⁹ Not only as an expression of the right to live a life out of violence, recognised, but also as a specific provisions of international treaties: Convención of Belém do Pará, artículo 8 d., and Istanbul Convention article 23.

¹⁰ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences - Note of the Secretariate A/HRC/35/30,, 2017, 35th session Human Rights Council

3. To generate proposals to achieve more inclusive and comprehensive public policies in this area.

It is aimed at public officials from the three branches of government on both continents, as well as civil society organisations, academia and the private sector.

Agenda

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17.00 Welcome and introduction to the bi-regional session.

- **Laure Rogès**, Representative of International Partnerships Directorate-General, European Commission
- **Juan Manuel Santomé**, Director of EUROsociAL+ Programme

17.10 Discussion: Commitments of Latin American and European leaders and commitments markers in the fight against gender-based violence.

- **Maria-Noel Vaeza**, Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean
- **Monica Bottero**, Director of the National Institute for Women, Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay
- **Rósa Guðrún Erlingsdóttir**, Adviser, International Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland
- **Ana Aminta Madrid**, Minister of Women, Honduras

Moderator: **Ana Pérez Camporeale**, Coordinator, Gender Equality Policies Area, EUROsociAL+

17.50 Debate: Euro-Latin American challenges regarding care and shelter for victims of violence.

- **Marcela Pirrone**, Director, Women against Violence Europe (WAVE), Europe
- **Johanna Nelles**, Executive Secretary, Istanbul Convention Monitoring Mechanism, Council of Europe, Europe
- **Luz Patricia Mejia**, Technical Secretary, Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), OEA, Latin America
- **Margarita Guille**, Director, Inter-American Network of Shelters (RIRE), Latin America

Moderator: **Susana Chiarotti**, Expert EUROsociAL+

18.30 Discussion: Global, multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approaches.

- **Patricia Vargas**, Member of the Global Network of Women's Shelters
- **Alyna Smith**, Senior Advocacy Officer, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

Moderator: **Heinrich Geldschlager**, Expert EUROsociAL+

18.50 Concluding proposals

- **Bénédicte Lucas**, Expert EUROsociAL+, Gender Equality Policy Area

18.55 Closure

- **Jérémie Pellet**, Director General, Expertise France