



INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

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In today's globalized world a parent pretending to change the laws that affect him/her or his/her family would seem a titanic task. There seems to be a widely accepted failure sensation against an intangible force or an already defined world tendency, that increasingly takes control of our values, our ideas and eventually our families, our children and our society.

Laws have been approved which increasingly override our rights and "rights" which override our principles. International treaties protected by globalization aim at the construction of a citizen of the world that is homogeneous and subject to manipulation, ignoring most of the time the will and feelings of the human being, who is lost amongst so much "legality".

The challenge is thus huge.

Red Familia Colombia (RFC), is an NGO which for more than 4 years has been working for the promotion and defense of family values, and emerged from the concern of a group of 7 mothers who felt the need to do something... something that might have a voice, something that could change the course of things, something that could sow hope in future generations.

Initially, we focused in influencing public policy positively. We began to contact people in the political sphere, the world in which decisions are taken. Eventually we attracted others and we started to weave the network. There, where only a few would deliberate about family topics, new voices appeared and little by little we began to influence policy.



It was only in March this year when RFC finally began to take its true form, the complete form, the one that allows us to fully impact; not only by aiming to modify established family policies, but by putting forward new policies as demanded by families; a structure exerting pressure and proposing from above and a civil society demanding and building from below.

In Colombia we are witnessing the premature sexualization of children and young people, not only through the irresponsibility of the means of communication, and the design and promotion of national policies, but also and significantly, through the ignorance of parents

We thus decided to approach the key actors of this movie: the parents. We designed a strategy that can be summarized in three steps: AWAKENING, KNOWING AND ACTING.

The mission of being an 'Awaker' can be assumed by anyone, it only requires the disclosure of a particular fact or cause: our trigger became the news of the introduction in public district schools of a series of booklets about sexual education imported from Spain, where amongst other aspects, masturbation was promoted through a video as an act of self-recognition amongst young people. This urged us to express our views as an organization and to generate news, producing as a result the support of many parents who identified themselves with this cause and who raised their voices in favour of defending freedom in education, of protecting our children and claiming back our rights as their first educators. The actions taken in rejection of these booklets by parents in alliance with political agents, made the local government withdraw these booklets from its education program.

After 'Awakening' it is essential to KNOW: to have the required tools to disseminate not only the actual fact but its roots and scope, and to aim to become new 'Awakers'. The 'multiplier' mission of the message has allowed us to develop cohesion and experience growth. Day by day through word of mouth, our bulletins and our alerts, our member parents are fundamental agents of change.

The advice of lawyers, psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, and educators is very important, but the work that in this struggle is essential, fundamental and irreplaceable is that of parents: those courageous dads and mums who are willing to take a "A Step Forward".

A step forward for our children, a step forward to make a change.





At the moment we are leading a campaign to collect signatures calling for the suspension of the 'Programa Nacional de Educación Sexual' (National Programme for Sexual Education). Parents have been key players in this campaign now that their concerns are materialized in actions at their reach. In the same way, we continue work in the political sphere. We organized an interdisciplinary and inter-gremial work table that aims to present the criticisms and alternative proposals for this programme next month before the Ministry of education.

We are united and we are many parents AWAKENING, KNOWING and ACTING for the protection of children and the Colombian family.

This phrase of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, illustrates for us the need to do something: sometimes we feel that what we do is just a drop in the ocean, but the sea would be less if it misses a drop.

We'd like to end in the way we address our compatriots: Brave parents: A STEP FORWARD!

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