

## **CIM and American University sign an agreement to advance research, training, and cooperation on gender equality**

- The agreement with the School of International Service of American University includes volunteer programmes, joint research, content production, and academic events on gender equality.
- The partnership will allow students and faculty to work directly with the CIM on hemispheric initiatives that promote women's human rights.

**Washington, D.C., August 5, 2025.** The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the School of International Service at American University (SIS/AU) signed this Tuesday a Cooperation Agreement to jointly develop academic, research, training, and outreach initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and women's human rights in the Americas.

The signing ceremony took place at the OAS Main Building, with OAS Secretary General Albert Ramdin and SIS Dean Shannon Hader as signatories. Other attendees included OAS Assistant Secretary General, Laura Gil Savastano; Chair of the Permanent Council and Ambassador of Canada to the OAS, Stuart Savage; CIM Executive Secretary, Alejandra Mora Mora, along with officials from the organization and members of the academic community.

The agreement establishes a framework for volunteer programs enabling American University students to collaborate with CIM projects. The parties will also work on outreach initiatives to amplify voices from across the region on gender equality, as well as on academic research, joint publications, and the organization of conferences, seminars, and dialogues that connect diplomacy with academia.

During the signing ceremony, the OAS Secretary General stated that this partnership reflects the Organization's commitment to a new era of unity for the Americas, grounded in democracy, human rights, multidimensional security, and integral development. "I hope that, through this agreement, we can gain a better understanding of the situation of women in the Americas, the challenges they face, and the types of solutions we can propose," *he said*.

SIS/AU Dean Shannon Hader highlighted the value of this cooperation in strengthening experiential learning for students and connecting them with real-world challenges in the inter-American sphere. "In today's complex geopolitical landscape, collaboration on women's rights has never been more essential. This agreement represents more than a formal partnership; it's a commitment to action. This partnership between American University's School of International Service and the Organization of American States will create unique opportunities for our students,

faculty, and researchers to contribute meaningfully to critical issues facing women and communities throughout the Americas."

Executive Secretary Mora, who will oversee the implementation of the agreement, underscored that this is a strategic opportunity to strengthen public policy with the perspective and insights that knowledge production from academia can provide. She stressed that the partnership unites the vision of SIS with the CIM's longstanding work in defending women's human rights and promoting gender equality in the Americas.

### **\*INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

#### ***About the CIM/OAS***

*The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the primary hemispheric forum dedicated to promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equality. Founded in 1928, the CIM has been a pioneer in identifying the barriers faced by women in the social, economic, and political spheres, and in formulating policies and programs to overcome those barriers. CIM collaborates with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key actors to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.*

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