

# In memoriam of Michael Burawoy. The kind of intellectual society needs today

escrito por Marta Soler Gallart | febrero 5, 2025



Michael Burawoy joined the three characteristics most needed for intellectuals in the present world: reliability, excellence, and friendship. A current crisis among intellectuals and scientists is that frequently they live in contradiction to what they say and write. There are increasing cases of collaboration in sexual harassment committed by intellectuals from all fields, even feminists.

Michael was the first professor in the USA to support a victim in such a way that she became a survivor. At Burawoy's celebration event (2023), Ruth Milkman declared that she had been harassed and didn't quit, thanks to Michael's support. His support extended internationally. Michael Burawoy and Ruth Milkman signed the declaration of support for the centre that first supported victims of harassment in Spanish universities.

He was President of the International Sociological Association, after previously serving as President of the American Sociological Association. Burawoy renewed social science through the proposal of Public Sociology with an intellectual excellence that included improving people's lives. This is increasingly important as citizenship intensively demands that sciences in general contribute to the improvement of all persons and not only the situation of academics.

The friendship between Ruth and Michael was forever. Until the last moment Michael continued supporting victims and survivors and so did Ruth. Ruth always publicly declared the support she received from Michael and never withdrew her support for him. She went to Barcelona to support the proposal for the [concept of Isolating Gender Violence](#), which was latter unanimously approved by the Catalan Parliament, and Michael did the same. She understood very well how important is that former victims continue all their lives actively supporting the persons that supported them.