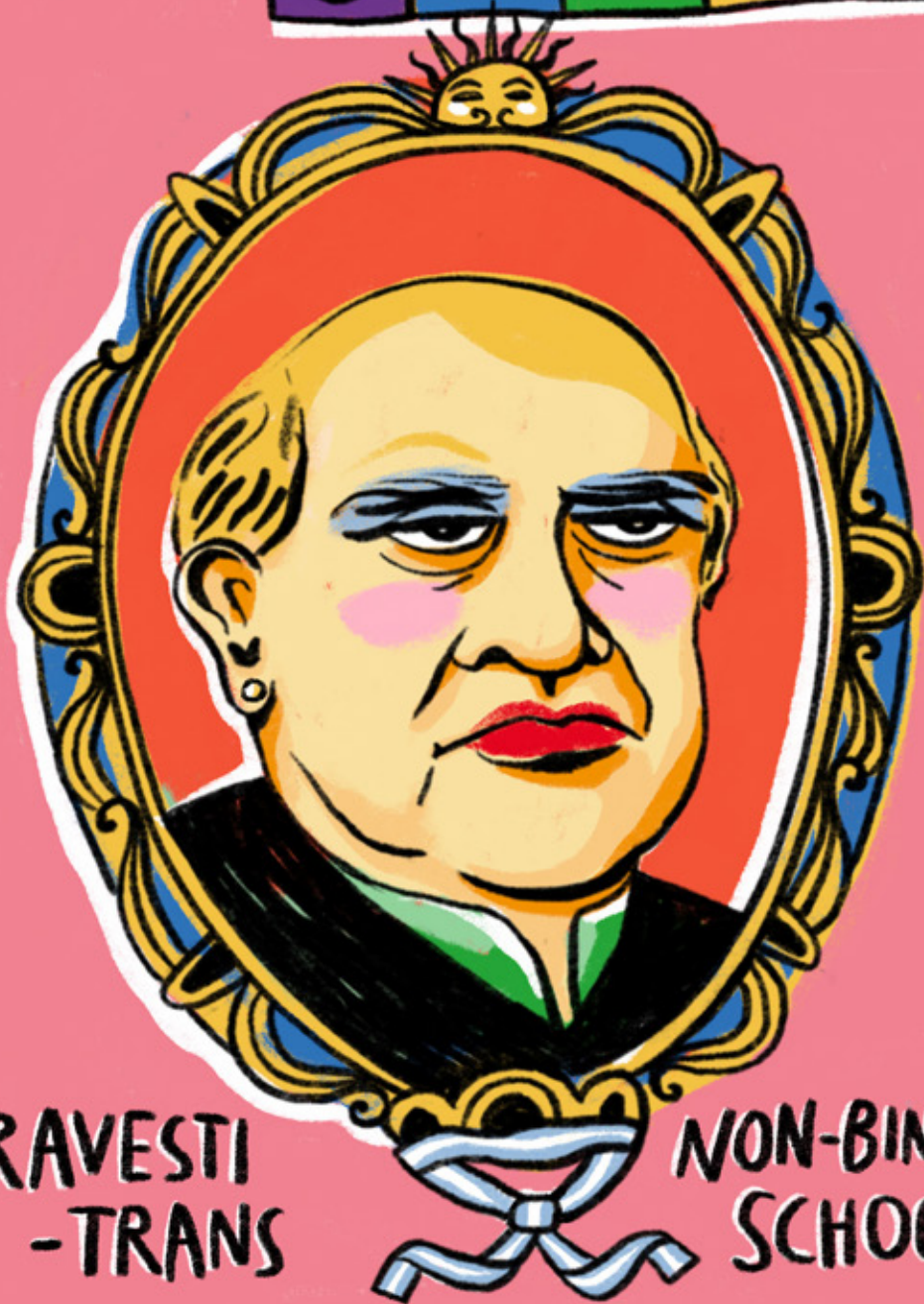


MOCHA
CELSIS



TRAVESTI
-TRANS

NON-BINARY
SCHOOL

Proofreader: Gary Crabb

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“Travesti-Trans Non-Binary School Mocha Celis” of the
Flor Capella, Ana Fornaro and María Eugenia Ludueña
was developed as part of Movements and Moments –
Feminists Generations, an initiative of Goethe-Institut.
The project aims to make visible Indigenous feminist
activisms and protagonists from the Global South
by relating their life stories in the highly accessible
format of comics.





TRAVESTI-TRANS NON-BINARY SCHOOL

RESEARCH

BACHILLERATO MOCHA CELIS

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THANKS

MICHELL TAGLIORETI, FRANCISCO QUIÑONES
Y MANU MIRELES



MOCHA CELIS

SOUTH AMERICA




BACHILLERATO MOCHA CELIS IS THE FIRST TRAVESTI*-TRANS NON-BINARY SCHOOL IN THE WORLD.

IT IS AN INCLUSIVE BUT NOT EXCLUSIVE SPACE: IN ADDITION TO TRAVESTI, TRANSGENDER, AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE, IT IS ALSO ATTENDED BY MIGRANTS, NEIGHBORS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, OLDER CIS WOMEN WHO DID NOT FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND SINGLE MOTHERS. IT HAS MORE THAN 300 STUDENTS AND MORE THAN 200 GRADUATES.

It was founded in Buenos Aires in 2011, a year before the Gender Identity Law was passed in Argentina, by Francisco Quiñones and Agustín Fuchs.

Travesti activist Lohana Berkins was the driving force behind the idea and godmother of the project.





To demand a right you have to know it.
We want the right to education.
This is the opportunity.

LOHANA BERKINS

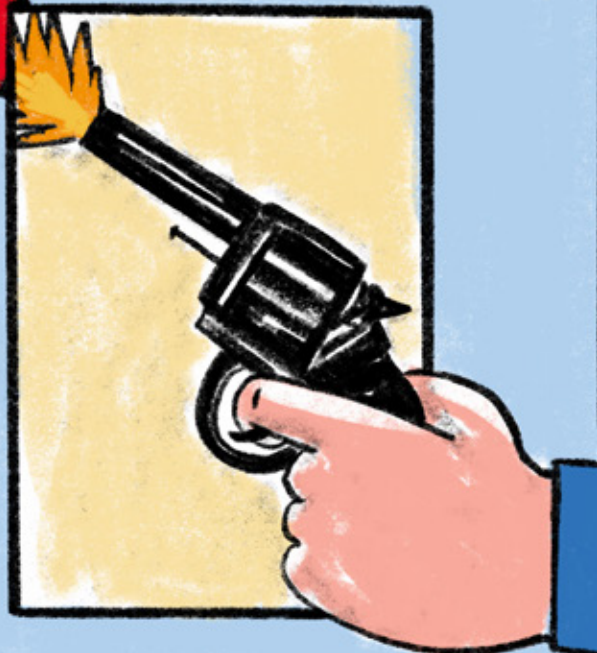
*Travesti: in Argentina, many trans femininities have reappropriated a word that was an insult and in other Latin American countries still has a negative charge. What used to be an insult and an accusation by the police, who took them into custody accusing them of “travestirse” (to dress in clothes of another sex), is now for many a vindication of a political identity that breaks the male/female binary and takes a stand against institutional violence.



MOCHA CELIS WAS A TRAVES-
TI BORN IN TUCUMÁN, IN THE
NORTHWEST OF ARGENTINA.
SHE MIGRATED TO THE CITY OF
BUENOS AIRES IN SEARCH OF
OPPORTUNITIES AND TO ES-
CAPE THE PATRIARCHAL VIO-
LENCE OF HER PROVINCE, ONE
OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE IN
THE COUNTRY.



SHE SURVIVED AS A SEXUAL
WORKER ON THE STREETS OF THE
FLORES NEIGHBORHOOD IN BUE-
NOS AIRES. IT WAS THERE THAT
SHE MET LOHANA BERKINS. AC-
CORDING TO LOHANA, MOCHA HAD
NOT FINISHED SCHOOL AND, LIKE
MANY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE,
HAD SUFFERED POLICE ABUSE.



THIS EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATIONAL UNIT
PAYS TRIBUTE TO

MOCHA CELIS

TRAVESTI AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE HAVE AN
AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF 35 YEARS IN ARGENTINA
AND LATIN AMERICA.

SOURCE: REPORT VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN,
GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX PERSONS
IN THE AMERICAS. IACHR, 2015.



SHE WAS KILLED IN THE 1990s BY THREE
BULLETS IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE
NEVER BEEN MADE CLEAR. IT IS SUSPECT-
ED THAT SHE WAS KILLED BY A POLICEMAN.

ACCORDING TO "LA GESTA DEL NOMBRE PROPIO" (LOHANA BERKINS AND JOSEFINA FERNÁNDEZ, PUBLISHED BY MADRES DE PLAZA DE MAYO, BUENOS AIRES, 2006), 64% OF TRANS-TRAVESTIS WHO ASSUMED THEIR GENDER IDENTITY BEFORE THE AGE OF 13 DID NOT FINISH PRIMARY SCHOOL.



IN 2016, 59.8% OF TRAVESTI*-TRANS WOMEN HAD NOT COMPLETED SECONDARY SCHOOL (COMPULSORY IN ARGENTINA). 72.8% OF TRANS MEN HAD COMPLETED AT LEAST SECONDARY SCHOOL, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM "LA REVOLUCIÓN DE LAS MARIPOSAS" (A RESEARCH REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE TRANS POPULATION IN THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES, PRODUCED JOINTLY BY THE PROGRAMA DE GÉNERO Y DIVERSIDAD SEXUAL AND THE BACHILLERATO POPULAR TRANS MOCHA CELIS, PUBLISHED IN 2017 BY THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF CABA).





But do you wear
panties or pants?



Did you get into a
fight again?





Can't you look more normal for once?







Eeeh...I'm not fucking paying for this!



70.4% OF TRAVESTI* AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN DERIVE THEIR SOURCE OF INCOME FROM SEX WORK/PROSTITUTION*. IN THE STREET, THEY ARE EXPOSED TO DIFFERENT KINDS OF VIOLENCE: VIOLENCE BY THE POLICE (WHO, IN ADDITION TO ARBITRARILY ARRESTING THEM, HARASS THEM, PERSECUTE THEM AND, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INVENT CAUSES FOR THEM) AND VIOLENCE BY CLIENTS. PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HELPLESSNESS OFTEN LEADS TO PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE. MOST TRANSVESTICIDES AND TRANSFEMICIDES IN LATIN AMERICA OCCUR IN THESE CONTEXTS.
*FIGURE FROM 2016, EXTRACTED FROM THE REPORT "LA REVOLUCIÓN DE LAS MARIPOSAS".

88.2% OF TRAVESTIS* AND TRANS WOMEN HAVE NEVER HAD ACCESS TO A FORMAL JOB.

51.5% OF TRANS MEN HAVE NOT HAD ACCESS TO FORMAL WORK.

SOURCE: "LA REVOLUCIÓN DE LAS MARIPOSAS".

So that you can choose to be what you want to be.

And what is this good for?





THE TEACHERS AND SCHOOLMATES GO OUT INTO THE STREETS TO LOOK FOR NEW STUDENTS BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF THEM DON'T KNOW THAT THIS SPACE EXISTS AND OTHERS ARE NOT GOING TO ARRIVE MAGICALLY.


THE SEX WORK/PROSTITUTION POINTS ON THE STREETS OF BUENOS AIRES ARE ONE OF THE PLACES THEY GO ON THIS TOUR. THERE THEY GO TO TALK TO OTHER TRAVESTI* AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN AND TELL THEM ABOUT LA MOCHA.

OTHER TIMES IT IS FRIENDS WHO SHARE WITH THEM THEIR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND WHAT POSSIBILITIES ARE OPEN TO THEM. STUDY AND SEX WORK/PROSTITUTION OFTEN COEXIST. LA MOCHA ALSO BECOMES A PLACE OF WELCOME AND SUPPORT. THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "THE TENDERNESS SCHOOL".




MOCHA CE LIS





You don't need to have a new document to call you by your name.




I feel like I've travelled back in time and recovered something I thought I'd lost...





A DAY IN LA MOCHA

A large, stylized illustration of a crowd of people, likely in a lecture hall or classroom. The people are depicted in profile, facing right. They are wearing simple, light-colored clothing. The background is a solid light blue. The style is reminiscent of mid-century modern graphic design.

Damn! I have to go to work and I don't have any clothes.

A smaller, more detailed illustration of two women. The woman on the left has long, straight pink hair and is applying red lipstick. The woman on the right has dark, curly hair and is wearing a purple jacket over a yellow top. They are both looking towards the right.

I can lend you something

POLITICS, CITIZENSHIP
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
National Constitution



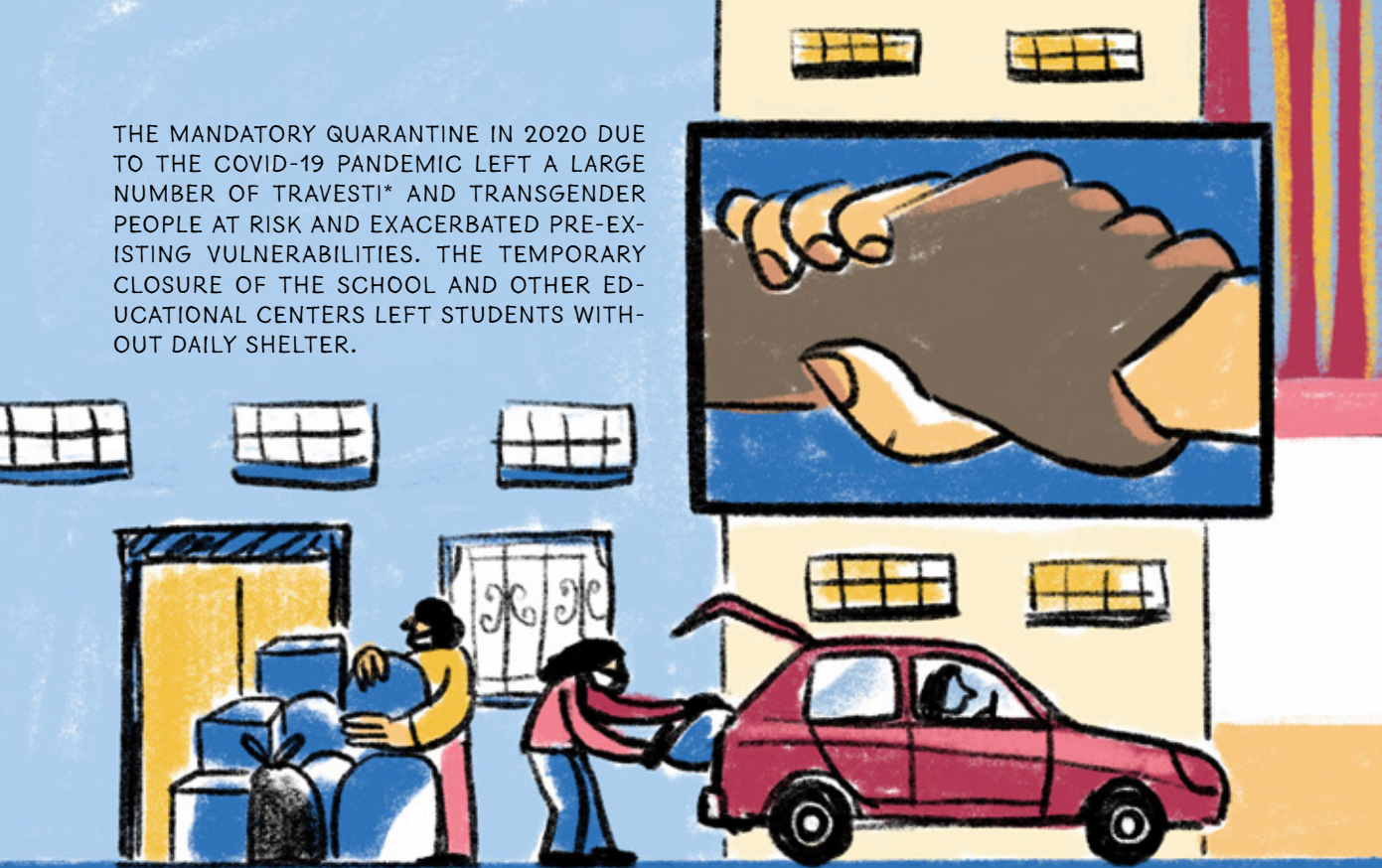
I could be a teacher too, perhaps...

Oops! Tomorrow is history exam

Let's have a smoke in the bathroom



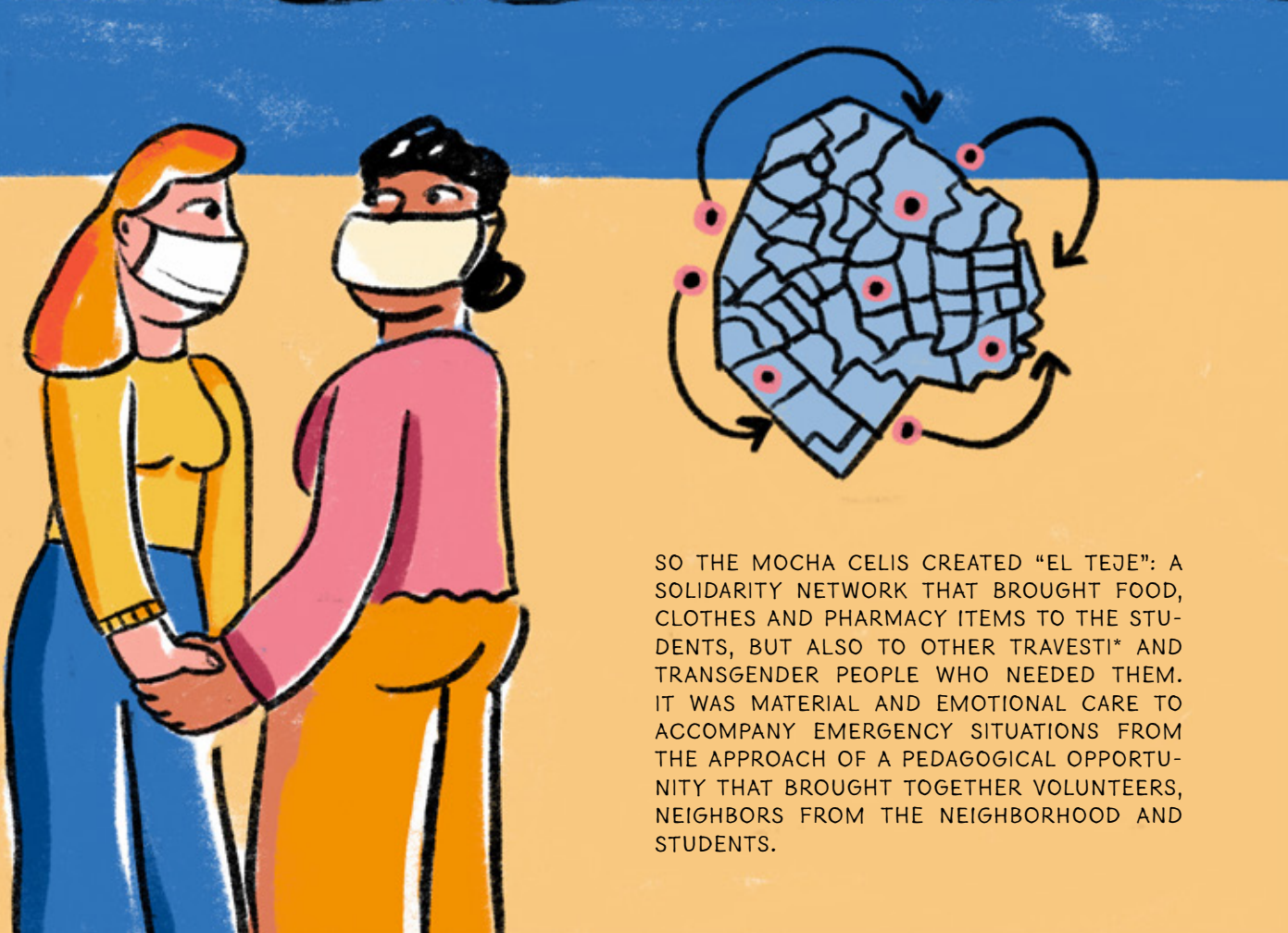
THE MANDATORY QUARANTINE IN 2020 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LEFT A LARGE NUMBER OF TRAVESTI* AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AT RISK AND EXACERBATED PRE-EXISTING VULNERABILITIES. THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL CENTERS LEFT STUDENTS WITHOUT DAILY SHELTER.



A DAY IN LA MOCHA IN PANDEMIC: “EL TEJE”



DUE TO THE HOUSING EMERGENCY THAT ESPECIALLY AFFECTED TRAVESTI* AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE, IT WAS IMPRACTICABLE TO CONTINUE STUDYING VIRTUALLY. THE VAST MAJORITY DO NOT HAVE A COMPUTER OR INTERNET CONNECTION, AND MANY HAVE NO GUARANTEED ACCESS TO DECENT HOUSING.



SO THE MOCHA CELIS CREATED "EL TEJE": A SOLIDARITY NETWORK THAT BROUGHT FOOD, CLOTHES AND PHARMACY ITEMS TO THE STUDENTS, BUT ALSO TO OTHER TRAVESTI* AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WHO NEEDED THEM. IT WAS MATERIAL AND EMOTIONAL CARE TO ACCOMPANY EMERGENCY SITUATIONS FROM THE APPROACH OF A PEDAGOGICAL OPPORTUNITY THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER VOLUNTEERS, NEIGHBORS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND STUDENTS.

MOCHA
CELIS



I'm going to explain
to you how this is...



BEING PART OF THE MOCHA CELIS CHANGES PEOPLE. THIS IS WHAT EACH OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EDUCATED THERE SAY. THEY FEEL THAT THEY GET BACK SOMETHING OF WHAT THEY WERE DENIED IN THE PAST. BEING ABLE TO SIT AT DESKS, BUY SUPPLIES, HAVE TIMETABLES AND SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES. AND THEY LEARN THAT IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO ACCESS EDUCATION AS A RIGHT. THEY FEEL MORE CONFIDENT AND HAVE GREATER SELF-ESTEEM: IT CHANGES THE WAY THEY RELATE TO OTHERS. EVEN WITH THEIR OWN FAMILIES.



"TENDERNESS SCHOOL" BREAKS THE BINARY PATHS OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION AND OPENS UP POSSIBILITIES THAT GO BEYOND THE COMPLETION OF BASIC SCHOOLING. THE TITLE OBTAINED AS ASSISTANT EXPERT IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLOWS THEM TO ENROLL IN ANY UNIVERSITY. THEY CAN THINK ABOUT BECOMING PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMICS AND GENERATE KNOWLEDGE BASED ON THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES. LA MOCHA'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE HAS AN IMPACT ON A LATIN AMERICAN TRAVESTIS-TRANS THEORY WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE.



IN ARGENTINA, DUE TO THE STRUGGLE OF TRANS, TRAVESTIS AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY ACTIVISTS, A HISTORIC AND PIONEERING LAW WAS PASSED: THE DIANA SACAYÁN-LOHANA BERKINS LAW FOR THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO FORMAL EMPLOYMENT FOR TRAVESTIS, TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.

APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS ON 24 JUNE 2021, IT PROPOSES A SERIES OF POSITIVE MEASURES FOR LABOR INCLUSION, AMONG THEM A QUOTA OF AT LEAST 1 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT RESERVED FOR TRANS AND TRAVESTIS, AS WELL AS TAX INCENTIVES TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.



imagine myself...



When a travesti enters university, it changes her life. Many travestis at university change society's life

LOHANA



imagine ourselves

UNITED AND ORGANIZED WE CAN GET EVERYTHING

LAW FOR LABOR
INCLUSION

No more transfemicides!

¡¡FURIA TRAVESTI!!

We want work,
education, health
and housing!

WE ARE NOT DANGEROUS,
WE ARE IN DANGER



You can donate:
bachilleratomochacelis.edu.ar

We are butterflies
in a world of
capitalist worms

MOCHA EDUCACIÓN
CELLS