

Madeline Mendoza, motivating agents for social change in Nicaragua



Madeline is part of the Central America Women's Leadership Fellowship, a program developed in partnership with iLEAP to equip and inspire women's leadership in sustainable social change throughout the region.

My name is Madeline Mendoza and I am from Nicaragua. I work part-time for a nonprofit organization called Center for International Studies (CEI), where I have been involved principally in the Global Economic Justice Program. I have participated in research on topics such as free trade, development aid, globalization, climate change and climate justice, among others; I have also had the opportunity to learn about peace building.

The research work is closely linked with education and or training since one of the essential objectives of the organization is to facilitate information to grassroots organizations and social movements in Nicaragua (and in the region) committed to social change and in this way nurture their agenda.

The privilege of participating in this marvelous training program for Central American women offered by [iLEAP: The Center for Critical Service](#) with support from the Seattle International Foundation constitutes of an enriching experience, not only for the knowledge and skills that we are acquiring, but also for the potential for establishing deep and lasting relationships in solidarity, based in a mutual commitment that unites us as global citizens and pushes us towards the building of a society in which all people, without distinction, can have a dignified and fulfilling life, and that respecting human rights becomes a norm.

During these first weeks in Seattle, I have met incredibly committed people that while swimming against the current, they dare take a leap of faith and they launch towards the rewarding adventure of building another world of possibility.

Contact with the work of nonprofit organizations working in Seattle has exposed me to a lesser-known side of this country. It has been very encouraging to meet people that you can connect with immediately; people that are in tune with the values that are priorities for me and that dare to think outside the box, challenging the traditional hegemonic perspectives focused on the most pressing challenges facing humanity today.

It is not easy trying to describe the significance of the invaluable opportunity to share and uniting diverse communities with the purpose of supporting the building of a realm of possibility that iLEAP and the Seattle International Foundation have given us. I can only try to express my thanks to those have had made this marvelous experience possible, providing the necessary resources that allow me to be here today in this beautiful city dressed in shades of grey and purple, and filled with the scent of lavender.