

LULAC Supports Women's Rights In International Trade

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Whereas women are the vast majority of the poor throughout the world and carry the burden of lifting their families out of poverty; and

Whereas women are particularly vulnerable under privatization policies because public employment has been an important vehicle for their economic and social advancement; and

Whereas once public employment jobs are lost women in particular face great difficulty in finding a new occupation and often must accept work with lower pay; and

Whereas public programs and services have traditionally protected displaced women and their families; and

Whereas U.S. negotiators frequently pressure Latin American countries to list social services in trade agreement offerings through privatization; and

Whereas the United Nations Development Fund for Women states, "women-especially poor women- have unequal access to resources such as land, credit, and education. This in turn makes them least able to benefit from trade liberalization and the most likely to suffer from the adjustment costs of trade reform and economic restructuring", and

Whereas trade agreements do not address problems in the workplace such as sexual harassment and discrimination, which has serious repercussions on women who work in export sectors throughout Latin America, and

Whereas trade agreements do not guarantee essential social services to those who cannot afford to pay; and

Whereas services concessions in trade agreements undermines governments' responsibility to ensure that their citizens can afford and have access to public services such as health care, education, and water; and

Whereas cuts in public provision of services for families who cannot afford to pay creates a double and sometimes triple burden for women who often end up shouldering the responsibility of caring for and protecting their families;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that LULAC supports protection of quality of life essential services for women in trade agreements; and

Be it further resolved, that LULAC supports civil rights for women and anti-discrimination enforceable clauses in all trade agreements; and

Be it further resolved, that LULAC supports the advancement of women's rights, health and safety under any U.S. global economic policies.

Handwritten notes:
Rose P.D., Council 649 - District XL
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