



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **IT IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE AN AGENDA FOR THE COMMON GOOD AFTER THE PANDEMIC, SAY POLITICIANS FROM 12 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

The political representatives expressed themselves in a Latin American colloquium organized by the Political Network for Values with about one hundred guests.

Political representatives from 12 Latin American countries pointed out that in order to face the consequences of the covid19 pandemic it is necessary to avoid false dichotomies and to promote an agenda for the common good based on respect for people and their freedoms, on subsidiarity and on solidarity.

Last Saturday, June 6, members of Parliament and political leaders participated in the virtual colloquium "Challenges and Opportunities for the Common Good in the Post-Pandemic Period", organized by the Political Network for Values (PNfV).

The PNfV is an international network of politicians who promote and defend life, family and fundamental freedoms. The colloquium brought together speakers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Spain, who spoke to around 100 guests. You can see the full event here.

The president of the PNfV, Katalin Novák, Minister of Family, Youth and International Affairs of Hungary, and the vice-president of the network, Senator Maria Rosario Guerra of Colombia, stated that the difficult panorama of the post-pandemic period must be met with effective responses that nourish hope.

Paola Holguín, also a Colombian senator, said that "the political response to the post-pandemic period is an agenda for the common good, [...] let us understand that there is no economy without health and no health without economy, and that it is not a question of opting for individualist liberalism or socialist collectivism; the common good overcomes these false dichotomies."



Uruguayan legislator Rodrigo Goñi presented the experience of Uruguay in the fight against the coronavirus, where the government, without taking a step back, resisted all pressures, and highlighted two key elements: "a commitment to freedom and personal responsibility".

Strong health measures were implemented in that country, but the government did not impose a forced quarantine or close down trade, it appealed to citizen responsibility, lowered the wages of the civil servants, created a fund to combat the pandemic and supported vulnerable families, among other things.

The result: only 924 confirmed cases of infection, of which 818 recovered and 26 died, or 7 deaths per million inhabitants, one of the lowest global figures without a brutal impact on the economy.

Carlos Polo, director for Latin America at the Population Research Institute, warned that the pandemic has given rise to a narrative that uses fear and is used by various governments to justify authoritarian policies and impose a global ideological agenda.

The speakers noted that there are red flags in this regard, for example, in Spain, Mexico, Argentina, and El Salvador, because of the actions of their governments, and in Brazil, because of the judicial activism of the Supreme Federal Court (STF).

Congressman Rodolfo Parker said that in El Salvador there is a democratic regression that is aggravated by the instrumentalizing of the Armed Forces.

Argentine Senators Silvia Elias de Perez and Mariano Gervan noted that the government has advanced within the framework of the exceptionality guidelines on Abortion in health and gender in education.

And federal representative Felipe Barros said that in Brazil the Supreme Court has tried to neutralize the government's actions and legalize abortion, and has curtailed fundamental freedoms and imposed censorship on conservatives.

For Barros, it is indispensable "to unite and articulate throughout the continent those who defend freedoms, the culture of life, the rule of law, that is the main challenge we have: to add up and articulate with a common vision.

Paraguayan Senator Fidel Zavala said that without this articulation a return to the authoritarianism of past decades is a real risk, because "the covid19 has stripped our still weak institutions.



And he considered that in the face of the enormous economic crisis that is coming, "our non-leftwing governments have an opportunity to show that they know how to engage in an iron-clad fight against poverty."

Mexican Senator Juan Carlos Romero Hicks urged that decisive attention be given to those who suffer most, to the poorest and most affected by this crisis, with inclusive public policies designed on the basis of prudence, humility, empathy and common sense.

José Antonio Kast, president of the Republican Party of Chile, encouraged "generating a critical mass" that embraces an agenda for the common good and links the progressive narrative with another narrative that - rooted in truth and freedom - generates hope, is emotional, and moves to action.

For Spaniard Jaime Mayor Oreja, honorary president of the PNfV, the pandemic has been a catalyst for the debate on the model of society that we have, and has revealed what the network has been warning about since its foundation: we are immersed in a deep anthropological and civilization crisis.

"The pandemic should serve to strengthen our convictions internally, [...] the adversaries to our values will emerge much stronger, but we are less of a minority than they think, we must offer a cultural alternative based on human dignity, freedom, democracy and Christian values," he said.

Hermann Tertsch, Vox member of the European Parliament and Vice-President for the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, said that the pandemic had led many to rediscover their values and although we are going through very difficult times, we have an opportunity at hand:

"What we are experiencing now, this great offensive by the enemies of freedom to consummate a cycle that began in 68, is leading to an inferno; we must respond with the values that are the foundation of civilization: the sacred character of the person, love of the family and the nation; let us fight without fear of anyone and anything".

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For more information on the colloquium, the Political Network for Values, or upcoming activities please contact:

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