

Fifth World Assembly for Women: WAW! 2019/ Women 20 (W20)

Statement by Gabriela Michetti,
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Dearest friends.

It is a source of great joy to be gathered here with all of you.

I also feel a very special happiness for sharing these days with you in Japan, one of the first countries I visited as Vice President of Argentina, and the object of my deepest admiration and love.

The world is truly in need of women who inspire, who transform their surroundings with their sole presence, their warmth, their sensitivity, their ability to relate and their holistic approach.

Women who truly shine their own light into every area of social life. Who can believe in their own potential and who can dream to take part in powerful transformations.

Women who can share their vision for peace and who can educate future generations. Strong women who risk it all for their ideals.

For this, it is fundamental that we educate from the ground up, so that each of us may believe ourselves to be truly capable and aware of our enormous richness, and may not be afraid to aspire to once unattainable positions, to speak our minds, to choose our profession.

An enormous challenge, a cultural shift, a change of mindset lies before us.

It is our duty, I believe, to walk alongside so many women as they embrace their own true light after too many years of exclusion.

To teach them to dream big. To be unstoppable. To show them that the feminine light is good, it enriches all of us and it takes center stage in any society.

On the other hand, we must always strive to put in place public policies that ensure the rights we still owe to them, to eradicate violence against all women, to achieve equal pay, access to quality education and equal opportunity in the workplace.

On this regard, I am happy to say that after the last meeting of the W20 held in Argentina, several points were agreed upon and presented to the leaders of the G20. These points include granting access to justice to all women victims of violence, granting health care to mothers and reducing the gender gap in the work force.

We are joining our forces in the same direction, and this is of paramount importance.

I would like to underline the need to be committed to making this agenda a priority, but always through constructive dialogue.

Let us stop confronting. Conflict is not the right way to change. Let us not put the feminine and the masculine in opposition.

Through healthy dialogue, peace and serenity, we will indeed carry out deep changes at the heart of every community and in society as a whole.

Nothing can beat a team made up of both women and men who can share solutions for the common good, each one including their own take on reality.

Let us strive to give everyone their place, to value everyone for who they are, to embrace differences that allow us to shift our sights and be flexible.

We will be broken as a society if we dare not include, value, admire and learn from each other. There is no other way.

I therefore invite you to reflect, to practice the art of slowing down and thinking carefully where we are going, and to wonder whether our decisions live up to our ideals.

I am convinced that the speed of our daily lives is preventing us from taking a step back and evaluating our actions.

For example, when arriving to this conference, did I take into account the needs of others? My gestures, my words, showed awareness of those around me? Have I valued other people's work?

These are all small actions that can make big differences. If we truly want to achieve social change, we must first start by educating ourselves and be exemplary in our daily lives so that no one is excluded ever again.

Most of us gathered here have influential positions, whether in the public or private sectors, and for this our responsibility is greater.

Let us continue working tirelessly, not only to deepen equality where it already exists, but also to make our voices thunder in those places where women are still oppressed!

Let us hope that the voice, the heart and the light of every woman shine in every corner and in every area of social life, whether economic, cultural and political.

Women who transform, who make a mark, who never stop chasing after their dreams until they reach their goals.

Women who are determined, who can set the agenda and place their sights on other people's needs, who are moved by suffering as if it were their own.

Women who step up, who walk gently but also strongly when needed.

Women who pour their souls into their deeds, who heal, give comfort and courage.

Women willing to put family or country before self, to give up comforts and take risks.

We need all of them if we are to foster a fairer, more humane and kinder world.

Because, honestly, what would we all do without this fundamental input?

Let us never forget it.

Thank you all!