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### **Supplementary Report to present to CEDAW**

The Feminist Collective “Gender with Class” submits to the competent organ of the CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) this Supplementary Report.

#### **Political Participation**

In recent years there have been significant increase in women’s political participation in government spaces both Public Authorities and Community Councils, organizations and grassroots social movements, and political movements. However this political participation is not reflected in the nominations made by political parties and movements, or in the occupation of positions or seats in the decision-making bodies in national, State and municipal legislative bodies. This demonstrates a lack of commitment from the political parties and their political leaderships, about parity and alternation that must be implemented by the Venezuelan political, community and social work. In contrast with the National Government, which has equal participation of women in all branches of the government who occupies, in many cases, positions as Presidents of these powers, that in fact genuinely fulfills the constitutional provisions that guarantee equality.

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

**The lack of concrete progress in the political participation of women is**

**reflected in their small presence in the National Assembly; in the period 2005-2010 the percentage of women was 15 % and in the elections of 2010-2015 the percentage was 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 of a total of 226 positions, women hold 87 seats in regional parliaments.

Also we had elections for State Governors in December 2012, where 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 male and female Mayors, have resulted in (\*) that of 335 mayors were elected 43 women mayors which gives a 13 % of all elected officials.

In this electoral aspect it 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 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 for 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 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 occupied by men, coupled with a patriarchal and misogynist behavior of discriminatory stereotypes towards women.

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

## **Violence against women**

Thanks to the effort and commitment of the Revolutionary Government, violence against women has been made visible and tackled integrally, creating government agencies and legal instruments for care, prevention and punishment of all forms of violence against women.

The above efforts have gone hand in hand of working together with organized women's movements and feminist of all the country, for the development, monitoring and social control of public policies designed for this purpose.

In this regard, the “Organic Law on the Right for Women to a Life Free of Violence”, Article 6 states that society has the right and duty to participate in a leading role for the full and effective enjoyment of the content of the law to denounce the crimes of violence against women, through community and social organizations that legitimize the communal councils and other social organizations.

Fulfilling the call, we had the opportunity to participate with women from all sectors during the discussions of the Plan for Equality and Gender Equity "Mama Rosa" (period 2013-2019), remembering as part of the strategic objective in the Social Dimension of the Homeland Plan, the elimination of gender-based violence in all its forms.

## **Advisory Council of the Women Popular Power and Gender Equality**

Our collective is part of the Advisory Council for the Women Popular Power and Gender Equality (CCPPMIG), created in December 2013, in the coordination between the women`s national organizations and the MPPMIG, under the participatory public policy for this social sector, composed of more than 100 women and feminist movements in the country. Among its objectives, is the discussion of possible solutions and to make policy decisions to meet the objectives, strategies and public policies on gender equality and equity.

It is important to point out that in this instance, the **National Media Observatory “Carmen Clemente Travieso”, among other things, are being created, which aim to analyze and monitor the various media content to**

**remove symbolic and media violence against women.** In this regard, we have undertaken major initiatives with national medias, denouncing sexist publications and content that use symbolic and psychological violence, objectification of the female body, homolesbotransfobia, misogyny, stereotyping and enforcing gender roles.

### **Women's Movement for Peace and Life**

As part of the Great Mission "Venezuela Lifetime", in August 2013, the Women's Movement for Peace and Life has been initiated, based on the Homeland Plan 2013- 2019 and the "Mama Rosa"'s Plan, with the accompaniment of women communities. This program has created the conditions for greater participation of women of the homeland- motherland in defense of life and in the consolidation of peace territories.

Thus, the Women's Movement for Peace and Life has been expanding and consolidating, through their participation in peaceful activities to counteract the damage caused by destabilizing actions that have threatened the development of women and their environment.

### **Terrorist Violence (*Guarimba*)**

As part of the municipal elections in December 2013, President Maduro called the country for a national dialogue, creating a climate of political detente, but the opposition developed a series of violent events that did not spare women.

On January 23, 2014, opponents Leopoldo López and María Corina Machado made a call to their followers to hit the streets until the president Maduro leaves. This was the first event in a chain of components that constituted the "soft coup".

The call of López is the expression of a destabilization plan against Venezuela. Documents leaked by the Wikileaks website revealed that Leopoldo López militates with the international right-wing of Latin America and with Alvaro Uribe Velez; he is mentioned several times in diplomatic cables of the United States related with Venezuela. The handbook of Leopoldo López includes participation in the coup against President Hugo Chavez in April 2002. López

was, at that time, mayor of Chacao Municipality, located in the east of Caracas. Leopoldo López's conspiratorial history contains its share in the violent protests of the *Guarimba* Plan (2004).

On February 6th began vandalizing actions carried out by small groups in Táchira and Mérida. In San Cristobal, capital of Tachira, protesters tried to take over the residence of the governor of the state, endangering the lives of dozens of children who receive care at these facilities. Several people were arrested, which was used by the violent groups as an excuse to continue the protests. The vandalism spread to other municipalities creating the circumstance that called for a march, named the Youth Day, taking place in Caracas on February 12th.

The day before the opposition march, a telephone conversation was revealed recording a conversation between former Venezuelan Ambassador in Colombia, Fernando Gerbasi, and Vice Admiral Carratú Ivan Molina, head of the Military House of Carlos Andrés Pérez, both members of the opposition, in which Gerbasi warned Carratú that the next day a plan would be executed "like the April 11th" and for which he should be careful. The manifestation of that day threw the " necessary dead " to rouse the vengeance of government opponents.

After this tragic episode, conspiracy against the Government entered the fourth stage of the "soft coup", activated in some areas that are criminals *guarimbas* as evidenced by the murders committed against women and men in the village. They are traps to hunt humans, using barbed wire, glass, guayas stud, oil spilled on the tracks, obstacles placed after a curve to generate accidents.

It is a terrorist act carried out by violent street protests, road closures, felling trees, forest fires, killing people and animals. Causing damage to public property, *Cacerolazos*, threats and attacks against the general population and particularly against the chavist people. The goal is to overthrow the government by generating feelings of collective terror and lawlessness.

The *guarimbas* are limited to a few high-class municipalities where the opposition dominates mayors; the consequences have been tragic. These actions were not performed in popular areas; these areas maintain their support to the

government. Of the 335 municipalities in Venezuela, only 18 have permitted this violence.

**The communicational blockade by the media's corporations achieved that the international community perceive Venezuela as an ungovernable nation, when in the reality over 90% of the country remained calm.**

The aggressiveness of the *guarimberos* was intended for the public services managed by the National Government: electricity, telephone, transport and other services. Consequently, a sector from the opposition has repeatedly committed acts that seek to justify foreign intervention in the country.

**The *guarimberos* set fire to kinder gardens, Simoncitos, universities, medical centers, ministries, public facilities like the Caracas subway, they steal from the citizens, they disrespect and murder police and military officials, destroy property, assault the ecosystem with the burning and logging of trees.**

They use the image of woman, objectifying them, like a "heroine that fights for her country". Recognized female artists use their voice and body to transmit insulting messages against the President of the Republic and the entire government sector.

**The image of women was victimized with the same false repressions, broadcasting images of a pregnant woman with a gas mask and the National Guard watching in the background.** The Cuban actress Maria Conchita Alonso posing naked with a flag as a loincloth and a note "Brave women who struggle and solidarity with Venezuela".

These fascist actions left at least 34 dead Venezuelan men and 8 Venezuelan women. Most of the dead were innocent people.