

#MujeresYTransparencia

[#WomenAndTransparency]

Feminist Organizations Present Research on Institutions for Equality, Transparency and Gender Policy in Latin America

- This research is important in the context of the growth in the region of fundamentalist groups that stand against rights.
- What was evaluated was whether public policy, regulatory changes and institutional practices are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The organizations that make up **Articulación Regional Feminista**¹ did research on the institutions responsible for closing the gap of inequality between men and women, and for pushing forward gender policy, in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru.

What actions do the institutions carry out in the different countries of the region to reduce gender inequality? What challenges and opportunities do women face? The results of this research are reflected in the report called *Challenges and Opportunities of the Institutions Responsible for Closing the Gap of Inequality Between Men and Women in Latin America: A View Through the Transparency*, which will be presented between March and May 2019 in the different countries that participated in the initiative (see the report in Spanish at: [Retos y oportunidades de las instituciones encargadas de cerrar la brecha de desigualdad entre hombres y mujeres en América latina: una mirada a través de la transparencia](#)).

In the report, the organizations affirm, “This investigation aims to obtain information that is useful to civil society, so that it can hold the authorities accountable and make them develop public policy that reduces the inequality between men and women, so that these actions can be more than mere simulations.”

The institutions that were assessed in the framework of this research were: Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAM) in Argentina; Viceministerio de Igualdad de Oportunidades in Bolivia; Ministerio de la Mujer y Equidad de Género in Chile; Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer in Colombia; Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES) in Mexico; and Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables in Peru.

The information that is presented in the document was collected by analyzing the transparency mechanisms of the States. On the one hand, active transparency was analyzed, that is to say, all publicly accessible information that is in public documents or on official websites. We also analyzed the information collected through passive transparency, that is to say, the information which was obtained through requests for access to information and the right of petition. Very successful active transparency practices were found in countries that provided information for this study, as is the case of Mexico, Bolivia and Chile.

¹ The Articulación Regional Feminista por los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia de Género (ARF or Articulación) is an alliance of organizations in seven countries: in Argentina, the Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género (ELA); in Bolivia, the Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer; in Chile, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género: Corporación Humanas Chile; in Colombia, the Corporación Humanas Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género; in Mexico, EQUIS: Justicia para las Mujeres; and in Peru, Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (DEMUS).

With regard to the populations for which these public policies are implemented by the different organizations, in Argentina, Colombia and Mexico, they are intended exclusively for women while in Chile they are also aimed at men. A broader population, made up of women, men, boys, girls, teenagers, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, is reached in Bolivia and Peru, which also includes displaced persons, internal migrants and the LGBTI population (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people).

One of the questions was about the concepts of gender and equality that the institutions that were assessed use. In this sense, Bolivia and Peru stand out: Bolivia because the definition of gender has characteristics that are specific to the country instead of coming from the international frameworks, and Peru because it is the only country in which the concept of equality is explicitly defined.

Upon observing the goals and functions of the institutions, the organizations noted that the States' approaches to the problem vary significantly throughout the countries of the region. Thus, one can find institutions focused specifically on the eradication of violence, as well as others that have as their central goal the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, among others.

One of the challenges that is seen in all the countries has to do with the budget that is allocated for the institutions to carry out their activities, since we lack accessible and sufficiently broken down information, which would permit us to do a more complete analysis regarding the amounts allocated to gender equality.

The document ends with a series of recommendations from the feminist organizations, such as that "it is indispensable to gauge the legitimate value and implications of institutionalizing a gender perspective in the countries of the region." For this, they affirm, **"it is necessary to consolidate institutions designed to be managerially autonomous, but that also have enough impact so that their actions reverberate at all levels of the state."**