

## **PRESENTATION**

My name is Luciana Rivero, I'm social worker since 2009, when I finished to study in the university. After that, I've been traveling for six months in a few countries in Latin-America and when I came back to Buenos Aires I decided to continue studying.

At first, I worked in some institutions of mental health with adults and male teenagers. I participated in academics activities, presenting works about the impact of the relation between us, as social workers, and the people that suffers any mental illness.

In 2012 I moved out with my partner to another city in Argentina and I began to work with children's that lives in a residence without their parents. Despite this, when you work with children you should work with their families, in that case, we (we where two social workers and a psychologist) worked to guarantee good living conditions for the family so that the children could return to their homes.

I remember specially that job as the one when I started to think interventions with gender perspective and how that makes differences when we have to analyze strategies.

Then, in 2014 we came back to Buenos Aires, I became a mother and I pass that whole year with my baby. But at the same time I try to study and reading a lot about gender and feminism.

Since that moment, I'm working with women, adults women. Now I'm in the Gender Direction and sexual diversity of the municipality where I live, Vicente López.

Otherwise, i´m working in a project with three friends an professionals (a lawyer, one psychologist and one social psychologist) we want to work with companies that are interested in work with gender politics inside the company.

I began my studies in 2002, after the 2001 crisis. That one was a social economic crisis with great processes of impoverishment and social movements of solidarity and social struggle. This also implied a great crisis of political representativeness, people asked for "ieveryone leaves!" as a slogan in marches in the government house in the "Plaza de Mayo" (May Plaza). On December 20, 2001, the president of that moment resigned his post and left us with a great image of him leaving the government house by helicopter... among many and worse things that he left us. 39 persons were killed by the police during that process.

I think that's very important information, I want that you know about the social and political context when I began my university studies.

It was not until 2003 that the presidential elections were resumed and a stage of greater political stability began, accompanied by public policies aimed at strengthening human rights. The same political force (a part of "Peronismo" that it is named as "Kirchnerismo" because of Néstor Kirchner, our president from 2003 until 2009) remained in the government until 2015.

In that 12 years I finished my professional studies and began my experience as a social worker.

Since 2015 and, I hope until next December, our president is Mauricio Macri. He is a person linked to business world, his father was one of de many

businessmen that grew in the nineties, when businessmen began to be related to state issues.

The shrinking of the state was not progressive, as soon as he took office, he and his team began to close social, health and educational programs, giving them less money or closing them directly.

At this moment we are going through a severe economic crisis, where the value of our currency depreciates day by day, the prices of basic products are very high and wages are not enough to cover the needs. Many people have lost their jobs and social policies do not accompany these processes but rather intensify them.

Again, as in the nineties, the private sector takes place against the public and this clearly excludes those who must survive day by day.

In terms of gender, which is where I work, women organize more massively in recent years and we go out to the streets to fight for our rights.

To strengthen this historical journey, I will name some laws that accompany the process through which women and sexual dissidents became part of the state's agenda:

- *Law 25,673. Creation of the National Program for Sexual Health and Responsible Procreation:* Promotes the creation of a public health program within the scope of the Ministry of Health. The objectives of this program are translated into maternal and child morbidity and mortality, it is promoted in the decision-making related to sexual health and responsible procreation, among other objectives. For your concern, since last year we don't have anymore a Ministry, now we

have a Secretary with a lower executive capacity. But by that time, this Program had already been disarmed.

- In **2006** the ***Comprehensive Sexual Education Law*** (we name it "ESI" are the acronym for "Ley de Educación Sexual Integral") was passed, which aims to guarantee the sexual education for all children and adolescents in their schools. The law creates the "National Comprehensive Sexual Education Program" that was born in 2008 under the Ministry of Education of the Nation. You can check a lot of information about this program online (<https://www.educ.ar/recursos/107056/educacion-sexual-integral>); I participated in trainings for teachers. Now, despite being law, it still applies with difficulties in schools. On the one hand, by pressure from different religious groups that are against the Program and, on the other hand, there are different interpretations about its application, which ends up being a decision of each institution that the State does not guarantee.
- In **2009**, it was sanctioned at the national level the "***Protection law to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women in areas where they develop their interpersonal relationships***". Here we typify the different ways of violence against women: Sexual, emotional, physical, symbolic and economic. Currently, the strength of public policy at the national level in this regard is a toll-free telephone line from which it is contained and provides information to women who require it, to refer them to local spaces that correspond to the place where the events occur.

- Law **26.743** of recognizes the right to have self-perceived sexual identity in the national document, as well as access to comprehensive health care for transgender people. This law is from **2012** and we named it "**Gender identity law**". Currently, some state offices are working on securing a percentage of work quota for transgender people.
- **2015: "Protocol for the legal interruption of pregnancy"**: Promote the right that they have throughout the country women, girls, adolescents and everyone with the ability to carry out a pregnancy, to access the legal interruption of pregnancy when it falls within the causes foreseen by the regulatory system of the country, is among the main actions implemented by the National Program of Sexual Health and Responsible Procreation to achieve the objectives established in its creation law (25,673). This causes are:
  - pregnancy represents a danger to the life of the woman and this danger can not be avoided by other means;
  - pregnancy represents a danger to the health of the woman and this danger can not be avoided by other means;
  - the pregnancy comes from a rape;
  - pregnancy comes from a rape on a woman with intellectual disability or mental.

Last year, we women mobilized to get the termination of pregnancy legalized, with strong resistance from religious and fanatical groups. Senators did not authorize the law, allowing thousands of poor women to continue dying in hiding, due to the relationship of insecure practices in what is considered the main cause of maternal death. Also, little girls are forced to give birth.

Today, despite the fact that the Protocol is in force, it is not fulfilled and girls and women are abused and expelled at the time of requesting it. So we scream **"SEX EDUCATION TO DECIDE, CONTRACEPTIVES NOT TO ABORT, LEGAL ABORTION TO NOT DIE"** It will be law!!!!

- *2019 "Micaela law" and "Law of street harassment"*. The first one establishes mandatory training for all state officials on gender violence. Crazy right? You would think that professionals that works in that theme has been trained but unfortunately many officials continue to work from the (dangerous) common sense.

It is important to mention that Micaela is a young woman who was a victim of rape and femicide in 2017. Her killer had a penalty for other sexual attacks and was on "probation" when he abused and killed the young woman.

About our youngest law, the regulation aims to punish behavior or expressions (verbal or non-verbal) that have a sexual connotation and that affect or damage the dignity or free circulation of women, or that generate a hostile or offensive environment.