

XII EU/LAC - Femicides CONFERENCE: Global Strategy to resist the Backlash Against Gender Rights

Date: March 5, 2026,

Where: European Parliament, SPINELLI Room 1E2, Brussels and online

Duration: 15.30 - 18:30

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/e9Xe3zDPPU1a1quq8>

Opening remarks: Pate Palero, Executive Director of Católicas por el Derecho a decidir- Argentina

Panel 1: Anti-gender movements and gender-based violence in Latin American: perspectives and feminist activism from Latin America

Given the rise of conservative, right-wing and authoritarian political tendencies worldwide, the anti-gender movement is globally increasing. In Latin America – a global epicenter of feminist struggles, the current gender rights crisis is shaped by intertwined political, social, and institutional dynamics that continue to fuel gender-based violence, femicides, and the growing influence of anti-gender movements. In the first place, this panel aims at providing an overview on anti-gender, conservative and authoritarian movements in Latin America, in order to then analyse the connections between global far-right networks, religious fundamentalists, and anti-rights campaigns. The impact of colonial legacies, extractivist economies, militarization, and armed conflicts on gender-based violence will also be addressed. To what extent have legal systems failed? And how can education policies contribute to preventing gender-based violence in the long term?

Speakers

- **Morena Herrera**, feminist, human rights activist, internationally recognised for her work against the ban on abortion in El Salvador. She currently chairs the Citizens' Group for the Depenalisation of Abortion.
- **Aura Dalia Caicedo Valencia**, Social leader from Colombia, in charge of the AMBULUA Women's Training and Empowerment Center. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women.
- **Gillian Kane (TBC)**, Ipas Director for Global Policy and Research, leading Ipas global anti-rights monitoring.

Panel 2: Feminist Resistance: Building Bridges between Latin America and Europe

This panel seeks to highlight the vibrant feminist resistance in Latin America and explore concrete strategies for transnational solidarity, political action, and EU engagement to support these efforts. Defenders of women's and LGBTQ rights as well as rights of other marginalized groups as for example indigenous and afrodescendants are on the front lines. This entails significant risks for them, their organizations, movements, and their work. Their protection must be supported by Europe in various ways. We will hear testimonies and strategies of grassroots feminist movements from Mexico and Peru, and how they encounter violence through art, traditions, legal advocacy, and community organizing. The following questions shall be discussed: How can European actors meaningfully support feminist movements in Latin America? And what can European feminists learn from Latin America? What should the EU *do differently* in trade, diplomacy, and human rights dialogues?

Speakers:

- **Paulina Rivera**, researcher from Red Mexicana de Política Exterior Feminista.
- **Emilia Salazar Chávez**, peruvian grassroots feminist from DEMUS, a feminist organization working for the recognition and guarantee of human rights of women in all their diversity.
- **Katrine Thomasen**, Associate Director for Europe, Center for Reproductive Rights,