CAMPAIGNING FOR ABORTION RIGHTS STRATEGIES AND LEARNINGS FROM ARGENTINA

Cyrielle Huguenot, MMS Conference 2023

AMNESTYINTERNATIONAL





FEELING THE HISTORIC MOMENT!



ABORTION LAW IN ARGENTINA

Law from 1921: Right to terminate a pregnancy under certain grounds:

- Threat to life;
- Health risk;
- Rape.

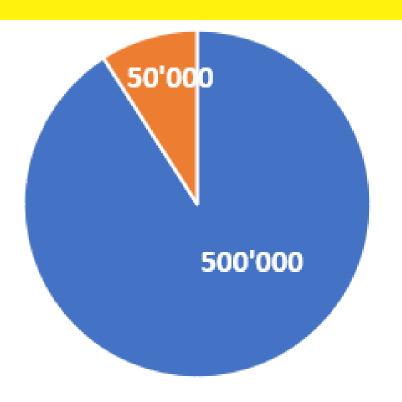
29 december 2020: Adoption of the law 27.610:

- The voluntary termination of pregnancy is allowed up to, and including, the 14th week of gestation.
- Three legal grounds to terminate a pregnancy: threat to life, health risk and rape
- → Abortion is (still) considered a crime if conducted after the 14th week and not justified on the basis of the three legal grounds!





UNSAFE ABORTIONS PER YEAR



Over the past 30 years:

First cause of maternal mortality (1/3 of deaths)

- Clandestine abortions estimation
- Hospitalisations for complications arising from abortions

Source: Ministery of Health (2018)



CAMPAIGNS FOR AND AGAINST ABORTION

FOR LEGAL ABORTION

1990': Regional Campaign for the Legalisation of Abortion

From 2005: Campaña

Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto legal, Seguro y Gratuito

2018: Petition to Congress

2015: #NiUnaMenos

From 2013: Amnesty International

AGAINST LEGAL ABORTION

2018:

#ConMisHijosNoTeMetas #SalvemosLasDosVidas #LaMayoriaCeleste



- Intimidate lawmakers
- Online and offline mobilization
- Legal actions against the law
- Violence against activists





AMNESTY CAMPAIGN



EL ACCESO AL ABORTO

Long lasting and comprehensive work since 2013 to put abortion at the top of the public agenda



KEY LEARNINGS

- Broad inclusive alliances, comprising various professional groups
- Comprehensive campaign: research, advocacy, strategic litigation, activism, human rights education, communication
- Frame legal abortion as a health and human rights issue
- Leading-edge research and strong evidence-based arguments
- Clear and simple messages / hashtags
- One symbol: green scarf
- Many online and street actions
- Effective tools to inform strategies
- Be prepared to resistance before and after legislative change and never give up

