



TRANSFORMING

THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SYSTEM

Since 2005, Doncel has been working in Argentina to transform the alternative care system. Our vision is for children and adolescents in Argentina and the region, who are separated from their families of origin and whose rights have been seriously violated, to grow up in safe family and community environments.

OUR WORK AREAS



ADVOCACY

We are committed to helping design, implement, and monitor public policies that uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child and support national deinstitutionalization efforts.



RESEARCH

We compile data on the alternative care system to inform better protection policies and to help design evidence-based public policies.



TRAINING

We carry out training activities aimed at technical teams, care providers, and government bodies to strengthen practices and ensure quality care within the alternative care system.



PARTICIPATION

In all our initiatives, we provide opportunities for children, adolescents, and young people, who are or have been separated from their families, to actively participate.

SOME OF OUR PROJECTS

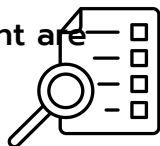


LAW OBSERVATORY FOR YOUTH LEAVING CARE

This allows us to monitor, among other things, compliance with Article 24 of the Leaving Care Law, to see what opportunities for participation beneficiaries have in each province, and to assess whether they are actively involved in improving the program.

PARTICIPATORY CONSULTATION ON CARE

As part of the 'RuiDOS' study conducted across 16 provinces in Argentina, we consulted 200 children, adolescents, and young people about the care they receive. Their feedback and proposals for improvement are aimed at influencing public policy.



DIPLOMA IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

We launched the country's first diploma program in alternative care, aimed at professionalizing workers in the system across 10 provinces and incorporating a gender and rights perspective into care practices.

GUÍA EGRESO

This program is led by young people who have left or are about to leave alternative care facilities. Drawing from their own experiences, they offer information, support and guidance to others going through similar transitions towards independent living.

VIVA - AUTONOMOUS HOUSING PLATFORM



We developed a transitional housing model to provide systematic guidance and recommendations for strengthening this type of housing and support during transitions.



THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

+8.800

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PROGRAMS.



+5.000

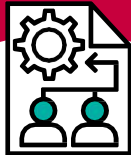
OFFICIALS AND PROTECTION SERVICE AGENTS FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.



WE HAVE BUILT ALLIANCES WITH

35

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.



WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WORK NETWORKS WITH ALL

24

PROVINCES of Argentina and implemented projects in 10 provinces.



Among our milestones, we successfully achieved the passage and implementation of the **Law for Leaving Care**, which shaped the **Support Program for Adolescents and Young People Without Parental Care (PAE)**.

This pioneering law, which is a reference point for all of Latin America and the Caribbean, provides financial and technical support to over 3,000 adolescents and young people in Argentina up to the age of 25, assisting them in their transition to adulthood.

GLOBAL PRESENCE AND NETWORKS

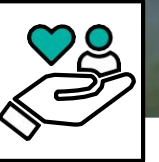
In 2015, we founded the **Latin American Network of Care Leavers**, involving 11 countries from the region and 32 organizations.

Recently, we were selected as members of **Child Rights Connect**, an international association that unites 100 organizations worldwide and works alongside the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

We also joined the **Executive Committee of the Global Research Group on Transitions (INTRAC)** and participate in the **Latin American and Caribbean Network of Transition Researchers, INTRAC LATAM**.



10 REASONS TO TRANSFORM THE SYSTEM



There are serious issues in Argentina that urgently need attention to ensure the State guarantees children's right to live in a family and upholds quality care standards. To bring these issues to the forefront of the public agenda, Doncel has identified 10 reasons why it is urgent to transform alternative care in Argentina:

- 1 FAMILY LIFE IS A RIGHT.**
Every child and adolescent has the right to live in a family. The State is the fundamental guarantor of that right in Argentina.
- 2 THE SYSTEM DOES NOT PROMOTE FAMILY-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE.**
Residential care remains the predominant option, at 88%, which does not support the fulfillment of each child's identity rights.
- 3 CARE PRACTICES VARY WIDELY AND INEQUALITY EXISTS.**
The experiences of children and adolescents in alternative care in Argentina are very unequal, and there are care facilities that fail to protect or even violate their rights.
- 4 LENGTH OF STAYS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE EXCEED THE LEGAL LIMIT OF 180 DAYS.**
Failure to comply with the principle of transience and temporariness has harmful effects on children and adolescents, regardless of the alternative care modality.
- 5 THE SYSTEM DOES NOT LISTEN.**
In most cases, the voices of children and adolescents, as well as their families of origin, are not considered when deciding on the type of alternative care.



6 INSTITUTIONALIZATION HAS HARMFUL EFFECTS AND HINDERS DEVELOPMENT.

Institutionalization has damaging effects on the emotional development of children and adolescents, leading to prolonged stress, learning difficulties, and problems forming secure attachments.

7 MANY RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES ARE STILL OVERCROWDED.

In Argentina, there are 125 care facilities housing more than 20 children, adolescents, and young people, exceeding recommended limits.

8 DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION EFFORTS ARE INSUFFICIENT.

A national plan is needed to promote and coordinate efforts to transform the alternative care system.

9 WE NEED A SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM.

There is no framework in place to oversee and guarantee the quality of alternative care practices.

10 ADEQUATE FUNDING IS REQUIRED.

A review of investments in residential and family care facilities is required, along with a strategic plan to redirect resources towards a deinstitutionalization process, ensuring family-based care that respects human rights.





OBSERVATORIO
DE LA LEY Y LOS DERECHOS DE JÓVENES
DE EGRESO SIN CUIDADOS PARENTALES

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