

SAFE SPACE FOR ALL

DIVERSE FEMINISTS

AND

WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Why this protocol?

- Because Beijing+25 has to continue expanding the human rights framework to all diverse women and all LGBTQI people.
- Because it is a historic moment in which the feminist movement has more strength than ever but there are still attacks coming from fundamentalist groups.
- Because the various feminisms we debate, we want to ensure that we dialogue, listen to each other, work from the collective and move forward together, we respect each other and also enjoy ourselves.
- Because, when dealing with sensitive issues, it has happened in the past that decision-makers approach and intimidate human rights defender
- Because it is our responsibility to take care of ourselves and create safe spaces in which all voices are heard and above all ensure the voices of the most excluded and marginalized groups.
- Because our priority is the progress in the recognition of those rights that the Beijing platform of action does not yet contemplate.
- Because we cannot miss this opportunity.
- Because we deserve it.
- Because it is everyone's responsibility.
- Because together we are stronger.

Starting point

- Nothing justifies a verbal or physical aggression.
- Nothing justifies censoring any type of voices.
- An aggression is when someone feels attacked: each person has its limits. It is not legitimate to question the other's limits, which are variable depending on the experiences of each person.
- Any person can cross the boundaries of another person as these are subjective. It is what each one feels. We must remember that we socialize in a patriarchal system.
- An aggression is an abuse of power of one person over another: it is not a misunderstanding, nor a conflict.
- The assaulted person is not "passive victim". We must always act with the consent of the attacked person, respect their decision.

Focal points responsible for the application of the protocol and function

1. Focal points are present at the Forum who are able to communicate in the following 4 languages: Russian, French, English, Spanish.
2. Notice that if the person persists in an aggressive attitude the person will be expelled from the building.
3. Priority attention should be given to the attacked person in case an aggression is detected or witnessed, and not the prosecution of the offender or aggressor. It is necessary to make sure that the person aggressed receives the proper attention.
4. To create a safe / protected space in the venue where the attacked person can rest and relax in case the person needs it.
5. Respect the decisions of the aggressed person. It is essential to respect the decision capacity of the attacked person.
6. Attitude to the aggressor's refusal: any kind of complicity with the aggressor must be avoided, even if it were to reduce the tension. It is important to show a clear rejection of their attitude and involve the aggressor's environment in this same rejection.
7. Listen to the voice of the people aggrieved verbally or even physically. Create an electronic address or WhatsApp number that the participants can use to report situations of aggression.
8. Specific increased surveillance at times and / or especially sensitive events in which marginalized groups such as for example sex workers and transgender people are participating

Prevention actions

1. Announce in advance the specific measures in relation to be inside the CSO Forum venue and the UN Palais. (check with UN what their protocol is in case of misconduct or verbal or physical aggression, e.g. if their security can be called upon for support).
2. Communication of the safe space to people attending forum (in a positive way nor in a punitive way). Have specific posters that explicitly indicate that the site is adhering to the protocol of the campaign e.g. "**Safe space for all women's rights defenders and for the all and diverse feminism**". The posters will explain the complicity and commitment with the respect of all diverse voices and visions of the different feminisms attending the Forum. There will be posters in different languages: Spanish, French, English, others.