

PRESS RELEASE – 20-03-2014

58th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

## **INTERNATIONAL NGOs WARN OF THE RISK OF SETBACKS IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Feminist and women's organizations warn of the risk of setbacks in women's rights and the violation of international agreements and commitments in the drafting of the [58th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women –CSW-](#) final document.

The CSW is taking place from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> at the United Nations Headquarters to evaluate the challenges and achievements in the application of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. The meeting will conclude with the issuing of a document, currently being discussed by country delegations. The conservative positions espoused by some of the delegations are being questioned by women's organizations for being in opposition to women's rights.

A [statement](#) signed by FEIM and 52 other civil society organizations and networks from all over the world points out that "Member States are losing the opportunity to change the conditions that generate inequality, discrimination and the marginalization of billions of the world's women."

The NGOs claimed that "women's human rights are being questioned in the Commission by governments that uphold conservative positions, impeding the negotiation of the document, and which would represent a setback for reproductive and sexual rights, the acknowledgment of different forms of violence against women, and other issues." Moreover, they considered the position of some delegates "shameful" for proposing to change the reference of "women" to "wives," for their reluctance to include diverse familial arrangements, and for refusing to render visible certain populations, leaving aside the pending challenges and issues in the agenda which were truly transformative.

"Documents that had once been agreed upon in the UN by all countries are now being ignored. Eliminating the reaffirmation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by all countries except three or four, was even suggested," said Mabel Bianco, President of FEIM and Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on CSW for LAC.

Meanwhile, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, member organizations of this Committee sent a [letter](#) to Ministers participating in the session, in which they expressed their concern as some countries opposed the incorporation of women's human rights in the agreed conclusions and suggested eliminating the inclusion of sexual and reproductive rights.

The Latin American and Caribbean organizations emphasized "the inextricable link between guaranteeing human rights and development" and asserted that the position of these countries "undermines the regional consensus."

### **More information**

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