

NATIONAL ACTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

During the COVID-19 emergency some governments have deemed sexual and reproductive health, especially termination of pregnancies, not a priority, consequently health services have suspended or cut them back limiting access. Furthermore, some groups and organizations have pursued disinformation and slander strategies with the goal of backtracking the advances in sexual and reproductive rights.

These are some of the actions and barriers in the different countries in Latin América that seek to restrict access to sexual and reproductive health:

ECUADOR

The *Frente Nacional por la Familia Ecuador* and *A mis hijos los educo yo* organizations submitted a petition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and the ACI Prensa and Actual media outlets published the “Manifest for the Right to Life”, because of accusations by Citizen Go, that alluded to the “Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19” UN document.

BRAZIL

Policies to restrict access to reproductive health originating from government initiatives that state that they are against sexual education and abortion are being promoted, and they are being backed by groups in social media, digital media and some religious authorities that are against legal abortion

BOLIVIA

Complaints by sexual and reproductive rights opposition groups following the endorsement of the Bolivian Chancellery to a joint declaration on the “protection of health and sexual and reproductive rights” during the pandemic. This led the authorities to publish a communique to ratify their commitment to “the defense of life and family”

CHILE

The *Mesa de Acción por el aborto* and the *Asamblea Feminista Plurinacional* denounced the reduction in access to abortion on the three grounds during the first trimester, as well as, and except for the dates that are closer to birth, sexual and reproductive care is not being granted and there isn't enough stock of Misoprostol and Mifepristone in the hospital networks

COLOMBIA

The *Unidos por la Vida* organization led a campaign of accusations and attacks to disseminate false information against organizations and groups that promote sexual and reproductive health services, especially abortion through telemedicine, such as *Oriéntame*, *Profamilia* and the *El Espectador* media outlet with the goal of discrediting them

PERÚ

The N° 094-MINSA/2020 Health Directive that declared sexual and reproductive health as essential was highly criticized and considered “to be taking advantage of this pandemic ideologically and politically to foster abortionist agendas”. This campaign is being backed by groups like the *Red Nacional de Abogados por la defensa de la familia (RENAFAM)*, the *Population Research Institute (PRI)* and the *Asociación de Médicos por la Vida de Arequipa*

URUGUAY

President Lacalle Pou ratified in a press conference his personal position against the legalization of abortion referring to the “unborn child” as a holder of rights. These declarations create confusion and discourage women from making their own decisions about their bodies in a free and informed manner

ARGENTINA

Pressure has been applied by a group of policymakers and representatives demanding that the Ministry of Health inform them on the procurement of misoprostol after this Ministry confirmed access to contraception and legal termination of pregnancies during the pandemic

