



## **COVID-19 in Women's Lives: Reasons to Recognize the Differential Impacts**

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The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) presents the document "**COVID-19 in Women's Lives: Reasons to Recognize Differential Impacts**"

### **Why a document on differentiated impacts?**

1. The COVID-19 emergency has differential impacts on women's lives and is deepening existing gender inequalities, both in the private and public spheres.
2. It is urgent that the needs of women are part of the analyses, assessments and policies that are put in place in the face of the crisis, as a requirement for adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability.
3. Because women represent half of the population, bring different perspectives and place women's needs at the top of the agenda with greater leadership.
4. Because we cannot allow any backsliding in the rights achieved by women in all areas.
5. Because there is a high concentration of women in sectors affected by this crisis: work from home without co-responsibility for care, informal jobs, the health sector, and domestic workers.

### **What is the added value of this document?**

1. It responds to the needs that the CIM identified during meetings with the Ministers and high-level authorities on gender, Experts from the MESECVI and women's organizations.
2. The CIM offers a broad overview of the differentiated impacts on women, paying special attention to the most vulnerable groups.
3. It proposes guidelines for the design of actions and public policies based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination of women, and on the need to implement affirmative action measures.

### **What are the central themes of this document?**

- The importance of the equal participation of women in decision-making.
- The increase in violence against women due to confinement and limitations in access to public care and protection services.
- The exacerbation of the care crisis, with greater consequences for women's health and employment.
- The specific need for health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and the risk of increased maternal mortality.
- The risk of deepening poverty and dependence of women without their own income.

**What challenge does the document pose?** That the equal participation of women in decisions and the incorporation of a gender perspective are central elements of crisis response policies to ensure that they are appropriate and effective.

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