

FINAL REPORT

3^o Congreso de la Red
Lationamericana de
Egresados de Protección



La transición de los jóvenes latinoamericanos desde los Cuidados
Alternativos a la vida adulta





Congress 'Road to Autonomy' **The Transition of Latin American Youth from Alternative Care to Adult Life**

The 3rd Congress of the Latin American Network of Care Leavers, proposed to be a space for young people to connect, facilitated by young people themselves, among young people, authorities and institutions of the different protection systems of Latin America, to generate networks and spaces to collaborate, share and learn from the various successful methodologies and models throughout the region. This regional event was organized by the TIA Bolivia Foundation, and was held at the Catholic University of Bolivia "San Pablo" in the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia. The Congress had a large presence of young care leavers and Latin American organizations.

Congress date: Wednesday 22 - Thursday 23 November 2017

Place: Country - Bolivia, City - Cochabamba

Venue: Bolivian Catholic University

Duration: 2 days

General purpose

Generate networks and spaces to collaborate, share and learn from the various successful methodologies and models used by organizations throughout the region of Latin America for working with young care leavers and among groups of young care leavers within each participating country.

Specific objectives

1. Present research and accurate data on the situation of young care leavers in Latin America.
2. Share knowledge, experiences and successful methodologies from each organization.
3. Open spaces for debate about the situation of young people exiting from care homes at a local and regional level.
4. Raise awareness about the issue.
5. Promote the work of the Network.
6. Train professionals in the most up-to-date ways and successful models to prepare young people for leaving care.
7. Facilitate collaborative and participatory work between organizations and youth.
8. Provide a space for strategic planning for the members of the Network



Participants

International Participants

Argentina

Doncel
Guía Egreso
Aldeas Infantiles SOS Argentina

Brazil

Instituto Fazendo Historias

Colombia

Asociación ASCEP

Mexico

Aldeas Infantiles SOS México
Clara Moreno Miramón
Pequeños Gigantes

Peru

Buckner
Runayay
Hogar Luz de Vida
Jóvenes con Propósito
Fundación Pedro y Angélica de Osma

Other International Experts

Hope and Homes for Children

Bolivian Participants

Fundación TIA Bolivia
Ministerio de Justicia y Transparencia
Institucional del Estado Plurinacional
de Bolivia
Aldeas Infantiles SOS Bolivia
OFPROBOL
UNICEF
VIS Bolivia
Villa Infantil Nueva Esperanza
AiBi Bolivia
Fundación Hijas del Rey
Save the Children International
Proyecto Don Bosco
Fundación Niños con Valor
Fundación La Gotita
Fundación ASCA
Colegio Fe y Alegría – Príncipe de Paz
Centro de Vida Bolivia
Comunidad Educativa Tiquipaya Wasi
Fundación Bolivia Digna
Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias
del Comportamiento
Universidad Católica Boliviana
Proyecto Trabajo Digno

Main Organizers

Red Latinoamericana de Egresados de Protección
(Latin American Network of Care Leavers)

Fundación TIA Bolivia

Universidad Católica Boliviana ‘San Pedro’





Day 1 - Wednesday 22nd of November

During the first day of the congress, we heard presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Investigations looking at the situation of young care leavers in Latin America.
- Organizations and practices with young care leavers in Latin America.
- Youth participation
- Advocacy in public policies
- Forming networks and working together
- Methodologies for the promotion of rights.
- Organization of alternative care models for the promotion of autonomy.

The work of the first day was live streamed online and can be viewed through the following links:

Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/CiObY54CHhw>

Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/4DoRz5Hqpjw>

Part 3 - <https://youtu.be/iJeTGqxjzGQ>

Part 4 - <https://youtu.be/3GtJzft7fuE>

The first day drew some very important conclusions:

- 1) There are many similarities between the data and research at a national and a regional level regarding the situation of adolescents who have exited the protection system and especially their trajectories after leaving.
- 2) From the experience of the organizations, it became clear that the outcomes in Latin America are similar for young care leavers, that adolescents are made to leave care without receiving adequate preparation; without having completed high school, facing great difficulty in finding a decent, well paying job, and, consequently, facing housing emergencies that aggravates their situation.
- 3) In the absence of state support for adolescents and young people, there are many civil society organizations that work day-by-day accompanying them in their transition process.
- 4) The participation of teens and young people is the key. We heard the testimonies of the young care leavers, who were strengthened by actively participating in the situations that affect them.



Day 2 - Thursday 23rd of November

Discussion tables

During the second day of the Congress, the work revolved around the discussion tables, which were divided by themes. They discussed incidence in public policies, the need to conduct research, good care practices that work toward achieving autonomy progressively and also youth participation and networking, among other important issues.

Trainings

Then, in the afternoon, training workshops were held on specific topics run by local and international experts in the following topics:

- Coaching techniques
- Positive discipline
- Advocacy techniques in Public Policy
- Restoring links with the family of origin
- Participatory development strategies for adolescents and young people
- Accompany young people to enter the labor market

Youth Participation

The entire congress had an atmosphere of both warmth and seriousness as a result of the constant participation of the care leavers. Hearing directly from the young people puts into perspective all the knowledge of the experts, and helps us to understand why it is so important to comply with what is expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Striving to guarantee their right to be heard and to have their voice taken into account must become a part of our daily work.

The young care leavers actively participated in each activity of the Congress. They were consulted about the design of the congress in each part of the process, and they also made decisions about the format and content of the panels and the topics. During the congress they participated in the presentations, talking about their experiences and sharing their valuable opinions. They led the discussion tables together with a representative of the Network to guide the conversation and participate actively.

Alongside the training sessions on the second day, the care leavers participating in the Congress devoted themselves to discussing the conclusions of the discussion tables, putting together a letter (<https://goo.gl/BDjjUv>) with recommendations to the Latin American governments. Recommendations that focused on the training of staff working with adolescents and young people in the protection system, the active participation of adolescents in the creation and evaluation of specific public policies and around the requirement of progressive support during their transition from the alternative care system to adult life.

The event concluded with a panel composed of care leavers from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Mexico. On this panel these young people were able to share the public policy recommendations they made in the letter they elaborated during the congress.



Results

State Commitment

The closure of the congress ended with the formal delivery of the document (<https://goo.gl/BDjjUv>) prepared by the youth to the representative of the Plurinational Youth Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency of Bolivia. With the delivery of the document, the Bolivian State agreed to be formally committed to listening to the voice of young people without parental care and will take into account the recommendations of the letter in their policies for the future. This youth document will serve as an advocacy tool in the various protection systems of each participating country in the region.



Youth Committee

The day after the conclusion of the congress, a face-to-face meeting of the Network was held with the members who were present in Cochabamba. During this meeting a sub-meeting of the young care leavers present was held to form a youth committee. This youth committee will participate in all activities of the Network and inform the actions of the Network. In the youth committee meeting they chose a representative from their group to be part of the network's executive committee.



Final message of the Latin American Network of Protection Care leavers

From the Latin American Network of Care Leavers we are very proud of the development of the congress and we hope that this type of event will serve to make the voice of adolescents and young people living under alternative care mechanisms in Latin America heard. We urge all States to listen to teens and youth, and to include them in debates about public policies that directly affect their lives.

