



JOINT LETTER



To States, civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, multilateral organizations, international funding entities, and other actors whose decisions impact the region.



REGIONAR

CONFERENCIA REGIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

During the RegionaR 2022 Conference, more than 150 human rights organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean met in Bogotá, Colombia, convened by RegionaR/Regional Human Rights Forum in response to the urgency of reflecting on how we defend rights in the different and adverse contexts of our region.

We want to articulate: We are here to reaffirm our causes. We are here in defense of a dignified life, as a space of diverse, courageous, responsible voices. We are aware of the particular and general realities that affect us as a region, without fear of expressing ourselves and with a total willingness to assume the challenges that are necessary to unlearn, dialogue, and fully incorporate different approaches (feminist, ecocentric, non-patriarchal, decolonial, anti-racist, expressive of our diversity of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant peoples, people differently abled, LGBTI communities, languages and identities, with a non-capitalist logic). We are here to propose routes of action that materialize the non-hegemonic universality of human rights, collective rights and environmental rights, as well as our right to defend rights and preserve dignity against any intention of setback that hinders the achievement of good living for all.

Human rights are in a state of crisis due to the advance of anti-rights, conservative groups, extractivisms, the resurgence of totalitarian movements, political violence, armed and organized crime, closure of space for civil society and constant attacks on human rights defenders, dismantling of the rule of law(s), as well as a setback in the recognition and guarantee of human rights, aggravated by the pandemic, which also increases forced migration. While this is occurring globally, we feel it especially in the region and, as civil society, our response has not been sufficient to address this context. The factors above continue to dismantle and disable our actions. However, it is our duty to voice our struggles for the common good, and in our defense of rights, all people must be considered in their integral humanity.

For reasons stated above,

- We invite civil society to join efforts to defend human, collective, and environmental rights, as well as fundamental freedoms from an intersectional, inclusive, all-encompassing, effective, and multicultural perspective.
- We demand from States their commitment to the respect, protection, and defense of human rights and of Mother Earth, ensuring the full and effective participation of civil society to strengthen the democratic space in countries, and to promote the collective interest to eradicate impoverishment, inequality, and corruption.
- We require multilateral organizations to strengthen and democratize the spaces of participation for civil society, respecting the agendas of organizations. We request that they act with due diligence to respond promptly to human rights violations that occur in the region and ensure intersectional and diverse representation in such spaces.
- We denounce that private, national, and transnational companies generate impacts on the rights of individuals, collectives, and Mother Earth, and we demand that they establish effective and suitable mechanisms that respect rights.
- We call on the media to ensure that their work in informing and educating public opinion is framed with respect for the rights of individuals and Mother Earth to combat the spread of disinformation, hate speech, and all expressions of violence, with the aim of strengthening democracy.
- We invite international cooperation and civil society funders to reflect on how cooperation agendas are built, as well as establish practices to democratize access to philanthropic resources and private social investment.

Building on the legacy of defending human rights, we are convinced that there are opportunities to build a new reality for the region together and we salute all those involved; we continue to walk in memory of those who have preceded us.

Finally, we would like to invite you to RegionAR to participate in this space of dialogue and permanent reflection for the radical and sustainable transformation of our Latin America and the Caribbean.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS OF REGIONAR 2022

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Argentina: Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales – CELS; ABOSEX; Mocha Celis.

Brazil: Iepé - Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indígena; Instituto Marielle Franco; Associação de Advogados de trabalhadores Rurais – AATR; Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas – CONAQ; Coletivo Margarida Alves de Assessoria Popular; Colectivo Feminista Helen Keller de Mulheres com deficiência; Iniciativa Direito a Memória e Justiça Racial; Grupo Conexão G de Cidadania LGBTQ+ de Favelas; Geledés; Instituto da Mulher Negra; Instituto de Estudos da Religião; Terra de Direitos.

Bolivia: Fundación Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes; Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas – CAOI.

Colombia: Conferencia Nacional de Organizaciones Afrocolombianas - CNOA; Resguardo Indígena Siona Buenavista; Sisma Mujer; Grupo COMUNICARTE; ILEX Acción Jurídica; Centro de Estudios en Migración y Clínica Jurídica para Migrantes, Universidad de los Andes; Fundación Mahuanpi Venezuela; Somos identidad; Fundación GAAT; Comisión Colombiana de Juristas – CCJ; Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento - CODHES; Comité de Solidaridad con Presos Políticos; La Comadre.

Costa Rica: Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes - SJM Costa Rica; Asociación Ciudadana ACCEDER.

Chile: Asociación mapuche Taiñ Adkimn; Corporación Miles.

Ecuador: Taller Comunicación Mujer; Surkuna; Asociación Alfil.

El Salvador: Servicio Social Pasionista, Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la UCA; Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño - CKNIS.

Guatemala: Organización Trans-Reinas de la Noche; Red de Jóvenes para la Incidencia Política -INCIDEJOVEN; Grupo Multidisciplinario por la Defensa de los Derechos sexuales y reproductivos en Guatemala; Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos –Guatemala - UDEFEGUA.

Honduras: Equipo Jurídico por los Derechos Humanos; Centro de Derechos de Mujeres.

México: Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho; Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados - JRS México; Fundación Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual; Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz – SERAPAZ; Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez - Centro PRODH.

Nicaragua: Colectivo Nicaragua Nunca Más; Unidad de Defensa Jurídica.

Panama: Fundación Iguales; Coordinadora Nacional de Pueblos Indígenas de Panamá.

Paraguay: Tierra Viva a los Pueblos Indígenas del Chaco.

Peru: Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes – SJM; Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos – APRODEH; Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos; DEMUS; Fraternidad Trans Masculina Perú; Instituto de Defensa Legal; Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz – FEDEPAZ; Derechos Humanos Sin Fronteras.

Dominica Republic: Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicano Haitiana – MUDHA; Trans Siempre Amigas – TRANSSA; Movimiento Socio Cultural de Trabajadores Haitianos – MOSTHA.

Venezuela: Fundación Centro Gumilla; Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos – PROVEA; Espacio Público; Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa – AVESA; Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA - ACCSI; Confederación Sordos de Venezuela -CONSORVEN; Comité de Familiares de Víctimas del Caracazo – COFAVIC.

Uruguay: Organización Social Salvador; Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Orientadas al Desarrollo – ANONG.

USA: Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA.

Regional organizations: Asociación Latinoamericana de Educación y Comunicación Popular – ALER; IFEX/IFEX-ALC; Oficina en Washington para Asuntos Latinoamericanos-WOLA; Centro para la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional – CEJIL; Artículo 19 México y Centroamérica; Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas - ECMIA; Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación-CLADE; Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados - LAC; Red Jesuita con Migrantes – LAC; Asociación Interamericana de Defensa del Ambiente – AIDA; Red de Mujeres Afrolatinas Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora; Foro Indígena Abya Yala – FIAY; Red Latinoamericana de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos – RedLAC; Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos; Latin America Working Group – LAWG; American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI).

International organizations: Amazon Frontlines; Centro de Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos; Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights; Synergia Initiatives for Human Rights; Federación Internacional por los Derechos Humanos; Women's Link Worldwide; OXFAM; Instituto Internacional sobre Raza, Igualdad y Derechos Humanos.

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NOVEMBER 30, 2022



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