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LGBTIQ+ PRIDE: A  
NEEDED AGENDA TO  
EXPAND THEIR RIGHTS

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IMPACT OF THE  
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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Embassy of Argentina in the U.S. (Left) | Palacio Bosch in Buenos Aires (Right).

## LGBTIQ+ PRIDE: A NEEDED AGENDA TO EXPAND THEIR RIGHTS

Year after year, June offers the opportunity to celebrate LGBTIQ+ Pride, recognizing that in our diverse societies there is room for everyone, regardless of sexual or gender identity. But also - and above all - this celebration should lead to a deep reflection on the discrimination, injustices and violence this group continues to suffer throughout the world, to this day.

In this regard, the Argentine Republic's position is

clear and unambiguous: LGBTIQ+ rights are human rights and, as such, their promotion and respect is part of a firm, unalterable State policy that the National Government implements both in its domestic agenda, and through its actions and interventions on the global and multilateral arena.

This marks an important coincidence with the approach taken by President Joseph Biden's



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. In this edition we celebrate LGBTIQ+ Pride month, recognizing that in our diverse societies there is room for everyone, regardless of sexual or gender identity.

In this edition we include article about a recent study by UNI Global Union and CSI, in which Argentina stands out for being one of the countries that has treated COVID-19 as an occupational disease.

Finally, an article on the II Virtual Meeting of the G20 Education Working Group that emphasized priorities such as dual education and addressing educational poverty.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States



## SUCCESSIVE PRIDE PARADES MADE IT POSSIBLE TO HOLD A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE NEED FOR A STATE RESPONSE TO THE NOTORIOUS INEQUALITY THAT AFFECTED THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY

Administration -the recent images of the Argentine Embassy in Washington D.C. and the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires flying the Pride flag symbolize this shared vision- which signed a Proclamation reaffirming his Government's commitment to LGBTIQ+ Americans in its ongoing fight against discrimination and injustice, as well as backing their international human rights.

However, a quick look at the recent past shows that this path has not been easy or without difficulties, and the current situation is, to a large extent, the outcome of continuous mobilization and struggle by the LGBTIQ+ community, which organized the first Pride Parade in our country in 1992, when a few hundred people mobilized through the streets of Buenos Aires demanding to be considered full subjects of rights. A few years later, in 1997, the Parade began to be held in several provinces and cities in November, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of Nuestro Mundo, the first group of homosexuals in Argentina and Latin America.

The successive Pride marches made it possible to raise the visibility and hold a public debate on the need for a State response to the notorious inequality that affected the LGBTIQ+ community, which practically 20 years after that historic day in 1992, led to the approval by the Argentine

Congress of two fundamental regulations which became milestones in this process of recognition of rights: the Equal Marriage Law of July 2010 and the Gender Identity Law of May 2012.

The first law mentioned above made Argentina the first country in Latin America, and the tenth in the world, to establish that marriage has the same requirements and effects, regardless of whether the parties are of the same or different sex. And the second one placed our country as one of the leaders regarding the rights of transgender people; it allows them, among other provisions, to amend their personal data to conform with their self-perceived gender identity, and to have access to treatments that guarantee their right to freely develop their person in accordance with their chosen identity.

These important advances, later complemented by others, established a State policy focused on the expansion of rights that not even the Covid-19 pandemic has been able to subdue, as the situation of the LGBTIQ+ community in this particular context was cause for concern for the Government, which, through the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, together with other agencies and in coordination with the provinces, worked to mitigate its impact on this group. A concrete example of this concern is linked to the work carried out to bolster assistance for the transgender population, most of which do not participate in the formal labor market and were therefore particularly affected by the health measures adopted to prevent the spread of the virus.

Likewise, in order to repair the structural inequality suffered by this group, in September 2020 President Fernández established a transvestite labor quota in the National Public

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Sector, which guarantees that a minimum of 1% of all positions and contracts are for transvestites, transsexuals and transgender people, who are in a situation of extreme vulnerability due to their historical exclusion from educational facilities and formal and stable jobs. In short, while recognizing that there is still much to do in order to achieve a full equality, as well as the total elimination of the persisting discrimination and injustices, it is fundamental to take advantage of the Pride commemoration to once again reaffirm the Argentine Republic's unwavering commitment to continue working, together with the US and other like minded countries, to promote and protect the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community. ■

## MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKERS

The pandemic unleashed in March 2020 affected the lives of millions of workers around the world in various ways. The analysis of the data collected in over a year of the pandemic at a global level reveals a relatively greater impact on those workers, families and companies that even before COVID-19, were already vulnerable.

Faced with this scenario, countries applied unprecedented measures to tackle the spread of the disease and mitigate its negative effects on the economy and on the world of work. The International Labor Organization (ILO) monitors national responses monthly on the basis of four fundamental pillars: supporting companies, employment and incomes; protecting workers in the workplace; stimulating the economy and jobs; and using social dialogue to find solutions.

A recent study by UNI Global Union and the

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), entitled "Covid-19, An occupational disease, where front-line workers are best protected", based its analysis on an ILO publication that includes the responses of national and governmental authorities to address the COVID-19 pandemic, comparing the reality of 124 countries and even sub-national jurisdictions.

In that study about the support granted to workers during the pandemic, Argentina leads the ranking, together with other countries with a very solid tradition in the protection of employment such as Austria, Sweden, France and Spain. Argentina stands out in this comparative study, among other reasons, for being one of the jurisdictions that have treated COVID-19 as an occupational disease, through a formal regulatory process.

It should be highlighted that the Argentine

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Photo credit: Argentine Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.



## IN A STUDY BY UNI GLOBAL UNION AND THE ITUC, OUR COUNTRY STANDS OUT FOR BEING ONE OF THE JURISDICTIONS THAT HAVE TREATED COVID-19 AS AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

Government, through Decree 367/2020, incorporated Covid-19 as an unlisted occupational disease with respect to dependent workers who carry out essential activities while the Labor Risk Insurance Companies had to adapt their coverage to ensure that workers immediately received the corresponding benefits. Likewise, remote work was promoted for public sector workers, a regime of paid leave was established for risk groups and workers who are caregivers, among other regulations adopted during the pandemic to provide greater security.

Due to the difficulty that many workers in the world face, by having to choose between preserving their health or their income, voices have increasingly been raised urging the World Labor Organization to recognize COVID-19 as an occupational disease. On this issue, Sharan Burrow, ITUC's General Secretary, said: "We cannot let frontline workers fall through the cracks without social protection. A resilient recovery needs a new social contract, giving workers the best possible chance of getting the benefits and compensation they deserve, with a Global Fund for Social Protection as the first step towards universal rights. To do that, we call on the International Labor Organization to recognize Covid-19 as an occupational disease urgently, as part of the drive towards making occupational health and safety a fundamental right."

The Argentine Government understands the importance of this debate and has maintained a fruitful dialogue with trade unions and social and business organizations which have expressed their commitment, and demonstrated their ability to collaborate in these efforts. Hope and efforts to find the best solutions are centered on this broad-based social dialogue.

The study issued by the UNI Global Union and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) also reminds us that occupational health and safety are fundamental labor rights that should receive more attention from local and national governments to ensure that these rights are recognized and better protected. Argentina has been working in this direction, supporting the ILO in these efforts and will continue strengthening its workers' social protection. ■





The second meeting of the G20 Education Working Group.

## IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON A GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

The II Meeting of the G20 Education Working Group was held virtually on 13-14 May 2021. Representatives from the G20 member countries, guest countries, and international organizations discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and training at global, regional, and national levels. They emphasized the priorities defined for the Group's work during the Italian presidency of the G20 in 2021: among them, blended education and addressing educational poverty.

Taking into account the key objective of guaranteeing high-quality education for all, the debates focused on creating tools to facilitate equal opportunities in the access to education

and training, reducing social and economic inequalities, gender inequality and early school leaving. These inequalities pre-existed before the pandemic, but have deepened with it, increasing the risks of exclusion and marginalization.

This goal is inescapably linked to the blended education approach, made up of face-to-face and distance teaching and learning, which involve a commitment from the entire educational community to reduce the digital divide and promote digital skills acquisition.

The Argentine Delegation, represented by the Ministry of Education, highlighted the importance of the G20 placing the eradication of inequalities

## FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, SCHOOL PLAYS AN IRREPLACEABLE ROLE AS A SPACE FOR COLLECTIVE LEARNING AND A SETTING THAT PROMOTES THEIR COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATION

at the center of its work agenda regarding education. Likewise, it highlighted the irreplaceable place that the school has for all children and adolescents as a space for collective learning and as a setting that promotes their comprehensive development. In addition, it emphasized that this group's work has been, and must continue to be, to ensure the right to education of all boys and girls, starting with those who are behind, so that everyone can be reached.

The national commitment for inclusion is brought to the international agenda, of which this meeting was a part of. In this regard, since the beginning of the pandemic, Argentina launched a National Plan against Hunger, ordered an increase in the lowest pay scales of the beneficiaries of social plans. Along the same lines, the Ministry of Education expanded the "Progresar" scholarships and launched the "Acompañar" program to accompany each student, guaranteeing early schooling and the digital inclusion of young people and adolescents. To this end, strategies for universal access to information and communication technology services have been fundamental, as well as the impulse provided to establish public policies that seek well-being, inclusion and the expansion of rights for the entire population.

The II Meeting of the G20 Education Working Group ended with a dialogue aimed at seeking a consensus on the transition from school-to-work; this involves coordinated efforts between the G20 Education and Employment Working Groups, with a comprehensive government commitment and a multisectoral perspective to promote skills to ensure an inclusive future of work.

Throughout this month, preparatory discussions will continue for the G20 Meeting of Ministers of Education to be held on June 22. The consensus reached will be an essential contribution on the path towards the G20 Leaders' Summit next October, so that the educational agenda is reflected in the global discussions for the development of a sustainable future, without leaving anyone behind.

In this framework, the Argentine Republic has made an active and sustained commitment so that this globally relevant forum for coordinating high-level policies, deepens its commitment to a life-long inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education and learning for everyone. ■

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