



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION TO END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER TRAUMA**

**WHEREAS**, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, one in three teenaged girls in the United States have reported being a survivor of sexual violence, with women of color and those who identify as LGBTQA+ being particularly vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of underage females in the juvenile justice system is on the rise which is directly related to: a) be ouster from schools where trauma- related services are not available, and b) despite of being too young to legally consent, survivors of youth sex trafficking are viewed in many jurisdictions as perpetrators and arrested as such; and

**WHEREAS**, school systems that punish rather than provide appropriate services to girls and women who are exhibiting behaviors resulting from trauma and/ or sexual abuse are failing to provide equitable education opportunities to which, girls are entitled to under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, these phenomena are all part of a larger problem which, is the criminalization of trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts have been made by activists to engage with their school districts, boards, and Title IX coordinators to urge the provision of trauma- related services to students, and the elimination of policies and other measures that unfairly target girls of color; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the League of United Latin American Citizens National Board will launch a campaign to "End the Criminalization of Trauma" (ECT) to address the issues of outing from school underage sexual victims and trauma survivors and to ensured that all schools have: a) properly trained Title IX coordinators that address sexual assault victims; b) trained faculty and staff to identify students who are in need of trauma- informed services; c) developed protocols that provides services for traumatized students; d) to provide an equal education programs for victims; e) programs to prevent dropouts from the school systems and encourage completing of educational goals; programs, services, and resources in needed languages; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the League of United Latin American Citizens National Board ECT campaign will include an awareness raising component- among members, candidates for public office, and the general public about- the broader issue of the criminalization of trauma, and the importance of understanding how trauma impacts girls, particular girls of color, and LGBTQA+

students. The campaign will work with allies such as Rights4Girls, authors of the “Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline” report, education groups such as teacher union, and others to uplift the stories of girls and women who are caught up in the juvenile and criminal justice systems and collaborate on legislative solutions; and

***BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the League of United Latin American Citizens National and its allies will promote policy and support policy regarding the rights of all girls, specifically girls of color and non-gender conforming students, to access and continue their education.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia  
LULAC National President