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## **Guatemala: Female Legislators Denounce Sexual Harassment & Objectification Of Women**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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An Oct. 24 communique issued by female legislators meeting in Antigua to analyze the status of women, denounced sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Of particular concern are problems experienced by female journalists. According to the statement, women reporters are subjected to conditions engineered by male colleagues to produce anxiety, fear and despair. When women respond to harassment by quitting their jobs, the posts are filled by male colleagues. The communique said, "In our society, women are [used as] a vehicle to sustain and accentuate male superiority in all respects." One example is the use of female images by the media to sell products, which in turn contributes to the stereotype of women as frivolous and unintelligent beings. In closing, the legislators recommended that the congressional commission on the status of women develop legislation to protect female journalists. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/24/91)

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