



**Statement by the Latin American and Caribbean Region
of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-LAC) on the situation in Haiti**

The 17 countries that are part of the International Federation of Social Work for the Latin American Region, of which the Haitian Association of Social Workers (AHATRAS) participates, demand the cessation of repression against the Haitian people who for several months express their outrage in the streets. We call for an international and national agreement to establish the route, so that the country can provide a dignified life and guarantee the human rights of its population.

We are located in the accompaniment of the Haitian people who have been trapped for decades in cycles of uncertainty and political and economic precariousness. In these weeks, a movement of the Haitian people, led mainly by young people, has led the demonstrations in the street. All this, as a result of their tiredness of living without basic rights such as access to water, food, medical care, communities sunk in conditions of misery and other serious issues that include thousands of children starving to death. It transcends in the media the proximity of the country's electricity system to collapse due to the lack of payment from the Government.

The Haitian Republic is going through a social and economic crisis that includes an increase in inflation levels of almost 20 percent, depreciation of its currency, migration and corruption in all areas. While the people of Haiti experience misery and the Government announces its inability to meet the basic needs of the population, a political elite of the country composed of fifteen former officials embezzled more than two billion dollars for social services. The demonstrations focus on the requirement of resignation of the President of the country and people on the streets have called on the international community to withdraw support for the Haitian president. By October 16, 2019, the protests had a balance of 20 dead in six cities. Among the dead people there is a journalist. In three years, 3 reporters have lost their lives.

We demand that the international community address the crisis in Haiti with international and local measures that really address the impoverishment of the Haitian people. We denounce and demand the cessation of the constant violation of human rights and that the increases in basic services that precarize the lives of people living in the country be stopped. We reject the acts of violence that have occurred during the demonstrations and that have cost human lives. It is time to place the Haitian Republic in the spotlight and end the decades of invisibility they have suffered, to arrange a true emancipatory movement that guarantees the dignified life of Haitian people.

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