



**Annual Meeting of the  
Network of Women Parliamentarians of  
the Americas  
Salta, October 14, 2016**



**RESOLUTION ON  
SEXUAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND  
WOMEN IN THEIR BROAD CONCEPTION**

**RECALLING** that the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* adopted by the United Nations in 1993 defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”;

**ACCORDING** to the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Elimination of Violence Against Women* (Convention of Belém do Pará) adopted by the Organization of American States in 1994, “every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres”;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that women are entitled to all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal footing, be it in the political, economic, social, cultural or civil arena, and to have these liberties and rights protected;

**AFFIRMING** that violence against women constitutes a mechanism for subordinating them to men, rooted in the historically unequal power relations between men and women;

**CONSIDERING** that violence against girls and women continues to constitute a pandemic of global proportions and that, according to the UN, 35% of girls or women will experience some type of physical or sexual violence during their lifetime—a rate that is as high as 70% in some countries;

**RECOGNIZING** that the efforts made locally by each parliamentarian of the Americas to fight such violence are interrelated and fit within the world context of defending girls’ and women’s bodies;

**RECALLING** that a declaration was adopted to denounce violence against women during the interparliamentary seminar held in Québec City on January 21–22, 2014 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, an event that brought together members of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of La Francophonie, the

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and of the National Conference of State Legislatures;

**We, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered in Salta, Argentina for the 14th Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas on October 14, 2016;**

**INVITE** the States and governments of the Americas to implement, ratify and adopt instruments that defend girls' and women's rights, including the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Elimination of Violence Against Women* (Convention of Belém do Pará), and to drop their reservations about them;

**VIGOROUSLY CONDEMN** any act of violence whatsoever against girls and women by individuals, groups or official authorities;

**DENOUNCE**, in particular, the cases of gang rape that have been reported, especially those that occurred in Brazil in May 2016, and emphasize the importance and significant impact of social campaigns such as "Ni Una Menos" (Not One Woman Less), an initiative carried out in Argentina to raise public awareness of this phenomenon;

**URGE** parliamentarians and governments worldwide to take the necessary legislative measures to eliminate the phenomenon of violence against women. For example: recognizing the principle of gender equality in their country's Constitution; adopting national policies and action plans aimed at eliminating violence against girls and women; creating programs and public awareness campaigns to prevent and eradicate this problem; establishing penal, civil, professional and administrative sanctions to punish violence and repair damage;

**ENCOURAGE** States to include the financial resources needed to guarantee the implementation of these legislative measures in their country's budget.

**Unanimously adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas on October 14, 2016, in the city of Salta, Argentina.**