

APPENDIX TO AMICI CURIAE BRIEF

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

CEJIL is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with consultative status before the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations (UN) and observer status before the African Commission of Human Rights. CEJIL's mandate is to promote and protect human rights in the American hemisphere. CEJIL's principle objective is to achieve the full implementation of international human rights norms in the member States of the OAS through the use of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights and other international protection mechanisms. CEJIL was founded in 1991 by a group of prominent human rights defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean with the goal of improving the access of victims of human rights abuse to the Inter-American System.

CLADEM, the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights

CLADEM, the Latin America and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights, is a regional organization that articulates persons and groups in Latin America and the Caribbean for the promotion, vigilance and defense of the interdependent and integral women's human rights from a social and juridical scope, with a feminist perspective in a dynamic that interconnects local, regional and international levels. With consultative status at the United Nations and its equivalent at the Organization of American States, CLADEM's network is represented in 17 countries of the region, developing different strategies and activities for strengthening women's rights, such as international monitoring and litigation, legislative proposals, research, training, educational publication, information dissemination, communication and solidarity actions.

Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), Argentina

The Civil Association for Equality and Justice (*Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia, ACIJ*) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization, founded in 2002 as a place where citizens can participate, put forth proposals, receive training, and channel their enthusiasm to build a fairer and more equitable society.

Our mission is to contribute to the strengthening and healing of Argentine institutions, to promote respect for all fundamental rights and to defend the most vulnerable groups of our society.

Our goals: To make public institutions -such as administrative and legislative bodies, courts, regulatory agencies and controlling bodies- more transparent, and contribute to their proper operation. To foster compliance with the Argentine Constitution, promote the enforcement of the laws that protect disadvantaged groups, and fight for the abrogation of laws and practices that discriminate against historically disadvantaged minorities. To raise awareness among citizens of their basic rights and to inform of the channels available to ensure their protection. To make proposals for public policy reforms. To train professionals in various fields who are committed to working on public interest issues.

Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC), Argentina

The Association for Civil Rights (*Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, ADC*) is a non-for-profit, non-partisan organization domiciled in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, that was formed in 1995. Its mission is to promote people's fundamental rights in situations where such rights are threatened and to defend people's basic rights through the legal mechanisms provided for in the constitutional system, by means of judicial or administrative proceedings. For such purpose, the ADC has repeatedly brought legal proceedings of public interest or has appeared as an amicus curiae in proceedings regarding the interpretation of a fundamental right established under the Argentine Constitution or under the international treaties on human rights ratified by Argentina, both at a domestic and international level.

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina

The Center for Legal and Social Studies (*Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, CELS*) is a non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect human rights as well as to strengthen the democratic system and the Rule of Law in Argentina.

The CELS is composed of an interdisciplinary task group whose main activities are litigation of cases before domestic and international courts, investigation and creation of tools to enable the control and monitoring of public institutions by the civil society, and training of social organizations, court officers, members of the judicial community and government institutions. Its institutional objectives are reporting human rights violations; influencing the processes for the establishment of public policies based upon respect for fundamental rights; promoting legal and institutional reforms with a view to improving the quality of the democratic institutions; and promoting a greater exercise of these rights by the most disadvantaged sectors of society.

Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad

The Women Equality Foundation (Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad, M.E.I.) is an Argentine NGO formed in March, 1990 which has gained consultative status with the UN ECOSOC (2005). M.E.I. is one of the civil society organizations registered with the OAS. M.E.I.'s main purpose is fighting discrimination against women by promoting their participation and empowerment in political, economic, social and cultural life. At M.E.I., women of different professions and political affiliations interact with the women and human rights movement, in issues such as women's human, civil and political rights, access to justice, gender violence, trafficking in persons, sexual and reproductive rights, corruption and actions for peace. Currently, M.E.I. is implementing the Women for Equality and Transparency (Mujeres por la equidad y la transparencia) project, with the support of UNDEF and UNIFEM (2007-2008). M.E.I. has brought several legal proceedings in cases of discrimination on grounds of sex and has filed amici curiae briefs in cases concerning violence or the punishment of non-punishable abortion.

Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Argentina

The Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (*Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, FEIM*) is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization comprising women and young people who, since 1989, are dedicated to improving the social, working, educational, economic, health and political condition of women, adolescents and children in Argentina by defending their rights and improving their living conditions, especially in terms of sexual and reproductive health and gender inequality.

Instituto de Derechos Humanos, Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

The Human Rights Institute (Instituto de Derechos Humanos) of the Social and Legal Science School of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentine Republic) is a specialized academic unit, whose efforts are directed towards the promotion and protection of human rights at a domestic and international level, from a legal, technical, and interdisciplinary perspective. The perspective of gender and of women's human rights is an essential part of its institutional approach and mission. As a result, it carries out many widely known activities as regards training and actions to eradicate discrimination and violence against women. Such activities are conducted by the Institute's Gender and Women's Human Rights Area. The courses offered by the Institute include, among others, the Master's in Human Rights. Such Master's degree course includes the compulsory four-month subject "Gender and Women's Human Rights" (Género y Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres), taught to students from many Latin American countries. The women's human rights cause and the exercise of the state's duty of due diligence for the protection of such rights in Argentina, America and the world are among the Institute's primary objectives, which are also accomplished by the signature of this Amici Curiae brief.

Tracy Robinson, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Barbados

Tracy Robinson is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies where she teaches constitutional law, human rights law, family law and gender and the law. She has written widely on domestic violence laws in the Anglophone Caribbean and was a consultant researcher in Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) "Family Law and Domestic Violence in the Eastern Caribbean: Judicial and Legislative Reform Project." She is a member of the Barbados Family Law Council and the Barbados Coalition Against All Forms of Sexual Harassment.

La Oficina Jurídica Para la Mujer de Cochabamba, Bolivia

The Legal Office for Women in Cochabamba, Bolivia (*Oficina Jurídica Para la Mujer de Cochabamba – Bolivia*) is an NGO that defends and promotes women's human rights from a legal and social point of view. It was formed in 1984.

Constance Backhouse, Professor of Law and University Research Chair, University of Ottawa, Canada

Professor Constance Backhouse, B.A., LL.B., LL.M. LL.D. (hon.), F.R.S.C. holds the positions of Distinguished University Professor and University Research Chair at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. She is the former Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre. She teaches in the areas of criminal law, human rights, legal history and women and the law. In 1999, she received the Bora Laskin Human Rights Fellowship. In 2006, she was awarded the Jules and Gabrielle Léger Fellowship, and was named a Trudeau Fellow. She has published a number of books on legal history, including *Colour-Coded: A Legal History of Racism in Canada, 1900-1950* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999), which was awarded the 2002 Joseph Brant Award. *Her Petticoats and Prejudice: Women and the Law in Nineteenth-Century Canada* (Toronto: Women's Press, 1991) was awarded the 1992 Willard Hurst Prize in American Legal History by the Law and Society Association.

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres, British Columbia, Canada

The Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centers is a pan Canadian coalition of feminist transition houses and rape crisis centers that has since 1978 united centers in efforts to promote the equality of women and to establish the freedom for women and children from sexist violence. Our current policy and profile is available at www.casac.ca.

Harmony House, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Harmony House is a second stage shelter for women and their children who are survivors of violence. We provide a transition period from crisis shelters/services to independent living in the community. At Harmony House we provide safe, affordable housing for up to a year, along with a program of individual and group support, accompaniment, advocacy and referral. Harmony House promotes the creation of a world where all women and their children are safe and free from all forms of violence and oppression.

Professor Elizabeth Sheehy, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Canada

Professor Elizabeth Sheehy's teaching subjects include Criminal Law and Procedure, Women and the Law, Advanced Torts, and Women and the Legal Profession. Her work concentrates on legal responses to violence against women and she has been involved in many legal and activist endeavors, including the Jane Doe v. Metro Toronto Police case, the Ewanchuk case, and Mooney v. Canada, consultation work for the Department of Justice, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, and Judge Lynn Ratushny's Self-Defence Review, as well as Bill C-72 (intoxication as a defense to crimes of violence) and Bill C-46 (disclosure of women's counseling records in sexual assault proceedings). She held the Shirley Greenberg Professorship in Women and the Legal Profession 2002-2005, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in July 2005 by the Law Society of Upper Canada for her feminist activism in furtherance of women's equality in law. Professor Sheehy edited *Adding Feminism to Law: The Contributions of Justice L'Heureux-Dubé*, published by Irwin Law in 2004 and co-edited, with Professor Sheila McIntyre, *Calling for Change: Women, Law and the Legal Profession*, published by the University of Ottawa Press in 2006. She is currently working on her own book analyzing the trial transcripts of battered women charged with murder for killing their male partners."

Centro de Derechos Humanos y Litigio Internacional (CEDHUL), Colombia

CEDHUL is a corporation committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and devoted to litigation of legal proceedings before local and international courts, to research on human rights and international humanitarian law issues, and to training of social organizations, government agents and members of the community in general. Our organization is composed of a group of lawyers and law students specialized and experienced in human rights, public interest issues and international litigation, who are

committed to the defense of fundamental rights and to the use of national and international judicial mechanisms to set standards and precedents regarding respect for and enforcement of rights. Our lawyers and law students are naturally inclined towards research and have skills to provide training to social organizations, government agents and members of the community in general.

Corporación Sisma - Mujer, Colombia

Corporación Sisma – Mujer is a feminist non-governmental organization for the defense of women’s human rights created in September, 1998 as a not-for-profit private organization. Sisma focuses on influencing public policies and laws for the benefit of women, as well as on the enforceability of women’s rights both locally and internationally in an effort to broaden civic responsibility, foster the participation of women and the effective enforcement of their rights, as well as to contribute to the progress in the establishment of gender justice.

Fundación Paniamor, Costa Rica

The Paniamor Foundation is a non-for-profit, non-partisan private organization of a technical and preventative nature. It was formed in 1987 and was declared to be of public interest for governmental purposes in 1989. We work to achieve respect for the rights of minors in Costa Rica.

La Fundación PROCAL (Promoción, Capacitación y Acción Alternativa), Costa Rica

The PROCAL (Promoción, Capacitación y Acción Alternativa – Promotion, Training and Alternative Action) Foundation was established in 1990 by a group of people who felt the need to create a work space that is more related to target groups, with more independence to meet the needs of specific communities and population sectors and that is more involved in decision-making.

This was combined with the verification of the quantitative and qualitative magnitude of violence, as a consequence of which the PROCAL Foundation undertook to develop and carry out projects mainly aimed at providing assistance and preventing the various forms of discrimination and inequality.

The PROCAL Foundation’s team of professionals is made up of women specialized in different areas of expertise and experienced in various fields. In this respect, PROCAL is the means through which a team of people works to find alternative responses to the living conditions of large sectors of the population.

PROCAL’s tasks include: Developing non-bureaucratic practices to maximize the impact of collective efforts which prioritize the respect for human beings as active subjects. Ongoing analysis of theoretical, conceptual and methodological aspects. Devising educational processes whose methodology involves the use of non-hierarchical relationships, freedom, respect, responsibility and creativity. Establishing relationships with other organizations and sharing elements to identify and create its own solutions to specific problems.

All programs are devised from a gender-based, class-based and generation-based perspective with a special focus on the causes that generate violence, including, without limitation, sexism, classism, racism, and adultism.

Centro de Apoyo Aquelarre (CEAPA), Dominican Republic

The Aquelarre Support Center (*Centro de Apoyo Aquelarre*, CEAPA) was established in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in 1992. Our mission is to promote, support and foster strategies to achieve gender equality and the full development of the Dominican society.

Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico - Haitiana (MUDHA), Dominican Republic

The Dominican-Haitian Women Movement (*Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas*, MUDHA) is a non-for-profit non-governmental organization that promotes democratic, equal, united and sustainable development and respect for Human Rights. MUDHA is composed of Dominican women of Haitian descent and Haitian women. It works with Dominican people of Haitian descent and Haitian people, especially women and children, focusing on the concepts of gender and ethnic group.

Núcleo de Apoyo a la Mujer (NAM), Dominican Republic

The Women Support Center (*Núcleo de Apoyo a la Mujer*, NAM) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) created on November 27, 1987 in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. The organization's purpose is to assist, together with other social players, in the analysis of violence against women and minors and the actions that deal with these issues, through education, research, communication strategies and service efforts.

To achieve such purpose, the organization:

- 1) Provides legal and emotional assistance for women, children and adolescents who suffer domestic or intra-family violence and sexual abuse.
- 2) Works for the creation of community networks within low-income sectors in order to raise awareness, provide assistance and prevent gender-based violence.
- 3) Disseminates information through the media and the *Centro de Documentación Rosalba Martínez* (Rosalba Martínez Documentation Center.)
- 4) Works in the inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination of the Movement for Life Without Violence (*Movimiento Vida Sin Violencia*, MOVIDA) initiative, comprised of public and private institutions of the city, and which operates since 1996.

Jacqueline Sealy-Burke, Director, Legal Aid and Counseling Clinic (LACC), Grenada

The Legal Aid and Counselling Clinic (LACC) is a service delivered through the Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA) and has been in existence since 1987. GRENCODA was formally registered as a non-profit organization under the Grenada Companies Ordinance in 1986. The Agency is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes a Chairman and 11 floor members. LACC is a multidisciplinary Clinic, which offers a wide range of services, including legal representation; public education; advocacy; legal research and counseling. The Clinic, which has been in existence since 1987 is a non-governmental organization and is the only service provider of its kind in Grenada. In every area of the Clinic's service delivery, we grapple with challenges confronting the most vulnerable members of our society, particularly impoverished women and their children. Although the Clinic offers assistance with a number of legal and social issues, domestic violence is the most prevalent issue requiring our services. On a daily basis, female victims of violence seek our services either on their own initiative or on referral from the Police, the Ministry of Social Development; the Hospital and other community service providers. We are able to offer crisis intervention assistance; counseling; housing referrals and legal representation. With the passage of Domestic Violence Legislation in the year 2001, growing numbers of abused women rely on our services to seek protection orders and other forms of relief from the Court. The Legal Aid and Counseling Clinic is increasingly in demand for the filing of applications in the Court on behalf of victims who cannot afford to retain the services of a private lawyer. Given the socio-economic realities of Grenada, this amounts to large numbers of women. LACC is highly regarded by the Grenadian public and given its high profile in the community, we continue to experience growing numbers of clients. For the last three years, we have serviced an average of twelve hundred (1200) clients annually and the numbers continue to grow.

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH), México

The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (*Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C.*, CMDPDH,) created in 1989, is an autonomous, secular and independent non-governmental organization whose mission is to contribute to the respect for and enforcement of human rights, which are deemed to be interdependent and comprehensive.

Mission

The CMDPDH is an autonomous, secular and independent organization created for the purpose of contributing to the respect for human rights and to the strengthening of their interrelation and comprehensiveness. In performing its activities and devising its strategies, the CMDPDH is committed to honesty, integrity, independence and autonomy, as well as to neutrality and professionalism. Our geographic area of influence is Mexico. Therefore, all activities carried out at international as well as national level seek to impact on Mexico's government policies and structure in order to achieve the greatest scope of protection and enjoyment of human rights and social justice within Mexico's national territory.

Vision

Our organization contributes both nationally and internationally to building a state governed by the Rule of Law, and which is based upon the full respect for human rights and social justice.

Organización Popular Independiente, A.C., Cd. Juárez, México

The Independent Popular Organization (*Organización Popular Independiente A.C.*) of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, is a community-based organization that has worked to improve the living conditions of women and children in the western part of Ciudad Juárez for over 20 years. Its programs for children are within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Centro de la Mujer Panameña (CEMP), Panamá

Background: CEMP was created because a group of Panamanian women felt it essential to raise women's level of consciousness of about their own situation, and to create a forum where they could exchange experiences and ideas. They were especially concerned that poverty disproportionately disadvantaged women and that the state offered few solutions to their problems.

Objectives: CEMP's objectives are to promote the organization and development of women from a socio-economic and a gender perspective; to promote the participation of women in societal decision-making; and to protect and promote women's rights.

Activities: Its activities include: the training and education of community leaders; orientation and assistance to women who are victims of abuse; education in environmental conservation and sustainable development; economic self-management projects; and legal and sociological counseling.

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Lima, Perú

APRODEH is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization formed by a group of individuals committed to the fight for the full enforcement of human rights in Peru. It was established in 1983 as an initiative to support parliamentary work, in the face of the need to respond to the growing violation of human rights in the context of the internal conflict. Throughout the years, it has developed its own profile with a more comprehensive approach to human rights issues. Its work reporting violations and defending victims, as well as its role in the field of analysis and search of alternatives to violence, have earned it recognition from various sectors and from national and international public opinion.

Red Nacional De Casas De Refugio Para Mujeres y Niñas Víctimas De Violencia Familiar y Sexual, Lima, Perú

The National Network of Shelters for Women and Children that Have Suffered Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse (*Red Nacional de Casas de Refugios para Mujeres y la Niñez Víctima de Violencia Familiar y Sexual*) is a network comprised of 17 shelters that provide women and children with accommodation, food and medical assistance in a professional and humanitarian manner, with the support of female psychologists. We are organized as a non-governmental organization and receive minimum support from the government. As women who have experienced violence, we fight against domestic violence and sexual abuse.