



Final Statement “Women Resisting, Bringing Down the Bars”

Bogota, July 18, 2019

1. We, women including LGBTQIA from the three Americas, believe in investing, supporting and building communities to empower incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and girls worldwide.
2. Our society does not provide a basic structure for survival, which leads to a set of realities and pain. This affects the entire world. The reality of black and poor people is the same: we are instruments of control of the dominant mass.
3. We are harmed by poor conditions in our communities and during our confinement, including lack of appropriate health services and mental health care, dehumanizing language, gender –including trans– based discrimination and a false dichotomy between people convicted of violent versus nonviolent acts.
4. We demand to reinvest resources from the criminal legal system to fund community-led solutions that strengthen women, children, and families.
5. We reject the privatization of prisons.
6. We believe that every prisoner is a political prisoner. Accordingly, we demand the end of the prison system, enslaved labor, and the genocide of black and poor people.
7. We demand that the States of the three Americas fully comply with the international obligations they assumed regarding the human rights of people deprived of their liberty.
8. Now is the time to make a significant long-term investment in initiatives led by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and girls and families, and to create an independent ombudsman to oversee the conditions of prison comprised of formerly incarcerated women and girls and family members.
9. We need to remove the mask that surrounds our society and stop feeding fear and dogmas. We need to fight against hypocrisy and stop punishing ourselves. We must stop feeding revenge and hatred.
10. We demand the abolition of prison for women and while this happens, the least that should be done is to comply with the inclusion of a gender perspective and diversity in criminal policies, which should recognize and review the causes of the condemnation of women.
11. We demand real resocialization processes aimed at preventing recidivism, which should include family accompaniment and economic support.
12. Now is the time to end the incarceration of women and girls around the world.