



economic life;

6. Diverse forms of repression against free sexual orientation impede the rights of lesbians to freely associate and the creation of organizations;
7. There still is a high incidence of physical and psychological violence in public as well as in private life;
8. The right of reproduction, their right to adopt children and to be mothers and have custody of their children is not recognized;
9. There still is discrimination in the fields of employment, education, housing, health, etc.;
10. The mass media promotes violence against lesbians;
11. Religious institutions, especially the Catholic Church, instigate repression and reproduction of prejudices against lesbians and homosexuals;
12. The repression on account of sexual orientation limits lesbians' right to open political participation.

We reaffirm:

- Our conviction in the importance of strengthening democratic processes to guarantee real mechanisms of political, social and economic participation for all women alike in all spheres of power and decision-making in society, within a legal framework, and with respect to diversity of sexual orientation;
- All women are entitled to exercise their full citizen's rights including economic, social, political and cultural rights;

- We want to keep contributing to the construction of a society based on relations of peace and equality.

Based on these convictions we:

1. State that the objective of the Satellite Meeting on Lesbians from the whole region prior to the World Conference on Women is to make proposals towards the establishment of international instruments and mechanisms to secure the full exercise of lesbian rights in all spheres of social life;
2. Request that the concept of the lesbian family be included as a legal option in social legislation, concerning for instance access of partners to medical insurance, life insurance, inheritance, etc.;
3. Request that social and educational institutions include in their educational and awareness raising programs realistic and positive images of lesbian life;
4. Demand the freedom of sexual orientation to be established as an inalienable human right;
5. Recommend that UN organizations urge governments to implement international human rights' declarations and treaties to all persons in order to allow full exercise of individual and collective rights as well as the right of lesbians to associate and organize freely and to participate in political parties and other political institutions;
6. Recommend that UN organizations urge governments to apply different international instruments and treaties to guarantee the free right of association, organization and

public gathering of lesbians, as well as their right to participate in political activities and parties;

7. Recommend that lesbians be guaranteed their free and open political participation in the women's movement, in national and international political sectors as well as at all levels of the United Nations;
8. Demand that the UN recommend to all multilateral development cooperation organizations that they include education programs about freedom of sexual orientation in their aid programs and that they open their aid and cooperation programs towards projects presented by lesbian organizations;
9. Create a monitoring system to be administered by the International Lesbian and Gay Association (Information Pool for the Beijing Conference and the ILGA Secretary General) and the Regional Joint Committee, in charge of ensuring proper implementation of the objectives of this Satellite Meeting of the WCW and different national, sub-regional and world organizations.

This statement was drafted by representatives of the following organizations: Tal para Cual (Ecuador), Colectiva Neconi (Nicaragua), Colectiva Ayuquelen (Chile), Colectiva Ciguay (Dominican Republic), Las Lunas y las Otras (Argentina), Rede Um Outro Olhar (Brazil), Las Entendidas (Costa Rica), Movimiento Homosexual de Lima (Peru), El Clóset de Sor Juana (Mexico).