



High-level authorities from Latin America and Europe reflect on the global care emergency

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The [Inter-American Commission of Women](#) (CIM) of the [Organization of American States](#) (OAS) officially launched the document "[COVID-19 in the lives of women: Global care emergency](#)", prepared with the cooperation of the [European Union](#) through its [EUROsociAL+](#) program, which highlights the ubiquity of care, the deepening inequality in the distribution of domestic and care tasks, and the increase in the burden of unpaid work performed mainly by women. The virtual event was attended by high-level authorities from Latin America and Europe, who presented the main findings of the CIM/OAS document and the national and regional challenges.

"This document is a call to Member States to declare a global care emergency, to make visible that care is central and is present in all areas of life, and therefore, we cannot continue to allow women to continue to carry the greatest burden. It is essential that States design policies that aim at co-responsibility inside and outside the home and guarantee women's participation in public life, especially in crisis committees and decision-making positions," said Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS.

"The pandemic has made the invisible visible: for decades, women have sustained the formal economy through their unpaid work within the home. The emergence of care must be understood as a collective problem, whose responses must also be collective, with social co-responsibility inside and outside the home, involving men, the State and businesses. Without a reconceptualization of care, a sustainable and responsible economy is impossible," said Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.

"COVID-19 has dealt a heavy blow to the advancement of women's rights, both in Europe and Latin America. The response to the pandemic must be in a multilateral spirit, in cooperation with strategic allies. For this reason, the European Union is pleased to be able to collaborate with the CIM/OAS through its EUROsociAL+ program. It is crucial that the care agenda is at the heart of public policies and recovery plans, both in Europe and in the American region. It will contribute to rebuilding a more just, resilient and sustainable world, leaving no one behind," said Felice Zaccheo, Head of Unit for Regional Operations in Latin America at the European Commission's Directorate for International Cooperation and Development.

Epsy Campbell, Vice President of Costa Rica, highlighted the work of the CIM/OAS in the area of care and the importance of placing this issue at the top of the international agenda as an essential part of economic recovery. Cecilia Chacón, Secretary for Human Rights in Ecuador, framed the issue of care within the logic of the violet economy and the enhancement of human development. Finally, Carmen Espinoza, Director of the Manuela Ramos organization in Peru, and Laura Baena, founder of the Malasmadres Club in Spain, offered a civil society perspective on the challenges that still persist and recommendations from women's organizations.

Through this discussion and its most recent report, CIM seeks to strengthen public policies and the Inter-American legal framework to give visibility and value to women's unpaid work.

[Download the document here](#) - [Watch the complete webinar](#)

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the region's main political forum for the recognition of women's human rights and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a predominant and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.