



## Public Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Teaching Teams

The teaching teams of Latin America and the Caribbean, a Christian community of teachers, met in January 2021 in each of their regions, with participating countries from the Northern Region: Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Dominican Republic, Central Region: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and Southern Cone: Argentina, Brazil, Chile. The objective was to reflect, analyse and discuss the themes of "Women, gender and education in the socio-political context with a view to the future of ecopedagogy", considering the contingency and situation of each region.

For the Teaching Teams, the main axis is to strengthen Public Education, of quality, equity, democratic and defender of Human Rights, so we want to express our action, product of the Regional Meetings, through this Public Declaration:

### It is stated:

1. The Covid 19 pandemic revealed an unequal society for our peoples, a product of the neoliberal model, by governments complacent with foreign and national elites, stripping the most elementary Human Rights, taking over the institutions, dominating the people, living with apparent democracy. Generator of inequality, devaluation of life in all its forms, favouring the enrichment and privileges of a few, extermination and contempt for the native peoples. A model that kills creativity, philosophy, ethics, historical memory, collective work, defence and respect for nature, favouring competitiveness, individualism and indifference to the problems of others, negotiating now with health in the midst of emergency, need, disease, death, unemployment, hunger and migration. America is experiencing the worst socio-political, economic, ecological, health, educational and communication crisis, due to corruption and mistrust, growth in the number of poor people, disparity in the use of technology, without having the means to acquire it, domination of the media, deficient infrastructure and training.
2. The public school is also undervalued, there has been an increase in school desertion and dropouts, little training of teachers who work with the necessary tools, the educational crisis has worsened by 50%, students could not follow classes virtually due to lack of economic resources and technological tools. Teachers attend to students without fixed timetables, creatively reinventing the pedagogical task, always encouraging, with their own resources and taking workbooks to other students. Now relationships have changed the way they are conducted, many unimaginable challenges have arisen.
3. Fathers, mothers and community agents are allies of education, achieving a collaborative work that restored the link between family, school and community, invigorating the possibilities of community and popular education, whose principles were postulated by the teacher Paulo Freire, to whom homage is paid in this 2021 in countries of America. Education responds more to indicators and figures than to the person, therefore, we join the call of Pope Francis through the Global Pact for Education, as an integral alliance to rebuild education, re-humanising it, based on new relationships between human beings.
4. There is greater vulnerability for girls and women, despite the existence of laws and public policies to prevent and punish violence against women, in practice, their implementation is slow or not fulfilled; there is an urgent need for arduous educational work for the recognition of the role of women, for the empowerment of girls and adolescents, to promote a cultural change, to prevent their abuse and death, to prevent the growth of gender violence, as this is normalized with the many cases of missing or dead women and girls.
5. The greatest challenge is to leave fears behind, to identify ourselves as followers of Christ and his project for humanity, being agents of change from the school and all educational spaces, promoting a change of consciousness with the aim of forging an egalitarian, integral, equitable, inclusive, democratic, reflective and critical education, that breaks stereotypes and values people in their integrity, taking care of the most vulnerable groups.

### For these reasons we agree:

- **To reject** the impositions of neo-liberalism and its dynamics opposed to the evangelical values of justice, fraternity, solidarity, peace, common good; all forms of exclusion, violence and corruption evidenced in America, mainly in times of pandemic, the improvement of health, water, housing, education, food, essential and basic resources for survival, to protect and rescue the native peoples, the poor, women, older adults, the disabled, and all those discriminated against in general.
- **We repudiate** any form of persecution, violence, corruption, abuse, violation of the dignity of the person, inequality, destruction and extermination of the life of human beings and nature, for the growing destruction of "our common home".
- **To fight, support, unite and walk with** the initiatives and people who mobilise for the desire to preserve, care for and value human beings, the environment, who defend life with the strength that God gives.
- **To demand** the fulfilment of the responsibility of the States in relation to Education and Human Rights, the rights of children, adolescents and young people, the right to life, education, health and a dignified life.

- **Promote** our protagonism, fighting against any unjust system that impedes the development of women and human groups, with the right to make decisions, in permanent emancipatory action.
- **Assume** the defence of trade unions and their leaders, leaders and students who are persecuted, mistreated, violently repressed, detained, imprisoned, injured, beaten and even killed.
- **Work** with gender equality from the home, the school, the parish, the neighbourhood, to contribute to a dignified and egalitarian society that values and respects all people.
- **Assume** commitments with associations, trade unions, political organisations and the Movement of Teaching Teams, contributing to a visible change in society with egalitarian relations and new masculinities.
- **Apply** and disseminate the guidelines of the Global Pact for Education, with a pedagogy of tenderness and sisterhood in a liberating, dignifying community.
- **Generate learning spaces** in the Teaching Teams, with a gender perspective, refreshing the philosophy, recovering the spirituality of equipista in complementarity with that of our native peoples and the feminine, strengthening our identities as seeds of the tree of life, in connection with our Common Home.
- **Participate** in the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Paulo Freire, in each of the Latin American countries.
- **Consider** the leading role of women in education and the socio-political scenario, based on human values, recognising the priority that women occupy in society, their qualities and abilities, which are the support of families and society, promoting their rights, values, opportunities in the workplace, with inclusion, equity, democracy, highlighting their leadership, without excluding men and avoiding injustices.
- **Generate** spaces for women to share their ideas, points of view, to be spokespersons for their dignity, forming collectives at home, school, church and in all areas, improve the culture of valuing women, eliminate gender stereotypes, motivate the change of teaching with equity in the family and public schools, to achieve changes in our societies, developing self-care and care for their dignity, providing sex education to every human being.
- **Promote sisterhood** among women, show empathy and support to other women; work to eradicate gender violence in our countries, women must be an advocate for equality and their intervention in the socio-political aspect of the countries, therefore we will promote the integral vision of non-stereotypical women.
- **We commit ourselves**, as Christian educators, citizens and people of God, to be an active part that rises, renews, liberates, strengthens and extends the action with networks to achieve a true democracy, seeking the common good, equity and social justice, remaining vigilant and active, attentive to the traps set and with faith in Jesus, whom we follow, to keep alive the hope that a better world is possible.

**We announce that:**

- Young people rebel against injustice, they unite, they face reality with critical judgement, they become a force and a motor for change, so people wake up to reality.
- Social networks break the information siege of isolation.
- Women stand up to demand their dignity.
- Minorities claim their human rights.
- Christians awaken to the message of Christ who walks with his people, we feel alive and determined to continue fighting, strengthened by the power of the Creator, Christ who gives us new life and the Spirit who leads us.

For these reasons, we invite all to make their courageous and fearless voices heard, encouraged by the prophets of the times, who strengthen our hope.

*"Let us walk in hope, for there is a new dawn".*

16 February 2021

*Translation into English Elizabeth Bécot*