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## **Supplementary Report to be submitted to the CEDAW**

The **Colectivo Feminista Género con Clase** (Class Gender Feminist Collective) begins its organization in September 2008 as an information space that reflects the experiences related to women and their revolutionary struggles. This group was created as part of the appearance of women's and feminists organizations within the broad democratic participation promoted by the Bolivarian Government headed by President Hugo Chávez.

Class Gender is a name that represents the fusion of the central elements in which it is based and supported the situation of exploitation and oppression of women and the peoples of the world: Gender and Social Class, in that sense, it is a mixed collective of feminist articulation that links the struggle for the emancipation of women in its various expressions and realities with the struggle to free the working class from the capitalist exploitation, assuming that on women also weighs patriarchal oppression and exploitation. Share the fight for gender equality and equity and inclusion of sex-gender diverse community to build a truly free, fair and equal society. We are convinced that the ways in which patriarchy is reproduced as a system of oppression is precisely the division into male-female gender and the roles attributed to each one of them.

Class Gender is a feminist communications platform, because we have media like the blog: <http://generoconclase.blogspot.com> , as well as the social networks twitter accounts: @generoconclase and facebook: generoconclase.

Likewise, **Mujer Género con Clase** (Gender Class Woman) is a radio program broadcast on Radio Nacional de Venezuela Central Region by the 90.5 FM dial, every Thursday between the hours of 4:00 to 5:00 pm. (Time Venezuela) and aims to promote and contribute to the training and sensitization of men and women, to non reproduction of patriarchal-capitalist stereotypes, and to promote the development of women. Each program runs a social, political or cultural issue, giving a critical eye and a socialist vision.

Class Gender is also a print medium which we use as a tool for our encounters with women and men in various communities through activities such as forums, seminars, etc. This written information section (<http://generoconclaseimpreso.blogspot.com/> ), is published to fulfill similar objectives that have the radio program and whose distribution is free to be read by women. With this media we are looking to equally

spread ideas, proposals and principles of the Feminist Socialism from a feminist, class and ethnic approach.

The Class Gender Feminist Collective is part of the Network of Feminist, Socialist and Women Collectives the “Araña Feminista” (Feminist Spider), which is itself a part of the articulation of feminist women's movements of MERCOSUR.

The Class Gender Feminist Collective presents to the competent organ of the **CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)** this Supplementary Report:

### **I. Political Participation**

In recent years there have been significant advances in the political participation of women in government spaces both of public authorities and Community Councils, organizations and grassroots social movements and organizations and political movements. But that political participation is not reflected in the nominations made by political parties and movements, or in occupying positions or seats in the decision-making bodies at the national, state and municipal legislative bodies. This evidence a lack of commitment of the political parties and of their political leaderships with parity and alternation to be implemented by the Venezuelan political, community and social work. In contrast with the National Government which have equal participation of women in all branches of government occupying, in many cases, charges as Presidents of these powers, in fact genuinely fulfilling the constitutional provisions that guarantee equality.

In the context of the elections held in the two (2) recent periods, highlights as indicated in the Report 7 and 8 of the Venezuelan State in Item 101, whereby the National Electoral Council ([www.cne.gov.ve](http://www.cne.gov.ve)) effectively has given decisions that aim to establish quotas for the nomination of women to public elected offices, but such actions have been insufficient for the administrative nature of these.

The lack of concrete progress on the political participation of women is reflected in its small presence in the National Assembly; in the period 2005-2010 the percentage of women was 15 % and in the elections of 2010-2015 came to the percentage of 14% of women, with 15 Assembly members.

In the Legislative Councils of each state, according to the results of the last regional elections in December 2012, we see that the presence of women reaches a percentage of 38.49 %, meaning that of a total of 226 positions, women hold 87 seats in regional parliaments.

Also we have elections for State Governors made in December 2012, 3 women were elected governors of the 24 states, that is, a percentage of 12.5 % of the total.

In the last elections held in December 2013 to elect Mayors and Women Mayors, have resulted (\*) than of 335 mayors were elected 43 women mayors which gives a 13 % of all elected officials.

In this electoral aspect is necessary to note that state initiatives and concrete actions to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the electoral quota have not been effective, such actions lack of punitive measures for offenders which facilitates the non-compliance. There are the following levels of obstacles: 1) Absence of legal rules governing the alternation of political equality with women as a democratic condition, 2) The characteristics of the electoral system that accepts lists in which only men are nominated on outgoing posts, and 3) lack of commitment in the directions of political parties and movements for the inclusion of women in these positions. In general there is enough resistance from political parties and movements to implement the system that includes parity with political alternation, largely because that would mean the loss of spaces of men, coupled with a patriarchal and misogynist behavior of discriminatory stereotypes towards women.

As clearly states the report under Section 102, the situation of access of women to positions through direct appointments or designations is more feasible. Unlike those charges when women have to go through a nomination may do organizations and political movements and undergo an election by popular will.

## **II. Legislative aspects**

### **1 - . Penal Code**

Dates from 1937, is a de-contextualized and anachronistic rule object of many discussions and proposals that have been given this legal status in the National Assembly, Supreme Court and other public spaces, in that sense, it is stated that the Penal Code has to be framed within the tenets and principles of the Bolivarian Constitution in which are the bases for the construction of an egalitarian society and to consolidate the Republic, with a clear conception of human rights of women, girls, men and boys, considering ethnic differences and African-descendants, aimed to the consolidation of a social and democratic state of law and justice. To adapt the penal system to new social, political, economic, cultural realities is a necessity in our country, it is impossible to build a new society with the foundations of a historical period of the last century.

It is important that in this legal instrument women are made visible as a subject of rights and guarantees and that the violence exercised against her is established as a matter of public life, such as established in the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a life Free of Violence (2007) and not as a matter of private life or privacy.

Gender violence is criminal conduct that has negative consequences against all, so it must be addressed within an autonomous definition of the offense as has been raised in

relation to FEMICIDE and other forms of violence, being these a necessary condition for achieving a just, egalitarian and equitable society.

Also in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of the CRBV, the Venezuelan State has been complying with the positive obligation to guarantee human rights which states that equality before the law be real and effective, for which they have overcome obstacles impeding the free exercise of human rights of women that historically have been violated.

## **2.- Civil Code**

In response to the Concluding Observations No. 33 and 34 of the Committee relating to the minimum age for marriage and the difference between men and women to remarry after, the Ombudsman made two Nullity Resources to the Supreme Court Constitutional Chamber on grounds of unconstitutionality against Article 46 of the Civil Code and against Article 57 of the Code, both resources were admitted and the second one has already been declared as invalid by this Court Judgment No 1066-2010.

This legal action that we support by relevant from a legal point of view and to protect the human rights of women, does not diminish importance to discuss and approve a reform of this legal instrument, adapting to the new constitutional and legal reality of the country and to comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## **III. Social Control**

With respect to the statement in Item 76 of the Report it is important to add that in the Community Councils were created Committees of Women and Gender Equality of which 300 have been established throughout the country. It is also important to note that as a result of the economic war that has raged in the country against all sectors of national life, have been created nationwide 1200 Women's Committees for People's Defense of Economy, each one consists of 10 women. Also add the importance of Mission Madres del Barrio which expanded in recent months incorporating 20,000 women nationwide completing the 100,000 women of disadvantaged sectors and that these women are being treated in their basic needs and training themselves to overcome poverty.

It is also important to highlight the creation of the national Advisory Council of People's Power of Women, a body that allows women to participate in leading role in the design of public policies in conjunction with the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality. With the existence of this advisory body, the National Government guarantees the participation of women directly and especially in monitoring the achievement of plans and projects in development.

The Plan for Gender Equality and Equity "Mama Rosa" (2013-2019), is the best example of the participation of women in the construction of the new model, this Plan has been consulted with the women in local and territorial way, for this was discussed with 14,000 women who gave their input in the development of the 5 goals that comprise the same; is intended to eliminate inequalities and discrimination based on gender, framed by the concept of substantive equality of the socialist system itself. To overcome poverty and to transform the patriarchal capitalist model, focused on building a socialist and feminist model based on the recognition of the rights of women as citizens and respect for those who daily built with tenacity the Homeland - Motherland.

#### **IV. The Role of the Media**

While it is true that we fully agree that States and Governments must be evaluated in relation to their actions against the guarantee of the rights of women, we also believe that some actors of civil society should be evaluated to specify how they can contribute to the development and implementation of the rights of the female population, we want to make special mention of the private media.

We fully support freedom of expression, and this support precisely passes by the responsibility of the media to exercise it without prejudice to vulnerable social subjects. We call attention that in Venezuela, most private media, press, radio and television, are spaces where systematically symbolic and psychological violence against women is exercised. In Venezuela the private media promote the reproduction of sexist, misogynist and patriarchal stereotypes, which permanently assault the dignity of women. Through advertising, entertainment TV shows (soap operas, competitions, etc.), private media companies transmit denigrating messages and contents towards women, reproducing gender inequalities.

That is why we demand public control, to put in practice the tools established by the Law of Social Responsibility, and to generate even more mechanisms that allow a deep review of the contents in the private media, preventing remain instruments for reproduction of a society full of sexist, misogynist and patriarchal values.