

DECLARATION OF ETHNIC AUTHORITIES FROM THE ANCESTRAL AND TRADITIONAL COLLECTIVE TERRITORIES OF BLACK PEOPLE.

San Andrés de Tumaco, April 19, 2021

We, Black/ Afro-descendant women from organizations and ethnic authorities of the Black People [in Colombia], exercising self-governance, the principles of self-determination and community autonomy, within the framework of the right to life, joy and freedom in our territories, fulfilling our role in the defense of our human and ethnic-territorial rights, that have allowed us to build a position of unity to weave and reaffirm our ethnic, cultural and political wealth, PUT INTO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ The territories of Black People, as well as our lives, continue to be impacted by inequality, exclusion and structural racism in a systematic, planned and disproportionate way.
- ✓ The non-implementation of Auto 092 of 2008 [of the Colombian Constitutional Court], which stated that women in Colombia face an extraordinary risk due to their membership in ethnic communities; social, community or political organizations, as well as their social promotion work, political leadership or defense of human rights, is a manifestation of the racism that Black/ Afro-descendant women experience in Colombia.
- ✓ We are victims of patriarchy as a hegemonic strategy that has imposed submission and inequality on us, in a continuous and disproportionate way.
- ✓ The inefficiency, omissions and connivance of the State and its institutions has allowed, and continues to allow, foreigners and armed actors to invade and destroy the tropical forests, rivers, estuaries, beaches, villages, and so on, generating a huge environmental and humanitarian crisis, physical and cultural genocide and socio-political violence, among others.
- ✓ The imposition of an extractivist economic model and capital accumulation continues to generate territorial and environmental deterioration, impoverishment of communities, loss of our ancestral practices and ruptures in our social and community foundations. Resisting the imposition of this developmental model has exponentially increased risks, threats and violations of our rights as Afro-descendant women.
- ✓ The territories and bodies of black-Afro-descendant women have been invaded through the militarization of legal and illegal actors as a strategy of dispossession and territorial control.
- ✓ The lack of comprehensive implementation of the "Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace" continues to generate situations of profound violence in our territories, in our organizational dynamics and in our lives. We continue to suffer from a lessened armed conflict because the structural causes of various types of violence, such as racism, exclusion and socio-economic inequality, remain.

WE CONTINUE TO REAFFIRM THAT:

Territory is life and life is not possible without territory.

The Territory is life, and life is not to be sold, it is to be loved and defended.

AND THEREFORE, WE DECLARE:

- ✓ That as Black/ Afro-descendant women we continue to resist to ensure the continuation and empowerment of our cultural practices, in our ancestral, traditional and collective territories.
- ✓ That as Black/ Afro-descendant women, we continue to hold meetings of brotherhood and sisterhood in our territories in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, Chocó, the inter-Andean valleys of the Cauca and Patía rivers, the Aburrá Valley and urban centers, for the survival of our ethnic peoples, as part of the ancient philosophy of UBUNTU, which made us who we are.
- ✓ That we continue to mobilize collectively against any action that violates the rights of women in general, and of Black/ Afro-descendant women and Black people in Colombia and globally, in particular.
- ✓ That we continue to carry out actions that allow us to analyze and transform individually and collectively the practices of patriarchy in our ethnic communities and in society as a whole. For this reason, we continue to demand from the Colombian State the implementation of relevant public policies that contribute to the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women in Black communities and throughout Colombian society.
- ✓ That it is urgent for the Colombian State to expeditiously guarantee the right to holistic reparation for the disproportionate and savage damage suffered by women victims of socio-political violence and armed conflict, in our ethnic communities and in society as a whole, with guarantees of non-repetition.
- ✓ That it is urgent that the Colombian State make comprehensive reparation by eliminating the barriers that affect the effective exercise of our collective rights.
- ✓ That it is urgent that the Colombian State effectively and expeditiously implement the Peace Agreement signed in Havana, Cuba, as a concerted strategy for the restoration of rights, for the care of life and for democracy in our country.
- ✓ That it is urgent that the Attorney General's Office prioritize and carry out an exhaustive investigation of cases of women from Black communities who are victims of violence, as a strategy that contributes to guaranteeing the rights to truth, justice, holistic reparations and guarantees of non-repetition.

**BLACK-AFRO-DESCENDANT WOMEN CONTINUE TO RESIST NOT TO SUBMIT
I AM BECAUSE WE ARE!**