



Tejidos de Esperanza Declaration

Networks of humanitarian shelters with a gender perspective, community-based risk management, and advocacy strategies Bogotá, Colombia – July 21, 2025

We, community leaders, grassroots organizations, human rights defenders, humanitarian professionals, and representatives of the Global South, gathered for the event *Tejidos de Esperanza: South-South Exchange on Networks of Humanitarian Shelters with a Gender Perspective, Community-Based Risk Management, and Advocacy Strategies*, declare:

That in a global context marked by humanitarian crises, forced displacement, structural violence, armed conflict, and natural disasters, organized communities have woven autonomous, effective, and transformative responses rooted in care, solidarity, and resistance.

We recognize humanitarian shelters with a gender perspective as vital tools for protection, healing, justice, and dignity—grounded in local resilience, women's leadership, and ancestral knowledge.

1. Context, Learnings, and Good Practices

Throughout this exchange, we have identified key lessons that shape and nourish this declaration:

- The transformative power of humanitarian shelters when managed by communities as spaces of dignified life, especially for women, girls, and people in situations of human mobility.
- The value of South-South dialogue as a practice of co-creating knowledge, sharing experiences, and collectively building solutions.
- The urgency of strengthening community-based risk management as a strategy for prevention, care, and preparedness in the face of environmental, social, and humanitarian crises.
- Inspiring experiences from Colombia, Bangladesh, Mexico, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other Global South territories show us that solidarity, dignity, and community organization save lives and transform realities.





2. Shared Realities, Resistance, and Denunciations

We identified urgent realities and shared forms of resistance across territories of the Global South. Accordingly, we denounce and bring visibility to:

- That national institutional responses are often insufficient, overlook community shelters, and fail to provide sustainable resources for their operation and continuity. Contexts like Bangladesh and Mexico reveal a critical funding gap, despite the essential role these spaces play in protecting life.
- That women, girls, and feminized bodies—especially in mobility or emergency—face structural violence, bureaucratic barriers, discrimination, and stigmatization that limit their access to safe shelters and their ability to participate in the community management of these spaces.
- That institutional fragmentation hinders comprehensive responses, disconnecting public policies from community leadership and obstructing collaborative processes. This disconnect is evident in places like Mexico, Colombia, and the DRC.
- That systematic violence against human rights defenders, social leaders, and displaced communities persists, amid patterns of criminalization, persecution, and impunity.
- That human trafficking, extreme poverty, and the criminalization of migration continue to affect millions, while protection systems remain weak or ineffective.
- That there is systematic invisibilization of ancestral knowledge, popular cultures, and community healing practices, even though they are essential to territorial resilience and social transformation.

In the face of these realities, we reaffirm our resistance through community autonomy, grassroots organization, collective action, and the living memory of our peoples. We recognize that healing, protection, and hope do not arise from imposed external structures, but from processes **woven within our territories**—with dignity, justice, and solidarity.

3. Guiding Principles and Collective Commitments

Our collective responses are guided by ethical and political principles deeply rooted in the struggles, wisdom, and resistance of the communities we serve—and often belong to. These principles not only shape our practices, but define the horizon of transformation we share.





We are guided by:

- Solidarity among peoples and horizontal cooperation between Global South communities.
- Social, climate, and gender justice as pillars of a more equitable world.
- The unwavering defense of human rights and of life in all its forms.
- Interculturality and respect for ancestral knowledge as legitimate sources of healing, resistance, and wisdom.
- Community autonomy and active participation in decision-making processes.
- The ethics of care, inclusion, non-discrimination, and an intersectional approach as practices of dignity in action.

From these principles, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- The defense of dignified life, gender justice, community care, and humanitarian action based on ethics and local leadership.
- The strengthening of community-based humanitarian shelter networks as mechanisms of solidarity, transformation, and adaptability in the face of multiple crises affecting our territories.
- The integration of community-based risk management, psychosocial support, and an intersectional approach in the planning, operation, and improvement of shelters.
- The development of prevention, protection, and response actions to gender-based violence from an intersectional and differentiated perspective to improve community-managed humanitarian shelters.

4. Call to Action

We make an urgent call to States, humanitarian agencies, international cooperation, and civil society to:

- Recognize, protect, and fund community shelters led by women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and grassroots actors.





- Ensure migration policies grounded in human rights, international protection, and regional solidarity.
- Support local strengthening processes based on horizontal relationships, cultural relevance, and respect for self-determination.
- Guarantee that crisis response, prevention, and recovery strategies include communities as protagonists.
- Listen to, value, and uplift the experiences of the Global South as sources of innovation and social transformation.

5. Our Advocacy Agenda

We assume the following collective commitments:

- Strengthen, replicate, and make visible humanitarian shelter experiences with a gender perspective, integrating collective healing, psychosocial support, community autonomy, and culturally rooted protection practices.
- Promote training spaces and joint action to advance community-based risk management as a preventive and transformative strategy to reduce vulnerabilities before, during, and after crises.
- Weave South-South networks of solidarity and collaboration, promoting mutual learning, exchange of practices, and alignment of advocacy agendas from a foundation of local leadership.
- Promote active participation of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant populations, peasant communities, and people in human mobility, in the governance of shelters and decisions about their lives and territories.
- Defend the territories, bodies, languages, seeds, ecosystems, and knowledge of our peoples, recognizing that their protection is essential to a just and sustainable humanitarian response.

These commitments are born of dialogue, active listening, and deep recognition of our shared realities. They are also a roadmap for advancing together toward shelters that not only protect, but also heal, empower, and transform.

6. A Living Declaration





This declaration is only the beginning of a broader fabric. Therefore, we commit to:

- Disseminating this document across our networks, territories, and alliances.
- Actively participating in the South-South collaborative network that has grown from this exchange.
- Supporting the follow-up of this declaration through new phases of collaboration, advocacy, and shared documentation.

A shelter is not just a roof—it is an act of dignity.

From the Global South, we weave hope.

From hope, we sow transformation.

Signed in Bogotá on the 21st day of July, 2025.

SIGNATORIES

