



SPOTLIGHT ON ORGANISATIONS: GENDER VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA



Despite many countries in Latin American and the Caribbean having enacted laws against domestic violence, many women in the region continue to be failed by the legal system. This Spotlight presents some of the most important Latin American organisations working in innovative ways to promote women's rights and to prevent violence against women. These organisations play a key role in developing a research agenda and monitoring public policies, as well as providing legal advice, psychological and emotional support and a place of refuge for women victims of violence.

► *Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral de las Mujeres Violadas AC* (Association for the Integral Development of Women Who Are Raped)

Link: <http://www.adivac.org/sys/index.php>

Areas of Expertise: Sexual violence, women's rights, gender approaches

Key Activities: Medical, psychological and legal assistance, violence prevention programmes, research and capacity building

The Association for the Integral Development of Raped Women is a Mexican organisation founded in 1990 with the purpose of providing medical, psychological and legal support to victims of sexual violence, including minors. The Association runs shelters and prevention programmes, as well as self-support groups for victims. Besides victim support services, the Association carries out research into sexual violence and runs a range of workshops and training aimed at children, students and professionals. Finally, the Association has developed diverse media communications strategies in order to raise awareness, build networks and influence public policy.

► *La Casa del Encuentro* (The Meeting House)

Link: <http://www.lacasadelencontro.org/portada.html>

Areas of Expertise: Human rights, sexual violence, women's rights

Key Activities: Research, legal advice, psychological assistance and monitoring for victim's families, talks, seminars, workshops and exhibitions, political and social networking, student and professional training, self-help groups

La Casa del Encuentro was founded in 2003 in Argentina to promote freedom of thought, action and speech in relation to political, social and cultural spheres. This feminist organisation provides a space where women with diverse capacities and backgrounds come together to address violence, oppression, abuse and discrimination against women and girls. The main activities of the organisation include producing an annual report on femicide in Argentina, providing victim care and shelter services, running interdisciplinary training and capacity building programmes and carrying out public awareness raising and policy advocacy activities.



► *Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género - ELA (Latin American Team for Justice and Gender)*

Link: <http://www.ela.org.ar/a2/index.cfm?aplicacion=app187&cnl=78&opc=39>

Areas of Expertise: Access to justice, women's rights, gender violence, sexual and reproductive health, women's political participation and labour markets

Key Activities: Legal advocacy, monitoring legal sentences and mass media, public policy analysis, research, capacity building, publications

The Latin American Team for Justice and Gender is a feminist organisation formed by a multidisciplinary team of women working in academia, civil society organisations and universities in Argentina. With the aim of promoting gender equality and access to justice in Argentina, ELA runs programmes covering five thematic areas (access to justice, sexual and reproductive rights, women's political participation, gender violence and labour rights) and encompassing activities ranging from research and data collection to organising conferences. ELA also maintains a [virtual information centre](#) providing access to information on gender issues, links to regional organisations and audio-visual material. Some of its [publications](#) are available in English such as [An Agenda for Women's Rights in Argentina](#). Finally, ELA also belongs to the [Feminist Regional Network for Human Rights and Gender Justice](#), which is made up of organisations from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

► *Fundación Propuesta (Proposal Foundation)*

Link: <http://propuesta.org.ar/quienes-somos/>

Areas of Expertise: Women's rights, gender and family violence, access to justice, entrepreneurship

Key Activities: Legal advice and case support, psychological assistance and community support groups, capacity building, communications, conferences

Fundación Propuesta is an Argentinean non-governmental organisation that has provided support to women victims of violence since 1989. The Foundation began its work by holding study groups with experts on different issues related to gender violence, including with social psychologists, social workers, geographers, psychologists, lawyers and doctors, and has evolved into more broadly providing emotional and legal support for women. The Foundation's work methodology is based on creating informative meeting spaces where participants exchange experiences and study cases that highlight different issues concerning women and gender inequality. In the past, the Foundation has also provided capacity building to housewives interested in looking for paid work.

► *Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Femicidio (National Citizen Femicide Observatory)*

Link: <http://observatoriofemicidiomexico.com/quienessomos.html>

Areas of Expertise: Gender-based violence, women's rights, access to justice

Key Activities: Documentation of cases of femicide, regional projects, advocacy campaigns, research, media, public policy monitoring

This Mexican Observatory brings together 43 civil society organisations to work jointly in promoting women's rights in 19 provinces of Mexico. The Observatory's key actions include analysing cases of femicide in order to identify and understand the different contexts in which violence is perpetrated against women. The Observatory also carries out daily monitoring of press releases in the provinces where it operates and oversees the implementation of the Mexican Law 'Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence' at the local level.





► *Observatorio de Justicia y Género (Justice and Gender Observatory)*

Link: <http://www.observatoriojusticiaygenero.gob.do/>

Areas of Expertise: Access to justice, judicial sentences and the judiciary

Key Activities: Monitoring of judiciary sentences, analysis and dissemination of information on good practices, victim and witness interviews, development of gender-focused research methodologies, technical assistance for public policy formulation

The Justice and Gender Observatory promotes equal access to justice via a range of activities that promote integrating gender perspectives into the Dominican Republic's legal system. Its work includes monitoring legal processes and sentencing according to international standards on human rights. The Observatory also analyses legal decisions and protocols and produces a broad range of knowledge materials, including information on good practices that can be replicated within the legal system and by people working with victims of gender violence. The Observatory contributes to the development of public policy by sharing its findings with the legal system and by providing technical assistance to policy formulation processes.

► *Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz - ORMUSA (Organisation of Salvadorian Women for Peace)*

Link: <http://www.ormusa.org/quienessomos.php>

Areas of Expertise: Human rights, gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights, access to justice, labour rights and women's social, economic and political empowerment

Key Activities: Political advocacy, awareness raising, self-help groups, capacity building, media monitoring, advice services, participation in local, national and international networks

ORMUSA is a Salvadorian feminist organisation seeking to promote women rights and address gender violence. Amongst its main activities, the organisation runs the Gender Violence Observatory which produces information (such as public policy analysis and gender violence indicators) to support the development of public policy as well as violence prevention and victim support strategies. Information produced by the Observatory is disseminated to a wide audience, including researchers, decision makers, feminist movements, individual women and the general public.

► *Red Feminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual (Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence)*

Link: <http://www.redconlatrata.org/?rubrique46&entidad=Redes&id=3371>

Areas of Expertise: Domestic and sexual violence, trafficking in women, women's rights

Key Activities: Organisational capacity building, national and international advocacy and communications

The Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence was founded in 1990 and currently has six member organisations. Based in Santiago, Chile, the Network aims to strengthen the capacity of member organisations to carry out advocacy work and to increase their impact at local, national and regional levels. The Network also supports research, prevention and victim support projects and promotes the inclusion of domestic and sexual violence



in public policy debates and programmes in Latin American and Caribbean countries. It also participates in elaborating international declarations and in global campaigns defending women's rights, in particular the right to a life without violence.

► *Red Interamericana de Refugios (Inter-American Refugee Network)*

Link: <http://www.rire.org.mx/rire.html>

Areas of Expertise: Sexual, gender and domestic violence, gender inequality and women's empowerment

Key Activities: Protection and specialist care for women and children in violent situations, experience exchange, production of gender violence indicators, seminars and roundtable events

The Inter-American Refugee Network is a cluster of refuges, hostels and shelters for children and women in violent situations. It is the most organised network of shelters available on the American continent, providing protection in cases of extreme violence in 26 countries. The Network offers security, protection and specialised and interdisciplinary services to women with children who suffer domestic, gender or sexual violence. The refuges, hostels and shelters aim to interrupt the cycle of violence and promote the rights and empowerment of victims and witnesses of violence.

► *Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina (The Latin American Women and Habitat Network)*

Link: <http://www.redmujer.org.ar/eng/home.html>

Areas of Expertise: Gender inclusive cities, territorial management, women's rights to land and housing, citizen security, gender violence

Key Activities: Research, public policy analysis, knowledge production, technical assistance, awareness raising, training and educational initiatives, network strengthening

The Latin American Women and Habitat Network is formed by women's organisations and individual women from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The network focuses on promoting women's rights and greater gender equity in urban environments and participates in regional and international programmes aimed at reducing gender violence. The network produces a range of [publications](#) in English, such as articles, books, videos and tools which it disseminates amongst decision makers, governments and civil society organisations with the aim of supporting the development of public policies to prevent violence against women.

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To learn more about these and other organisations working on gender equality and women's rights in Latin America, contact the author, Cecilia Toledo, ELLA Project Researcher and an expert in gender issues, at cecilia@fundar.org.mx.

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