



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES

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BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** met during its Enlarged Council Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from the 8th to the 12th of November 2010, in honor of the bicentennial of the May 1810 Revolution, to discuss the general theme “**Migrant Women**”.*

About one hundred participants took part in this meeting, organized by the Argentinean Association of Women in Legal Careers, presided by Dr.^a Graciela Mendoza Peña.

In the opening ceremony took the floor, Dr.^a Monica Pinto, Dean of the Law School of the University of Buenos Aires, Dr.^a Rebecca Tavares, UNIFEM representative, Dr.^a Maria Teresa Féria de Almeida, I.F.W.L.C. President and Dr.^a Ethel Susana Diaz, I.F.W.L.C. Vice-President.

The papers presented discussed the following topics.

- 1. International migration, public policy and feminization of migration.*
- 2. Gender violence and migration*
- 3. Economical, social and cultural Rights and migration.*
- 4. Human rights and citizenship building*

After the debates on those issues, the following conclusions turned out:

- 1. Argentina has become, from now on, in a state whose laws protect migrant*



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women. It has been a paradigm shift in all that concerns the rights of migrant women.

2. Migrant women are more vulnerable and easily become a victim of international traffic, as well as their children.

3. The restrictive policies of migration adopted by states expose migrants to abuse and exploitation by traffickers.

4. Public international law and international law of human rights have recognized that all human beings have equal rights and should be treated with dignity.

5. The role of the judiciary is to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable people to protect their dignity as human beings.

6. It is necessary to change the judicial system in order to reduce inequality and vulnerability of migrant women.

7. Migrant women are not bound by the principles set integration in the host states.

8. All people living and working in a foreign country are entitled to full and complete citizenship.

9. People arriving to a foreign country with different culture and religion, must observe the laws of the host country and its symbols and traditions.

10. Women in legal careers want an integrated and inclusive society where all citizens enjoy equal civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights.



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11. *We all need to accept diversity based on common values.*
12. *It is essential that a model of social integration could be understood and shared by all citizens whose purpose is to teach migrants how they can improve their situation.*
13. *Tolerance is the first step in the process of building cohesion, and how to provide the necessary possibilities for migrants' access to school.*
14. *The enrollment process is the key to the integration of children of migrants in the labor market.*
15. *Within the context of globalization, countries of the North must help the countries of the South in order to avoid migration. Africa must be built for their children. To achieve this it is important to develop policies to encourage the return to their countries of origin.*
16. *Justice must be humanized. Women in legal careers must use all their resources efficiently and effectively to help migrants, most of whom live in precarious conditions, to get them to assert their rights.*
17. *Women account for 50% of the total migrant population. But now, immigration policy is designed for the benefit of male migrants.*
18. *It is clear that migrants do the jobs that nationals do not want to assume. Unfortunately the governments of host countries are not willing to normalize the rights of migrants.*
19. *The issue of migration should be treated within a general context of combating poverty.*



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20. *The situation of migrant women must be addressed taking into account the issue of gender inequality.*

21. *States must develop public policies that respect the gender, like the principle of equality and non discrimination, protecting the rights of migrant women.*

22. *Women in legal careers should encourage states to ratify all international instruments protecting the rights of women, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.*

23. *Governments must improve the living conditions of the population to prevent migration, as stipulated in the document entitled "Plataforma Laboral de las Américas" which defends the right to non-migration and describes the migration as an option rather than as a consequence*

*According to the above, the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** recommends the promotion, dissemination, and implementation of all the legal norms on the rights of women through all the courts, namely those of C.E.D.A.W., and strengthening the operational capacity of all who practice law.*

Written in Buenos Aires on November 12th, 2010