



XI International Women in Solidarity Conference
Friday, March 16, 2018 - Massachusetts State House
Great Hall, 2nd floor-9:00 a.m.



WOMEN BREAKING THE SILENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS
DOMESTIC WORKERS - VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE?

GROUP INFORMATION:

Over the past 11 years, the Dominican Development Center, Inc. and the Women in Solidarity Network (WSN) has created a space where immigrant women can share strategies and inspiration, learn from each other, and encourage each other's efforts. This includes learning about and planning strategies to overcome challenges regarding: education and health disparities in our communities, workers' rights, economic development, discrimination, sexual harassment, and the overall immigrant experience in the US. It has also included opportunities of sharing cultures through – music, dance, food, stories, language, and ways of organizing and promoting unity. Each woman brings its own distinctive contributions to the Network and together collaborates to build a stronger movement. Join us and become part of the women movement.

In all our communities, gender-based inequalities jeopardize women's opportunities to live in self sustainable ways. Despite our very different locations, international and local, we face many similar issues: violence against women/human trafficking, health disparities, challenges in professional development and advancement, educational attainment, just to name a few. In the United States, low-income communities, and immigrant communities face aggressive attacks and budget cuts to the services and programs designed to work toward bridging the gaps of the mentioned inequalities, making our united efforts even more necessary.

The WSN's Annual Conference provides the space for empowerment and learning from each other's situations through a series of panel discussions and dialogues. We analyze topics on issues related to gender, race, class and nation. Outlining the common challenges and together identify best practice models to build a stronger support network. The WSN is a collaboration of women active in our own community at a local and international level. Women of all age groups and diverse backgrounds bring different tactics, different perspectives to find common ground to fightback against all kind of oppression.

Many Network participants give talks and workshops, personal testimonies, and present on causes that stress the need for stronger women of color representation. The space is also open for visual artists, poets, writers, dancers, and performers. We see a crucial connection between the arts and action for social change. As a local and international network, we seek to:

- promote solidarity and healing among the diversity of women affected by gender-based inequalities;
- integrate our common understandings into our relationships in the Network and in our daily lives;
- promote leadership and self-determination among all the sisters of the Network;
- initiate and support local and international efforts in support of women's rights and
- Strengthen our work by exploring our diverse historical, social, political, and economic experiences in each nation.

The International Women in Solidarity Conference holds:

- Open forum sessions from international guest participants (i.e., Honduras, Dominican Republic, San Salvador, Haiti, Brazil and Chile) who provide their perspectives on issues such as, but not limited to: worker rights, domestic violence, immigration reform, salary gender gap, and sexual harassment.
- Individual Networking - conference participants are encouraged to engage in one-on-one networking sessions, hoping to create community dialogues and multiply this kind of space through different venues and for years to come. **As it is happening in the present.**

After 11 years of working together as sisters, we see momentum for building a women movement that is growing in all the spectrum of our society. We would like **THANK YOU** because you have been with us since the beginning.

The event we are proposing will support the struggles of all women and provide international witnesses; women capable of understanding the effects of discrimination against women and worker's exploitation, with the sensitivity to feel their pain, and willing to commit to solidarity. Overarching, this event will advance women's human rights by:

- Strengthening our activism as an International Network that addresses women's human rights as part of our framework;
- build consciousness of current events and issues affecting women;
- promote solidarity and empower the younger generation of immigrant women; and
- increase visibility of Latina women through the creation of the group *Women in Solidarity Network*

CONFERENCE BUDGET

PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST- This proposal is a request in the amount of **\$10,100.00** to support the 11th Annual International Women Conference to be held at the Massachusetts State House on, Friday, March 16, 2018, from 9:00am-3:00pm

Airline Transportation **\$4,000 U.S.**

To support the travel of 3 international delegates from Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. (This includes costs of airline tickets, applicable taxes, and visas.)

Hotel Accommodations **\$1000 U.S.**

To cover 3-day hotel accommodations for international delegates from Mexico, Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Local Transportation **\$500 U.S.**

To cover the cost of gas and mileage and tolls from airport to hotel to conference site by volunteer drivers.

Foods **\$2,100 U.S.**

To cover catering services expenses for the conference estimated for 350 participants. The Committee has already secured in-kind contribution from catering restaurants and the amount stated above is reflecting this in-kind discounted rate of \$6 per person) This expense also includes supplies such as: plates, cups and utensils.

Printed Material **\$1,500 U.S.**

To cover for the development and print of the conference program, banner and promotional flyers.

Entertainment **\$1,000 U.S.**