

SDG 1

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



Sustainable Development Goals seen from a feminist approach

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. About 736 million people live in extreme poverty worldwide, many of whom are women. In Catalonia, 21.3% of the population lives in poverty, a rate that continues to rise and has a direct impact on women, migrants, people with disabilities, children, and people over 65.

The **theorization of poverty** so far has mainly been developed by men about male poverty and, therefore, women's poverty has been rendered **invisible**.

Ensuring Sexual and Reproductive Rights is essential to reducing inequalities and to create **sexual justice**, without which social justice cannot exist. We must abolish patriarchy and end the sexual division of labor by generating a social restructuring that does not continue to reproduce inequalities between men and women.

Feminization of poverty

The term "feminization of poverty" was first coined by Diane Pearce in 1978. This term indicates that:

- Women have a higher incidence of poverty than men
- Women's poverty is more severe than that of men

It bears asking why women are more impoverished than men. According to the logic of the **neoliberal capitalist system**, the overly explanation for this disparity is that women's salaries are lower.

Although it is true that globally women are paid 23% less than men for doing the same job, a fundamental

problem arises when the neoliberal analysis ends there without investigating further into its root causes. As a consequence, key factors that result in discrimination are overlooked. **Economic inequality** comes from the **sexual division of labor**, which imposes and assigns different tasks to men and women.

More than 600 million women are doing the most precarious and insecure jobs and 75% are in the **non-formal economy** sector. Upwards of 15 million girls do not receive an **elementary education**, compared to the 10 million boys who will not receive it.

Violation of Sexual and Reproductive Rights and poverty

In most countries around the world, women's basic **Sexual and Reproductive Rights** are not guaranteed: they do not receive **sex education**, they do not have access to necessary **contraception** nor to **protection measures** in sexual relations, they suffer **sexual violence** with impunity, and they risk their lives to undergo **clandestine abortions**.

These, among many other issues that directly impact the development of their life course, limit women's freedoms and prohibit the sovereignty over their own bodies and lives, pushing them to subsist in impoverishment.

Beyond economic poverty: the unpaid work

The feminist movement has identified new situations of precariousness that do not exclusively arise out of economic poverty. **Precariousness** also encompasses other aspects of people's lives that are not only linked to the formal labor market. Thus, it includes the circumstances of people in any type of work, paid or unpaid, the lack of time or lack of harmonization, or the inability to carry out a **full life** due to the lack of **opportu-**



nities or obstacles generated by **inequalities** based on gender, origin, class, functional diversity, etc. On many occasions, the precariousness in women's lives is expressed in situations of stress, submission, a reduced capacity to participate and even through a process of **disempowerment**.

Clearly, it is essential to highlight that it is mostly women that take on unpaid work: taking care of the family and home, of community, and providing, in short, **life-sustaining care**. The patriarchal conception of family resists, in many cases, the idea of women working outside the home. And when they do, they must assume the double (or triple) shift, considering that care work is always unpaid and without any value. When factoring in the unpaid care work performed by women, on average they work four more years than men.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of women in paid work in Latin America rose, which led to an overall reduction in poverty and income inequality by approximately thirty percentage points. But it has been estimated that **unpaid care work** amounts to 10 trillion dollars, which accounts for one eighth (1/8) of the global GDP.

It should be noted that the economic theory on which the system is based does not look beyond the **individualism** promoted by liberalism; it ignores the **community**. When people, instead of acting for their own be-

nefit in order to maximize their own profits, act for the benefit of the community, they are not represented in the economic theory that prevails, and so they are discriminated against and marginalized. Gender issues are overlooked because most of the people who tend to act for the **benefit of the community are women**.

The problem of women's poverty is a structural problem rooted in the construction of the **neoliberal patriarchal system** itself. In 155 countries there is at least one law stating that women have less economic rights than men. In 18 countries, the husband can prevent his wife from working. In 110 countries there are women who are not allowed to do the same job as men do.

Legislation in Catalonia

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995.
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, 2000.
- European Parliament resolution on poverty and gender perspective, 2016.
- Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, 2006.
- Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.
- Law 11/2014, of 10 October, for guaranteeing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and eradicating homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
- Law regarding childhood and adolescence rights and opportunities, 2010.
- Law 5/2008, of 24 April, on the right of women to eradicate violence against women.
- National Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Catalonia, 2019.
- Measure of Government for a democratization of care, Barcelona City Council, 2017.
- Plan for gender justice, Barcelona City Council, 2016.
- Strategy against the feminization of poverty and precariousness, Barcelona City Council, 2016.

Legislation in Bolivia

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women. Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995.
- Montevideo Consensus, First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, 2013.
- New Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 2009.
- Law No. 1173, of Criminal Procedural Abbreviation and Strengthening of the Comprehensive Fights against Violence against Children, Adolescents and Women, 2019.
- Comprehensive Law, 348, to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence, 2013.
- Decree-Law raised to the rank of law in 1997. Amended and updated in 2003. It states that abortion is only legal to protect against risks that pose a threat to a woman's health or life, or if the pregnancy was a result of rape, kidnapping, statutory rape or incest.
- National Equal Opportunities Plan "Mujeres Construyendo la Nueva Bolivia Para Vivir Bien", 2008.



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