

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT  
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ITEM 6  
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

*[Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”]*

ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION FILED BY THE  
*ASOCIACIÓN MUJERES TRABAJADORAS SEXUALES DEL PARAGUAY*  
“*UNIDAS EN LA ESPERANZA*” TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations, to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”* (UNES) [the Association of Women Sex Workers of Paraguay “United in Hope”].

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by the *Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”* (UNES), in accordance with the aforementioned resolution.

**1. Background**

The *Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”* (UNES) is a civil, non-profit organization established on June 3, 2007, in Asunción, Paraguay.

UNES’ objective is to empower women sex workers to enable them to legitimately exercise their rights in the fullest sense and in every situation, to ensure that they receive decent treatment from every public agency and office and that their human rights are respected and they are protected from any kind of abuse or discrimination; the goal is to build an inclusive society that is respectful of diversity, by promoting partnerships with governmental and civil society organizations and creating a public awareness of and social sensitivity toward this population group.

UNES has an in-depth grasp of the problems that women sex workers face and since 2007 has contacted over 3,000 women who suffer violations of their human rights every day. It has provided them with support and training through recreational activities, workshops, and informal talks about physical and mental health.

UNES conducts activities in the form of sexual and reproductive health education, and activities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to promote and support its diagnosis and treatment, as part of the “*Avanzamos*” [Move Forward] project it entered into with the *Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo* (CIRD) [Center of Information and Resources for Development]. Under that project, UNES works to improve the quality of care that women sex workers receive, from the standpoint of human rights and sexual diversity.

UNES conducts its projects with funds from the Global Fund for Women and the *Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo* (CIRD).

UNES filed its application with the OAS on December 2, 2013.

**2. Name, address and date of establishment**

Name of the organization: Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”

Address: Tacuarí 348, Asunción, Paraguay.

Telephone: (+595) 2144-6116

Fax: (+595) 2144-6116

E-mail: unidasenlaesperanza@yahoo.com

Web address: <http://www.redtrasex.org/-Paraguay,21-.html>

President: Maria Lucia Esquivel

Date established: June 3, 2007

**3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

The *Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”* works to promote respect for the human rights of women sex workers. The following are among the primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:

- Promoting decent treatment of women sex workers and respect for their human rights;
- Promoting access to sexual and reproductive health services, justice and human security, without any form of discrimination;
- Having a voice in shaping inclusive and egalitarian public policies that will guarantee that women sex workers are able to exercise their human rights to the fullest; and
- Crafting projects whose purpose is to educate women sex workers about their physical and mental health, including informative sessions about health services, personal development workshops and recreational activities.

**4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

The *Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay “Unidas en la Esperanza”* proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), especially its Unit on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, by drafting reports and

presenting cases that serve to protect the human rights of women sex workers, thereby furthering the defense of their fundamental human rights;

- Working together with the IACHR to ensure equal social, economic and political rights for everyone in the hemisphere, irrespective of their gender, while maintaining its leadership position in supporting movements to defend women in the Americas;
- Assisting the IACHR in exerting its influence to shape public policies that recognize the right to sexual work, so as to ensure that violations of the human rights of women sex workers are redressed;
- Making its contribution to the mission of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to promote gender equity within the region and ensure the recognition and advancement of women's human rights; and
- Participating in the hemispheric debates on the subject that are open to civil society and offering recommendations to the OAS member states that could serve as input for events like the OAS General Assembly, meetings of the Permanent Council, sessions of the IACHR, and others.

**5. Documents presented to the OAS**

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated December 2, 2013.
- Bylaws
- Statutes
- Performance report
- Mission statement
- A copy of the financial statements for the year previous to the filing of the application, audited by BDO Auditors and Consultants.