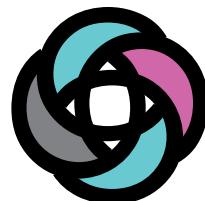


2011 – 2014
**Corporate
Report**



clacai

CONSORCIO
LATINOAMERICANO
CONTRA EL
ABORTO
INSEGURÓ

LATIN
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AGAINST
UNSAFE
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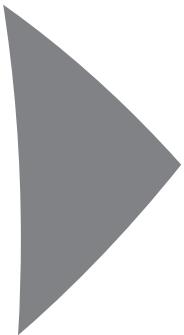
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Presentation





Susana Chávez
CLACAI EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In 2004, several people who attended the Conference of the International Consortium for Medical Abortion (ICMA) in Johannesburg decided to join forces to create a consortium that would promote various joint efforts for ensuring access to safe abortion in the Latin American region.

Thus, CLACAI was created; a consortium whose aspiration is to form a non-hierarchical structure with transparent decision-making processes based on consensus building and open and fluid communication that enables a respectful exchange among its members.

Since then, we can proudly say that we have succeeded in establishing ourselves as a leader in the field of legal and safe abortion, providing scientific evidence and updated information on the subject, fueling the debate on medical abortion and Misoprostol access and supporting local initiatives that promote the subject of legal and safe abortion in different regional contexts.

Throughout this report, we present the different perspectives and experiences of a number of members of the Consortium, with firsthand accounts of what the regional and subregional Conferences that have been held in recent years have meant to these members, and the opportunity to advocate for increased access to safe abortion through local initiatives.

In addition, we also present a working group to the Consortium, CLACAI's Legal Group; constituting a new space for dialogue in which lawyers and members share experiences and best practices in the field of strategic litigation while providing technical assistance to the countries of the region.

Similarly, one CLACAI member recounts the experiences of the representatives from the public sector providers and the challenges they continue to face in order to improve access to safe and legal abortion in Latin America.

Finally, our wish is for CLACAI to continue to grow and serve as an organizational model for other institutional fields. This is analyzed in the last chapter, in which we are happy to report that our organization is internationally recognized as a model of participatory and democratic work. ■

Regional Conferences and Meetings



Silvina Ramos

CEDES – CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DE ESTADO Y SOCIEDAD

CLACAI conferences have been a good experience for me for several reasons; some personal and others perhaps collective. Let's start with the latter. CLACAI conferences have been well organized. This is not a minor aspect in terms of effective use of time and resources; especially because what is at stake is the opportunity for members of the Consortium to get to know each other better. Conferences have always been organized in a way that is respectful of our efforts and our travel plans, while trying not to interfere with our work or personal time. This sensitivity toward the personal lives of those involved is a virtue.

CLACAI conferences have also combined the “classics” of the region's (and the world's) abortion agenda with items that begin to take shape in the frontiers of knowledge, political action, service provision, advocacy issues, and more

recently, social media issues. Updates on medical abortion; changes in women's experiences with abortion; legal reform and advocacy strategies; the role of the women's movement –particularly feminism– in the cultural, social and political context; the difficulties faced by suppliers for assisting women undergoing abortion in restrictive and stigmatized contexts; developments in the international human rights framework; the use of new technologies to improve access to safe abortion; among many other “old” and “new” issues have shown that the conferences perfectly adapt themselves to the changing times in the region and the world.

Thirdly, CLACAI conferences have brought together many different people in terms of their professional profiles, daily praxis, political commitments and visions of change. These conferences have also gathered national and regional organizations of different sizes and trajectories; and with different emphases in their agendas. Yet, despite these differences, there was no doubt that coexistence and

CLACAI conferences have been a meeting of disciplines, generations, professional practices, and political commitments; a meeting of personal and institutional histories, social and political backgrounds, national and sub-cultural ties. Jointly, when brought together in space and time, they enable a climate for learning, creating and recreating.

fruitful exchange were possible. And we were right. In fact, they contributed to promoting gatherings based on mutual respect and recognition of the value of what each of us do, personally and institutionally. And this ability to summon diversity and facilitate an exchange of ideas between one another is also a virtue.

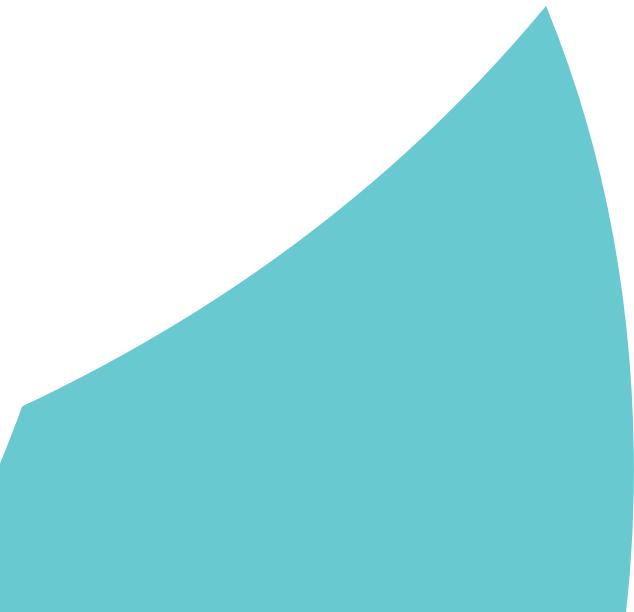
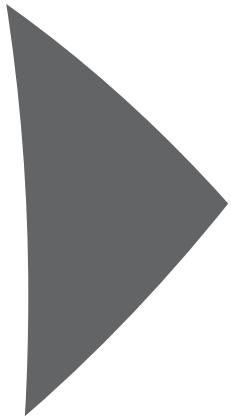
As far as the personal reasons mentioned above, these conferences have given me the opportunity to challenge my own ideas together with those of intelligent, sensitive and committed people; I realized how diverse our ways of seeing the same problem can be and recognized the value of each point of view; I have observed new generations and leaders paving new paths. But mainly, I believe that CLACAI conferences have been a good experience for me on a personal level because they gave me the opportunity to feel accompanied, cared for and nurtured.

Not all conferences are rewarding. Conferences can be a space in which experiences, people, organizations and institutions circulate; where ideas are presented and discussed; where questions, opinions and criticism are voiced; where one sees new “things” and meets new people. But there are conferences that, in addition to all this, are also rewarding. Such conferences are very different.

CLACAI conferences have been a meeting of several disciplines, generations, professional practices, and political commitments; a meeting of personal and institutional histories, social and political backgrounds, national and sub-cultural ties. Jointly, when brought together in space and time, they enable a climate for learning, creating and recreating.

That's how CLACAI conferences have been for me. I hope they continue on that course. Because beyond my very personal reasons, I believe—with great enthusiasm—that these conferences do us all good in this region; for changing what needs to be changed so that women have access to safe and legal abortion. We don't just need to have conferences, we need them to be rewarding. ■

Subregional Conferences



I. Andean Region Conference



Teresa Lanza
CATÓLICAS POR EL DERECHO A DECIDIR-BOLIVIA

With the aim of contributing to the exchange of knowledge and experience of professionals and activists from countries in the Andean sub-region for the prevention of unsafe abortion from a medical, legal and social point of view, on August 22 and 23, 2013 the first sub-regional Andean Conference was held on "Progress and Perspectives on Unsafe Abortion in the Andean Sub-Region." Approximately one hundred and fifty people participated in the conference, after which legislative and normative changes concerning abortion were achieved. Alternatives and experiences of scientific and academic nature have been implemented in relation to access to safe abortion with the application of new technologies and, ultimately, success stories increasing sensitivity were identified and shared by civil society organizations and activists on their political and social impact when addressing the problem of unsafe abortion as a matter that requires urgent attention from the State in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. In our case, participation from

Alternatives and experiences of scientific and academic nature have been implemented in relation to access to safe abortion with the application of new technologies and, ultimately, success stories were identified and shared by civil society organizations and activists on their political and social impact when addressing the problem of unsafe abortion as a matter that requires urgent attention from the State in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Sigue...

I. Andean Region Conferences

health authorities and professionals in public decision-making bodies, as well as from public services and private services has contributed to a better and deeper understanding of the problem of unsafe abortion in our countries.

We believe that each of the components addressed have contributed to deepening the problem in countries whose characteristics and idiosyncrasies are not only geographically but also culturally and ethnically similar among a significant number of indigenous and rural populations. Hence the importance of sub-regional conferences that can allow us to obtain results from the specific perspective of small groups of countries.

Moreover, members in the country hosting each sub-regional conference have had the opportunity to participate in an event of such significant scientific value. In the case of Bolivia, the event involved doctors, lawyers and activists from various cities of the country, who otherwise would have little or no chance of benefitting and learning from the experiences of other countries in helping women that are less likely to have access to quality professional services where they are treated with dignity.

Based on our rich experience, we encourage CLACAI to further develop and strengthen these important spaces for

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socialization and learning, as a contribution to the struggle against unsafe abortion affecting women. ■

II.

Central America, Mexico and The Caribbean Region Conference



Regina Fonseca
CENTRO DE DERECHOS DE MUJERES

Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, hosted the Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean Region Conference on September 19 and 20, 2013, on “*Unsafe Abortion and Human Rights in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean: Progress and Prospects*.” The conference was convened in order to reflect on the right to safe abortion and identify strategies for advancing the recognition of rights and access to safe abortion in the subregion.

There were over 100 participants, including researchers, lawyers, doctors, women's rights activists, academics and organization members from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Colombia.

Activities were focused around three axes: the legal and policy perspective, involving the situation of safe abortion legislation in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean as well as strategies for addressing it; the health perspective, where progress and experiences were shared for facing challenges in access to safe abortion and the stigma of abortion perspective, addressing findings in the subregion and how to overcome them.

The topics addressed were all relevant as abortion must be recognized as part of the right to self-determination and freedom of women. In addition, important and novel legal contributions were made so as to help with increasing sensitivity in the region. The obstacles and challenges facing female activists and also practices that challenge patriarchal norms were part of the discussion that contributed to new knowledge. The challenges that women face, even where abortion is legal but social stigma and sanction persists, were identified.

It was found that despite surrounding difficulties, efforts are being made in formal and community settings, to support women who choose to have an abortion and who are later incarcerated for their choice. It is important to share this subregional experience, so that these spaces may acquire greater value.

To sum up, the event enabled new alliances, strengthened old relationships and reaffirmed solidarity between activists, academic professionals and researchers. ■

III.

Southern Cone Region Conference

**Mariana Romero**

CEDES – CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DE ESTADO Y SOCIEDAD

The conference took place on Monday, November 4th and Tuesday, November 5th, 2013 at the Emérito Marchetti Auditorium of the Unión de Trabajadores de la Educación (Union of Education Workers, UTE) of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It was coordinated by Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES), with the support of a group of representatives of CLACAI member organizations from Argentina, including: Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC); Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir (CDD); Federación Argentina de Medicina General (FAMG); Fundación para la Salud del Adolescente (FUSA); and Lesbianas y Feministas por la Descriiminalización del Aborto.

The most salient points of the Conference were:

- The coordinated work between organizations in the country for developing a thematic agenda of issues brought up in specific CLACAI hearings, as well as experiences or visions of the countries in the subregion were taken into account.

- The support received from various organizations, either in terms of sponsorship or financial support, helped increase networks with several organizations and audiences, including: Amnesty International – Argentina (AI); Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS); Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género (ELA); Fundación Educación para la Salud Reproductiva (ESAR); Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM); Gynuity Health Projects; Instituto de Género, Derecho y Desarrollo (INSGENAR); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Ipas; The Population Council – Mexico; and UNFPA – Argentina. Direct financial support was obtained from The Population Council, IPAS and Gynuity Health Projects, ESAR (Argentina and Paraguay), Doctors without Borders (Uruguay) and the International Women's Health Coalition (US) funded their own participants.

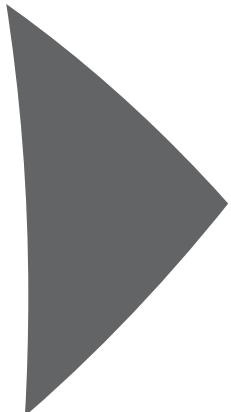
The global assessment from participants and institutions was very positive. The event consisted of two days of intense, constructive debate with novel contributions.

We understand that this conference represents a major contribution to our members:

- Because it helped us to identify pending issues or research gaps in the subregion;
- Because it revealed the diversity in the provision of services between countries that share cultural similarities but have taken different paths;
- Because it allowed the discussion of issues that acquire certain peculiarities in the subregion, such as the position of “the left” or conservative groups;

The global assessment from participants and institutions was very positive. The event consisted of two days of intense, constructive debate with novel contributions. But above all, it helped to consolidate partnerships and exchanges between countries and facilitated an interdisciplinary approach to improving women's access to safe abortion. We understand that these spaces allow for the deepening of contextual issues and the strengthening of subregional arguments for a broad agenda for progressing access to safe abortion. ■

Local Initiatives





Rosa Díaz Rodríguez
CENTRO DE ATENCIÓN EN SALUD INTEGRAL VERMELL

Local Initiatives are a great support for organizations that perform comprehensive services aimed at the reduction of unsafe abortion as they allow them to strengthen efforts to improve quality of care and promoting sexual and reproductive rights.

The opportunity to participate in a local initiative allowed us to expand access to medical abortion to vulnerable women in human settlements in the southern districts of Lima, where we were able to bring information and services to a greater number of couples and women of childbearing age, especially in low-income populations located in the needy southern districts of Lima. It was possible to train health promoters on issues related to health in general and sexual and reproductive health in particular; emphasizing sexual and reproductive rights.

Thanks to the initiative, we managed to promptly assist young women from human settlements, who were suffering from unwanted pregnancies. Through our information sessions, we educated a great number of men and women on the use of contraceptives, and thanks to personalized interventions, women were able to reduce their anxiety regarding the experience of an unwanted pregnancy.

The support of local initiatives can strengthen the various activities we conduct to increase access to safe abortion in areas that are remotely located, with high levels of poverty, poor education and high levels of violence, assisting an at-risk sector, such as women of childbearing age. The women

Thanks to the initiative, we managed to promptly serve young women from human settlements, who were suffering from unwanted pregnancies.

in the poorest and most remote places (such as low-income suburban areas) have serious difficulties in accessing sexual and reproductive health services.

I am convinced that organizations who work with vulnerable populations need a lot of support for the continuity of their services because women can hardly bear the costs. It is important for local initiatives to consider enhancing their resources and time to support organizations. We are confident that if achieved, it will benefit many women. ■



Debora Diniz

ANIS – INSTITUTO DE BIOÉTICA, DIREITOS HUMANOS E GÊNERO

Knowledge production, accumulation of reliable data, and design scenarios in different countries and throughout the region represent a significant boost for feminist organizations and the defense of women's rights.

The Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion (CLACAI) is one of the most important regional initiatives in the field of sexual and reproductive rights of women. CLACAI local initiatives in the field of access to safe and legal abortion have helped organizations and activists to understand and act more forcefully regarding training and sensitivity in Latin America.

Knowledge production, accumulation of reliable data, and design scenarios in different countries and throughout the region represent a significant boost for feminist organizations and the defense of women's rights.

In Brazil, CLACAI's local initiatives contributed in recent years to reaching new strategies for the expansion of sexual and reproductive rights. Today, there is an important debate in the field of health on access to safe and legal abortion in the country and the region. Smaller organizations benefit directly from these local initiatives and their continuity is essential to keep the discussion alive and, consequently, guaranteeing fundamental rights to women who suffer from increasingly restrictive laws in the field of health. ■



Victoria Amato
ASOCIACIÓN POR LOS DERECHOS CIVILES (ADC)

With the support of CLACAI during 2014, ADC was able to spark the debate on the right to safe and legal abortion in Argentina in one of the provinces with the highest poverty rates in the country. Through training activities, ADC provided support to civil society organizations in their efforts to address the obstacles that women encounter when they need access to legal and safe abortion.

It is worth remembering that in March 2012, our Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia de la Nación, CSJN) settled a long-debated issue in the Argentinian jurisprudence and clarified that abortion cannot be punishable when pregnancy results from rape and that, in such cases, judicial authorization or prior police report of the rape are not required to access abortion. In its judgment, the Court also ordered the Federal Government, the Provincial States and the City of Buenos Aires to enforce hospital protocols in order to remove all administrative or factual barriers to access to care services for non-punishable abortions.

Since the first anniversary of this decision, ADC is the only organization in Argentina that has been conducting periodic surveys that reflect its compliance; documenting existing protocols in the various provinces and revealing their strong suits and shortcomings.

Upon analyzing CLACAI's call, we found that in the Province of Santiago del Estero there were opportunities to work with

Our presence in the province, workshops and meetings allowed us to sensitize users of sexual and reproductive health services, public officials, legislators, and health care providers on the subject.

both local government and civil society, so we prepared our proposal. In addition to promoting the debate at the provincial level on the implications of the judgment in the case of "F.A.L.", we decided to strengthen our joint work and build on the technical and legal capacities of NGOs, women's groups, lawyers and health care providers.

Our presence in the province, workshops and meetings allowed us to educate users of sexual and reproductive health services, public officials and health care providers on the subject.

Thanks to CLACAI funds, we were also able to edit a manual for exercising, respecting and guaranteeing the right to legal abortion in Argentina a very useful document, not only in province but in the whole country, and in other Latin American countries as well, which can also be used as reference by lawyers, health care providers, women's groups, NGOs and government authorities. ■

Clacai Legal Group



Ximena Casas

PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA (PPFA)

The fight against unsafe abortion in Latin America has been the engine that allowed CLACAI to bring different experts together who, through a regional partnership, have promoted access to information, and appropriate strategies and technologies to reduce unsafe abortion and improve access to legal abortion in the countries of the region.

Within this range of collective efforts, CLACAI aimed to strengthen the capacity of its members through the development of a regional strategy to contribute to the consolidation of access to safe and legal abortion in Latin America. To do this, it set out to improve and increase the legitimacy of CLACAI lawyers through the consolidation of a Legal Network. This Legal Network aims to make the most of the experiences of these lawyers in their countries in defense of abortion rights to collaborate in developing emblematic legal cases.

Women's rights advocates have worked on different strategies which, in very general terms, have focused on two fronts: 1) to share good practice with regards to access to legal and safe abortion. 2) the existence of protocols or clinical practice guidelines through administrative standards to facilitate effective access without discrimination to all women who need legal abortion.

To understand these legal developments in which these strategies and challenges have resulted, CLACAI proposed this new space for dialogue for lawyers to share lessons learned and reflect on them. The purpose is to promote a closer dialogue between CLACAI member organizations and aspiring members in other countries, inviting them to be part of a process for exchanging information without interfering in national agendas. Our hope is that by sharing individual experiences, we can identify factors that lead to the success of legal actions.

Women's rights advocates have worked on different strategies which, in very general terms, have focused on two fronts: 1) the decriminalization of new exceptions to minimize legal barriers and 2) the existence of protocols or clinical practice guidelines through administrative standards to facilitate effective access without discrimination to all women who need legal abortion.

In that regard, last October the first meeting of the Legal Committee was held in Guatemala City. A total of 52 lawyers throughout the region attended for the purpose of: 1) discussing the different ways in which abortion in cases of rape has been regulated in some Latin American countries and how its implementation has been challenged in order to consider whether or not the inclusion of such exception can help guarantee access to legal abortion; 2) sharing strategies to identify guidelines that can help implement such exception in countries where it has already been implemented while increasing access to safe and legal abortion to rape victims in countries where such exception is inapplicable; 3) learning some strategies that have been identified and implemented in countries where rape exception is not regulated. As a result of this, lawyers developed a flurry of legal strategies for countries where rape is not a ground for legal abortion and countries where it is.

This new Legal Network hopes to boost communication between peers to share lessons and identify opportunities for collaboration that help implement the recognition

of reproductive rights standards¹ contained in the constitutions and laws of countries in the region, where recognition is not translating into access to safe and legal abortion, constituting an Achilles heel for women in situations of vulnerability. ■

¹ Examples of international instruments include: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, 1948; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998; Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1993; Programme of Action, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; and Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995. Regional treaties include the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador), 1988.

Group of Service Providers



Daniel O. Teppaz
RED DE ACCESO AL ABORTO SEGURO EN ARGENTINA (REDAAS)

In most of our countries, specifically in the Southern Cone region, except Chile, there are ways to decriminalize abortion. Specifically in Argentina, it has been almost 100 years since abortion was decriminalized incase of rape; and, in recent years, thanks to strong commitment from non-governmental organizations, implementation policies have been discussed increasingly.

In the case of Argentina, the difficulties are seen at all levels; macro, meso and micro. Therefore, I believe CLACAI can contribute to changes on each of these levels, either directly, or by strengthening the organizations that compose it. We now have the experience of regional meetings, supporting and creating awareness of local initiatives while gradually contributing to the creation of networks based on trust and alliances and forging changes at local levels. Improving our outreach at a local, meso, and micro level

is paramount for helping to strengthen networks and to favoring changes from the bottom up while paving the way for real laws as well as rendering existing laws operational. It is also a way to strengthen CLACAI renewing and adapting it at the same time to the changing and heterogenous circumstances happening in the region.

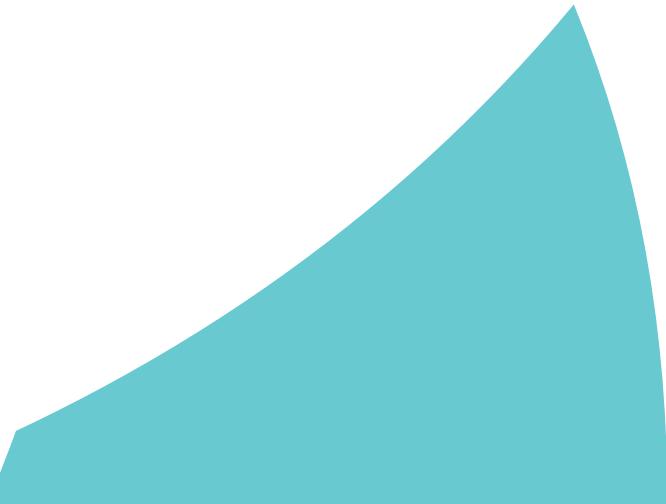
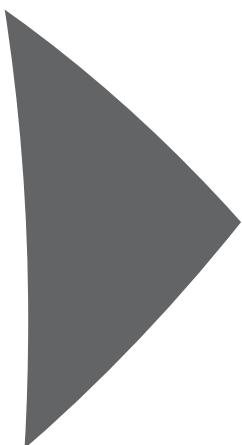
The next few years are an opportunity to further advance CLACAI's visibility and positioning, while continuing to strive to incorporate new members and new organizations. The weight of arguments found in the Consortium have to be part of the daily life of the teams working in each of our countries. The loneliness that providers and public policy makers often face remains a major obstacle for promoting the autonomy of women. Communication, legal, management and public policy tools are needed, and are already an important part of the Strategic Plan for CLACAI's next period.

The next few years are an opportunity to further advance CLACAI's visibility and positioning, while continuing to strive to incorporate new members and new organizations. The arguments found in the Consortium have to be part of the daily life of the teams working in each of our countries. The loneliness that providers and public policy makers often face remains a major obstacle for promoting the autonomy of women.

Some questions whose answers would contribute to improve local initiatives are the following: How should we increase awareness of abortion service providers? How could we clarify the serious problem caused by the lack of regulation of conscientious objection? How do we increase knowledge of pertinent laws to reassure providers while improving access to women? How do we deepen rape exception and health exception? How do we organize services within a healthcare network to reduce the stigma of suppliers and users? What are the best tools available for managing abortions beyond the first quarter taking into account that this is one of the biggest problems that healthcare providers face? How do we support the creation of public policies that improve access to medication and enable more training in techniques such as MVA? How do we promote regional and local research projects in order to design new strategies?

Without losing our optimism, we realize that we are facing tough times in Argentina. The new civil and criminal codes, create more questions regarding certain legal aspects, although they don't have to be seen as an obstacle in our fight. Thus, communication between all actors involved paramount. Meanwhile, progress may be slow, but we will never retreat. ■

The Clacai model for other fields





Fabian Portnoy
FEDERACIÓN ARGENTINA DE MEDICINA GENERAL (FAMG)

O

n October 10th and 11th, as a representative of CLACAI, I participated in the “Fall Universities Meeting” held by the French organization Médecins du Monde (MdM).

The meeting, held in the city of Nantes (France), brought together the highest authorities of MdM, members of the administrative and advisory committees, and local representatives of that organization, in order to discuss Médecins du Monde's models of organization, operation and alternative governance.

In the framework of this event, CLACAI and other organizations were invited to present their organizational model. Thus, while focusing on the core issue in the roundtable, we shared our experience, together with that of colleagues from the Education without Borders Network of Belgium and Handicap International of France.

The contents in this presentation included a description of:

- the epidemiological, legal and political framework of abortion in the region
- CLACAI's origin, structure and lines of action
- CLACAI's operating model and governance

Knowing that MdM's main interest was focused on the governance models of participating institutions, I used part of my presentation time to emphasize how the organizational and governance model of an organization are closely related to its objectives, specific legal framework and policies affecting its members, among others.

During the question round the following was raised: changes occurring in CLACAI's government structure (e.g. how the Advisory Committee is now integrated) and the need to stimulate and strengthen the functioning of working groups for specific areas (legal, service providers, communication and outreach, etc.).

The presentation was very well received, and to my understanding, very relevant to the objectives pursued by MdM. Obviously, this has not been a traditional space for CLACAI's work. Our organization has often participated in different areas (congresses, conferences, meetings, etc. presenting and sharing the daily activities of member organizations, their members, different regional realities, cases and situations that require urgent attention. However, on this occasion we were summoned to explain our organizational model, which is recognized as a model of participatory and democratic work.

We would like to mention and thank the support and cooperation received during the event from Soledad Diaz, our CLACAI partner who is an active member of MdM. ▀



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