

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT IN CATALONIA
CSW65 Virtual Forum – March 17th 2021

Within the framework of the Virtual World Forum NGO CSW65 of the United Nations, at 20:30h CET of the 17th of march 2021, the Women's Parliament of Catalonia made its intervention.

Meritxell Budó Pla – Catalan Minister of the Presidency and Spokeswoman for the Government of Catalonia

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased women's vulnerability in terms of male violence. It is imperative to fight it so that this crisis doesn't violate women's fundamental rights, therefore existing inequalities should be tackled transversally. The government of the Generalitat of Catalonia fights endlessly against these inequalities, with a feminist vision that implies an approach on all the actions taken by the Government with a feminist perspective.

We are currently evaluating our law of effective equality between men and women. We have done a very important work but we still have a lot of work to do, which should be promoted through participatory processes in the decision making centres. Women should be present in all of public and private spaces. The collaboration and involvement of institutions and the organised civil society is a key element if we really want, as a society, to successfully tackle this transformation that will lead us to be a better country.

Round Table Women's Parliament and Beijing+25

The round table of the Women's Parliament of Catalonia is presented and moderated by Nuria Ramón Perez First Vice President of the National Women's Council of Catalonia (CNDC its acronym in Catalan). The first panellist makes her intervention:

Montse Pineda Lorenzo – Second Vice President of the CNDC

One of the most important matters for us is to share our collective experience at the Women's Parliament of Catalonia. I would like to share that the National Women's Council of Catalonia is the consultation organ of the Government and the entity that works on gender policies, as well as the organ in charge of accountability for the Government in terms of gender issues.

The work that we conduct is reflected upon the whole territory, we do political incidence and follow up of public policies on diverse matters. What the National Women's Council of Catalonia intends is to impact in the policies carried out by the Government, and to give a platform for the work that entities do, which in spite of being in some state of precariousness, still generates a feminist impetus and a social and economic transformation within the social tissue of Catalonia. One of the most important elements for us is the possibility to participate in the decision making processes in Catalonia.

For this reason, what we wanted to do was to put at their service our knowledge at the international level gained through many years of participation in different international platforms. We decided to create a group of deputies and we built a relationship of trust and “know-how” while working jointly, a very difficult work because we were in a complex political and economic context in Catalonia. One of the most valuable things within the work that we do is having a conciliatory spirit so that our female colleagues can work without interference.

Now what the Council aims for is to put women at the centre of the public and private life and to not leave anyone behind: we want a post pandemic recovery plan with a real feminist perspective, a reform and restructuring of the welfare state and a feminist leadership, we want independence, autonomy and participation of the National Women's Council of Catalonia.

Alicia Oliver – Coordinator of the Working Group for International Participation of the CNDC

The first work group that was done within the framework of the Women’s Parliamentary of Catalonia was the one in charge of Women’s Human Rights.

It is imperative to note that the legal approach is important but not enough to achieve a change in the culture that supports unequal gender relationships. We need to continue working to change the patriarchal paradigm and achieving the gender equality that we want.

What we aim for is a substantive equality principle and a feminist political content, but we also aim for the implementation of the existing international instruments of Women’s Human Rights, as well as an intersectional and anti racist approach. We expect the creation and implementation of policies aimed at eliminating sexism and gender stereotypes, as well as to foment the participation and mobilisation of women and feminists. At the same time we expect to count with equality plans with the allocation of economic resources.

Women and Armed Conflicts

- Peace culture and control, sell and prosecution of arms trafficking
- Resources for the reception of asylum seekers and migrants
- Guarantee the protection of people who are experiencing gender-based persecution

The need to protect and accompany female minors who arrive in the territory is emphasized. The phenomenon has changed as there has been a increase in the arrivals of this human collective, before the arrivals in the territory were mainly male unaccompanied minors.

Work group → Drafting → Presenting → Agreeing → Approving