

**The Struggles for Women's Rights in Chiapas:**

**A Directory of Social Organisations Supporting  
Women in Chiapas**

**A PUBLICATION OF THE LILLA: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK**



*The Struggles for Women's Rights in Chiapas: A Directory of Social Organisations Supporting Women in Chiapas* is a publication of the Lilla: International Women's Network, which is an initiative of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education (Sydney, Australia). It is also available in the original Spanish version, *Las Luchas por los Derechos de las Mujeres en Chiapas: Un Directorio de Organizaciones Sociales que Trabajan a Favor de las Chiapanecas*.

We are grateful for the financial support of the Presentation Sisters of Australia and PNG, and of the individual donors who contributed to this project.

We are particularly appreciative of the openness and trust shown by all the organisations and individuals who shared their experiences, knowledge and contacts during the research stage of this directory.



### Credits

Coordination and research: Jodie Lea Martire

Introduction: Mercedes Olivera B.

Consultation: Marthese Bezzina, Zeena Elton, Samia Khatun

Translation, editing and layout: Jodie Lea Martire

Design: Justine Donohue

Proofing: Angela Lauman

This publication of the Lilla: International Women's Network and the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education is designed to be distributed freely. It can be reproduced in any format as long as it is not sold for profit, and as long as the source is acknowledged.

Lilla: International Women's Network

Web: [www.lilla.org.au/](http://www.lilla.org.au/)

Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education

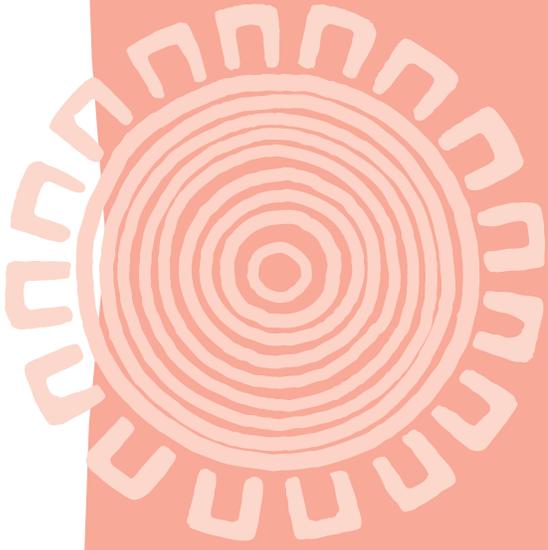
Address: PO Box 2219, Homebush West NSW 2140, AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 2 8762 4200 • Fax: +61 2 8762 4220

Web: [www.erc.org.au](http://www.erc.org.au) • Email: [erc@erc.org.au](mailto:erc@erc.org.au)

First Spanish edition: July 2009

First English edition: August 2009



**Appendices**





# Appendix 1 – The Women’s Revolutionary Law

## THE WOMEN’S REVOLUTIONARY LAW (1993)

In their just fight for the liberation of our people, the EZLN incorporates women in the revolutionary struggle regardless of their race, creed, colour or political affiliation, requiring only that they make the demands of the exploited people their own, and that they make a commitment to the laws and regulations of the revolution. As well as taking account of the situation of women workers in Mexico, the revolution incorporates their just demands of equality and justice into the following WOMEN’S REVOLUTIONARY LAW.

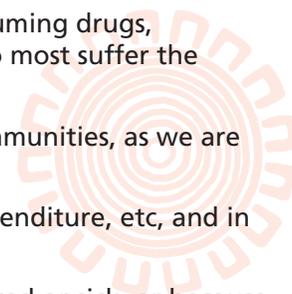
1. Women, regardless of their race, creed, colour or political affiliation, have the right to participate in the revolutionary struggle in the location and to the degree that their will and capacity determine.
2. Women have the right to work and receive a fair salary.
3. Women have the right to choose the number of children they can have and care for.
4. Women have the right to participate in the community’s affairs, and hold public office if they are freely and democratically elected.
5. Women and their children have the right to PRIORITY TREATMENT in healthcare and nutrition.
6. Women have the right to education.
7. Women have the right to choose their own partners and to not be forced to enter into marriage.
8. No woman can be beaten or physically abused by members of their families or by outsiders. The crimes of attempted rape and rape will be severely punished.
9. Women will be able to occupy leadership positions in the organisation and to hold military rank in the revolutionary armed forces.
10. Women will have all the rights and obligations authorised in the revolutionary laws and regulations.

Source: *El Despertador Mexicano*, Informative Source of the EZLN No.1 (Mexico, December 1993). Consulted at [http://palabra.ezln.org.mx/comunicados/1994/1993\\_12\\_g.htm](http://palabra.ezln.org.mx/comunicados/1994/1993_12_g.htm) on 29 May 2009. [Editor’s translation.]

## PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE WOMEN’S REVOLUTIONARY LAW (1996)

Proposed extensión of the Women’s Revolutionary Law agreed, somewhere in the jungle, on 4 March 1996, during a preparatory assembly for the activities for International Women’s Day.

1. Women have the right to be respected within their family life and within their own community.
2. Women have the same rights as men within the community and the municipality.
3. Women have the right to express their feelings, because by nature we have our own feelings and are more sensitive, so we deserve special treatment.
4. Married women have the right to use family planning methods, either natural or artificial as they choose, without their husbands opposing their decision. Instead, they must come to an understanding and make an agreement.
5. Women have the right to participate in meetings and decision making without anyone stopping or criticising them. They have the right to receive training, to access spaces and mechanisms so they will be listened to in community and municipal assemblies, and to hold public cultural and social offices.
6. [Missing in the published source.]

- 
7. The Women's Revolutionary Law strictly prohibits planting, cultivating or consuming drugs, marijuana, poppy, cocaine, etc., in our bodies [sic] because it is we women who most suffer the consequences of this vice.
  8. It is strictly prohibited to sell or consume alcoholic drinks in our towns and communities, as we are the ones who suffer the blows, poverty and misery that result from this vice.
  9. Women and their children will have the same rights as men to food, drink, expenditure, etc, and in the control of household finances.
  10. Women have the right to rest when we really need it, either because we are tired or sick, or because we wish to participate in another activity.
  11. Women have the right to defend ourselves verbally when we are offended or attacked with words, by family members or by outsiders.
  12. Women have the right to defend ourselves physically when we are attacked or assaulted by family members or by outsiders. We have the right to punish men or any person who assaults, abandons or insults women.
  13. Women's capacities and work have the same value as that of men.
  14. Women have the right to demand changes to bad customs that affect our physical and emotional health. Those who discriminate against, mock or abuse women will be punished.
  15. Married men and married women, no matter which ceremony the wedding has been celebrated in, are prohibited from leaving their partner without reason or foundation, or starting a new relationship without a regular divorce.
  16. The Women's Revolutionary Law prohibits a man from having two wives, because in this way the wife's feelings are hurt, her rights are violated and her dignity as a spouse and as a woman is hurt.
  17. The Women's Revolutionary Law has reconsidered and considered valid the norm in indigenous society that it is prohibited and improper for a member of society to have intimate relations outside of the community's or people's rules. That is, men and women may not maintain relations if they are not spouses, because the result of this is the destruction of the family and a bad example to society.
  18. No woman can be abused, insulted, or hit by her spouse for [not] having male children.
  19. Women have the right to own, inherit and work the land.
  20. Women have the right to receive financial credits and to promote and direct productive projects.
  21. When a married couple separates, the land and all of the family's goods should be divided between the couple, or between the children.
  22. Women have the right to punish men who sell or drink alcohol or any other kind of drug.
  23. Single mothers have the right to be respected and considered a family.
  24. Women have the right to fun and to travel to other parts of the state, country and world.
  25. Women have the right to be supported by their spouse when she goes to do work for the organisation. When she goes to meetings the man cares for the children and looks after the house.
  26. In all women's development plans, women have the right to control them.
  27. Women have the right to organise for cultural matters.
  28. Women have the right to be recognised as different.
  29. Widows, single mothers and single women have the right to be respected by the community, as they need it.
  30. Women have the right to be informed of everything that is going on in the community and to receive any appropriate information so they can increase their knowledge.
  31. Women have the right to demand the eradication of prostitution from their communities.

Source: Published in the supplement 'Doblejornada' of the newspaper *La Jornada*, 6 May 1996. Cited in Rojas, Rosa (ed.) *Chiapas: ¿Y las mujeres qué?* (Mexico: Ediciones La Correa Feminista/Centro de Investigación y Capacitación de la Mujer (CIMAC), A.C., 1999), pp. II-441 – II-443. [Editor's translation.]



## Anexo 2 – Political Pact: Non-Governmental Organisations, Collectives, Social Organisations and Institutions of Chiapas, Free of Violence Against Women

San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico  
11 July 2008

Non-governmental organisations, collectives, social organisations and institutions in Chiapas, Mexico, committed to respecting the rights of women as human rights, conscious that it is necessary and urgent to eliminate all forms of violence and particularly violence against women in our workplaces and institutions, hereby sign this Political Pact in which we accept the following ethical principles:

- a. Zero tolerance of all forms of **violence and discrimination** against women.
- b. Zero tolerance of **sexual violence** (rape, assault and harassment) exercised against women.
- c. Zero tolerance of **workplace violence** exercised against women.

The signatories commit themselves to:

1. *To reach a consensus, accept and respect the contents* of the terms 'rape', 'sexual harassment', 'sexual assault', 'workplace violence', 'discrimination', 'abuse' and other associated concepts.
2. To include in the annual programming of our institutions *formal, permanent and professional capacity building* on related topics, on equity, equality and gender perspectives, and on the central elements of this Political Pact, points a) through c).
3. To include in their *Incorporation Agreement and/or Internal Regulations*, within the appropriate time period according to each specific case, these three points.
4. To create within each organisation a *monitoring role*, as well as the *appropriate and necessary structures* which guarantee the respect and fulfilment of this Pact.
5. To establish the *criteria for action and response* in the case of this Political Pact not being fulfilled by a person or signatory institution.
6. To support the creation and definition of *support mechanisms* for the fulfilment of this Pact.

This Pact is open to be signed and ratified by other non-governmental organisations, social organisations and institutions.

Organisations which became signatories between 11 July and 30 September 2008:

1. Gender Collective of the UNACH (Colectivo de Género de la UNACH)
2. MAFALDAS Collective
3. K'inál Antsetik, A.C. [Chiapas]
4. Communal Home Yach'il Antzetic, A.C. (HCYA)
5. Network of Women Defenders (Red de Defensoras)
6. Women's Group of San Cristóbal, A.C. (Grupo de Mujeres de San Cristóbal, COLEM)

7. Seminario
8. Crescent Moon (Luna Creciente)
9. 'Mercedes Olivera y Bustamante' Feminist Collective, A.C. (COFEMO)
10. Marqués de Comillas Collective of Young People in Struggle (Colectivo de Jóvenes en Lucha Marqués de Comillas)
11. Jolom Mayaetik Cooperative
12. Latin American Women's Centre for Research and Action, A.C. (CIAM)
13. Centre for Economic and Political Investigations for Community Action, A.C. (CIEPAC)
14. Other Worlds, A.C. (Otros Mundos)
15. Team for Support in Community Healthcare and Education, A.C. (Equipo de Apoyo en Salud y Educación Comunitaria, EAPSEC)
16. DIFA Project, Alternatives and Innovations, A.C.
17. Capacity Building, Supervision, Environment and Defence of the Right to Healthcare A.C., (Capacitación, Asesoría, Medio Ambiente y Defensa del Derecho a la Salud, CAMADDS)
18. Forum for Sustainable Development, A.C. (Foro para el Desarrollo Sustentable)
19. Comitán Centre for Health Research, A.C. (CISC)
20. Enlace Communication and Capacity Building, A.C.
21. Melel Xojobal, A.C.
22. Training and Education Centre on Ecology and Health for Peasants, A.C. (CCESC)
23. Woods of the People of the South-East, A.C. (Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste)
24. Community Healthcare and Development, A.C. (SADEC)
25. National Front for Socialist Struggle (FNLS)
26. Chiapas Media Project, A.C.
27. Southern Border College (Colegio de la Frontera Sur, ECOSUR)
28. Circle for Legal and Gender Studies (Círculo de Estudios Jurídicos y de Género, CIREJG)
29. Moxviquil Sustainability Training Centre, A.C. (Centro de Formación para la Sustentabilidad Moxviquil)
30. New Codices Compathy, A.C. (Nuevos Códices Compatía)
31. Collective of Radio 99.1 Free Frequency (Colectivo de la 99.1 Frecuencia Libre)

Sources: [http://pactopoliticochiapas.blogspot.com/2008/11/hecho-historico-en-scl-pacto-poltco\\_18.html](http://pactopoliticochiapas.blogspot.com/2008/11/hecho-historico-en-scl-pacto-poltco_18.html) (consulted 29 May 2009); <http://www.ecosur.mx/intranet/difusion/ctc/minuta080716anexoPacto-P.doc> (consulted 29 May 2009). [Editor's translation.]



# Appendix 3 – Questionnaire

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. This directory is focused on pro-women organisations and projects operating in Chiapas. If your organisation works on various issues, please concentrate your replies to this questionnaire on your work in favour of women.
2. The published directory will have limited space and we wish to include the largest possible number of organisations in Chiapas. We have therefore placed limits on the lengths of some replies, and it may be necessary to edit your response to maintain the length and quality of the resulting publication.
3. The questionnaire can be completed in handwriting, or in a typed or electronic format, as you prefer. Methods of submitting the completed questionnaire are outlined in the FAQs (in this same document).
4. We respect the privacy and security of your organisation and staff. You may choose which questions you choose to answer, in the knowledge that they will become public information. Likewise, if your organisation does not wish to appear in the directory, just let us know.
5. This directory may be published in future editions and in languages other than the Spanish and English editions currently planned. Your organisation will have the right remove or change your details after the first publications appear.
6. **IMPORTANT:** To maintain the privacy and security of your organisation, we ask that a representative sign this authorisation to publish your details, and that you submit this sheet with the completed questionnaire.

I declare that, \_\_\_\_\_, am a representative of the organisation \_\_\_\_\_. This organisation authorises the Lilla: International Women’s Network and the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education to publish the details provided in this questionnaire, in both printed and electronic editions in Spanish and English. I understand that in future this directory may be published in other languages and formats, and that if the organisation wishes it can change or remove its contact details from these future editions.

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Signed at (place):.....

Date: .....

## QUESTIONS

- Name of the organisation:
- Initials or abbreviation of the organisation:
- Vision of the organisation (how does the organisation see itself in the future?):
- Mission of the organisation (what is the organisation’s reason for being?):
- Principals of the organisation (the values at the heart of the organisation):
- Nature of the organisation (organisation, cooperative, collective, non-governmental organisation, association, network, movement, campaign, etc.):

- Target population (description and rough figure):
- Cities or regions where work is carried out:<sup>9</sup>
- Main issues dealt with by the organisation:
- History of the organisation (150 words):
- Current projects and description (250 words):
- Problems faced by the organisation (name three key impediments to achieving your organisation's goals):
- Material or logistical needs (name three items or resources that will help your organisation achieve its goals):
- Long-term dream (the change your organisation would like to make happen in the world if it had unlimited resources):
- Number of staff and volunteers:
- Connections with networks and organisation (patrons, networks, allies, etc.):
- Languages spoken within the organisation:
- Publications: (type - newsletter, regular publications, books, films, radio spots, etc. – and titles):<sup>10</sup>
- Contact details (these can be repeated for each branch of the organisation):
- [start inserted bullet points]
- Physical address of the head office:
- Postal address of the organisation:
- Web page and/or blog:
- Email:
- Office telephone:
- Office mobile:
- Office fax:
- Other means of communication (Skype, MSN, Facebook, Hi5, Twitter, etc.):
- Preferred contact person, plus preferred means and language of communication:

Additional question, not for publication:

If you or your organisation wish to share the name and/or contact details of other pro-women organisations in Chiapas who would benefit from appearing in the directory, please provide them here.

---

9. This question was added in the second version of the questionnaire.

10. As above.