



## CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Joint UPR submission

**NICARAGUA**

Apr-May 2014

### SUBMITTING STAKEHOLDERS:

- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI)
- Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)
- International Office for catholic Education (OIEC)

## **ECOSOC CONSULTATIVE STATUS:**

This project covers 4 NGOs, all with ECOSOC status.

## **KEYWORDS OF CONTENT:**

- Violence and discrimination against women
- Right to education

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1) Nicaragua is a society with a patriarchal socio-cultural system. It is a society where the structure and composition of households have been changing over time from the traditional families to single parent households. Women assume the role of heads of households.

2) In 2007 the government of reconciliation and national unity took an ideological shift towards social policy through the National Human Development Plan 2008-2011. The government established the basis for the strategy of economic growth and focusing on people living in poverty, by applying social policies and programs to compensate the absence of the State in the past.

## **VIOLENCE and DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN:**

3) Although the Constitution of Nicaragua establishes equality and non-discrimination in Articles, 27, 48, women have been abused in public service offices because of race, social status and of origin (the municipal dump - the Chureca). Women suffer from being treated badly by the police.

4) The State of Nicaragua has responded to the situation by way of introducing national legislation in accordance with international treaty commitments, the Act 779, Law against Violence towards Women. But this law has caused controversy, because it does not allow the mediation, even when the woman forgives the man. Sentences in the Nicaraguan penal code for crimes of domestic violence go from some months to the maximum of 30 years.

5) Unfortunately, the media broadcast the 779 Law in a sensational and negative way. Radio programs often ridicule and devalue women. In addition films unsuitable for minors are often shown. Women encounter often difficulties by the police not taking their complains seriously.

**6) The Organizations listed above RECOMMEND:**

**Further training workshops on Non-Discrimination and Gender perspective for public officials. And that such measure be included in the appropriate legal framework. It is furthermore recommended that due pressure is made, that the government holds it's international commitments which it has entered into, such as CEDAW, CRC etc.**

**CITIZENSHIP:**

7) Despite efforts of the Nicaraguan government to provide the National Identity Cards and birth certificates to individuals, **there are gaps in the process where improvement are called for.**

**RIGHT TO EDUCATION:**

*Realities of the Right to Education in the country:*

8) The government wished to achieve for 2012 the fulfilment of the objective number 2 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) " achieve universal primary education", with a focus to add the sixth degree. The Strategic Plan of Education 2011-2015 is ambitious.

9) It articulates the different educational issues, three levels of pre-school for children from 3 to 5 years; decent conditions for the Secondary education, strengthening of the national Teaching and integral education. To cope these challenges it is necessary to invest; nevertheless, the budget for the education is kept static in 3.7 % of the GDP. Nicaragua is the country that invests less in education, because Costa Rica invests 6.4 %, Honduras 5.4 %, Guatemala and El Salvador 3%.

10) Not all the pedagogic and social conditions are guaranteed to achieve the systematic permanency of degree to degree. On the one hand, there are families that present difficulties to fulfil the responsibility of registering and guaranteeing the assistance and continuation of their children in the school, and also the lack of economic resources. On the other hand, there is an insufficient formation of teachers. To reach the complete cycle of the elementary education, besides the social and pedagogic mentioned conditions, teachers need to be motivated and well remunerated, to have adequate material such books, desks, and also reduce the number of pupils in the classrooms.

11) According to the MINED, 200 thousand children, girls and teenagers are out of the educational system. For the Forum Eduquemos, they are 470 thousand.

*Good practices towards education for all*

12) Nevertheless, there is a strong commitment of the catholic education towards the most disadvantaged social sectors. Grants requirement to the government allowed many schools an education of quality. The fees are low and so many children and youth have access to an education of higher quality. Some private schools of Religious Congregations, both male and female, subsidize other Centres for children and youth with limited economic resources. All schools have their own scholarship programs and international support.

**13) The Organizations listed above RECOMMEND:**

**the state of Nicaragua in relation to the exercise of the right to education to develop a comprehensive policy that includes all levels of education and the coordination of actions and programs from early childhood education, primary and secondary in line with the MDGs.**

## APPENDICES:

Janeth Rodríguez González, Managua, Nicaragua, [janethrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:janethrodriguez@gmail.com)

Draft version translated from Spanish to English by Ms. Daniela Persia.

*The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd* serves in the Pan Project, Life and Hope, annually 80 women from poor neighbourhoods of Managua (Barrio Jonathan Gonzalez, Marta Quesada, El Recreo, Primero de Mayo, Asentamientos de Carretera Norte, Carretera Masaya y Carretera Vieja to León and people living in the banks of rivers), to promote them in their human and spiritual development, providing training workshops and promotional bakery.

In coordination with Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo Association we work with 257 families of Villa Guadalupe, who lived about 30-40 years in the Managua city dump known as the Chureca. These families were relocated because the city dump was eliminated and they benefit from decent housing, and as a means of employment sustaining only 42% of the population was engaged in the Waste Processing Plant.

Nazareth House School, located in the area of Bologna, Managua, serves 317 children of families working in the formal sector, providing 7.8% grants to children in poverty.

In other projects the beneficiaries are mostly women: single mothers, victims of violence, girls starting an active sexual life and in pregnancy stage, living in contexts of violence, drugs, alcohol and promiscuity. And 58% of families in Villa Guadalupe are unemployed, working in the informal sector.

OIEC:

Source of information: Federación Nicaragüense de Educación Católica

*OIEC's goals are:*

- Participate in the mission of the Church promoting an education project of Catholic inspiration in the world.
- Promote research on the specific contribution of the Catholic school in the educational field and the adaptation of the school to the needs, aspirations and realities of the environment in which it occurs.
- Promote the creation of "educational communities" with schools and educational institutions, in which all partners are working in solidarity and responsible to the educational, academic and cultural progress and to the development of the evangelical spirit, with special attention of the disinherited and friendly, in respect of conscience to those who trust this school.
- Create and develop links of mutual aid and solidarity and responsible between active members.
- Serve as an exchange network between its members for its own purposes and educators, through the development of communication.
- Ensure the representation of Catholic teaching at International Institutions, particularly those involved in education.
- Work with organizations of the universal Church with the Episcopal Conferences and other Catholic international organizations of education.

*La Prensa-13 marzo 2013*

*Justicia en entredicho*

<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2013/03/13/ambito/137945-justicia-entredicho>

*La Prensa-11 enero 2011*

*Exigen liberar de detenidos en redadas*

<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2011/01/11/sucesos/48660-exigen-liberar-a-detenidos>

*La Prensa- 1 mayo 2013*

*Joven fallece en celda policial.*

<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2013/05/01/ambito/144821-joven-fallece-celda-policial>

*La Prensa-13 marzo 2013*

*Más allá de la cedulación*

<http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2013/03/13/voces/137965-mas-alla-credulacion>