

Thanks for the invitation, especially to Veronique and the team of Le Planning Familial.

-I would like to start with three affirmations:

First: In Argentina, abortion will never go back to the “closet”.

Second: The “Green tide” will not stop.

Third: The approval of a law legalizing abortion in Argentina is inevitable. Sooner than later, abortion will be legal, safe and free for all women, girls, adolescents and pregnant persons.

Why is the green tide unstoppable?

Because there are decades of fights, of a feminist movement with a long history.

I will briefly talk about what happened 1983, after we recovered the democracy.

Our spine are the National Women Meetings.

For over thirty years, fifty thousand women gather every year -in all their diversity, from all corners of the country- to debate during three days about our rights and our lives.

It has been the breeding ground for many debates and public policies. In addition, the National Campaign for Legal Free and Safe Abortion was born in the National Women Meeting in the city of Rosario in 2005, and more than 500 organizations support the Campaign nowadays.

One of the factor why we achieve our rights is because we work with transversely.

Women for different political parties and social organizations work together, despite their differences, to achieve public policies.

For example, when the bill of female quota was approved. Argentina was the first country in the world to achieve it. The transversal work was crucial as it was too in the conquest of other laws such as sexual health, comprehensive sexual education, parity and last year during the debate on abortion.

The **green tide** has a clear goal, the autonomy of women. The green tide was not born from one day to the next.

The Commission for the Decriminalization of Abortion was born in the early 90s, before the National Campaign, the deputy Florentina Gómez Miranda, who was even verbally attacked

by some of her colleagues, when she presented the first bill on the decriminalization of abortion.

Therefore, the defense of human rights and social mobilizations in Argentina are not new. The symbol of the campaign is this bandana/scarf. It's inspired in the mothers and grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo. They are a reference in the defense of human rights.

Today, the Green Tide is strong thanks to "the revolution of the daughters", like it was named by a journalist. They are teenagers and young adults who support the tide and the fight. It's amazing.

I was able to see 12 and 13 years old girls and teenagers in the rally on March 8th, a massive event in the country and in the world. We are still in shock.

They are a new political subject that was born with the abortion debate. The days of voting, in both Chambers, were wonderful; all was green, full of young people in many squares of the country, two million people in front of the National Congress. It was historic. However, our senators did not hear our voices, and especially their voices. Nevertheless, now, politicians will not be able to avoid the topics of abortion and comprehensive sexual education, because 39% of the electoral roll is millennial.

The law was not approved, but we achieved a cultural change.

People talk about abortion at all times and everywhere: at schools, clubs, during family meetings. In television programs, and especially in social media, there is an important support. We talk about "the social decriminalization": the result of a work that took many years.

Nowadays, we are in alert and a resistant moment. Fundamentalist groups are stronger in Argentina and do you know what they don't want? They do not want the freedom of the women.

Abortion is legal in Argentina for reasons: rape or when a woman's life or health is in danger. Activists and health professionals that guarantee abortion suffer violence, are attacked.

Lucía is a girl from the province of Tucuman. She was raped by her grandfather and became pregnant. She did have the right to a legal abortion.

She was not likely to survive carrying her pregnancy to term. The girl had entered the health system only 16 weeks into her pregnancy. The matter should have been resolved as soon as possible, but the provincial government delayed the procedure. After 23 weeks, she had a caesarean section. They tortured a girl.

They forced an 11-year-old girl, against her will, to have a baby. The baby died last on March 8th. They are convinced that women are procreation machines; they endorse slavery in the 21st century.

I have more bad news to share with you: the doctors who made the cesarean were denounced for homicide, this Monday. It is inadmissible.

Finally, I would like to say that we are redoubling our efforts to continue the fight; we are drafting a new bill that we will present this year. Remember that 2019 is an electoral year in Argentina and the context is a difficult to debate.

However, we will continue and we will not stop until there is sex education to decide and legal, free and safe abortion for all women and girls and pregnant persons! THANKS!