SALUD MUJERES: FIGHTING FOR SRHR IN THE FACE OF FUNDAMENTALISM

Founded in 2008 by a group of young Ecuadorian feminists, Salud Mujeres provides information on how to safely cause an abortion using medication, access to contraceptives and sexual education to prevent the death of young women resulting from clandestine and unsafe abortions. The group aims to ensure that young women can exercise autonomous, well-informed decisions by decentralizing information and raising awareness on abortion as well as advocating for its decriminalization. Salud Mujeres is extremely concerned about the rise of fundamentalist groups in the country. Fundamentalist engagement in political positions and their presence in women's assistance centers has resulted in a huge setback for sexual and reproductive health rights. The elimination of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy as well as the intensification of a context where women are punished and their decisions towards their bodies are watched, are some examples of how sexual and reproductive rights and body autonomy of women have been pushed back in Ecuador. Since 2013, the number of women convicted of illegal abortions has significantly increased. Salud Mujeres has been forced to strengthen their strategies to ensure young women's safety and rights, and to take security measures to protect themselves.

