5TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS: GIRLS AND BOYS, THE PROTAGONISTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Between 15 and 19 October, the capital of the Province of San Juan hosted the 5th World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. For five days, prominent experts, government officials and representatives of various organizations from different countries of the five continents gathered to reflect on children and adolescents as active subjects with rights and protagonists of the processes of social change.

The Congress was organized by the Argentine Ministry of Social Development, through the Argentine Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence and Family; the Ministry of Human Development and Social Promotion of the Government of the Province of San Juan; and the Parliamentary Forum on Childhood of the Argentine Republic, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The lectures and panels were focused on childhood and adolescence, which were analyzed in the light of the impact of social policies, subjectivity and identity issues, the media, the culture industry, education, citizenship, the gender issue, violence against boys and girls, early childhood, new technologies, the role of social organizations, and childhood and income distribution, among other topics. Most importantly, however, the reorientation of the role of National States during the last decade was discussed.

It should also be noted that not only adults discussed childhood and adolescence topics, since the 1st National Congress for Girls, Boys and Adolescents was simultaneously held from 17 to 19 October. This initiative gathered more than 1000 boys and girls from around the country, between the ages of 10 and 17, in groups representing each of the Provinces. Under the motto Protagonists of Social Change, the scheduled activities dealt with the right to identity, participation, expression, education and inclusion.