



## Puente Cultural de Habra Hispana

### MANIFESTO FOR A FUTURE OF EQUALITY AND WITHOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

#### BEYOND BEIJING + 26

(Submitted on October 12, 2021 by the Federations of University Women that constitute the Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge of GWI - Graduate Women International)

#### We recognize

Bolivian  
Federation of  
University  
Professional  
Women

-That 26 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, our countries have made less progress on gender equality than desired. Despite having different environments, the challenges are similar, as the public commitments made have not yet been matched by the actions, funding, and implementation of laws, policies and programs needed to achieve the common goals set.

Spanish  
Federation of  
University  
Women

-That the pandemic has exacerbated the inequality and discrimination faced by women in a similar way in our regions, especially in terms of education, work and gender-based violence. At the current rate, according to the World Economic Forum 2021<sup>1</sup>, gender gaps will take 54 years in Western Europe and 59 years in Latin America and the Caribbean to close. At this pace, neither we nor our daughters and granddaughters will live in a world of equal rights.

Mexican  
Federation of  
University  
Women

-That it is time to change, to reactivate existing commitments and to put words into practice. This was the theme of the Generation Equality Forum 2021<sup>2</sup>, which launched a five-year global acceleration plan to achieve tangible and irreversible progress towards gender equality, based on a series of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions, including \$40 billion in financial resources.

Association of  
University  
Women of  
Panama

-That the **commitment** of our university women's associations is - and will continue to be - to direct all our actions towards the empowerment of women and girls through education with the aim of making a positive and measurable impact on our communities. In this way we help present and future generations of women and girls to break the cycle of ignorance, poverty, violence and inequity.

Graduate  
Women  
Paraguay

However, we recognize that these actions are not enough and that we must go further and find ways to link empowerment efforts to **broader, systemic changes in the power structures** that define access to resources and opportunities. We must also bring about **social transformation** to eradicate commonly accepted ideas that

tolerate gender-based violence and prevent women's access to education and active leadership in politics and the workplace. As long as these changes do not happen, women's empowerment will eventually perpetuate their integration into the same economic and social systems that subordinate them.

Therefore, **we call** on local, regional, national and international institutions ...

**1.** For **women's leadership** to stop being an exception and become the fundamental norm, as it has been proven that parity is one of the conditions for the quality of management and good governance. Therefore, it is not enough to guarantee equal opportunities, it is essential to guarantee equal results. To this end, it is necessary to:

- Develop and implement laws and policies to advance gender parity and guarantee the fair and significant participation of women in decision-making at all levels of government institutions and the private sector.

**2.** To remedy the inexplicably slow action by governments and the private sector to effectively prevent and address **violence against women** by ending this severe abuse - of enormous impact on individual women and society<sup>3</sup> - because we know that violence against women is underpinned by rigid and unequal social and cultural norms that determine women's roles in their homes, communities and workplaces. To this end, it is imperative to:

- Ratify and implement international and regional conventions aimed at strengthening and implementing laws and policies intended to change unequal social and gender norms, which are the root cause of violence against women and girls.

**3.** To bring about a **decisive change in the mentality, customs and macho stereotypes** of women, girls, men and boys, since for social transformation towards equity and non-violence, the contribution of all is a sine qua non condition. This requires:

- Clear legislation on access to quality education at all levels, so that the education of women and girls becomes an instrument of social equality and a powerful force for the construction of peace, equity and social justice.
- A public policy that prioritizes an education in values for each individual based on human rights and the critical analysis of gender roles, that favors the breaking of sexist and chauvinist stereotypes and orients these and future generations in gender equality as a civic duty.

4. To ensure that pro-equality organizations and movements cease to experience a **chronic shortage of resources**, as there is compelling evidence that the main driver of progressive change is the strong presence of women's movements and organizations. To this end, it is urgent to:
  - Sustainably increase financial and political support for women's rights organizations and movements and make the ways in which funding is allocated accessible to these groups.
5. To enable society to transparently **monitor and follow up** on the results of all actions promised and being implemented, as this is the only way to ensure their fulfillment and evaluate their quality. To this end, it is essential:
  - That both the private sector and government institutions strengthen and prioritize accountability mechanisms on their commitments to gender equality.

We **trust** fully and firmly that this is the path we must follow, to ensure not only that the actions of the Federations of University Women that make up the Spanish-Speaking Cultural Bridge are as effective and efficient as possible, but also that the unjust gender gaps that violate our human rights shamefully and with impunity are closed worldwide as soon as possible, and once and for all.

#Let'sActForEquality

#GenerationEquality

*Bolivian Federation of University Professional Women  
Spanish Federation of University Women  
Mexican Federation of University Women  
Association of University Women of Panama  
Graduate Women Paraguay*

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<sup>1</sup> World Economic Forum, Geneva: The Global Gender Gap Report 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The Equality Generation Forum took place in Mexico City in March 2021 and in Paris from June 30 to July 2, 2021, under the auspices of UN Women and with a large participation of civil society and youth.

<sup>3</sup> In particular, we highlight that, in 2016, the global cost of violence against women was estimated by the UN at \$1.5 trillion, which is equivalent to approximately 2% of global gross domestic product (GDP), or roughly the size of the entire Canadian economy (UN Women, 2016).