

**PUBLIC MANIFESTO OF THE WOMEN OF THE
INDIGENOUS NATIONALITIES OF THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON #8M**

Since 1975, every March 8th, International Women's Day is celebrated, which commemorates the struggle of women for their participation in protests and demonstrations on an equal footing with men, in society, labor rights, politics and in their whole development as a person. Currently in some countries, March 8th has been established as a national date under the protection of the Constitution.

This is a very honorable day and it is a good time to reflect on the achievements made in recent years in terms of equality and especially, to plan the pending challenges that will eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. This is a journey of revindication and the achievement of real and effective equality between women and men in all areas of society. This is a pending objective that requires the implementation of new legislative measures by public authorities.

March 8 will continue to be valid until we stop counting femicides, until history stops being a story of women victims and finally becomes a story of women protagonists; of women who occupy public spaces, who succeed in their work, in politics; creation and social transformation; and also an occasion to remember and pay homage to those who promoted these ideals.

“The full and effective participation and decision-making by women in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” is key to action in the Amazon.

The state must assume its responsibility with the lives of women, especially by coming out of silence and by not remaining unpunished for the actions that make them complicit in the abuses. We call on the community to come out of indifference: violence against us is not a women's problem. We declare ourselves publicly and demand immediate justice in the face of the death and/or disappearance of our sisters in every corner of the planet.

Given the consequences of a negligent oil spill in the Coca River that affected thousands of people living along the riverbanks, we declare the government's management ineffective. Today we have lost the lives of family members due to various diseases caused by the extraction of non-renewable resources, but we also have images of serious health impacts to our brothers and sisters due to the presence of crude oil in the rivers on which their lives depend. We mourn the loss of our flora and fauna. We demand that the government take action on the matter and provide #ReparaciónYa (#RestorationNow) to all forms of life affected by this disgrace.

In the same way, we publicly express our disagreement with the state and private violence implemented in the north-central Amazon region, due to the presence of illegal and large-scale mining that directly affects the sovereignty of our territories. We demand our rights to prior consultation and informed consent (FPIC), and the right to self-determination to be respected, before disposing of our home and desecrating our Mother Earth, because attacking the Amazon is attacking life.

All human beings are equal before the law and we must have the option to enjoy the same opportunities to develop our abilities and talents, and any act of violence is an insurmountable obstacle to achieving full equality between men and women.

We demand that local, provincial and state institutions, as true connoisseurs of the real needs of citizens and aware of the reality of our peoples, operate equitably on the dignified payment of our products distributed in the market, excluding mediators who are the ones that really take away the possibility of having an appropriate profit and

above all, that the way to promote entrepreneurship and productivity in our territory be debated.

It is urgent, important and necessary that all women can at least walk together, avoiding patriarchal flags, ideas and images that seek to divide our own alliances. We, as health workers, caregivers, innovators, community organizers and exemplary national leaders who have demonstrated our skills, knowledge and networks to lead a collective, bring different experiences, perspectives and skills and contribute in an indispensable way in the decisions, policies and laws that work better for everyone.

Gender equality is not a matter of one day, nor of one month, it must be an inevitable commitment of all citizens as a whole, hence *March 8th* must consolidate the achievement of pathways toward equality among all seeking a world free of violence, enterprising and supportive, a productive, collaborative, co-responsible, conciliatory and fair land, in short, a free egalitarian society.

Today is the moment, It is the moment for:

#Igualdad Real Ya! / RealEqualityNow

#No más impunidad / #No More Impunity

#Precios Justos / #Fair Prices

#Libre de minería en la Amazonía / #Stop Amazon Mining

#AmnistiaYa! / #Amnesty Now!