



INFORME BIENAL 2020 / 2021

CATÓLICAS POR EL DERECHO A DECIDIR

(Catholics for the Right to Decide) 2020-2021 Activity Report

It is hard to describe these two years after so many emotions and challenges. Days after the big march on March 8, 2020, the world seemed as if it had come to a halt in the face of the pandemic, but our work had not. We learned to reconfigure the way we work, live, and relate to one another and to promote other processes of solidarity for loss and injustices. We understood the need to build community in new ways, to resist on other fronts, and to live out our religion and spirituality from other spaces.

Changes were also experienced within the organization when the interim director, Gillian Fawcett, resigned from the staff after more than 20 years of service, leading us to join CDD as co-directors with an institutional commitment to intergenerational renovation and shared feminist leadership.

Along the way, as we adapted to the virtual world, we continued lifting

voices, accompanying individuals, and promoting social and political changes. In particular, and with immense joy, we celebrated the fruits of the long fight that has been developed within feminist activism in Mexico resulting in the decriminalization of abortion in Hidalgo, Veracruz, Baja California, and Colima as well as the rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice. We also celebrated the progress made throughout the country in favor of the rights of people from the LBGTQIA+ community.

We strongly embrace all those who have fought to guarantee free and chosen maternities as well as those who promote the respect for diverse ways of being and loving, provided that today, more than ever, we know that collective work bears fruits. We thank CDD's team and partner organizations, our board, our donors, and all those who follow our work for having accompanied us during these years of transition.

Lola Guerra & Paula Sánchez Mejorada Co-Directors HIGHLIGHTING \
DIVERSE \
VOICES



With our communication efforts, we shared messages to continue contributing to the social and cultural transformations that we want to see.

A Faith and Information-Based Approach to Social Decriminalization

WE UPDATED OUR CAMPAIGN LA OTRA MIRADA CATÓLICA DEL ABORTO (THE OTHER CATHOLIC VIEW ON ABORTION)

We are convinced that a Catholic can interrupt a pregnancy in harmony with what this person's conscience dictates, since the Catholic tradition also gives us the opportunity to make our decisions freely and, especially, because supporting these decisions is a demonstration of love for one's neighbor.

CONDENAR NO ES CATÓLICO

SI CONOCES A UNA MUJER QUE INTERRUMPIÓ UN EMBARAZO #RESPETASUDECISION

OTRAMIRADA CATOLICA DEL ABORTO



Therefore, in 2021, we updated the microsite www.otramirada.catolicasmexico.org to incorporate the section Acompañar es católico (Accompanying is Catholic) with the aim of promoting that it is a Catholic value to support women and people with the capacity to become pregnant who need to interrupt their pregnancy. In this section, you can find the video "Did you know you're still a good Catholic when you support a woman in her decision to interrupt a pregnancy?"



WITH THIS CAMPAIGN, WE REACHED OVER

1.8 MILLION

PEOPLE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA.

In addition, we promote the campaign "A Different Catholic View on Abortion" in the state of Oaxaca to contribute to access to abortion after legal decriminalization, through many actions:



La voz de la Sierra Juárez

159

Radio Universidad



INTERVIEWS IN THE PROGRAMS

- Sucedió en Oaxaca
- La voz de la Sierra Juárez
- Tercer Espacio





13 PRESS RELEASES

Disseminated in

11

Mass media





POSTERS

Disseminated in

6

Municipalities

3

Civil organizations



Reached with the strategy on Facebook

2,711

PEOPLE

Reached with the press conference

With the support of the Centro Profesional Indígena de Asesoría, Defensa y Traducción A.C. (CEPIADET) and local people, we produced radio capsules in Zapotec from the Central Valley to expand the reach of our messages.

WE SPREAD OTHER VOICES THROUGH THE PRESENTATION ON VOTIVE OFFERINGS FROM CATHOLIC WOMEN: AMID FAITH AND FREEDOM

With the presentation "Exvotos de mujeres católicas: entre la fe y la Libertad" (Votive Offerings from Catholic Women: Amid Faith and Freedom), organized by Las Consejeras de Oaxaca, we shared testimonies from Catholic women who have undergone an abortion, as part of the development of progressive feminist and theological narratives that contribute to decriminalizing abortion by recognizing freedom of conscience and appealing to the belief that "Jesus does not judge anyone for making decisions about their body."







WE SPREAD THE MESSAGE SO MORE WOMEN WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT LEGAL ABORTION IN OAXACA











Together with Las Consejeras de Oaxaca, Grupo de Estudios Sobre la Mujer "Rosarios Castellanos" A.C., (GESMujer), Consorcio Oaxaca, the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), and the "Trenzando saberes" Oaxacan Network of Indigenous Women, we continued to spread information about the right to legal and safe abortion in Oaxaca.



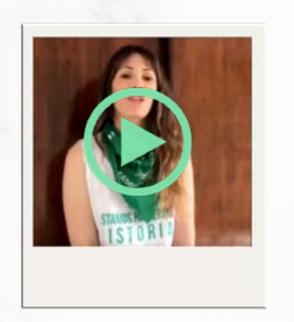
To do so, we developed digital messages that reached 300,000 people.



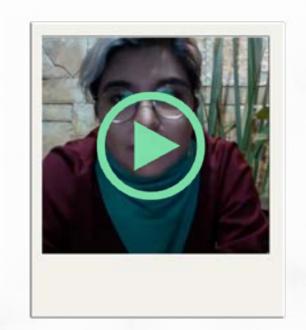
In addition, we supported different actions on the ground, including coordinated efforts with local organizations that are working on the issue.

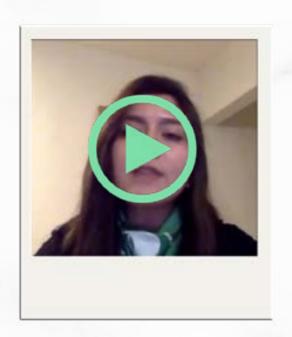
WE JOINED IN ON PUBLICIZING THE DOCUMENTARY QUE SEA LEY [MAKE IT LAW]























The documentary, distributed by Ambulante, raises awareness about the protests organized by the Marea Verde (Green Wave)



As well as the organization and advocacy process to demand the decriminalization of abortion in Argentina.

For More Inclusive \leq Churches and Societies

WE LAUNCHED THE NEW SEASON OF OUR ANIMATED SERIES CATOLICADAS

The new season was created based on results from an evaluation on how the series' messages were received, which concluded that, over the years, Catolicadas has contributed to transforming its followers' beliefs, attitudes, or viewpoints on:

- -> ABORTION
- > REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- > SEXUALITY
- > VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- > SEXUAL DIVERSITY, AMONG OTHER ISSUES



The new season's first episode, which addresses violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, was launched as part of the #25N campaign for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and it reached 510,000 people.

WE REACHED
510,000
PEOPLE

WE BROADENED THE CONVERSATION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGIES

In collaboration with feminist theologies, we launched the series Diálogos desde el confinamiento" (Dialogues from Confinement), which questions conservative religious ideas that limit the exercise of rights. We addressed issues such as:

- GUILT-FREE SEXUALITY
- FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE
- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- * SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- **ABORTION**

as a collective commitment to depatriarchalizing churches and reclaiming women's autonomy and sex-gender diversity.



"SIN DIVERSIDAD NO HAY IGLESIA"

(Without Diversity, There Is No Church)
Dialogue on queer theologies and the experience
of diversities within churches.



"DECONSTRUYENDO LA MATERNIDAD DESDE LA TEOLOGÍA FEMINISTA"

(Deconstructing Maternity from a Standpoint of Feminist Theology) Reflection on maternity, not as a divine act, an imposition, or an obligatory fate, but rather as a free and voluntary choice, as a choice that requires a desire.



"LA DUDA OFENDE: NEGAR LA BENDICIÓN DESHUMANIZA"

(Doubt Offends: Denying the Blessing Dehumanizes)
Reflections from different religious confessions about the Vatican's communiqué (Responsum ad dubium), which opposes blessing the unions of same-sex couples.



"DECOLONIZACIÓN DEL AMOR ROMÁNTICO"

(Decolonizing Romantic Love)

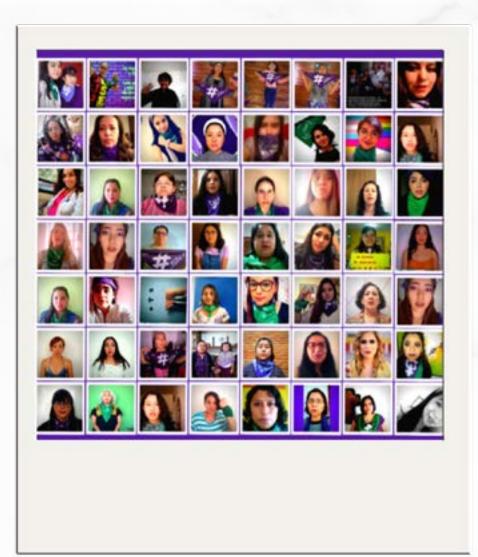
A reflection on the myth of patriarchal and sacrificial romantic love that comes from the Judeo-Christian and European tradition and on how to remove it from our standpoints on feminism and spirituality from the Global South.

WE LAUNCHED THE CAMPAIGN "SIN MUJERES NO HAY IGLESIA" (WITHOUT WOMEN, THERE IS NO CHURCH)

The campaign, launched as part of March 8 efforts, raised awareness about our followers' experiences based on their identities as women who are believers and feminists. With videos and messages, more than 100 members of our community of different religious confessions, shared how they experience their spirituality with freedom and beyond religious conservatism. We reached nearly







The hashtag #SinMujeresNoHaylglesia became a reference of the feminist struggle for different religions.

WE REACTIVATED THE CAMPAIGN "NO TODAS LAS FAMILIAS SON IGUALES: DONDE HAY AMOR, HAY FAMILIA" (NOT ALL FAMILIES ARE THE SAME: WHERE THERE IS LOVE, THERE IS FAMILY)

As part of the International Day of Families, we raised awareness about family diversity and demonstrated that the family model which the Catholic church's hierarchy aims to impose is not the same as what Jesus knew and promoted. With photographs from our followers, we shared with nearly



that there is not just one model for a Christian family and that, in daily life, love within families is seen and experienced in ways that are truly diverse.







Challenges of the Pandemic =

WE SHARED INFORMATION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN

As a response to the increase in violence against women during the pandemic, we launched the campaign #DistanciaSeguraySinViolencias (Safe Distance Without Violence), together with the National Observatory on Feminicide (OCNF, for its Spanish initials), to spread information on care for victims of violence during the pandemic in 17 of the country's states. The campaign also included support services from legal and psychosocial advisors in states, which offered information and accompaniment to 532 women. For this initiative, we joined efforts with the National Refugees Network to share information about their services. Thanks to the campaign

3300 WOMEN RECEIVED ATTENTION FROM THE NETWORK



WE JOINED THE OBSERVATORY ON GENDER AND COVID-19 IN MEXICO.



The observatory is the coordinated effort of a diverse range of organizations and activists on the national level. It monitors actions implemented by the State to face the pandemic and ensures that they comply with human rights obligations from a perspective of gender and intersectionality. It is also an initiative that demonstrates civil society's contributions to making equality and justice the framework of action in the new normality.

PROMOTING PUBLIC POLICIES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS



Our work contributed to the State's guarantee of the full exercise of human rights, particularly rights to sexuality, human reproduction, and lives free of violence and discrimination.

Advocacy Evidence and \leq Resources

WE DEVELOPED THE INFORME SOBRE
LAICIDAD Y DERECHOS REPRODUCTIVOS Y
SEXUALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
[REPORT ON LAICISM AND REPRODUCTIVE
AND SEXUAL RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN]

In collaboration with the Benito Juárez Special Chair of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, we analyzed the normative and regulatory frameworks of the secular State in the Latin American region as well as the challenges for its implementation, particularly in regard to sexual and reproductive rights.



WE DRAFTED A TECHNICAL REPORT ON ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN OAXACA

The report explores:









of women in relation to unplanned and/or unwanted pregnancy and legal interruption of pregnancy in four regions of Oaxaca. The document identifies the barriers and needs surrounding access to health services faced by women in remote areas after the state legally decriminalized abortion. We presented the report to local authorities with the intention of improving the conditions for abortion access, and we are using the results to inform our outreach efforts.

WE MAPPED OUT RELEVANT ACTORS FOR OUR WORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



With the Latin American and Caribbean CDD Network (Red LAC CDD), we mapped out actors who, based on their faith, take a stance in favor of sexual and reproductive rights.



Building on this, we promoted dialogues and joint actions aimed at raising awareness of progressive religious voices in public spaces.



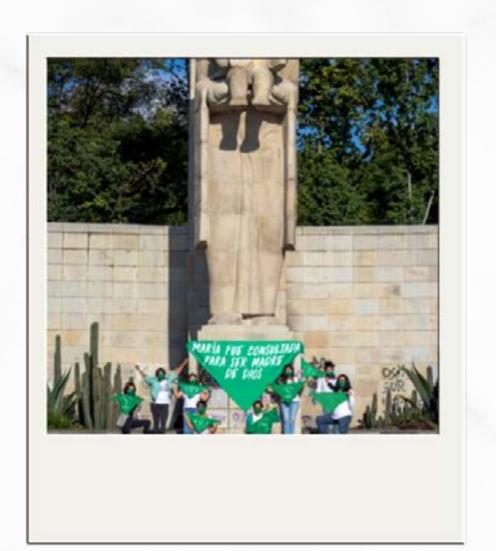
In parallel, we mapped out neoconservative actors in the region, which allowed us to analyze their current configurations and strategies to inform our interventions.

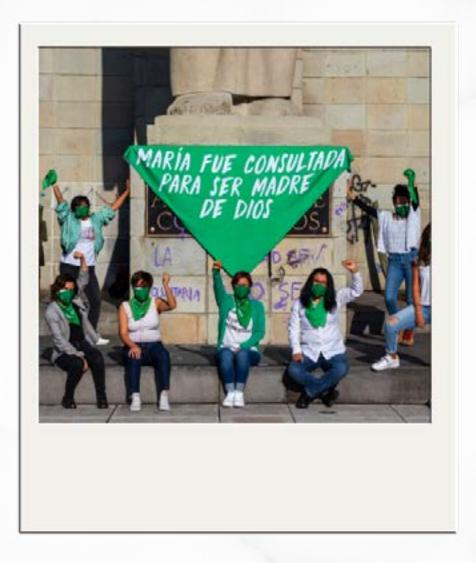
WE PARTICIPATED IN FORMING THE CENTRO DE INCIDENCIA BASADA EN EVIDENCIA (EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY CENTER)

Together with allies from Latin America, members of Fòs Feminista's ecosystem, we promoted this center as a space for systematizing and exchanging tools and good practices to produce evidence geared at contributing to advocacy efforts for issues related to:

- > SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- -> GENDER EQUALITY
- -> SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Green Wave Floods Mexico and Latin America





WE SHARED ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE IN DIFFERENT STATES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

As part of the public debates on abortion decriminalization in the State of Mexico, Puebla, Hidalgo, Guerrero, Colima, Veracruz, and Quintana Roo, we joined local allies and provided arguments in matters of secularity, public ethics, and freedom of conscience. Accordingly, we positioned voices that offer an alternative perspective to that of conservative discourses that threaten the freedom and rights of women and people with the capacity to become pregnant.







Decriminalization of abortion in Veracruz (Xalapa and Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico, 2021)



Decriminalization of abortion, Colectiva Colmena Verde (Colima, Mexico, 2021)



September 28 mobilization (Mexico City, 2021)



Actions promoting social decriminalization of abortion. (Puebla, Mexico, 2021)



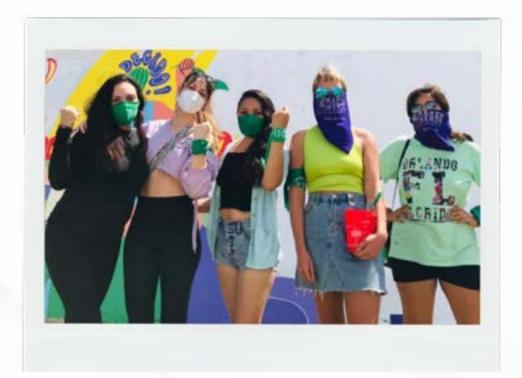
Decriminalization in Colima, Colectiva Colmena Verde (Colima, Mexico, 2021)



Actions promoting social decriminalization of abortion (Oaxaca, Mexico, 2021)



Actions promoting social decriminalization of abortion in Hidalgo (Hidalgo, Mexico, 2021)



Support for collectives in Quintana Roo (Quintana Roo, Mexico, 2021)

WE ACCOMPANIED OUR COLLEAGUES FROM THE REGION IN THE FIGHT IN FAVOR OF ABORTION.

Together with our colleagues from CDD Argentina

who have been a fundamental part of

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHT TO LEGAL, SAFE, AND FREE ABORTION

we celebrated the country's legalization of abortion up to the fourteenth week of gestation. We also contributed to arguments for the process promoted by Causa Justa in Colombia in their fight to decriminalize the interruption of pregnancy. Moreover, we accompanied the Dominican Christian Alliance and our colleagues from CDD Dominican Republic in the public debate in favor of abortion in the cases when the pregnancy is life-threatening, unviable, or the result of rape or incest.

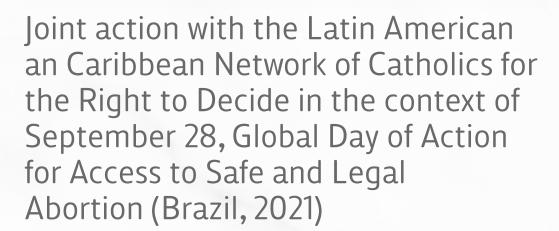






Decriminalization of abortion in Argentina (Argentina, December 2020)







Feminist Impact Gathering for the Right and Access to Abortion in Latin America," CDD Network (Argentina, 2021)





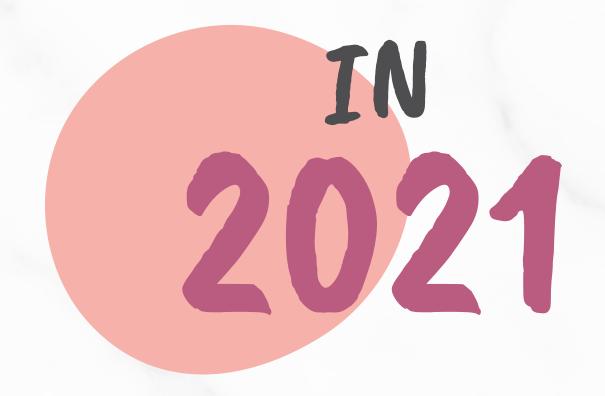
Great March on Congress for the Three Cases, ARCD (Colombia, 2021)





ACRD discussion with Minou Taveras Mirabal, daughter of Minerva Mirabal.

WE CELEBRATED THE RULINGS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE NATION (SCJN) IN FAVOR OF THE RIGHT TO DECIDE



the SCJN issued several rulings in favor of bodily autonomy and the right to decide of women and people with the capacity to become pregnant.



The court has been clear:

- > CRIMINALIZING ABORTION IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND THREATENS OUR RIGHTS;
- > "PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION"

 CANNOT BE USED TO HINDER ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS;
- AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IS NOT ABSOLUTE AND MUST BE EXPLICITLY REGULATED IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THESE RIGHTS.

These rulings set a precedent that further supports our efforts to decriminalize abortion and promote access to health services in the entire country. This achievement is the result of the feminist movement's historic advocacy and activism work. The rulings fuel our enthusiasm and commitment to the Catholic feminist fight for full access to all sexual and reproductive rights for everyone.

Alertas que caminan = (Walking Alerts)

WE PROMOTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER VIOLENCE ALERTS (AVG, FOR ITS SPANISH INITIALS)

Led by the OCNF and local organizations, we accompanied the monitoring of Gender Violence Alerts for feminicide violence, disappearance, and comparative grievance in Jalisco, Nuevo León, the State of Mexico, Mexico City, Guerrero, and Veracruz. We have promoted the delivery of results from the decreed measures along with developing an indicator-based methodology in Jalisco for measuring progress that will serve as the base for other states.



In addition, we supported OCNF's efforts to offer technical opinions to improve the AVG's normative framework, guaranteeing the participation of civil society in the entire process of implementing and evaluating the measures announced in the Alerts and incorporating follow-up mechanisms for their assessment.



We promoted working with allies and networks...because we are stronger together.



WE PROVIDED TOOLS TO COUNTER RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM

We updated the "Religious Fundamentalism in Movement" training manual for Latin American activists and worked on a training methodology that we shared with 19 members of collectives and organizations that work in favor of sexual and reproductive rights, sex-gender diversity, and children's rights in seven of the country's states.

WE ACCOMPANIED INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROCESSES

We continued working closely with our sister organizations (CDD) in Latin American and the Caribbean, jointly promoting processes of institutional strengthening for our movement's sustainability. We also worked with local organizations and collectives in favor of the right to decide such as:

- COLECTIVA DECIDE IN COLIMA
- LAS CONSEJERAS DE OAXACA
- * OBVIO GUERRERO
- COMPREHENSIVE INCLUSION AND
 HUMAN RIGHTS SERVICES (SEIINAC) IN HIDALGO

WE SUPPORTED LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK AGAINST FEMINICIDE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Together with the OCNF, Justicia Pro Persona (JPP), and the Mexican Human Rights and Democracy Institute (IMDHD), we supported the advocacy efforts of local organizations and collectives that strive to combat feminicide violence in their states, including the Fray Francisco de Vitoria Human Rights Center, Las Siemprevivas (The Always Living), Buscándote con Amor (Searching for You with Love), Colectiva Mariposas, the Non-Governmental Human Rights Committee of Colima, the Network for Disappeared Persons in Colima, Aliadas por la Justicia (Allied for Justice), Familias de Acapulco en Busca de sus Desaparecidos (Families of Acapulco in Search of Their Disappeared), Obvio Guerrero, Montaña Tlachinollan Human Rights Center, Colectivo Inclusión Colima (Colima Inclusion Collective), and Colectivo Solecito Veracruz.

#NOSVANAVERJUNTAS (THEY'LL SEE US TOGETHER)

Hand in hand with the OCNF, we spoke out and reclaimed collective power for justice in the face of feminicide violence. We launched the campaign <u>#NosVanAVerJuntas</u> with a microsite and actions on social



media to dignify the memory of women who were victims of feminicide or feminicide attempts and to raise awareness about the stories of their parents, who have made their fight a benchmark in exercising and demanding the right to access to justice, truth, and reparation.

The campaign reached approximately 8,000 people and culminated with a change org petition with over 23,000 signatures that was presented to the Secretariat of the Interior at a meeting with victims' mothers.





WE ACCOMPANIED WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH THE CAPACITY TO GESTATE WHO INTERRUPTED THEIR PREGNANCY

With a comprehensive and spiritual support network, we provided information and accompanied



because we are convinced that a woman can appeal to her conscience and moral autonomy.

Likewise, we expanded the network of spiritual accompaniment, which is made up of seven leaders from different churches: Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, and the Metropolitan Church.

WE ACCOMPANIED VICTIMS OF FEMINICIDE VIOLENCE.

We supported the OCNF's accompaniment work in the arduous fight against impunity.

- → A TOTAL OF 46 FEMINICIDE AND ATTEMPTED FEMINICIDE CASES WERE ACCOMPANIED
- > PROGRESS WAS MADE IN AT LEAST 40 CASES, BRINGING FAMILIES CLOSER TO JUSTICE AND REPARATION.









Diversity is Strength =

WE CREATED THE RED DE EMBAJADORAS Y EMBAJADORES DE LA LAICIDAD (AMBASSADOR NETWORK FOR THE SECULAR STATE)

We engaged with digital activists who produce content on sexual and reproductive rights to promote joint actions in favor of reproductive justice and the bodily autonomy of all people based on the defense of the secular State.



Likewise, in collaboration with the Benito Juárez Special Chair of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and La Salle University in Mexico City, we organized a training course on the exchange and analysis of fundamentalist initiatives and discourses that violate the secular State and their implications for human rights, particularly for sexual and reproductive rights, the rights of the LBGTQIA+ community, democracy, and plurality. Members of civil society organizations and higher education institutions from 16 of the country's states participated in the course "De la teoría a la acción: Defensa y promoción de la laicidad en América Latina" (From Theory to Action: Defending and Promoting Laicism in Latin America).

From these two initiatives, we created the Red de Embajadoras y Embajadores de la Laicidad (Laicism Ambassador Network), which includes 22 digital activists from civil society and members of academia in 16 states. This network aims to support a diverse range of projects to promote and defend the secular State as a condition for the full exercise of rights as well as to respond collectively to opportunities and setbacks in matters of sexual and reproductive rights and health.



WE CONTINUE TO DIVERSIFY OUR ALLIANCES

As part of our commitment to incorporating an intersectional analysis of our actions, we approached allies with whom we want to share our work. Accordingly, we marched for the Law on Trans Children in Mexico City, and we started to have conversations with Infancias Trans (Trans children) and the Support Center for Trans Identities (CAIT, for its Spanish initials). We also began coordinating efforts with the Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora (Network of Women of African Decent in Latin America and the Caribbean and Women of the Diaspora), the Mexican Alliance of Sexual Workers, the "8 de Marzo" women's group; the Bini Raña women's group; Reconstrucción Salud, Sexualidad y Derechos Humanos (Reconstruction of Health, Sexuality, and Human Rights); Guendalizaa Sti Caa Gunaa, OTRI; Gunashi Guendanabani; AMIDE; Binni Rudxibaluna Stiidxa Gunna; and the Coalition of Indigenous Women. Likewise, we supported Arkali Espacio Cultural in developing and spreading messages on inclusive sexual and reproductive rights for deaf women.











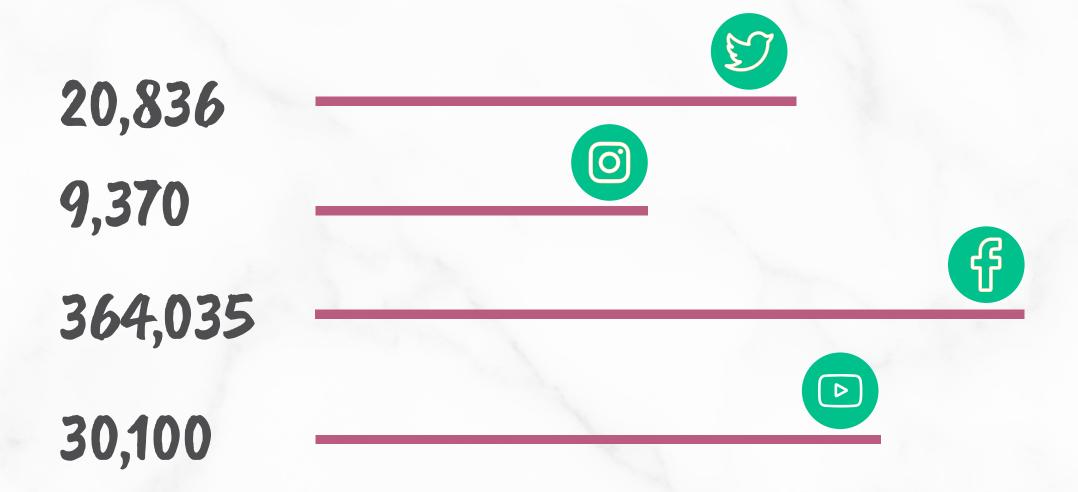
WE PROMOTED THE REGIONAL FORUM "LIBRES LAS QUEREMOS" (WE WANT THEM FREE)

The forum Libres las queremos (We Want Them Free): Dialogues on the feminist activism of Latin America and the Caribbean about those who are in prison for abortion and other criminalized obstetric events, was coordinated by CDD Mexico and Argentina and gathered over 370 activists from 14 of the region's countries. Following this forum, we kept active our communications efforts to mobilize messages for advocacy for the right to abortion on a regional level.



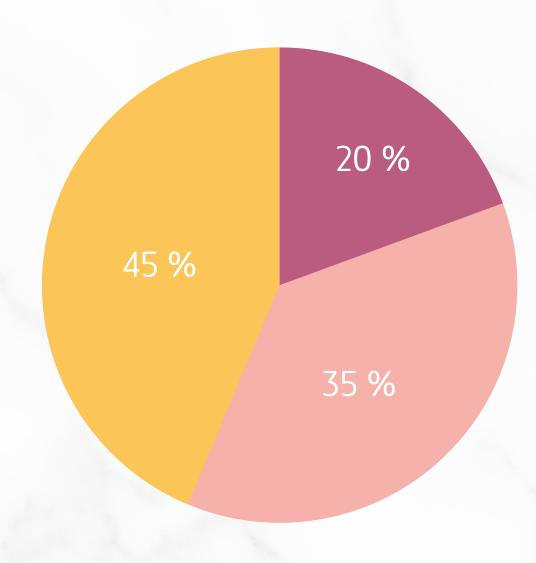
OUR MESSAGE'S REACH

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



- → More than **87,000** people reached through our informational materials.
- → More than **400** articles published in national and international outlets.
- More than 78,000 people reached by our on-the-ground advocacy and education actions.
- → 3,265 health professionals advised in the field of SRR.
- Around 163,000 people reached through educational, informational, and awareness-raising activities on various issues that we promote through our agenda, including activists, local leaders, young people, and the general public.

OUR RESOURCE ALLOCATION



- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Gender-Based Violence
- Communications

LOOKING AHEAD INTO 2022

- Incorporate an intersectional approach both internally and externally.
- Promote and foster activism in Mexico through inter-generational partnerships.
- Broaden our work at the national level, strengthen existing partnerships with feminist organizations, and create new ties.
- Deepen our work with sexual freedoms and sexual orientation, identity, and gender expression, always from an approach that puts first-hand experiences at the center.
- Broaden debates on sexual rights and reproductive justice regarding wanted pregnancies.
- Continue with educational spaces for our team and allies with experts in a variety of subjects that contribute to strengthening our efforts for an intersectional perspective.
- Continue to promote the secular State as a fundamental principle in a democratic State that safeguards human rights.

OUR DONORS

American Jewish World Service

Embassy of Australia

Fidelity Investments Charitable Fund

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF)

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives – Mexico

Fondo de Mujeres del Sur

Fondo Semillas

Fòs Feminista

Ford Foundation

New Venture Fund

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

European Union

OUR TEAM

