

A call to respect religious plurality and the defense of human rights

The organizations, networks, coalitions and institutions signed here are concerned at the growing support of certain religious discourses for social and political worldviews that violate fundamental elements for the development of democratic contexts and public policies oriented from a human rights vision. This is expressed in the violation of the principle of Secular State, where the influence of some religious sectors in the determination of political agendas has been evidenced, disregarding the principles of plurality and diversity inherent in a democratic space. Likewise, in the support of certain candidates and political parties for the sole reason of their support for functional agendas of neoconservative religious expressions, without considering that the promotion of said political frameworks represents a serious violation of fundamental rights and conditions for general society.

In the case of Brazil and the recent inauguration of Jair Bolsonaro, the legitimacy that some evangelical groups gave to this campaign, his government and his followers based on misogynistic, homophobic, racist, xenophobic and anti-democratic opinions, represents an extremely disturbing example of violations of human rights justified by religious arguments. In the same way, it alarms the promotion of these speeches and the support to the mentioned political expressions by religious leaders and communities, justified in the defense of agendas on specific values that represent only one sector of the Christian world.

The current situation in Brazil -including similar phenomena in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, among other countries of the region-, as well as the articulation of religious groups at the inter american political scenarios, which are counting on an increasing level of incidence, should lead us to notice the symbiosis that is taking place between anti-democratic and conservative imaginaries and practices, with religious and faith discourses, which over time can increase even more and reach harmful extremes for the functioning of democracy in the continent.

For all this, we declare that:

- It is important to point out that it is not religion as a whole that promotes and supports this type of initiatives, but a set of ideological, social, political and moral positions present in a delimited sector within the broad field of beliefs. In this sense, we reiterate the importance of understanding that the religious field is diverse and plural, so the neoconservative voices that support these political models and reject perspectives aligned with human rights, symbolize a part, and not the whole.
- We denounce the political use that is being made of certain religious discourses for the legitimation of models that reject public policies linked to gender equality, the right to decide, the self-determination of peoples, the embrace of

migrants, the commitment to eradicate violence against women and the development of laws in favor of the LGBTIQ+ community. In the same way, we reject the attitude of many leaders, communities and religious organizations that claim to speak on behalf of the entire field of beliefs, faith and spirituality, with the aim of obtaining political revenues and legitimizing these particular perspectives.

- We realize that religions, beliefs and spiritualities are not synonymous with a determined social, political and value agenda, but their plurality also include perspectives, voices, practices and projects that accompany and support the development of democratic environments and human rights agendas, vindicating the values of difference, secularism, pluralism, diversity, equality and healthy democratic dissent. Moreover, there is an extended tradition that links a diversity of religious voices, of all expressions, with human rights in the region.

Based on what has been stated, we call on:

- religious communities, religious leaders and political spaces that use faith discourses, not to monopolize or naturalize the relationship between beliefs and certain moral or ideological positions. We ask that they recognize their particularity and admit that within the bosom of beliefs there exists the same diversity of positions that any social space establishes. In addition, instances of public debate need to account such plurality of perspectives, without prioritizing some for political convenience and to the detriment of other positions.
- to the entire political community, from civil society to national governments and regional and multilateral entities, to deepen new processes of inclusion of religious voices in the public space, through the development of articulation and networking efforts that make visible the plurality of voices within the religious field, especially those linked to human rights agendas. This in order to prevent neoconservative positions to monopolize the place of beliefs and spiritualities in fundamental issues for the development of democratic environments.

Adherents

Memoria de Mujeres Asociación Civil	Argentina
Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir	Argentina
Iglesias Reformadas en Argentina	Argentina
Asociación Pablo Besson	Argentina
AKAHATA Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Género	Argentina
ATTTA (RedLACTrans)	Argentina
The D Marco Organization	Bahamas
TIA Belize	Belize
United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM)	Belize

Red Nacional de Mujeres Trans en Bolivia (REDTREBOL)	Bolivia
Fundación Diversencia	Bolivia
Foro Nacional Permanente por la Enseñanza Religiosa (FONAPER)	Brasil
Plataforma Intersecções	Brasil
Instituto de Ética da Faculdades EST	Brasil
Articulação Política das Juventudes Negras	Brasil
Grupo Ativista de Travestis, Transexuais e Amig@s (GATTA)	Brasil
Grupo Esperança	Brasil
Liga Brasileira de Lesbicas (LBL)	Brasil
Rede Nacional de Negr@s e Afros LGBTTT	Brasil
Red Legal Canadiense contra el VIH / SIDA	Canadá
Red Interreligiosa Latinoamericana de Educación por la Paz (RILEP)	Chile
Congregación El Buen Samaritano de la IELCH	Chile
Fundación Helmut Frenz	Chile
Congregación El Buen Samaritano de la IELCH	Chile
Asociación OTD Organizando Trans Diversidades	Chile
Sindicato Amanda Jofré	Chile
Sentiido	Colombia
Asociación Lideres en Acción	Colombia
Colombia Diversa	Colombia
Fundación Santamaría	Colombia
Red Comunitaria Trans	Colombia
Departamento Ecuménico de Investigaciones (DEI)	Costa Rica
Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana (UBL)	Costa Rica
Centro Presbiteriano para la Paz y el Desarrollo Sostenible	Costa Rica
MULABI	Costa Rica
TRANSVIDA	Costa Rica
Asociación Ciudadana ACCEDER	Costa Rica
Centro Martin Luther King	Cuba
Centro Oscar Arnulfo Romero	Cuba
Dominica Chapter of the Caribbean HIV and AIDS Partnership	Dominica
Comité Operativo de Activismo y Proyectos(COAP)	Ecuador
Fundación Alianza Igualitaria	Ecuador
Asociación Alfil	Ecuador
Taller de Comunicación Mujer	Ecuador
Asociación Aspidh Arcoiris	El Salvador
Grenada Chapter of the Caribbean HIV and AIDS Partnership	Granada
Organización Trans Reinas de la Noche (OTRANS)	Guatemala
Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)	Guyana
Centro Latinoamericano de Educación y Cultura (CLADEC)	Honduras
PACHAMAMA	Honduras
Asociación Para Una Vida Mejor - Apuvimeh	Honduras
Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa	Honduras
Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG)	Jamaica
Comunidad Teológica de México	México
Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX)	México
Letra S SIDA, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana	México
Fundación Arcoíris A.C	México
Red Mexicana de Mujeres Trans	México
Fundación Colectivo Hombres XX	México
Red Nicaragüense de Activistas Trans	Nicaragua
ODETRANS	Nicaragua
Asociación Panameña de Personas Trans	Panamá
Aireana Grupo por los Derechos de las Lesbianas	Paraguay
Asociación Panambi	Paraguay

Asociación Escalando	Paraguay
Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (PROMISEX)	Perú
Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo (DESCO)	Perú
Instituto Runa de Desarrollo y Estudios sobre Género	Perú
Red Trans Perú	Perú
AYNI Desarrollo	Perú
Casa Trans Zuleymi	Perú
Trans Org Feminista por los DDHH de las Personas Trans	Perú
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico
Coalición Religiones, Creencias y Espiritualidades en Diálogo con la Sociedad Civil	Regional
Agencia Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Comunicación (ALC Noticias)	Regional
Grupo de Estudios Multidisciplinarios sobre Religión e Incidencia Pública (GEMRIP)	Regional
Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)	Regional
Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos (FUMEC ALC)	Regional
Red Latinoamericana por la Democracia	Regional
Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CARIFLAGS)	Regional
Synergia - Iniciativas por los Derechos Humanos	Regional
Alianza del Caribe Oriental para la Diversidad y la Igualdad - ECADE	Regional
RedTraSex - Red de Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales LAC	Regional
Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Personas Trans	Regional
Coalición GLBTTTI de Incidencia en las Américas	Regional
Planned Parenthood Global	Regional
Colectiva Mujer y Salud	Republica Dominicana
COTRAVEDT	República Dominicana
United & Strong	St Lucia
Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality - ECADE	St Lucia
Women's Way	Suriname
Alliance for Justice & Diversity	Trinidad and Tobago
Asociación Trans del Uruguay (ATRU)	Uruguay
Colectivo Ovejas Negras	Uruguay
Acción Ecuménica	Venezuela
Diversidad e Igualdad a Través de la Ley (DIVERLEX)	Venezuela
Venezuela Diversa Asociación Civil	Venezuela