

# EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## RESOLUTION:

### The impact of COVID-19 on women

Co-rapporteurs:

Julia Perié (Parlasur, Argentina)

Samira Rafaela (European Parliament, The Netherlands)

**Thursday, 14 April 2022 – Buenos Aires, Argentina**



**The impact of COVID-19 on women**

*The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,*

- having regard to Article 8(3) and (4), Article 16(3) and (4) and Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the working document submitted by the Latin American and European components of the Euro-Latin American Women’s Forum on the impact of COVID-19 on women, which provided reflections and figures on how this pandemic had further exposed and exacerbated existing structural gender inequalities in Latin America and Europe, in particular with regard to violence, work, health and leadership,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2022 on the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021/2003(INI)), adopted on 10 March 2022<sup>1</sup>,
- A. whereas COVID-19 resulted in an increase of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, cyber-violence and feminicide; whereas the confinement of girls made it even more difficult for them to remain in education and it increased gender-based violence against female minors, including all the above mentioned types of violence; whereas during the COVID-pandemic, shelters for female victims of violence and their families have faced capacity, health and budgetary constraints; whereas in accordance with international law, states have an obligation to guarantee the right to a life free of violence for women and girls;
- B. whereas the pandemic exposed pre-existing structural socio-economic gender inequalities, the unemployment level among women increased and led to further feminisation of poverty; whereas according to the World Bank, at the onset of the crisis female workers in Latin America were 44 percent more likely than male workers to lose their jobs; whereas in the European Union 40% of all jobs lost by women during the crisis were in female-dominated professions; whereas the burden of care responsibilities, which are overwhelmingly assumed by women due to gender roles, have increased during the pandemic and have negatively impacted women’s participation in the labour market; whereas a further decline in the participation of women in the labour market would be detrimental, both for women and for the society as a whole;
- C. whereas women were at the forefront of the pandemic, comprising the majority of healthcare workers, they are not well represented in health decision-making positions and are unequally paid; whereas in Latin America, half of medical staff and over 80% of nursing staff are women, which is the highest percentage in the world, yet they occupy a minority of decision-making positions and have to tolerate a 28% pay gap; whereas gender pay gap in the EU stands at 14,1% together with an increased gender pension

---

<sup>1</sup> P9\_TA(2022)0073.

gap, women in the EU aged over 65 received a pension that was on average 29% lower than that of men;

- D. whereas COVID-19 steeply increased the mortality among pregnant and older women, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health rights; whereas pregnant women had limited access to health services and caused a high increase in maternal mortality in Latin America, especially during the first COVID-19 wave; whereas Latin America has the second highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world, with about 18 % of births to teenage mothers under 20; whereas universal access to the highest attainable level to healthcare services and services relating to sexual and reproductive health are fundamental women's rights and must be ensured by governments at all times according to International Law;
- E. whereas women's equal participation in decision-making is essential for an effective and appropriate response to the crisis; whereas decisions that do not include women are biased, less effective and can even be harmful; whereas women continue to be under-represented in positions of power in Latin American and the European Union;
1. Urges the governments of the EU-LAC Biregional Strategic Partnership to declare essential all instruments to address gender-based violence, ensuring victims' access to shelter, helplines and health services;
  2. Urges governments of the EU and LAC to increase investment in public services to detect and prevent early signals of gender-based violence, as the most efficient way to avert personal, emotional and physical costs borne by women and girls whose fundamental human rights are violated, as well as prevent greater costs in the health system;
  3. Demands governments of the EU-LAC countries to examine the gendered nature of work and promote gender-balance across all economic and professional sectors; calls on governments to ensure that women and girls have the same access to digital tools and skills development as men; asks all EU-LAC governments to adopt measures and public policies to redistribute the burden of care and improve families' access to family leave and flexible work arrangements;
  4. Urges EU-LAC governments to guarantee quality and affordable access to all essential health services without delay; calls on governments to ensure universal access to high quality sexual and reproductive health services, including universal access to safe and legal abortion, as well as medical attention during the pregnancy to all women; calls for an specific action plan for young mothers to ensure that they return, remain and learn in school;
  5. Urges the EU and LAC countries to invest in digital technologies as a means to increase women's access to health and social services, especially those living in rural areas;
  6. Calls on the EU-LAC governments to include women in all stages of the design, adoption and implementation of the COVID-19 recovery plans; demands that a gender-sensitive approach with effective and targeted measures is necessary to ensure that the support package is responsive to the specific challenges and structural inequalities women face;

7. Urges EU-LAC governments to work on public policies to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on learning and other education outcomes, which have proved to be tremendously unequal partly due to the digital divide. Early pregnancy, early marriage and gender-based violence are factors that are contributing to a higher impact in girls and such factors should be reflected in public measures;
8. Urges the EU and LAC to apply gender mainstreaming to all policies; stresses the importance of promoting cooperation between these two regions in order to share best practices and methodologies;
9. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Council French Presidency, the High-Representative of the EU, the EU Council and Commission and the parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the Andean Parliament and the Mercosur Parliament.