



WOMEN WITH POWER

Written contribution / report prepared by the organization “Women with Power” for the summary of the office of the High commission on Human Rights for the Universal Periodic Evaluation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1. The Organization “Women with Power” was established in 2008, in Georgetown, Republic of Guyana. At present it is supported by more than 200 women including active, volunteers and passive members, extended to different communities of Guyana with smaller branches.
2. The main objective of the Organization is to train women, especially single parent that were traditionally unable to access training and any form of support to better themselves and families. To date the organization has trained and assisted more than 400 women in the different regions and with different skills.
3. The “Organization Women with Power” takes this opportunity given by the current Council on Human Rights to send contributions about human rights for the Universal Periodic Review of the Member States of the United Nations, to file its written presentation for the review of Venezuela. Subsequently, a list of achievements,

challenges and recommendations are set out for the Government of Venezuela as it relates to the rights of Education, Women, Social Development and poverty.

4. Under the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Venezuela from the year 1999 a process of political and institutional reform was implemented to express the new policies of the country regarding social development and human rights; benefits which are enjoyed by the people of Venezuela. In order for the policies to be executed the Government places special emphasis in the establishment of the necessary institutions to include all sectors of the society.

5. Due to this initiative on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Venezuela, all Venezuelans and citizens of other countries where there are Venezuelan institutions of cooperation and diplomatic missions enjoy and live under the new integral vision, where respect for education and human rights prevail; irrespective of their social or economic conditions. It is absolutely clear that such rights as education, social development, rights of women etc. are an integral part of the rights of the people and not a work of charity or public assistance.

6. To achieve the said goals the Revolutionary Government has implemented a series of programs during the year 2003; the execution of massive programs called “Misiones” in Venezuela with the intention of educating and preparing its citizens for better quality of life especially for those who had no opportunity due to poverty, all of this is done on the basis that universal human rights must prevail. Important also to mention that at present the country with the major investment and access to social programs is Venezuela both nationally and internationally. At present in Guyana there is a Venezuelan Institute which

offers free Spanish classes through its Diplomatic mission to hundreds of Guyanese students, additionally there are social programs offered to the less fortunate women without charges in the different regions of Guyana.

7. With this explanation at hand, a record of the National Institute of Statistics is included in the areas of education, poverty, rights of women, etc to support the aforementioned report.

Social Development: The unemployment rate has been reduced to more than 50% during the present government.

Access to Education: In 2005 the goal established by UNESCO to declare a country free of analphabetism was reached and surpassed by Venezuela.

Poverty: During the present government the rate of extreme poverty has been reduced considerably to 9.5 %, whereas in the decades of the 90 it was 42%.

Gender equity: The equity of Gender is another aspect of success for the Venezuelan society, women's participation in the different community councils account for about 60%, five of the public authorities are headed by women, the presence of women in the National Assembly has moved from 10% to 16%

8. In spite of all the achievements and successes made by the Venezuelan State concerning human rights in the past few years the organization "Women with Power"

strongly believes that the government needs to decree a series of laws that will support its investment to achieve its goal in the aspects of human rights.

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