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News from León



Hello... from Leon...we are happy to send our first newsletter of 2016! The summer has been very hot, dusty and left some rural communities with very little water. We always have a lot of energy to thank you for your support. Each and every one of you ..thanks. You make our achievements and progress possible... To see more pictures and get more information about our programs please visit our [Facebook page](#) ... Muchos saludos...! Eréndira.

For the Life and Freedom of Women, No More Impunity!



The March 8th International Women's Day March commemorated our women ancestors as we continue denouncing and demanding justice.

Statement from Leon International Women's Day: "For over a hundred years we've commemorated the International Women's Day, and today we remember our ancestors who took to the streets for world peace, the workers who were burned for demanding better working conditions, the suffragettes who fought for our right to vote. Now we women and feminists continue the struggles and calling for Human Rights, with the same conviction, the same bravery and the same force."

We demand the decriminalization of abortion, with public policies aimed at preventing teen pregnancy, scientific sex education free of prejudice, access to safe contraception, prevention of maternal deaths, and prevention of violence against women and girls.

Today, we demand special attention to the survivors of violence through the Comisaría de las Mujeres y la Niñez and not through the Judicial system which has no specialization in this area. We demand respect for the law 779 which addresses violence against women. The law has recently been weakened through orders and presidential decrees, placing women in more vulnerable situations. We demand economic policies and measures to reduce unemployment, migration and impoverishment of women and citizens, and investment in quality education and respect for university autonomy.

We demand respect for the environment, no more felling of trees, ending opencast mining and water pollution. We say No to the construction of the predatory canal that nobody asked for. We demand the right to mobilize, demonstrate and express ourselves publicly in defense of our rights and reject Law 919 of Sovereign Security."

Empowerment of women's rights as a central focus of educational plans!



Young members of Ecological Brigade talking about therapeutic abortion.

As part of the activities of March 8th / International Women's Day, a march was held in León with several women's organizations. This time the Youth Brigade members were involved in the march and in subsequent days made an assessment and were asked to discuss the issues presented in the march. The main topic discussed was therapeutic abortion, and there were very rigid opinions expressed by the girls, and clearly there is much misinformation, and religious, social and family pressure around this issue.

After addressing the issue with some examples from real life and educating them a little on the matter, the youth were a little more open to think in a different way than initially expressed, accepting somewhat that the legalization of therapeutic abortion is a resource which should be available to women in need.

There is much misinformation in rural communities on the subject, and many think that, although necessary in some cases, they think it's a sin or murder. NHLSCP works in education, and this includes education about the rights of the people, and although not the focus of the Ecological Brigade, it is an important part of the empowerment of women.

Anabel is an example of perseverance, solidarity and leadership.



Anabel Donaire (middle) a young leader, teacher, student, mother, sister, daughter..who plays many roles as a woman,... however she has developed very well in each of the different stages of her life.

Anabel did not continue her studies as a youth because when he finished primary school there was no secondary school in their community and her parents had no resources to send her to study outside Goyena. In 2008 she took on the challenge of being a teacher for a group of adult learners. She taught about two years without any salary, all with the aim of teaching literacy to her neighbors and people in the community.

In 2009, after spending four years without going to classes, Anabel resumed her studies in high school. The same year she became a teacher in NHLSCP's Afterschool Program. She also became a community leader in Cooperative Aristides Sanchez).

In 2012 she left school, as well as teaching with the Afterschool Program because of family problems and pregnancy and had to devote much time and care for a family member. In 2015 she managed to finish high school and is currently studying business administration on Sundays. From Monday through Friday, Anabel is first grade teacher in the NHLSCP Afterschool Program.

Anabel is an example of perseverance, solidarity and leadership. People in the community respect her because of her dedication to the work done by NHLSCP ... and we are proud to have this valuable women as part of our team.

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Needed: Creativity, Interns, Energy, Delegation Leaders, Commitment to Social Justice, Volunteers, Interest in Learning, [Financial Support](#).

www.newhavenleon.org



New Haven/León Sister City Project works to promote social justice, education and sustainable development in Nicaragua and Connecticut. For more information see www.newhavenleon.org; www.facebook.com/newhavenleon; email nh@newhavenleon.org; or call 203.562.1607