

**MEETING OF THE WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS (WUCWO)
REGION EUROPE
WOMEN OF WUCWO, FOR HONESTY AND JUSTICE
Madrid, March 17-20, 2017**

DECLARATION

We, the women of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO), Region Europe, meeting in Madrid from 17 to 20 March 2017, following one of the resolutions adopted at the General Assembly - held in Fatima in 2014 - and alarmed by the increase in corruption, have reflected on this serious scourge.

To corrupt is to pervert the nature of people, ideas or things, for a personal interest or benefit. As Catholic women, we understand that this nature is that of children of God, with an equal, full and sacred dignity. **We want to work with courage to eliminate corruption and its destructive effects.**

Corruption is a global problem, in its broadest sense, as it covers the history of humanity, undermines the dignity of future generations, affects all countries, the environment and the most common acts in the life of each person, since it can be present in the personal, ecclesial, political, economic and social sphere.

Corruption causes inequality, injustice and violence, and it generates exclusion; **especially the poorest suffer from it**: material poor, spiritual poor, and among these **women are the most affected**. Corruption goes against the common good, because it selfishly only seeks the personal interest or benefit; it also weakens the evangelising mission of the Church.

In order to fight against corruption, **we opted for the conversion of the heart, honesty, justice and the promotion of a democratic ethic.**

We propose families as the ethical driving force of our society. In them we can cultivate and learn to experience values such as honesty, responsibility, solidarity and effort.

Before corruption, we chose to promote a human and integral ecology, **uniting the defence of nature, our common home, with the protection and defence of human beings, both in their personal, spiritual and social dimension.**

We, the European women of WUCWO, want to commit ourselves to forming the consciences to fight against corruption at all levels:

- By making a **clear personal and institutional choice for transparency**, good practices and coherence in life.
- **By taking care**, especially in our institutions, of our **Christian identity**.
- **By networking** with other organisations which fight against corruption.
- By investing efforts and means to generate ethical criteria in the hearts of the people, since an **ethical regeneration is needed from education**.

- **By promoting means for reporting** cases of corruption at both personal and social level.
- **By sharing, valuing and highlighting**, with hope, **positive initiatives** against this scourge of corruption.

Before corruption, indifference, selfishness and lack of responsibility, **we propose service, commitment and the love that comes from turning our face towards God and from the encounter with Christ and our brothers, especially those who suffer or are more vulnerable.**

BEFORE CORRUPTION, IF THERE'S COMMITMENT THERE'S HOPE.