



Gender Equality Observatory

for Latin America and the Caribbean



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

What is the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean?

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is a tool created further to the mandate issued at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, 6-9 August 2007). The Observatory is intended to contribute to strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women, make official information from the governments of the region available to the public in a single portal and facilitate follow-up to international agreements on women's rights.

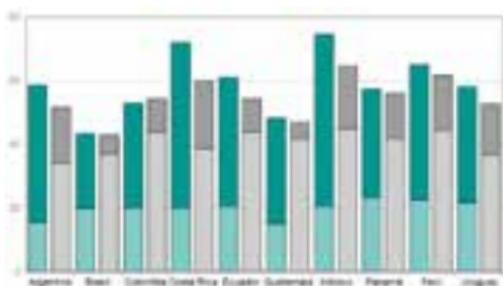
Women's autonomy as the key axis of the Observatory

Autonomy means women having the capacity and conditions to freely make decisions that affect their lives and the societies in which they live. For this, society must establish a framework in which women can participate in private and public life on the same footing as men. This involves many aspects, such as sharing reproductive and care tasks equitably between men and women, ensuring women are able to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and guaranteeing them a life free from violence. It means promoting women's labour-market participation and ensuring that this generates enough income to provide economic autonomy. It also means upholding and ensuring women's full participation in decision-making.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean monitors the situation of women in the region, considering that they suffer inequalities and discriminatory practices related to social and economic redistribution, as well as in terms of political and symbolic recognition. All this undermines their autonomy, economically, physically or in decision-making, and in the way these interrelate.

What information can be found in the Observatory?

The Observatory makes strategic indicators on gender available to governments, along with analytical tools for designing policies and drawing attention to the fulfilment of international targets and goals on gender equality:



Indicators

The Observatory uses a set of indicators to measure progress on equality in terms of physical autonomy, economic autonomy and decision-making autonomy, and the links between them. The indicators are built on the basis of official information provided by the countries, usually by national statistical offices and other government departments, such as machineries for the advancement of women. They are comparable over time and between countries and may be complemented by other indicators when the requisite official information is available.



Reports and studies

With its annual reports and regular studies, the Observatory forms diagnostics of inequalities between women and men and produces regional or national analyses of progress, setbacks and public policy challenges for achieving gender equality and women's autonomy.

 **Economic Autonomy**
Care related policies and laws
Pension laws

 **Physical Autonomy**
Violence laws
Abortion laws

 **Autonomy in decision-making**
Quota legislation

 **Interrelationship of the autonomies**
Equality plans
Migration laws

Legislation

The Observatory maintains an updated repository of legislation on care, quotas, violence and abortion, as well as the constitutional norms of the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the Iberian Peninsula. This broad repository serves as a point of reference for follow-up in relation to the normative framework for gender equality and women's autonomy in the region.



Fair policies analysis

The Observatory analyses national public policies on gender equality, with a particular focus on institutional, social, political and cultural capacity-building. This is aimed at establishing a corpus of knowledge on government responses and their outcomes in relation to demands for physical, economic and decision-making autonomy, in order to inform action and policymaking.



Dissemination resources

The Observatory offers a series of materials for raising awareness of the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean with *Notes for Equality*, infographics and videos.

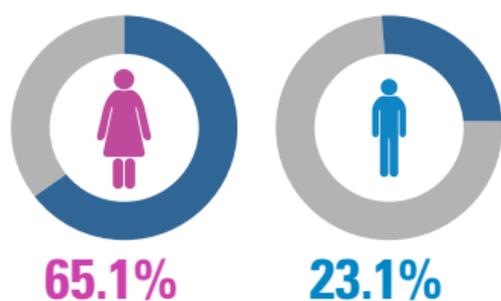
Economic autonomy

Latin America (average): people without incomes of their own, by sex, around 2014



Latin America (average): time spend on unpaid domestic and care work, latest data available

Women perform 76% of unpaid domestic and care work in Latin American households



Autonomy in decision-making

Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries): women in national legislative bodies, 2017



Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries): women in ministerial cabinet positions, 2014

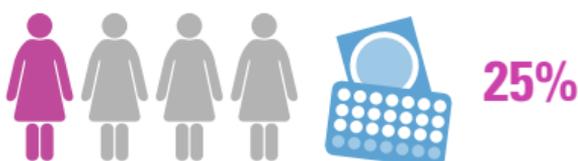
28.8%



22.4%

Physical autonomy

Latin America (8 countries): unmet need for family planning, women aged 15 to 19 years, 2010



Latin America (18 countries) and the Caribbean (8 countries): **femicides**, 2014



12 women are killed every day in the region in gender-related violence



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