

Sandra Morán and Artesana: Background

Sandra Morán is one of Guatemala's most prominent feminists and performance artists. She is Guatemala's representative on the World March of Women, a spokesperson for the Guatemalan Women's Sector (an alliance of 33 Guatemalan women's groups), and a member of the Artesana collective.

As a representative of the Women's Sector, Sandra was the driving force behind the National Women's Forum, a body that generated participation and proposals for women's public policy after the signing of the Peace Accords.

She joined the Guatemalan human rights movement at fourteen and during the 1980s became involved with Guatemala's renowned rebel band Kin Lalat.

Sandra's human rights and musical activism made her a target for the death squads and by the late 1980s, she was forced into exile in Nicaragua, Mexico and Vancouver, Canada to escape the violence. During her years in exile, she participated in solidarity work and became involved in the Canadian women's movement. Sandra returned to Guatemala City in the mid-1990s to continue her work for women's rights. Upon her return, she came out as a lesbian, and has also been active in promoting GBLTQ rights in Guatemala.

She continues to perform percussion and poetry, and in 2011 helped form the band "Centro-America Feminista," made up of prominent women singer-songwriters from several Central American countries. Sandra says she is "committed to understanding systems of oppression from different points of view." She believes that, to create positive social change, activists must confront internalized beliefs of racism, homophobia, and other prejudices while addressing external systems of oppression.



Artesana

The Artesana Collective pressures the State to create and apply public policy in order to prevent crimes against women, support the rights of detained women, and stop social discrimination. The Artesana Collective works to contribute to the recognition, respect and exercise of women's rights through art, sports and other forms of creativity. The Artesana Collective is formed by feminist women, defenders of human rights, artists and professionals. Sandra speaks (in English) about the work of Artesana: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huNjSAP3XOc>