

## **Clarec International Women's Day, commemoration. -**

Good evening, everyone, my name is Rocío Fernández, I am a doctoral student at the education faculty, and I am here as one of the founders of CLAREC to welcome you all to this commemoration. I would not want to miss the opportunity to welcome everyone by sharing a few ideas that delve into the relationship between International Women's Day (8M) and feminist struggles with CLAREC and more broadly with Latin America.

*First*, CLAREC first steps can be traced back to actions of support among Latin American women in the faculty of education based on relatedness and recognition, that soon created a network of friends to deal with the lack of representation of a Latina identity and the absence of southern knowledges. These women: Elisa de Padua, Annie Rubio, Javi Marfán, Ana Trigo, and Consuelo Bejares, to name some of them, looked for solidarity in a place that many times characterizes for its competitiveness.

*Second*, CLAREC emerged from the feminist protest 'Un violador en tu camino' (a rapist in your way). This started in Chile by the collective 'Las Tesis' amid the social uprising of October 2019, to denounce the state and police violence against women.

This performance soon was replicated globally, and in early December of that year, the Latinas in Cambridge got together, and we performed it in the city center. Occupying the space right in front of King's college to make visible not only the performance but also a Latina and a female population in Cambridge that stands in international solidarity against different forms of violence.

Un violador en tu camino, which became a feminist anthem, is both an artistic performance and a protest intersecting in the embodied experience of the female body, that has served for hundreds of years of accumulation and exploitation.

Together with state violence these are structural conditionings of Latin America nations, that are articulated under the matrix of coloniality. The colonization of the Americas imposed new - unprecedented forms of exploitation and hierarchization in the region based on sex that globally expanded a patriarchal regime, as Silvia Federici explained. We must not forget that while thinking of ways for emancipation and social justice.

Gathering for this performance served as a little push to organize ourselves and start CLAREC. As we have witnessed, feminist struggles can many times propel other processes of change, as in this case.

*Third*, CLAREC is organized as a collective. I believe this is important as it speaks about doing, thinking and producing knowledges from different forms. Forms that are non-hegemonic and therefore are the ones that carry the possibility of transforming our

realities. In this case, through the collectivization of desires, projects and concerns, even if it's step by step; A collective has the potential of thinking and materializing other forms of practice, that are no longer individual.

Overall, these ideas have in common the radical act of creating spaces. Which from a feminist viewpoint, lays at the core of building a better life for everyone. We carve the space that has been denied to us, so new realities can come into existence.

Today we commemorate International Women's Day, in a place that calls itself very international, but that does not include all narratives, or epistemologies. But it profits from a narrative of internationalization that obscures power relations.

We must commemorate this day, forging international, transnational networks, relationships, and alliances that recognize our commonalities but also our differences.

I thank my dear Heidy and all the presenters for bringing us together today and for continuing crafting spaces of encounter.

Thank you.