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25 FOR 25 SERIES

## LYDIA CACHO

*25 for 25 is an original content series by Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE to mark the historic milestone of Beijing +25 in March, as well as Women's History Month. The series will highlight activists, CHIME Advisory Board members, partners and supporters who represent the progress made on gender equality over the past 25 years, as well as the emerging next generation continuing this critical work.*



CHIME is proud to highlight **Lydia Cacho**, the prominent journalist, writer, human rights advocate and defender of women's rights in Mexico, as one of 25 activists and leaders on the frontlines of gender equality over the past 25 years. Read Lydia's reflections on the path to a gender-equal future below.

## **What are your hopes and expectations for gender equality in the next 25 years?**

My hope is that millions of young men around the world will join the women's movement to foster a new narrative of equality that includes the urgent work of redefining masculinity. I hope every girl goes to school so as to make her dreams a reality. I believe in creating a stronger movement for peace and education, one that will teach us new ways to love and will help us relate to each other without the use of violence.

## **What does gender equality mean to you?**

Gender equality is the path for a better world for men and women alike.

Equality means that everyone deserves a life free of violence. Even the way we define freedom can be sexist or biased. But gender equality is freedom without the discrimination. It's freedom without sexism in all its forms.

## **What keeps you energized and committed as a leader for gender equality?**

I am energized every time I meet young feminists, or when I listen to boys and girls discussing equality as an urgent matter; I realize then that feminism has truly transformed the world. From banning aggressive language to exposing the multi-faceted violence against women and girls, everywhere you look on the planet, women are healing societies. What was in hiding or normalized for centuries is gradually being exposed by these young people. I feel inspired by them. Every day I choose to be kind and try to bring the conversation to men interested in equality.

**What advice would you give younger generations on how to advocate / work for gender equality as they get older?**

My advice is to take the time to look back at the old ways and recall the many triumphs we have achieved together. Also, be bold and creative, use the arts and keep at what makes you feel strong and happy, that is the best way to bring about change. And don't underestimate the importance of resting, a much better option than heading straight to burn-out. Do share your feelings and learn to ask for help.

**Who do you look to as an example / role model in the fight for gender equality?**

My mother and other amazing women from Jane Fonda to H el ene Cixous, Marcela Lagarde, Doris Lessing, Bibiana Aido and Luc a Lagunes.









