



Recommendations

Femicide/Feminicide: No more killings of women!

Break the Silence, end the Impunity, Call for Universal Responsibility

Recommendations to the European Union, its Member States and the governments of Latin American and the Caribbean:

Violence against women (VAW), in all its multiple forms, continues to be one of the most widespread human rights violations, crossing all geographical, economic and social borders. VAW in Latin America is increasingly taking extreme forms and it is a backlash against women in a context of discrimination, poverty and impunity. The rise of femicide/feminicide in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the deplorable failure of States to investigate, prosecute and penalise this crime should be given greater priority and clear actions taken by the European and international community to respond to these violations.

Within the scope of EU–LAC strategic partnerships, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, trade agreements, Country Strategy Papers and other aid resources, we call on the EU, its Member States and embassies, the Commission and its delegations and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU.¹

- to establish a compulsory item on femicide/feminicide and impunity on the agendas of the various levels of Political Dialogue;
- to incorporate the issue of the struggle against femicide/feminicide and impunity in the Regional and Country Strategy papers;
- to encourage and support national protection and prevention strategies for the elimination of VAW;² including awareness-raising and education programmes;
- to end impunity of femicide/feminicide in Latin America and the Caribbean, calling for prompt and effective responses consisting of police investigations carried out with due diligence, prosecution of the perpetrators, and guarantees of meaningful access to justice for victims and their relatives;³
- to develop reporting and monitoring systems on progress and problems on compliance with commitments agreed for the elimination of VAW and femicide/feminicide;
- to create and strengthen institutions responsible for dealing with women's human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment;

¹ EU guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them.

² European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2009 on the elimination of violence against women.

³ European Parliament Resolution (2007/2025(INI)) 'on the murders of women (femicides) in Central America and Mexico and the role of the European Union in fighting this phenomenon'.

- to ensure the participation of women and women's organisations in all consultations concerning current and future regional negotiations;
- to ensure closer coordination in the areas of implementation of ethical codes, ILO Conventions and Corporate Social Responsibility approaches with the incorporation of a gender mainstreaming amongst all levels of EU–LAC relations;
- to provide direct, long-term, sustainable funding for local and national women's organisations.

We call on the governments of Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC)

- to revise or eliminate any discriminatory laws and procedures against women , in accordance with CEDAW, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women – Belem do Pará,
- to implement all necessary instruments to guarantee women and girls the right to a life free from violence in private and public spaces;
- to enact legislative reforms in order to facilitate access to justice and effective protection, prevention and compensation systems for victims of violence, their families and witnesses;
- to strengthen the rule of law and the judicial processes from legal investigations to the carrying-out of sentences;
- to monitor compliance of women's human rights in all national institutions, law enforcement and the judiciary system, and to provide sex-disaggregated data on which to base such monitoring;
- to strengthen the participation of civil society and women's organisations at all levels in relation to accountability, monitoring and advocacy on VAW and femicide/feminicide;
- to typify in their penal codes all extreme expressions of discrimination against women as crimes, including femicide/feminicide, and to develop appropriate protocols for investigation and sanctions of negligent judicial and police officers.
- to revise the observations and recommendations presented in the Judgement of the case of *González et al. ("Cotton Field")* against the Mexican State⁴ for their incorporation and appliance according to country-specific context.

We urge the EU, its Member States and the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to demonstrate their political commitment and willingness to fight against VAW and to firmly condemn femicide/feminicide in the forthcoming Madrid Summit Conclusion in May 2010.

Endorsements by organisations:

Central America Women's Network - CAWN
 European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights – ECCHR
 Grupo Sur
 CIFCA
 Greens/EFA Group in the EP
 Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

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⁴ Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Case of González et al. ("Cotton Field") v. Mexico. Judgment of November 16, 2009. Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations, and Costs.