



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES

LISBON DECLARATION

2018

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** met from 20 to 22 November 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal, at its XXIII Congress. Women Jurists from 27 different countries from Africa, America, Asia and Europe analyzed and discussed Women's Human Rights, from the perspective of Political Rights, Migrations and Resistances, Gender Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Women's Economic Empowerment and Parenting.*

*And as the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** is aware and seriously concerned about the difficult conditions regarding the exercise of these rights for the majority of Women in the World, the Congress studied, discussed and developed critical thinking on causes and consequences in all those three domains.*

*United by the joy of sharing knowledge and determined to work for the eradication of all obstacles and impediments to the effective exercise of Human Rights by all Women, which was the apange of the XXIII Congress the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers**, it expresses its conviction that the strength, wisdom and determination of women will know how to break all barriers and overcome all difficulties for the effective and full exercise of their Human Rights.*

Therefore declares that,

Considering that ideologies and policies that do not respect Human Rights, particularly those of Women and girls, emerge all over the world, F.I.F.C.J. proclaims to be decisive for the role of Women in building a society based on the values of Freedom, Justice, Equality and Democracy;



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Considering that the problems and challenges of the future will not be solved by exacerbating nationalisms, by force, by putting people against each other, by erecting walls or by feeding hatred against those who flee from war and poverty, as the terrible consequences of these kind of solutions adopted during the XX century reminds us of;

Considering that there is little representation of Women in formal and informal structures for the definition and decision-making of the public policies of their countries, their cities and their communities, with particular emphasis on politics on environment, water, land distribution, land management and urban planning, and that Women are the people most affected by all these policies;

Considering that large migratory movements can only end by ending wars and reducing poverty and inequality;

Considering that no one chooses where they are born and that freedom of movement is a fundamental right of Humanity, with migration being essentially a form of expulsion determined by hunger, wars, climate change and natural catastrophes, persecution, gender violence and political violence,

And, as stated in the Buenos Aires Declaration (2010), migrant Women and girls are more vulnerable to these conditions and more easily become victims of trafficking, rape, abuse and sexual harassment, just as their children are more vulnerable to diseases and need more health care, particularly sexual and reproductive health;

Considering also that throughout the history of Humanity women's bodies have been inscribed in the legal systems of all countries as something owned by men and that to this extent the full right of women to freedom to dispose of their own body is denied;

Considering that Women in situations of institutional imprisonment are often deprived of their sexual and reproductive rights and subjected to humiliations and vexations, which are violations of their fundamental rights,



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Considering that obstetric violence is a form of violence against Women,

Considering that new information and communication technologies facilitate the dissemination of hate speech, sexism, harassment, intimidation and persecution, in particular against women;

Considering that public policies to conciliate family and professional life - that promote a balance in the roles assigned to women and men in the care and well-being of their children and that improve the provision of services and leave for the individual should be obligatory and non-transferable in order to allow people to take care of children from birth and to be given leave to provide other family care and are essential for the empowerment of Women;

Considering that the myths on which the patriarchal family is based conceal the violence and sexual abuse of women and children by men and that rape and other sexual crimes within the family are socially disregarded and the mothers and children victims of these crimes are therefore also disregarded;

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** states that:*

1. It is imperative to alert Women throughout the world, and especially women in legal careers, to participate actively in parliaments, governments, assemblies and other decision-making bodies, whether national, regional or international.

2. Caring for people and the planet requires new leadership. Women should dare to lead the future and always use a gender perspective in the analysis of all issues, so as to make all discrimination against Women more visible.

3. International instruments relating to refugees and migration, such as the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members



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of their Families, must be ratified by all States, fully disseminated and applied, particularly with regard to protection freedom and health of migrant women.

4. States should ensure the effective implementation of the UN Rules on the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders - Bangkok Rules - reviewed and updated by the UN General Assembly Resolution of 17 December of 2015, which approved the Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners - Mandela Rules - respecting the dignity of women and their specific needs.

5. Because the sexual life of girls and women does not reduce itself to the reproductive function, women have full rights to sexuality, primary sexual health care, sex education, safe family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, in all the stages of their life, regardless of the political regime, beliefs or religions of each country;

6. That customs, traditions and practices harmful to life and personal integrity, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marital unions, unwanted pregnancies, denial of the right to free, medically assisted and safe abortion as well as the denial of family planning, safe contraceptive methods, safe and medically assisted pregnancies and deliveries are attacks on the dignity of the human person and crimes against Humanity,

7. And, consequently, it supports the "Green Scarf" campaign in Argentina, for the right to a Safe, Free and Legal Abortion.

8. The exploitation and trafficking of women's bodies, particularly through their reproductive exploitation, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, is a form of gender-based violence.

9. States should adopt the necessary legislative (and other) measures to criminalize the reproductive exploitation of women, whether these acts have been committed in their own country or in another country. The victim should



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never be punished for any reason and should be compensated and indemnified.

10. Legal systems should autonomously prevent and punish sexist hate speech instead of applying the rules on cyberstalking and cyberbullying to such cases.

11. Public policies must conciliate personal, family and professional life must and radically change in two directions: improve the provision of services and incorporate compulsory and non-transferable parental leave for the care of children after birth, and encourage men to use leave for family care as well as with tax or economic benefits for parents in order to change social perceptions about the need for the repartition of family care between men and women.

12. The judiciary and the law should change discriminatory views towards mothers who are protective of their children when they report abuse and ill-treatment towards them.

13. All forms of obstetric violence should be stopped, health professionals should refrain from these behaviors and States should promote their eradication.

*At its XXIII Congress, the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** reaffirms the absolute need for States to effectively implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to withdraw all reservations incompatible with its objectives.*

It also proclaims the need to implement the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women - the Convention of Belém do Pará - the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa - Maputo Protocol- and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating of Violence



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against Women and Domestic Violence - Istanbul Convention - with a view of ensuring full and effective human rights for women.

Approved by unanimity and acclamation in Lisbon on 22 November 2018