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Forum Closing

Closing Words from Laura Guzmán

In spite of the short amount of time, we have managed to share knowledge and experiences in an “expedited” manner. But we have gained a broad vision of what the people in this group are doing, something that longer gatherings generally do not achieve. We have also managed to work on another aspect—that of building alliances—to establish relationships that will form new work and different relationships for collaborating, as well as so many others that will benefit us all.

When the CIEM agreed to participate in this activity, we thought that it would be an excellent opportunity to begin to build bridges in an work of pressing importance, but an area that has also suffered a decline. We need to begin to revitalize this knowledge and the forms of intervention.

At the CIEM, we are concerned with revitalizing different approaches and reconceptualizing intervention strategies, but also to be thinking of developing new generations. These activities, apart from allowing exchange, are an excellent space to be shaping our replacements, broadening our network of organizations and the people who work in this field. It is important that we think about how we broaden the network in years to come so that we receive innovative and different input and we can respond in the future with answers we thought we didn’t have. In this way we avoid having a closed group, where knowledge and information are concentrated.

I would like to thank you for having come. I am sure that we will leave with the feeling that in reality we have taken great advantage of the time and learned a lot. Thank you to Katherine and Sundra for the support and trust that we could be a facilitating element in the process. The doors of the university and the CIEM are open, and they remain open for future projects.

Words from Participants

I would like to thank the organizers. I’m delighted to have been here with everyone and I hope that we can succeed in establishing not only academic ties but also affective ones.

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I would love for women leaders who are not necessarily linked to the academic world to have the opportunity to find spaces for relating in order to strengthen their work for equity and justice. The tenor of our work is not only restricted to the academic environment. We also have a deep link to the community and society. This is often not valued, nor is it developed to the extent that we would like. I

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would like to thank you for the opportunity that you have given me and I am going to make an effort to transmit this experience to other sectors, mainly to women that see in us the possibility to continue in a better way.

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These two days have reminded me of the importance of collective work.

When I received the invitation I didn't know what to expect. I just had to trust. Why did I have to be here? I didn't have any connection with the Gender and Diversities Institute. My work is not centered on gender equity, though it tries to strengthen families and the lives of children. These two days have reminded me of the importance of collective work. It was also gratifying to be among a group of strong women. This not only inspires me—without offending Jim—but it is women, especially those that are here, that make be proud.