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MANIFESTO IN DEFENCE OF MIGRANT WOMEN

Submitted on 18 of December 2023, International Migrants Day, by the Federations of University Women that constitute the Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge of GWI - Graduate Women International

RESPONSIBLE AND AWARE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF MIGRANT GIRLS AND WOMEN, WE DENOUNCE THE INTOLERABLE SITUATION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

According to the current UN global estimate, the total number of international migrants in 2020 was 281 million (3.6% of the world's population). Almost half of them are women and girls (135 million, 3.5 % of the world's female population).

Migration is a complex issue, and its characteristics vary from place to place. However, in the case of migrant women and girls, we can distinguish common gender-related features: violence and sexual exploitation during migratory journeys, precarious working conditions or even prostitution and other social ills in countries of transit and destination.

The OAS Declaration (June 2023) clearly states that migration is an inherent part of human nature and recognises that states have an obligation to uphold the Human Rights of all people, in particular migrants and refugees. Migration will continue to occur because of increased armed conflicts, economic, political, or social exclusion problems. This should lead to the creation of supranational, national, regional, and sub-regional, cross-cutting and interdependent systems that establish laws, public policies and regulatory mechanisms for the protection and integration of migrants, as well as to effectively fight against mafias, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants with all its consequences, which mainly threaten and victimise women and girls.

IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT WE REQUEST

International organisations:

1. To promote and sponsor regional, national, and supranational cooperation measures and, by means of international treaties, to establish regulations and standards for member states to manage migration through norms that combat the lucrative business of irregular immigration both in international waters and in jungle, river, or desert borders.
2. To establish gender-sensitive and responsibility-sharing guidelines to prevent trafficking and pimping, thus protecting women and girls in particular.

3. To ensure that financing policies and trade agreements act against the unsustainable asymmetric development of economic and social systems between nations.

National governments:

1. To support the adoption and strengthening of victim-centred measures that create the necessary policy framework to steer irregular migration towards legality.
2. To strengthen and enforce migration laws in order to fight human smugglers and women traffickers as vigorously and effectively as possible.
3. To develop laws and public policies that incorporate care strategies for women and girls in a coordinated action between the State, civil society and international organisations that defend the rights of women and girls.
4. That, through their own efforts and cooperation treaties, migrant-sending countries seek a systemic change in education and employment generation in order to create medium and long-term job opportunities and a dignified living space so that migration is no longer the only option for families.

Local authorities:

To design active mechanisms for the care and protection of migrants, with special emphasis on women and girls, seeking to meet their educational and comprehensive personal development needs, reducing risks and vulnerabilities, and promoting the use of legal migration channels.

LET'S STAND UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT GIRLS AND WOMEN!

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