



HORNED FROG FROM THE PAMPA IN THE PARQUE LURO PROVINCIAL RESERVE

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MEETING WITH  
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AT THE UNITED  
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LGBTIQ+ RIGHTS IN  
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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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JULY 2021 // NEWSLETTER



(From Left to Right) Ambassador Squeff - Ambassador Argüello - Secretary General of de UN Antonio Guterres.

## MEETING WITH ANTONIO GUTERRES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On July 6th Ambassador Jorge Argüello met with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, as part of his visit to New York City.

The meeting was also attended by María Luisa Viotti, Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General of

the United Nations, and Ambassador María del Carmen Squeff, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic at the United Nations.

In the meeting, the United Nations agenda items were discussed, particularly those of interest to Argentina, as well as organizational aspects of the



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article on our meeting with Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, about some of the UN agenda items particularly those of interest to Argentina.

In this edition we also include an article on the virtual seminar organized by the Argentine Embassy and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation focused on the evolution of the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Argentina and Latin America.

Finally, an article on the several meetings with representatives of different companies in New York, about topics such as the knowledge economy and investment opportunities.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States

PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNÁNDEZ STATED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO ADOPT STRONG PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT ERADICATING PATTERNS OF STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres thanked the Argentine Permanent Mission to the United Nations for its work and the permanent support of Argentina for the Organization and multilateralism. ■

76th session of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the speech delivered by President Alberto Fernández at the Generation Equality Forum. This forum was convened by UN Women and co-chaired on June 30th through July 2nd by the governments of Mexico and France in partnership with civil society and youth, attended by the Heads of State and Government of Germany, France, Mexico, Canada, Georgia, Finland, South Africa, the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, among others.

In his speech at the Generation Equality Forum, President Alberto Fernández stated that there is a need “to adopt strong public policies aimed at eradicating patterns of structural inequality” and “reorganize the social life of our peoples aiming at fairer and more egalitarian human relations, without oppression or discrimination based on class, nationality, ethnicity or gender”.

The Argentine Government is committed to incorporating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of public policies, which has originated important milestones such as the establishment of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, a Federal Office for GenderMainstreaming, and a National Action Plan against gender-based violence 2020-2022, among others.

# LGBTIQ+ RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA: LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

On the last day of June, a new chapter of Pride Month was closing, synonymous with conquests, but also with struggles, suffering, postponements, persecution, and shame. And on that June 30, marked by a pandemic that has not yet come to an end, the Argentine Embassy and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, once again, reasserted common objectives.

This time, it was through a webinar focused on the evolution of the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Argentina and Latin America, and the possibilities when developing an agenda that still has a long way to go. The meeting, moderated by Michael Boucai, Professor at the University of Buffalo Law School, brought together expert panelists: Jay Brown, Senior Vice President of Programs, Research and Training of the Human Rights Campaign; Patricio Simonetto, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at University College

London; Esteban Paulón, Executive Director of the LGBT+ Public Policy Institute; and Milagros Chirinos, Associate Director of the Global Workplace Equality Program at the Human Rights Campaign.

A comprehensive approach brought together different perspectives related to the main trends that characterized the LGBTIQ+ movement in Latin America throughout the past 40 years. In turn, the specificities of this process in Argentina and the possibility of collaborating with the private sector to promote inclusive workplaces were also addressed.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Argüello stated: "In the case of Argentina, its position is clear and unequivocal: these rights are Human Rights and, as such, their promotion and protection is part of a State policy that our government is carrying out, both in its domestic agenda, as well as through its actions in the multilateral arena".

Ministry of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship, June 28 International LGBTIQ+ Pride Day (Left). Webinar panelists, June 30th (right).



Michael Boucai



Patricio Simonetto



Milagros Chirinos



Esteban Paulón

IN ARGENTINA, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES AND STRATEGIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND TO WORK TOGETHER IN CERTAIN AREAS THAT WE ARE NOT COVERING YET.

Focusing on the LGBTIQ+ community leads to a reflection on discrimination, injustices, and violence that, even today, are ongoing throughout the world. However, Brown was the first to point out that "the inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community in Argentina and Latin America is truly inspiring."

In fact, Argentina's history has set international milestones. In July 2010, the Argentine Congress approved the Equal Marriage Law, thereby becoming the first country in Latin America to establish that marriage has the same requirements and effects, regardless of whether the parties are of the same or opposite sex.

In 2012, the Legislative Branch approved the Gender Identity Law, placing Argentina as a leader in the area of transgender rights; this allowed people to modify their personal data in order to adapt them to their self-perceived gender identity and to have access to treatments that guarantee their right to freely develop their own person according to the chosen identity. Added to these laws is the recent approval by the National Congress of a quota that reserves 1% of the vacancies in the Public Administration, in all current contracting modalities, to transvestite, trans or transgender people.

However, beyond these achievements, Paulón emphasized the difference between formally established rights and their true impact on society.

"In order to bridge the gap between what is legal and what really happens, we have to continue fighting for public policies that are reflected in the real world. On the other hand, in Argentina, we have a responsibility to share our experiences and our strategies with other countries, and to work together in certain areas that we are not covering yet".

From a historical perspective, Simonetto mentioned the persecution against what he called "sexual and gender dissidents" between the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. He also referred to the reaction of the LGBTIQ+ community against such policies, especially since the 1960s, and in the case of Argentina, from the emergence of movements such as the Nuestro Mundo group in 1967 and the Homosexual Liberation Front in 1971. On the other hand, he mentioned the struggles that took place in the context of the democratic transitions of the 80s, aimed at developing an ambitious anti-discriminatory agenda. He concluded by analyzing the growth of the LGBTIQ+ movement in the 21st century and the subsequent expansion of rights experienced since then.

From another perspective, Milagros Chirinos presented the work carried out by the Human Rights Campaign in the United States with the private sector through the Corporate Equality Index, adding that this experience served as the basis for creating a program in 2016 adapted to Mexico's social and cultural reality and culture, to promote LGBTIQ-inclusive workplaces in that country. She referred to the success of the HRC Equidad MX program, in which 212 companies currently have an endorsement from the HRC Foundation in terms of LGBTIQ+ inclusivity, which allowed the development of a similar program in Chile in 2018, HRC Equidad CL.

THE STRUGGLES THAT TOOK  
PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC  
TRANSITIONS OF THE 80S,  
AIMED AT DEVELOPING AN  
AMBITIOUS ANTI-  
DISCRIMINATORY AGENDA.

Finally, Professor Boucai coordinated an exchange of opinions between the panelists on issues such as the main obstacles that the LGBTIQ+ community still faces in the region, the support activities that their friends, family, and allies can carry out, as well as possible insights for the next few years. The participants highlighted that Argentina is one of the most inclusive countries in the region and is, therefore, a source of inspiration to make progress elsewhere. ■



Stacey Cunningham, President of NYSE, Amb. Jorge Argüello, Santiago Villalba, Consul Gral in NY & John Tuttle, Vicepresident and COO of NYSE.

## A PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Ambassador Jorge Argüello made a working trip to New York on July 6, 7, and 8 emphasizing topics such as knowledge economy and investment opportunities in the era of the digital economy.

The Ambassador visited Cognizant offices', a major American multinational that stands out for offering tailored information technology services for all types of industries. He was received by Andrés Angelani, Chief Product Engineering Officer; Damian Benegas, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Fausta Ballesteros (Head of Culture), all Argentines with relevant positions in the company's administration. In 2008, Cognizant opened its offices in Argentina, as a professional services center that supports companies and their clients around the world in different industry verticals such as information technology consulting, and back-office for digital banking

services, laboratories, manufacturing, and logistics. Given its characteristics, the company is very active in the technological ecosystem of our country.

During the meeting, they discussed the impact of digitization and the transformation of value chains in all industries, and there was a shared view of Argentina as a natural partner in the search for "nearshoring" for the provision of professional services in technology and back office.

Ambassador Argüello also had the opportunity to visit the New York headquarters of the Argentine company Globant. In the words of the Ambassador, this company is "another Embassy that Argentina has in the world". Through its global reach in software development, it became

## THE OFFER OF ARGENTINE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES IS CARRIED OUT THROUGH A CO-DIRECTORY OF COMPANIES TOGETHER WITH THE DIGITAL PLATFORM CLUTCH.CO, AND THE "ARGENTINADELIVERS" BRAND.

one of the first Argentine unicorns, along with Mercadolibre, Despegar, and OLX; It has more than 17,000 employees in 16 countries. In the United States, Globant has 650 employees, with 8 offices located in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Miami.

Considering the enormous prospects and growth of the knowledge economy in trade and investment, the Embassy actively promotes the offer of technological services of Argentine companies in the U.S. market through a Co-Directory of companies together with the platform digital Clutch.co, and the "ArgentinaDelivers" brand for the commercialization of services and the formation of strategic alliances.

Ambassador Argüello also met with Dirk Donath, Managing Partner for Latin America at L Catterton, the world's largest investment fund in the consumer industry; In our country, it has made important investments in companies such as "Rapsodia", "Caro Cuore", "Baby Cottons", the "Luigi Bosca" and "Susana Balbo" wineries; and "Despegar.com".

investment funds that have a particular interest in start-ups or companies in Latin American and the Caribbean. LAVCA explained during the meeting that its objective is to support the growth of private capital in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is why it has 170 companies that range from those that make global investments, investment fund managers, family offices, global sovereign funds, corporate investors, and international pension plans. Member companies control assets over \$65 million, destined to capitalize and make Latin American companies grow.

At the Argentine Consulate in New York, the Ambassador, accompanied by Consul Santiago Villalba held a working meeting with authorities and members of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and there were many companies present such as 3M, Amazon Web Services, Magna, and PepsiCo, among others.

Finally, the visit to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the largest stock market in the world in monetary volume with the largest number of affiliated companies, represented a wonderful opportunity to observe the only space that works with a live trading floor.

The visit to Texas in June and this visit to New York demonstrate the ambition to seek opportunities in the vast territory of the United States using as a base of operations the important Consular Network and Business Promotion Centers that, in addition to Washington, Houston, and New York, include Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Miami. ■

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