

Unpaid Care Work and its Consequences

Tuesday, March 12th 2019

8:15-9:30 AM

Conference Room 12

CONCEPT NOTE

CONTEXT

The priority theme of the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls". The 63rd CSW brings together three thematic areas which, even though they are not always considered together in policy-making, cannot be tackled in isolation.

Therefore, coordinated and well-funded social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructures are essential for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (ODS 5). In fact, they are the backbone of the entire 2030 Agenda: from health and well-being (ODS 3) to quality education for all (ODS 4); from poverty eradication (ODS 1) to the reduction of inequalities (ODS 10); and from decent work and inclusive growth (ODS 8) to combating climate change (ODS 13).

According to multiple reports, such as the ILO's *Care Work and Care Workers for a Future with Decent Work*, "women perform 76.2 percent of all unpaid care work, spending 3.2 times more time than men" and "unpaid care work is a key factor in determining whether women access and remain in employment, as well as the quality of the jobs they perform". This is applicable in Spain and all other countries in the world.

Additionally, the report states that "unpaid care work makes an important contribution to national economies, as well as to individual and societal well-being. Unpaid care workers meet the vast majority of care needs worldwide. However, their unpaid work remains largely invisible and unrecognized, and is not taken into account in the decision-making process". If these services were valued on the basis of an hourly minimum wage, they would represent 9 per cent of global GDP.

Women's unpaid work is filling the gaps in the lack of public social services. This affects the female employment rate directly, perpetuating inequality of treatment and opportunity



between women and men. In addition, the value of this unpaid care work and domestic work would represent a significant part of the GDP if it was taken into account.

Recognized researchers such as M^a Ángeles Durán pointed out the relevance of this issue. She stated that "The house work for women is a loss of opportunity in the market. Moreover, young women and couples face long periods of education, precarious and insecure jobs, and when they finally meet all the conditions to create a family, they have passed the age of maximum fertility". This leads to a significant reduction in the birth rate.

For all the reasons above, Spain proposes a debate on the need to develop policies that offer social protections services and basic infrastructures to promote the distribution of care and domestic work between women and men and that account for the value of the care work carried out by women and their integration into the GDP, which will create more formal jobs in the care economy and will allow progress towards real and effective equality of opportunities between women and men.

In this event we will count with the above mentioned M^a Ángeles Durán, one of the biggest experts in the study of care economy and in the creation of satellite accounts of unpaid work in the world. Her contribution to this field has been key in the incorporation of these issues not only in the agenda of international organizations such as ILO, OECD or ECLAC; but also in development policy, master and strategic plans of numerous countries.

Ms. Duran's analysis will be the starting point from which the invited panelists will analyze how influential her contributions have been in the development of such policies and how far we have come in this area and how to incorporate this unpaid care and domestic work to the GDP. None of these are currently considered and it supposes a loss of opportunity for women in the market and is also causing a significant reduction in the birth rates and a loss of population for the whole society.

THE EVENT

The debate will be focused in how to promote the development of a welfare economy and to move towards a real and effective equality of opportunities between women and men.

To address this issue we will count with the presence of some of the greatest experts in the economy of care field and the preparation of satellite accounts of unpaid work. The event will also count with the participation of representatives of countries with higher percentage of gender equality.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

- **Ms. M^a Ángeles Durán**, research expert in the question of care work and its relation with the labor market, demography, family and inequality. During all her career as a researcher, she has written more than two hundred papers on unpaid work and inequality. Ms. Durán has also been awarded with the National Research Prize Pascual Madoz, and she is honorary doctorate from three universities. She has also collaborated with organizations such as the ILO or the UNDP.

PANELISTS

- **Ms. Soledad Murillo**, Secretary of State for Equality of Spain.
- **Ms. Silvia Buabent Vallejo**, General Director of IMIO (Women's and Equal Opportunities)
- **Ms. Alicia Bárcena /M. Mario Castillo (ECLAC)**. ECLAC will tackle the gender gap in the protection and social security in Latin America and the Caribbean. The main focus will be how the overload of domestic labor and unpaid work is one of the main barriers to the incorporation of women to the labour market in the region. This not only negatively affects the career paths of women but also the type of access to protection and social security
- **Ms. Izaskun Landaia**, General Director of Emakunde (Basque Institute for Women). In its presentation, she will address the policies developed in the Basque Country to make visible and give value to domestic and care work carried out mostly by women and to promote the shared responsibility of men, administrations and companies and thus promote a fairer and more equal distribution of them.