



## Invisible Women: the face of Venezuelan women ostracized by the crisis

### Concept Note

#### Background

This panel will discuss how the specific needs of women have been disregarded in the complex humanitarian and human rights crisis in Venezuela. Through the testimony of Venezuelan women from six different groups, this event aims at showing that the generalized crisis has a differentiated impact on women and girls. These vulnerable groups, which show six different realities but suffer the same crisis, intend to demonstrate the serious setback in the human rights of women in the country.

The Venezuelan civil society organizations, *Prepara Familia*, *Unión Afirmativa*, *Cepaz*, *Acción Solidaria*, *Funcamama* and *UnianDES*, represent the needs of caregiving mothers, lesbian women, grassroots women, women with HIV, women human rights defenders, migrant and refugee women and women who are cancer patients. They will give their first-hand testimony and they will discuss some urgent response needs in humanitarian programs.

The situation in Venezuela represents a multidimensional crisis. With this panel, the aim is to show how the rights and needs of women are invisible in six specific areas. This event intends to make visible how there is currently a breach of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and its 12 key areas according to which urgent measures were needed to guarantee greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys. The Venezuelan civil society organizations that participate in this event work on the ground, documenting the situation at the local level and defending human rights. Therefore, they experience first-hand the violations of rights to these specific groups of women that show to what extent the crisis in Venezuela is generalized and multidimensional.

With the participation of Venezuelan organizations in this panel, the aim is to foster a discussion between civil society organizations, international organizations, representatives of missions and agencies on the conditions and priorities of care for the fulfillment of international commitments regarding women and girls in Venezuela. This discussion would allow to give greater visibility to invisible problems that affect women in Venezuela and that are closely related to the fulfillment of the goals of the 2030 agenda, the priority areas of Beijing and the human rights agenda.

This panel is organized thanks to the cooperation between local and international organizations participating for the first time in this international space. The first attempt to hold this panel was suspended due to the measures taken by the Covid-19 pandemic.

With their participation in CSW65, these organizations seek to expand the **participation of grassroots organizations and local leaders** in these spaces for international action and show how women lead in humanitarian spaces, taking into account the priority of participation that CWS65 addresses. The organizations that will be present are part of the *Red Naranja*, a broad network of women's organizations that work to protect women's right to a life free of violence.

The event will also serve for the presentation of a video showing humanitarian programs and community experience in a visual exhibition that will allow attendees to link concrete supports and connections with work in the country and lead this discussion to a broader conversation in the international arena.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of this event is:

- To make visible the problems experienced by different groups of women in Venezuela due to the violation of their rights and the complex humanitarian crisis that the country is going through.
- To encourage the participation of grassroots organizations and women leaders at the local level in these spaces for international action.
- To generate support for the humanitarian programs implemented by these organizations in Venezuela, which benefit different groups of women.

**Format:**

- This is a virtual event that will take place within the framework of the NGO CSW65 Forum.
- Please note that you must have a profile on the NGO CSW65 virtual platform to register for this event. You can register [here](#).
- Attending the Forum is totally free and open to the public.
- After you register, you'll receive an email with a link.
- Click on the link to create your profile on the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum.
- After you log into your profile, you'll have full access to all Virtual Forum events.
- You can find our event [here](#).

**Date:**

March 25, 2021, 10 am-11:30am (EST)

**Agenda:**

The event will be moderated by Daniel Almeida (Care International).

- Welcoming remarks by Louis A. Herman (WUNRN) (5 minutes)
- Welcoming remarks by Jaana Rehnström (Kota Alliance) (5 minutes)
- Presentation by Carolina Godoy, Centro de Justicia y Paz (CEPAZ) (7 minutes)
- Presentation by Quiteria Franco, Unión Afirmativa (7 minutes)
- Presentation by Katherine Martínez, Prepara Familia (7 minutes)
- Presentation by Luisa Rodríguez, Funcamama (7 minutes)
- Presentation by Rosa Acevedo, Uniandes (7 minutes)
- Presentation by Natasha Saturno, Acción Solidaria (7 minutes)
- Questions and Answers