

WORKING GROUP ON "GENDER EQUALITY"

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2017

The Gender Equality Working Group started back in 2012, after the commitment of the presidents of CALRE to reaffirm that regional parliaments should play a significant role in eliminating barriers to reach full gender equality in social, economic and cultural life, thus promoting equal access to elective offices.

This year, fifteen parliaments were members of the Working Group: Andalusia, Valencia, Canary Islands, Cantabria, Catalonia, Galicia, Castilla y León, Murcia, Azores, Molise, Umbria, Lombardy, Flemish Parliament, Wallonia-Brussels and Parliament of Wallonia. It was coordinated by the president of the Assembly of Extremadura.

These parliaments showed a strong commitment towards the fight against inequality and intolerance. In line with the spirit of commitment set by its predecessors, and through a participatory process among its members, the goals and action lines set for 2017 and contained in its Working Plan have been followed.

This way, last October the Working Group meeting was celebrated in Cáceres. Firstly, we must thank the members for their assistance and the Regional Government President for his participation. Special thanks to the speakers, who accompanied us from a theoretical point of view with a high level and accredited experience.



The seminar was structured in three panels. The first was aimed at analysing the **“Symbolic violence and micro-machismo in politics”**, with the participation of **Nuria Varela**, journalist and writer. Doctor in Legal and Social Sciences and **Ana Requena Aguilar**, journalist at eldiario.es and coordinator of the blog *Micromachismos*.

In this panel it was shown how the patriarchal system, strongly present in our society, although made invisible because it is such an everyday phenomenon, prevents female politicians from doing their job under the same conditions as men, attaching more importance to their appearance than their ideas on many occasions. Likewise, in relation to the term *“micro-machismo,”* defined as everyday machismo, they present examples of kind of behaviour, manage to break the silence around it and make the problems visible through media such as the social networks.

Clearly, discriminatory behaviour in the public sphere, albeit to a varying degree, exists in our parliaments, preventing women from carrying out their work with complete freedom and security and discouraging them from engaging politically. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that these phenomena be recognised.

Thus, for the presentation of the Final Report of the work of this Group, we requested the member’s of the Group collaboration by means of video or audio recording one or several female parliamentarian testimonies giving an account of any episodes of discrimination, violence or daily sexist behaviour while working in the public sphere. Special thanks to the participants.

Please, you can see the final video in the next link:

[Video “**Symbolic violence and micro-machismo in politics**”](#)

The second panel on **“Gender sensitive parliaments”** with **Barbara Limanowska**, Team leader and Senior Gender Mainstreaming Expert in the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE, European Commission) who presented the news of the EIGE’s Gender Sensitive Parliaments Tool, with online availability that will allow the evaluation of the degree of implementation and commitment of parliamentary institutions in gender matters, in which pilot trial and implementation the Assembly of Extremadura is playing an active part.

And a third panel on "**Taxes and gender equality**", moderated by **Elena Manzano Silva**, Professor of Financial and Taxation Law of Extremadura University, who analysed the different fiscal and budgetary measures adopted by the Autonomous Regions that have, or set out to, incorporate the gender perspective, for example, incentives for childbirth or income tax breaks for employability or the care of dependent persons. which sometimes allocate a particular social role to unqualified women.



Later, with the presentation of the Final Report and the results of the Working Party in the Plenary Session in Seville two years of intense work were culminated, from which the Coordinator, President Martín, **drew twelve conclusions and set a challenge to the members of CALRE.**

First, we need to be aware that there is a lot of work still to do, and it is necessary to give a high profile to women and the problems we face in trying to solve them. Likewise, the Public Administration should include the gender perspective in its structures and work hard to reduce the gap between legislation and the social reality, bearing in mind that quotas are essential in the public and private sectors and that education should be the spearhead of a 'society without roles', with educational establishments given sufficient financial resources to contribute to equality.

Nor should we ignore the inclusion the gender perspective through tax measures and the objectification of language, so as not to give rise to moralistic or moralizing interpretations, fight hard against pay discrimination and foster the balancing of work and family life through the use of new technologies, also applying tools to measure levels of equality and creating a system of prizes and penalties.

Finally, CALRE's Working Party on Gender Equality advocates an institutional European pact against male – and gender – violence and non-discrimination for reasons of sexual orientation that would harmonize criteria, coordinate protocols and set up joint measures to deal with incidents of this nature. Europe and its citizens deserve it.



For more information about the CALRE Working Group in 2016-2017, please click here:
[CALRE Working Group on Equal Gender in 2016-2017](#)