



Base Lesbian Foundation of Venezuela, is a Lesbian nonprofit organization founded in 2009, committed to the defense of Human Rights Sexual Diversity community, promoters in training, in awareness and prevention of HIV / AIDS, in Sexual Health and against drug use.

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Colectivo Artistico Radical Cachuchas de Kahlo

The Collective “Cachuchas Kahlo” founded in October 2012, propose, in the first instance, the rescue of revolutionary consciousness through art in its various forms; which manifest from street demonstrations, performance poetry, graffiti, murals, reading circles among others. Moreover, it is a deeply feminist collective; fighting against all forms of violence and discrimination including LGBTI advocacy.

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EVALUATION ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN VENEZUELA UNDER THE PRESENTATION OF THE 7º AND 8º PERIODIC REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 44º CEDAW SESION

The sexual diversity in Venezuela has had various achievements within the Bolivarian Revolution. One of the first has been the repeal of the “Law of Lazy and Wicked People”, a harmful law approved in 1939, which repressed mostly the lesbian, gay and transsexual community and all who could be considered a dangerous person not belonging to any moral qualification. They were sentenced without trial, without counsel and without a due process to over two years of confinement in El Dorado`s jail, in the Bolivar State.

Throughout history the Venezuelan State has played a key role in building tools that

helps to decline the inequality. There is the "**Law for the Regulation and Control of Housing Lease**" that aims to establish a special legal status of leasing urban and suburban buildings for housing, whether leased or subleased; it provides the protection for same-sex couples who choose to rent housing and prohibits the eviction based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The "**Law of Banking Sector Institutions**" has, as a principal aim, to ensure the functioning of the banking sector and protects Venezuelan's people right to enjoy banking services on an equal basis, without religious, social, gender identity or expression discrimination. The "**Labor Law and Male and Female Workers**" that was achieved through a consultation to different groups, social movements, male and female workers, unions and the people in general, includes the protection of wages, benefits, working hours and their stability, allowing to hire workers with disabilities. It includes a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as other types of discrimination in its guiding principles, all that taking account of the gender focus in the law. We amongst other part of the policies, programs and public objectives and social inclusion established in the "**Law of the Homeland Plan**" and recently included in the "**Law for the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Equality of People with HIV or AIDS and their Families**", which aims to promote and protect the right to equality of all people with HIV or AIDS and their families, throughout the national territory, in order to ensure that they exercise all rights, warranties, duties and responsibilities, without any discrimination.

That said, as a LGBT community we have made great strides, but in the lesbian issues particularly the progress has been minimal. Lesbians have been discriminated because of being women and because of having a different orientation than the imposed by patriarchal heteronormativity. Within the social movements of the gender diversity, the gay community has dominated all areas, marginalizing lesbians, just as it has happened historically in the women's movement where our participation has been minimal. Invisibility is a symbolic violence daily perpetrated against us, the lesbians, denying us the right to exist and that is a big challenge that must be assumed. Visibility has a lot to do with the empowerment of lesbians in our society. Therefore, promoting the role of lesbians as a social group is needed to stimulate positive changes in the situation that we live. The taking of conscience of our rights and interests and how those are deeply related socially and politicaly is very

important.

In the vindicatory respect, the inclusion of the lesbian community in the "**Organic Law for the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence**" is necessary. This law establishes a catalog of safety and security measures for immediate implementation by the receptor organs of complaints, precautionary measures that can safeguard the physical and psychological integrity of women. The law emphasizes as well in the strengthening of prevention programs, as the creation of the "Host Homes", homes as an alternative host for cases of extreme violence against women deployed in all the country. It is noteworthy that this law is designed under a heteronormative vision, leaving women who decide to live with other women as a couple very vulnerable. Patriarchal power is not limited to heterosexual environment; it is reproduced in all the diversity within society. If we really want to end with the patriarchy and machismo, it is necessary to mainstream gender perspective beyond heterosexuality.

In health matters, the Venezuelan state should adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures necessary to ensure the enjoyment of the right to physical and mental health, without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Starting from the premise that sexual and reproductive health is part of human rights, and need to become visible in lesbian women, in the following aspects:

- Know the gynecological needs of lesbians, it means gynecology with lesbian perspective taking care of the sexual orientation of the patient at the time of physical examinations, providing care, treatment and monitoring.
- Conduct a study on how many lesbians attend gynecologists and how many gynecologists are aware of what serves lesbians.
- Promotion and accessibility to know and / or get methods for preventing sexually transmitted diseases; for example: special female condoms; that can cover the entire female genital area, taking into account the different ways of lovemaking between lesbian women.
- Health programs for the prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions affecting women, ensuring access for all women to a full range of quality care

services of sexual public health.

- Promoting healthy lifestyles for the benefit lesbian's women sexual and mental health.
- Public attention of hormonal treatment for transgender and intersex women.
- Ensure relevant information about methods of assisted reproduction.
- Create legal reforms and policy to include assisted reproduction within the health system. Following a release of the care of these cases should be set free, looking to reverse this situation that violates the rights of women who need this technique to get pregnant. In the same way, the right to approve the adoption of lesbian couples.

On the other hand depathologization the Venezuelan State is required, from the speech until the action, beginning with the creation of a secular culture that involves the separation of the State and Religion. The state must serve the citizens and not the interests of religion, it must also transcend all heteronormative policies boundaries and deconstruct the hegemony of the traditional family, understanding that there is a family plurality that is necessary to make visible.

Another important factor has to do with the recognition of our legal status. Progress is needed on the rights to equality and non-discrimination in civil rights of the gender diverse population. In this aspect, the Venezuelan State must take appropriate measures to ensure unions and links between people of the sexual diversity. It has to obtain the proper development of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identity to ensure the enjoyment and exercise of their human rights on an equal basis.