

Alianza Argentina

de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil
en seguimiento de compromisos internacionales

The *Alliance of Civil Society Organizations of Argentina in follow-up of international commitments* states:

The growth of **poverty** was significant in recent years and has reduced access only to the public health sector, as well as to public education. The pandemic has brought to light these inequalities. There is an urgent need to redress the historical injustice with a set of measures that include a tax reform that reduces unfair and inequitable taxes (VAT) and produces proportional tax profits.

In **sexual and reproductive health**, the highlights in this area since 2017 have been: -National Directorate-, the update of the Protocol on Legal Termination of Pregnancy -ILE-, the incorporation of the SDGs into the First Plan of Equality and Opportunities and Rights, the National Plan of Prevention for Unintentional Pregnancy in Adolescence, and recognition as an essential service during the COVID19 pandemic.

Obstacles remain for adolescents, women and LGBTIQ + people to access these services, including hormonalization, ILE and information on sexual and reproductive rights. The violation of the rights of girls and adolescents requiring contraceptive methods or ILE was detected. The legalization and decriminalization of abortion, which impacts maternal mortality, remains a pending debt.

STIs have increased in recent years, especially syphilis, chlamydia, and papillomavirus. New HIV cases did not decrease, especially in adolescents and women over 50. Since 2016, antiretrovirals, test reagents and condoms have been regularly missing. The surrogacy pregnancy practices are carried out without a regulatory framework at the national level that protects parents, surrogates and / or infants, whose filial identity, except in the City of Buenos Aires. Thanks to the work of the Argentine LGBT + Federation, this issue now depends on a judicial decision.

In **Work**, it should be noted that job insecurity increased, a modality that predominates in women and youth, migrants, people with disabilities, self-employed, domestic or domestic workers, and women who identify themselves as sex workers. In the framework of the pandemic, these groups remain totally unprotected. Unemployment impacts more women and less pay for equal work is recorded. In the face of the pandemic, the impact is greater for women because they are more at risk of unemployment, inability to have an income, and receiving assistance from governments. Specific policies are needed to decrease informal work, which generates a lack of income, especially among women street vendors; caregivers of children, sick, elderly or disabled; domestic workers, and those who identify as sex workers. It is essential to end the discrimination suffered by women in situations of prostitution and those who identify themselves as sex workers.

The **Unpaid Care**, in 2018 Law No. 6.025, was passed in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, which modified the care licensing regime for workers in the city's public sector. However, the current licensing scheme in Argentina reflects a fragmented and stratified access to the right to care that varies according to place of residence, type of job placement and family formation. Since 2020, the recognition and valuation of unpaid domestic work and care work has been an advance. With the creation of the Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, it is expected to achieve results in this area. It has a National Care Directorate, which will build the care map, and promote an Inter Ministerial Table of Care Policies, to design and implement a comprehensive national care system. The debt and the great challenge is to advance public policies that go beyond exceptional measures during the pandemic, recognize unpaid care work, invest in infrastructure and care services, and comprehensively reform the current licensing scheme to achieve universal access.

The pandemic showed the fragility of the tools we have to prevent another pandemic, that of gender **violence**. The suspension of the operation of the judicial system and the territorial complaint centers made access to justice for victims of violence and the implementation of protection measures against the perpetrators almost impossible. The confinement in homes added to these measures and caused a 39% increase in calls to help lines. There is a recorded increase in femicides with the largest number of them occurring within the home. We are urgently considering the provision of specific funds to face this problem.

National legislation that protects people from **discriminatory acts** does not include people with different sexual orientation and / or gender identity and / or expression. The ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (A-68), and the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (A-69), which provide protection from a regional regulatory framework, and which were signed in 2013 by Argentina, are still pending ratification in Parliament.

Building **strong institutions** (SDG 16) requires that progress in rights be equal across the country. Federalism cannot be invoked as an excuse for the arbitrary denial of rights to women and girls. Several provincial governments refuse to adopt national laws, policies or programs. To solve this problem, an inter-institutional articulation is required and a legislative harmonization program that guarantees that provincial autonomy is not used to curtail rights. State responsibility is indivisible and the failure of a province compromises the International Responsibility of the Argentine State.