

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN CONFERENCE

Copenhagen, Denmark

(July 14, 1980)

We the Chicanas formally present to this conference a statement and resolutions that clearly illustrate the oppressive conditions faced by Chicanas in the United States of America. The resolutions as stated are some of the demands that must be dealt with in order for justice and equality to prevail for Chicanas and women in general.

## RESOLUTIONS FROM THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMUNITY

Education both on the elementary and secondary levels are still faced by many attitudes of racism and sexism. All programs geared towards the improvement of the educational situation for the minority and disadvantages are constantly being met with much resistance.

### RESOLUTIONS:

1. Competence Testing. Many of our students are at least two or more years behind the majority student. This testing will prove to provide an endurance for many of our students who do not pass this testing and receive a certificate of attendance rather than a diploma. Therefore, these students will not be able to attend institutions of higher education of four years because of the lack of a diploma. We demand the elimination of racial and culturally biased competence testing.
2. Parent Involvement. Parent involvement is the largest area of concern. Parents are the best resource that schools have and yet they are not utilized to the greatest of their capacities. Many school districts are not concerned with the training and education of parents. Not just training concerning tutoring services for their children but also parent rights within the school system. We must begin to put pressure for this type of training so that parents may be fully involved in the educational process of their children. We demand training and educational programs for parents.
3. Bilingual Education. Bilingual education is an area of much concern for our Chicana students. We want bilingual education for Chicanas and all other children (Mexican, Blacks, Asians, and Whites), we feel that this helps facilitate the process by which our students will learn two languages (English/Spanish), with pride. Many times bilingual education has been thought of only as a tool by which English can be learned, but bilingual education is more than that. The advantages of bilingual education is both an academic achievement and a financial advantage. Students learn better, faster, while improving self-concept. Cultural awareness is another advantage, that will assist them in their relationship with other groups of people.

We demand research on bilingual education. This research needs to be done by Chicanos who are aware of the bilingual/bicultural lifestyle.

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4. Integration. We demand mandatory integration where schools do not meet federal requirements. Volunteer integration needs to be the busing of both minority students to majority schools and majority students to minority schools. It has been our experience that the majority of students moved has been minority and we feel it ought to be a two-way movement. Also, more publicity needs to be provided to the majority school students. It seems that presently publicity has been concentrated in minority schools.
5. Quality Education. Equal level of tax dollars must be spent at all schools in the barrios and the upper-class anglo communities. It has been our experience that children in the barrios are not given the same education that anglo children in the anglo communities are receiving.
6. Materials and Media. Materials and media used in the classrooms, especially at the elementary level are still very sexist and racist. We must continue to apply pressure on school districts to carefully examine the types of materials being used by the teachers.
7. Counseling and High School Drop-outs. The drop-out rate for Chicanas is much higher than any other group of students. We must look at this much more seriously. Obviously, education is not meeting the needs of Chicanas. And those who are graduating are not receiving the needed skills necessary to go on to institutions of higher education or enter a career area of their choice. Counseling for Chicanas is an area of desperate need. Both academic and personal guidance is needed for the Chicana. Counseling Chicanas into higher education begins at the elementary level and providing information on career choices that are realistic is an important part of this process. Many Chicanas do not see education as a possible solution to their problems but rather see marriage as that solution. We demand counseling programs for Chicanas.
8. Role Models in Education. Hiring of more Chicanas in education, as role models is needed. Role models are necessary for Chicanas to see people like themselves in roles that perhaps they can have. Hiring of Chicanas, bilingual and/or bicultural, must be viewed as important. Relating to someone who is brown, speaks the language, and has come to grips with living in two cultures is important. By being exposed to people like this we can learn that we are able to keep the best of both cultures. Many districts are hiring anglo bilingual people, to help maintain the bilingual programs but we must begin to also emphasize the bicultural person who is needed as a role model.

More encouragement for Chicanas to go into administration needs to take place. More Universities need to provide administrative programs for Chicanas. Also, some form of support and encouragement needs to be provided for existing Chicanas in administrative

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positions. The double standard exists all the way through. We demand the immediate hiring of more Chicanas in all levels of education.

9. Smaller Class Size. We demand smaller classes per teacher. This includes all classes: bilingual, remedial, gifted, etc. with disclusion of administrators, nurses, classified staff in the ratio makeup.
10. Stop Follow-Through Program. In the follow-through program parents are requested to sign a waiver asking for their child to be removed from the bilingual classes. If the parent signs the waiver then they can participate in the follow-through program. In the follow-through program children are given free medical and dental services. If your child remains in bilingual classes then he/she cannot receive these services.
11. Communications with Other Minority Groups. Chicanas need to develop a communication network with other minority interest groups.
12. Programs for Chicanas. Encourage Chicana organizations and groups to be formed, throughout the educational process (K-12 and Higher Education). Provide local annual Chicana high school conferences, providing information on health, education, employment, relationships with parents/boyfriends, etc.

Encourage Chicana business women to sponsor a Chicana career day. Whereby, professional Chicanas take a Chicana student for a day and show them what they do in their career.

Education is a sure way for more Chicanas to become more independent and self-determined. Through education a feeling of accomplishment for the self is felt. We must use education as a tool to help our young Chicanas become aware of their total potential.

## HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND ALCOHOL WORKSHOP

### RESOLUTIONS:

1. That Chicanas stand together in opposition of any tax monies, state or federal, be used for warring purposes, and that the money be targeted to local Health Care Resources for the Chicano Communities.
2. That Chicanos oppose the abusive treatment we and our families receive in outpatient/inpatient health services. That the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Office of Civil Rights investigate consumer complaints.
3. Only through increasing professional bicultural and bilingual staffing can the health care system/services truly address our needs. Therefore, we recommend that medical schools and all

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other professional health schools increase the number of slots for admissions and particularly stop discrimination against Chicanas, so that in ten years Raza professionals have reached par with our population in the United States of America.

4. We demand that the local, state and federal programs providing health services stop requiring proof of citizenship before rendering services.
5. We demand that all state offices providing health services, i.e., family planning, OB-GYN, abortion, start documenting ethnicity, age, etc. so that we can obtain health monies for our communities.
6. We support the right to alternative health care methods, i.e., natural birthing practices, etc., and not be forced to use institutionalized methods which are typically money-making and not for our health benefits.
7. Recognize the increase of the problem of alcohol amongst Chicanas, and the need for research by Chicano professionals.

Outcome: The state and federal funds be targeted for Chicano Alcohol recovery services, i.e., (detox, socialization centers and residential homes), and staffed by bicultural bilingual Chicanos. And that specific training programs to assist the Chicano with alcohol problems to re-enter the job market unrelated to war.

8. We demand that more culturally relevant bilingual mental health programs be developed for Chicanas and their families in the already existing programs and facilities.
9. We demand that state/federal funds be especially earmarked for bilingual/bicultural, health, nutrition, mental health programs, and preventive health education.
10. We demand that local/state and federal government provide and pay for indigent health care services.
11. We demand that the state begin auditing the Hill Burton hospitals for proof of compliance.

One very important aspect of family life and survival is food that meets the nutritional needs of our bodies.

12. We demand adequate resources to purchase and prepare foods.
13. We demand bilingual/bicultural educational nutritional programs for Chicanas.

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14. We demand that undocumented and documented immigrants be provided emergency and non-emergency medical care.

IMMIGRATION

RESOLUTIONS:

1. We demand that the government of the United States of America eliminate policies that require legal immigrant status to receive health care and social services and urge county governments to do likewise with any restricting policies they may have.
2. We demand that federal dollars for social services to the undocumented taxpayer be funded directly through the contractor in order to maximize receipt of benefits to the people.
3. We demand that in view of the enormous amount of tax dollars paid into the government coffers by the Hispanic, there needs to be an information network established to produce public information programs to inform persons of the civil right and social benefits to which they are entitled.
4. We demand that this conference be opposed to any type of BRACERO/guest worker program.
5. We demand that multi-national corporations provide full benefits to workers. Further, we demand that these companies be required to return a percentage of their profits to be returned to communities in which they are located to provide social services, educational, and vocational programs.
6. In view of the widespread and rampant corruption, abuse and wholesale flaunting of elementary concepts of civil and human rights and justice that is being perpetrated by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service against Hispanics, WE DEMAND a stop to this violence which is racist in origin and endemic to the INS and its training components, and further, state that this violence has been condoned at all levels of authority. We further condemn the civil and human rights abuses against all Hispanics, legal and illegal which are committed by local and State law enforcement agencies within the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
7. We demand that a civil rights component of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices especially those offices located in highly impacted areas of Hispanics be established with outreach into the community.
8. We demand that local advisory boards with citizen participation be established to assist by monitoring complaints and investigations by law enforcement agencies.

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9. We demand that advocay panels be established to protect the alien in situations of detention and deportation.
10. We demand that the Immigration Courts be separated from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and that deportation hearings and other adjudications be conducted in an open manner as are other Civil Court procedures.
11. We further cry out and condem the special violence and dehumanization of women carried out by the U.S. Border Patrol and reflected in their use of body cavities and strip searches.
12. We call for the creation of an International Tribunal to investigate the atrocities and violence being perpetrated against women along the United States of America and Mexico border.

NATIONAL CHICANO MORATORIUM

RESOLUTION:

1. We call on the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN CONFERENCE to openly support the comemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium held of August 29, 1970. The comemoration will again take place in Los Angeles C ilifornia on August 30th, 1980.

Submitted By  
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