



Women on the move: Her story!



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Country of origin: Venezuela
Date of Birth: 03/04/1950
Church: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela - IELV
Period of Mandate: 2003-2010 Council Member

Short biography: In 1997 I started working as a Nacional Women Coordinator for the IELV. I have been travelling visiting all the congregations and meeting women, listening to their needs and trying to together find alternative proposals, reading the Bible with a gender vision, organizing national gatherings and - for the first time - a national women committee. Our decisions were heard by the IELV council members and some things started changing. We got international donations and with this money we built rooms in some congregations that later were used for women and children education. We were empowering us!

At the same time I was participating in international women gatherings, learning from other sisters and sharing all of this knowledge in Venezuelan women groups. I became member of the IELV council, some periods as a vice president of the church.

In 2003, during the X Lutheran Assembly in Winnipeg, I was elected for one period as a LWF Council Member. Immediately I got involved in Human Rights and International Affairs Committee, participating with deep concern on the issues of other peoples, helping spreading their clamor, sometimes visiting them...being part of their lives...walking in their shoes...

In 2008 I was elected for three years as a Women Coordinator for the Andean Region. During this period with the support of the national women committees we organized gatherings introducing and discussing sensitive topics as human trafficking, leadership, sustainability, violence against women and children, sexual orientation, gender workshops, etc. At the same time I was involved in the women world coordinators meetings under the supervision of Dr. Rev. Priscilla Singh and later Dr. Rev. Elaine Neuenfeldt. Together we were preparing guidelines for a better common vision and understanding of our necessities, later submitted to national committees, in a constant dialog among us.

Parallel to all of this work I was working with our local IELV congregation at "Casa de la Amistad", a house bought with the support of international women donations. We opened a Kindergarten for children coming from the neighboring slums and also started an open house for women, a place where they could talk about their own issues, feel safe in sisterhood and learn different skills. The Valencia congregation was also running a house for homeless children "Casa Hogar" where I was working in educational issues.

Now, from the distance, I still support in different ways some projects of LWF and my local congregation.