

Translated from Spanish

Current situation of women in Uruguay

Progress since Beijing

Women make up 51.6 per cent of the population; they have a life expectancy

increasing, with the result that in the 13 per cent of the population aged 65 and over the number of women aged 65 and over is twice that of men

The literacy rate is 96.7 per cent for women and 95.3 per cent for men, and

labour market, which they enter with a high level of education (three secondary education) however only one of the gender wage gap and barriers to women's

Women make up 92.3 per cent of the (words, 45.5 per cent) of Uruguayan women enter with a high level of education (three secondary education) however only one of the gender wage gap and barriers to women's the private sector

of women is proving very... only one of 12 Ministers, one... three directors general and five assistant directors general... and two women

Politics (another area where the... under... senators, all of 36

the previous... government costs in this... number of women in... the country... it should be noted that these are honorary positions

in education, there has been a major improve... Administration, women currently fill seven of the... area, there has also been a significant increase

There has been no significant increase in the number of women in the... percent of these unions, only one of the is members of the Secretariat of the... of women delegates to trade union congresses is increased 24.56 per cent of delegates to the latest congress (the 17th, November, 1997)

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Various proposals for a quota system in

Patriarchal cultural factors continue society that is resistant to change, so that Unfortunately, it is in education at all levels gender perspective has been least successful

In Uruguay, as in the rest of the region Conference, with its Regional Programme of and the Caribbean, and the Fourth World Conference for Action, gave rise to a social movement country as a result both of women's mobilization

the Sixth Regional of the Women of Latin America on Women, with its Platform spread throughout the of Government action at the local and national levels.

the following positive developments took place in civil society of the Housewives and Consumer Protection League, which has 500 members in the capital city, drawn from all social strata and occupational groups, and is expanding through branches throughout the country. Its members are continuously, through forums, interaction with other women's housewives, to defend their rights in the activities even Bill, and it has joined various national networks.

Establishment of the made up of over 700 women members increasing their output and also participating in the country's rural women's groups such as the the regeneration of agricultural

Association of Rural Women's Groups various groups which have succeeded in national visibility by, inter alia, rural exposition this year and from other uruguay Network of Rural Women's Groups and

Expansion throughout

in 1995 of the Uruguayan Women's Movement, by the presence of women members of the political parties represented in parliament. Pursuant Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, the Network has begun to promote positive measures to create the necessary conditions for women's equitable participation and political representation in trade unions, political parties and other formal and informal areas of civil society, holding training workshops to empower future women candidates. Beneficiaries participate actively in the design and preparation of the inputs which they receive, focusing especially on the exercise of autonomy as one element of empowerment, particularly in the capital city, they study the bills being discussed in Parliament and have in turn submitted several bills to political parties. They also conducted an opinion poll on women's political participation.

4. Establishment in May 1996, upon completion of the activities of the Uruguay Initiative Group, of a National Committee to Follow-up the Beijing Commitments.

... has coordinated its activities with various pre-existing organizations (NGOs), including local branches of the Women's Movement, and is working actively throughout Uruguay, by means of seminars and courses, to provide training with a gender perspective, to monitor and follow up the Government's commitments made in Cairo and Beijing through, inter alia, working committees with NGOs.

In addition to Government action, it is important to mention the existence of six committees, each of which includes representatives of civil society.

The Commission has prepared proposals relating to, and follow-up of, the commitments made in 12 September 1995. The Commission has a Government working committee through the National Institute for the Family and the Population, made up of representatives of the Ministries of the Economy, Labour, Public Health, Housing, Regional Planning and the Environment and Education and Culture; it also has 10 working committees made up of representatives of civil society.

The National Rights Committee, established on 10 November 1996, which is headed by the Minister for Education and Culture and made up of representatives of the National Institute for the Family and the Population, the Ministry of Labour and the National Institute (INAMC); legislators, feminists, etc. It is organizing a major national survey of Uruguayan women's views on the situation of women's rights throughout the country. It is also developing gender perspective modules for courses taught at

This Commission is a non-governmental organization. It organizes meetings, seminars, etc. to promote the fulfilment of the recommendations of the

Government

With a view to establishing a civil society:

1. The Commission has made in the past counterparts in the Women and the Environment and Social Environment up of representatives

2. It is chaired by the Minister of National Security, Social Security, etc. It organizes lawyers and social workers to assist women to access the justice system in the country. It

at

6. Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, established on 3 March 1996 and made up of the Minister of the Interior, who chairs it, the Minister for Education and Culture, the Minister for Public Health, the National Institute for the Family and Women, the National Crime Prevention Office, the (female) Chief of the Specialized Police Station for the Protection of Women, the women's health and domestic violence sections of the national plan for the prevention, detection and handling of domestic violence and for the activities between the Government and civil society.

bill for the prevention and punishment of domestic violence, which is already before Parliament and which, if adopted without major amendments, will be the most up-to-date and comprehensive legislation of its kind in the region.

In addition, a National Crime Prevention Office was established in the Ministry of the Interior. It is headed by a woman and has a special section dealing with domestic violence, permitting coordinated action between the National Institute for the Family and Women and the national police. In addition, seven specialized police stations for the protection of women and two offices of women's affairs have been established in the country's interior and there are programmes for the prevention of domestic violence and for assisting victims of such violence.

In the legislative area, there have been three notable developments:

1. Domestic violence was criminalized in 1995;

2. The Convention of Belém do Pará was ratified and incorporated into domestic law on 5 January 1996;

3. Regulations for the enforcement of Act No.

been in force since 2 June 1989 but was not being applied. It includes the offence of sexual harassment, a fact which gave rise to extensive national debate and media coverage of the provisions of the Act.

In early 1997, a women's health section was established in the planning

to reaffirm women's full right to

assistance to women more efficiently and to comprehensive health

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a subprogramme on elective

In 1996, in cooperation with the

based on research carried out by the

sexual and reproductive health progra

productive health and on community

motherhood and fatherhood was implem

to advise in the various areas

Honorary Advisory Committee of Sexua

and basic advice to women living there

tion by through

in 1996

domestic violence programme has been in operation since 1996 and

activities issued

Committee on Women and the Family was established pursuant

by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Educational reforms are under way, including

(a) Full-time operation of schools in the poorest areas of the capital city (12 in all);

(b) Lowering the age of admission to (compulsory) preschool to 4 years. This will be further lowered to 3 years in 1999.

Both of these measures will result in children spending more time in a protected school environment (the school day will be extended to 8 hours) and will considerably improve their level of education. Mothers, particularly those working outside the home, will have their responsibilities lightened and they will have the opportunity to leave their children in a safe place with other children.

The centres will also benefit from the introduction of a policy of direct relations with NGOs in order to support their activities. The centres have signed agreements with some of them to provide training and seminars on equality of treatment and opportunity.

Workshops and seminars on equality of treatment and opportunity have been held with rural women. Family and domestic violence have been held with rural women. The centres also coordinate many group activities, such as meetings and seminars.

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