



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE EVALUATION OF THE SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT PRESENTED BY THE ARGENTINE STATE

Dear esteemed experts of the Committee:

We, the undersigned organizations dedicated to the defense and protection of human rights in general and Argentine women in particular, having participated in the evaluation process of the sixth periodic report of Argentina, would like to direct towards you relevant information to be taken into account when drawing up the concluding observations on the human rights situation of women in Argentina.

During the evaluation hearing of the sixth periodic report, the Argentine government highlighted the development and updating of a comprehensive care guide for cases of non-punishable abortions as a breakthrough in the situation of women facing the health system. Specifically, the State delegation asserted that Ministerial Resolution N° 1184/2010 had approved the aforementioned guide on July 12, 2010, a day before the Committee hearing.¹

The organizations represented here had, through our respective shadow reports, alerted that although the Ministry of Health had undertaken to produce the guide, said undertaking still required the signing of the corresponding resolution before being approved. Our shadow reports noted that this missing requirement acted as a barrier to its proper implementation, dissemination, and publication, as well as dented the legitimacy of such a guide. For this reason, during the hearing we welcomed the news spread by the Argentine delegation regarding the signing of Resolution N° 1184/2010. This information was also relayed through the major newspapers in the country.²

However, on 21 July, Dr. Juan Luis Manzur, the Nation's Minister of Health, issued an official

¹ [Declaración de Argentina durante la presentación del 6° Informe Nacional al Comité CEDAW](#), pg. 14.

² The included Annex, in Spanish, provides news reports that confirm this.

statement denying having signed the resolution.³ This official announcement thus claimed that the guide currently lacks the backing of any ministerial resolution.

Faced with contradictory official information, we address you hoping to make you aware of the situation, given we understand the State's position to represent a clear step backwards in protecting the rights of women. Issuing misinformation about the degree of compliance with their obligations under CEDAW undermines the effectiveness of the system established by the Convention, as it prevents civil society to properly monitor the situation. In turn, as noted in reports to this Committee, we believe that the presence of a Ministerial Resolution that properly endorses the Guide would bolster its legitimacy.

We hope that the information provided is taken into account, and if deemed appropriate, that you request any clarification from the Argentine State.

Sincerely,

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir

C.D.E.M.

Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES)

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

Comité contra la Tortura – Comisión Provincial por la Memoria

Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres (CLADEM) (Sección Argentina)

Feministas en Acción

Fundación para el Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)

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Centro para el derecho a la vivienda y contra los desalojos forzosos (COHRE)

Asociación Derechos Civiles (ADC)

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³ http://www.msal.gov.ar/htm/Site/noticias_plantilla.asp?Id=2082 .