



## SPOTLIGHT ON ORGANISATIONS: GENDER EQUITY POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA



This Spotlight presents some of the key Latin American organisations working to promote gender equality in the region. These national-level organisations - based in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Mexico - are playing a key role in ensuring the advancement of women in their own countries and in the wider region by promoting the effective realisation of women's rights, strengthening citizen capacities and developing a gender-based research agenda. Together they cover a variety of issues, from gender-based violence, to health, media and political participation.

### ► Feminist Research and Advisory Centre (*Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria*)

Link: <http://www.cfemea.org.br/>

**Areas of Expertise:** Feminism, sexual and reproductive rights, labour and social rights, violence against women, political participation

**Key Activities:** Government lobbying, research, strategic partnerships, political education

This organisation promotes feminism, human rights, democracy and racial equality in Brazil. Working with a gender approach, this civil society organisation undertakes research aimed at improving political participation of women, promoting sexual and reproductive rights and ending gender-based violence. The organisation also lobbies the Brazilian Congress, and disseminates articles and publications on its areas of expertise.

### ► The Centre for the Peruvian Woman Flora Tristán (*Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán*)

Link: <http://www.flora.org.pe/web2/>

**Areas of Expertise:** Women's political participation, women's human rights, women's empowerment, gender justice and equity, health

**Key Activities:** Legal and health services, community-based programmes, publications, national and regional research, advocacy, campaigning and educational activities

The Centre for the Peruvian Woman Flora Tristán is one of the most important organisations working on women's rights in Peru. Based in Lima, its sphere of intervention reaches from the local to international level and includes provision of legal services for women who are victims of domestic violence, implementation of programmes on rural development, political participation and decentralisation, and participation in global campaigns against gender violence and inequality. The Centre also dedicates its resources to producing publications and information materials, promoting courses on feminist



theory and politics, organising conferences for university students, and running national networks – such as the National Network for Rural Women - to promote information exchange and learning. The Centre’s work is well-renowned in the Latin American region and the organisation has won several important awards.

### ▶ Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights (*Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer - CLADEM*)

Link: [http://www.cladem.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=534&Itemid=384](http://www.cladem.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=534&Itemid=384)

**Areas of Expertise:** Defending women’s rights, feminism, social justice, democratisation, public policies and legislation

**Key Activities:** Regional and international litigation on women rights, training workshops, public policy monitoring, research, advocacy

CLADEM is a regional feminist network whose main objective is to strengthen democracy by promoting the full enjoyment and realisation of women’s rights in Latin America. Since its creation in 1985, after the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, CLADEM has been working to improve women’s social and legal conditions across the region via three main activities: i) running training programmes to improve understanding on the regional context and how it impacts on women’s rights, ii) promoting a gender approach to improve women’s access to justice, and iii) building alliances with other organisations and calling for governments to comply with their obligations regarding women’s rights. CLADEM has obtained Consultative Status before the United Nations’ Economic and Social Commission and has the faculty to participate in [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#) meetings regarding gender issues.

### ▶ Communication and Information for Women (*Comunicación e Información de la Mujer - CIMAC*)

Link: <http://www.cimac.org.mx/secciones/quienes.html>

**Areas of Expertise:** Human rights, journalism, democratisation of the media, gender perspectives in the media

**Key Activities:** Journalism, communications, information management, networking, capacity building, publications

CIMAC is a Mexican organisation that promotes women’s rights and gender-focused journalism in Mexico. It builds the capacity of journalists and communications specialists by running diploma courses, workshops, seminars and training programmes on issues including gender and language, women’s leadership, sexual health and reproduction and equality in communications. Most importantly, CIMAC builds networks of journalists to promote the democratisation of mass media communications and improve reporting on women’s issues in Latin America.

### ▶ Foundation for the Education and Study of Women (*Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer - FEIM*)

Link: <http://www.feim.org.ar/english/index.html>

**Areas of Expertise:** Women’s political, social and economic empowerment and gender equality

**Key Activities:** Capacity building, regional and international research and analysis, human rights advocacy and networking with other local, regional and global organisations

The Foundation for the Education and Study of Women - FEIM - is an Argentinian civil society organisation created in 1989 by a group of women experts on gender issues. FEIM’s main objective is to promote equality between men and women in areas like politics, culture, living conditions and the realisation of rights. Its main activities focus on two key areas: research



into women's rights and lobbying government agencies and international organisations. The organisation's partnerships with local, regional and international networks has strengthened its role in promoting gender equality in Argentina and the greater Latin American region.

### ► Information Group on Reproductive Choice (*Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida - GIRE*)

Link: [https://www.gire.org.mx/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=392&Itemid=1115&lang=en](https://www.gire.org.mx/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=392&Itemid=1115&lang=en)

**Areas of Expertise:** Maternal mortality, access to contraceptives, maternity protection, assisted reproduction, conscientious objection, and doctor-patient confidentiality

**Key Activities:** Research and analysis, legal advice, litigation, technical assistance to the public sector, linking and strengthening international, national and local networks, participating in international campaigns, political advocacy, public policy monitoring, public advice line, publications

The Information Group on Reproductive Choice is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation founded in 1991 in Mexico. Its mission is to promote and defend women's reproductive rights within the framework of human rights. GIRE's work is focused on promoting legal reform and changes in public policy that increase and guarantee access to reproductive health services and the exercising of reproductive rights. In addition, GIRE has defended women's reproductive and sexual rights before the [Inter-American Human Rights System](#).

### ► Humanas Colombia Regional Centre for Human Rights, Gender and Justice (*Humanas Colombia Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia y Género*)

Link: <http://www.humanas.org.co/>

**Areas of Expertise:** Human rights, anthropology, gender justice, international women rights, economic development, defending women's rights

**Key Activities:** Research and advocacy

This Colombian organisation works to promote the realisation of women rights in cooperation with feminist alliances in the region. Working from a multidisciplinary perspective, its main objective is to promote gender equality in the region by implementing initiatives that aim to overcome inequalities in different contexts. The organisation's activities are focused on improving access to justice and to human rights and promoting women's political participation, and include research, advocacy, capacity building, monitoring political and judicial processes and information dissemination.

### ► Simon de Beauvoir Institute, Leadership and Training (*Instituto Simon de Beauvoir, Liderazgo y Formación*)

Link: <http://www.ilsb.org.mx/instituto.php>

**Areas of Expertise:** Promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, maternal health, women's social empowerment, women's rights, citizenship, indigenous peoples, political participation of women

**Key Activities:** Research, technical assistance, education programmes, seminars, workshops and inter-governmental meetings

The Simon de Beauvoir Institute was founded by the Mexican feminist Marta Lamas in 2000. The organisation runs two training programmes to empower indigenous women and women participating in decision making processes at the



local level. The Institute also provides technical support and consulting services to civil society organisations, as well as leadership workshops. The educational framework behind the Institute’s work has been developed with a focus on the inter-relationship of three key issues: society, politics and culture; subjectivity; and communication.

► **Observatory for Gender Equity in Health (*Observatorio de Equidad de Género en Salud*)**

Link: <http://www.observatoriogenerosalud.cl/>

**Areas of Expertise:** Health policies and institutions, gender equity in health, information and evidence on health, gender and public policies, health transformations

**Key Activities:** Monitoring health institutions and evaluating public policy, contributing to new knowledge and evidence on health, promoting gender perspectives in health policies

The Observatory for Gender Equity in Health is a consortium of Chilean civil society organisations, health professionals and university academics, along with representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Since 2006, it has been managed by civil society as a mechanism to monitor the Government of Chile’s commitment to improving reproductive and sexual health amongst women. The Observatory also provides access to sexual health information and carries out research in order to provide the general public with holistic and up-to-date perspectives on health transformations in Chile.

► **National Union of Guatemalan Women (*Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas*)**

Link: <http://unamg.es.tl/>

**Areas of Expertise:** Women’s political empowerment, democratisation, social justice, civic and political participation and advocacy for the rights of indigenous peoples

**Key Activities:** Capacity building, building social alliances, public policy analysis, research and publications, communications

The National Union of Guatemalan Women was founded in 1980 as a feminist organisation seeking to empower women and improve their participation in the public sphere. The main objective of the Union is to support women as social actors so that they are able to exert a greater influence within their social and cultural environments. The Union’s work is focused around three main issues: i) women’s participation in society and in public policy; ii) gender-based violence and peace building; and iii) economic justice. The Union also carries out media monitoring, runs the radio programme called Women Speak (*Hablan las Mujeres*) and conducts communication campaigns.

**CONTACT [FUNDAR](#)**

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

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To learn more about efforts to promote gender equality in Latin America, read the [ELLA Guide](#), which has a full list of the knowledge materials on this theme. To learn more about other ELLA development issues, browse other [ELLA Themes](#).



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