

## Over 30 Women's Rights Activists Trained in Guatemala to Strengthen Advocacy

- The Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS (CIM/OAS) held the face-to-face phase of the CIM Bootcamp in Guatemala to strengthen the leadership and advocacy of social organizations for women.
- The initiative contemplates an immersive experience based on a participatory methodology to strengthen practical skills.



**Antigua, Guatemala, February 14, 2025.** More than thirty women from social organizations in Guatemala participated this week in the first edition of the CIM Bootcamp, an initiative promoted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) in the framework of the project “Feminist Partnerships to Strengthen the Agenda for Gender Equality”, with the support of the Government of Canada.

During four days of intensive training in Antigua, the participants -selected by CIM/OAS after a public call for applications- shared experiences, acquired strategic tools, and strengthened their networks. For many of them, this was an opportunity to find a safe space to dialogue and build collectively.

Victoria Cumes, from the Women's Association Nuestra Voz, highlighted the importance of the tools received, particularly project development and negotiation and conflict resolution techniques.

Marcela Reyes, from Period Guatemala, described the face-to-face phase of the CIM Bootcamp as a space for genuine exchange between organizations. At the same time, Ana Alfaro, from Sáficas, highlighted the value of dialogue as a key tool for designing new strategies.

The CIM Bootcamp program included modules taught by international instructors that addressed strategic advocacy, assertive communication, leadership with emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, crisis management, project formulation, and fundraising.

The training was conducted in two complementary phases: an on-site phase, which took place from February 10 to 13 in Guatemala, and a virtual phase, which will provide continuity to the lessons learned. In addition, as part of the closing process, each participant must choose a key topic and share it with their community or organization to ensure the transfer of knowledge and impact at the local level.

The opening session held on Monday was attended by high-level authorities, including the OAS Representative in Guatemala, Ambassador Diego Paz Bustamante; the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora; and the Senior Advisor of the Hemispheric Affairs Division of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Nadine Cabana, who highlighted the key role of women activists in building a strong agenda for equality.

"With this initiative, we seek to strengthen women's rights activism, generate strategic alliances, and offer tools so that women's rights defenders can face the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of the current context," said Secretary Mora.

With this first edition, the CIM Bootcamp marks the beginning of a training and strengthening process that seeks to strengthen and enhance regional action networks.

### **\*Information for journalists**

About the CIM/OAS

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric forum dedicated to promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equality. Founded in 1928, the CIM has been a pioneer in identifying the barriers faced by women in the social, economic, and political spheres and formulating policies and programs to overcome those barriers. CIM collaborates with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key actors to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.

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