

# MANIFESTO ONE VOICE FOR EQUALITY

## 8 points by Venezuelan women and LGBTQI+ refugees against gender based violence

### 1 LIKE YOU, WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS, AND WE HAVE RIGHTS.

We join our voices with those of all women and LGTBIQ + people from Venezuela and the rest of the world.

Human rights are inherent to all people, without any distinction of race, sex, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion or any other condition. These are the rights of all people, without discrimination.

**Article 1** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

### 3 IT IS URGENT TO LIVE WITHOUT SEXUAL AND LABOR ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION.

The challenges of surviving in another country put us at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking and being forced to engage in sex work due to a lack of work opportunities. The hypersexualization of Venezuelan women and LGTBIQ+ people is a kind violence that has been normalized. We want a life without having to endure abuse and exploitation.

**Article 3** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

### 5 WE WANT TO FEEL PROTECTED AND HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

Human rights must be guaranteed for all people regardless of their nationality, their gender or sexual orientation or any other condition. This includes access to justice, protection, the ability to defend oneself and report to authorities, without stigmatization or re-victimization.

**Article 7** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

### 7 OUR OPINIONS MUST BE HEARD

We want to have the right to give our opinion, to be able to contribute to society from our perspective and to participate in the decisions that affect us.

**Article 19** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

### 2 DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA, SEXISM AND VIOLENCE AGAINST US MUST END.

All kinds of discrimination are violent and have terrible consequences, not only for women and LGTBIQ+ people, but also for our families and society as a whole. Violence and inequality are one and the same, and we must eradicate them together.

**Article 2** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

### 4 WE NEED DECENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES THAT LOWER OUR RISK OF BEING VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.

The economies of host communities benefit when refugees and migrants work. A decent job provides refugees and migrants with self-reliance, adequate living conditions, and the possibility to become part of, and contribute to society. This reduces our risk of suffering violence.

**Article 23** Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

### 6 WE CAN AND WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COLOMBIA, PERU, ECUADOR AND EVERY OTHER COUNTRY THAT HAS WELCOMED US.

Economic, social and cultural inclusion will allow us to continue contributing to the growth of our host countries, reducing the risk of marginalization and lack of protection.

**Article 22.** Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

### 8 THE COUNTRY THAT HAS WELCOMED US, IS NOW OUR HOME.

This country, that we love and respect, is the country where we are building our present and future. This is where we work and where our children are growing up. We want to feel welcomed and at home.

**Article 25** Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

