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Legislator Martinez Joins Secretariat Dr. Vanda Pignato at the United Nations to Discuss Issues Effecting Women Worldwide

As part of her visit to the UN headquarters, Secretary of Social Inclusion Vanda Pignato and former First Lady of El Salvador, met with Legislator Monica R. Martinez to discuss issues effecting women worldwide. The meeting was aimed to exchange experiences working on public policies directed toward women.

As Secretary of Social Inclusion of El Salvador, Dr. Pignato has implemented "City Woman," a comprehensive and integrated center specialized for women. The initiative "City Woman" has been considered by the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the UN Secretary General as a "successful model that should be implemented in Latin American countries." At this center, women are given the opportunity to obtain services and education free of cost. It also provides them with child care while women are at the center. The first center was built in El Salvador in 2011. The success of the program "City Woman" has led to five (5) international and one (1) national award.

"I am very pleased to have met Legislator Martinez, the first Salvadoran woman to have been elected in the state of New York. She was elected to represent Suffolk County and I know her voice will promote equality and equity between men and women," stated Dr. Pignato. She continued by stating, "Legislator Martinez is a role model for all young Salvadoran women." Dr. Pignato took the opportunity to ask Legislator Martinez to tour "Ciudad Mujer" (City Woman) in El Salvador and to be the godmother of this year's graduating class.

Meanwhile, Legislator Martinez was impressed by the results achieved with the Ciudad Mujer program and hoped to replicate this initiative in her district on a smaller scale, "only women can understand the problems of other women and I applaud Dr. Pignato for her efforts," stated Legislator Martinez.

"In Suffolk County, women comprise 52% of the population and it is important to raise awareness about the disparity which still exists between women and men in various sectors of society. The difficulties women face are common despite living in different countries and therefore, as elected officials, it is our fiduciary responsibility to continue working and strengthening initiatives to achieve empowerment at all levels, concluded Legislator Martinez.



(Photo: Legislator Martinez & Dr. Vanda Pignato)