

Statement by Kim Vance, from Center for Women's Global Leadership, to the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review on Argentina, June 11, 2008

In spite of some legislative advances, the Argentinean State still lacks a clear agenda for women's rights. In order to adequately implement recommendations 1,2 3, 17 and 18¹ -related to discrimination and violence against women- we would like to highlight some pending issues that were not sufficiently discussed during the interactive dialogue even though they had been presented in the Summary of Stakeholders reports:

- In the area of violence against women, the main problem is the lack of sex-disaggregated official data and records,

- Gender violence is directly related to women's increased vulnerability to HIV infection. In 1987, for every woman infected there were 14 infected men; in 2005 the rate was 2 men/1 woman. There is an urgent need of a focused plan to address HIV/AIDS with a gender perspective.

- Lastly, we are very concerned about the fact that budget for Consejo Nacional de la Mujer, the State institution in-charge of implementing policies for the advancement of women, has been steadily decreasing since 2002². The CEDAW Committee referred to this situation in its concluding observations in 2004 but nothing has changed since then ³.

- 90% of domestic work in Argentina is being done by women. The State has also fail to implement the CEDAW Committee's recommendation to incorporate this kind of work into the national accounts.

- While female-headed households show the lowest income levels coupled with the highest unemployment rates, Public Housing Plans give preference to two-parents households, resulting in discriminatory access for families lead by women.

We celebrate the firm commitment of the Argentinean State to human rights and it is precisely for that reason that we demand more of it in terms of equality for women and girls.

¹ A/HRC/8/34, para. 64

² Contrainforme CEDAW 2002, Actualización 2004. Disponible en www.feim.org.ar.

³ Observaciones finales Comité CEDAW Argentina 2004.

