



## **AMAZE en Español Brings Comprehensive Sexual Health Education to Uruguay**

**URUGUAY (January 31, 2019)** – Today [Iniciativas Sanitarias](#), a leading coalition of sexual and reproductive health professionals in Uruguay, along with a group of national and international partners launched [AMAZE en Español](#), a digital platform that provides comprehensive sexual health education for youth in Uruguay and other South American countries.

Using fun, age-appropriate and evidence-based [videos and digital content](#), AMAZE en Español provides thousands of young adolescents ages 10-14, their parents, educators and caregivers with the tools necessary to understand and address a full range of sexual and reproductive health issues.

The launch of AMAZE en Español in Uruguay was commemorated at the Dodecá Foundation on January 31, 2019 and attendees included partners from Uruguay's National Administration of Public Education (ANEP), Advocates for Youth, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and the WestWind Foundation, among others. During the event, leaders from these organizations shared the following remarks about AMAZE and the need to expand comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education globally.

**Janet Miller, WestWind Fund:** "As more partners begin to adapt and make AMAZE their own, we're looking forward to the conversation about relationships and sexuality becoming much more open and normal. We want people to feel comfortable discussing these issues in family settings, in schools."

**Edward Miller, WestWind Fund:** "I've heard many times that Uruguay is a small country, but I don't see you as small. You have such a progressive vision of a just and equitable society to share with the world. AMAZE is also small, only a few years old, and we still have so much to learn in how to make sexuality education free, accurate, and easily accessible around the world."

**Nicole Cheetham, Director of the International Division at Advocates for Youth:** "When it comes to sexual health education, there is always a need for resources and materials that teach young people in a way that is not only positive, age-appropriate and accurate, but also funny, entertaining and affirming of adolescents' needs and experiences."

**Diego Rossi, Head of Sexual Education at ANEP:** "This year, the ANEP's sexuality education program turns 14 years old and we are happy to know that it has shown advancements along with institutional achievements of our country. These types of dynamic and inclusive resources contribute to the innovation of educational formats for low-middle school."

**Ana Labandera, Executive Director at Iniciativas Sanitarias and attending obstetrician at the National Women's Hospital** highlighted the opportunity and usefulness of AMAZE not only for adolescents, but also for parents and educators, saying: "The AMAZE videos in Uruguay have been adapted to the local context and include sign language. This has been made possible by the work and professionalism of young producers at Dodecá, as well as the contributions on the pedagogic resources made by the

National Coordination on Sexuality Education of Sexuality Education and teachers of the Uruguayan educational system.”

**Débora Diniz, Deputy Director at the IPPF (Western Hemisphere Region):** “AMAZE in Uruguay is part of a regional experiment. Uruguay is a country largely free of extremisms, which means here we can refine our language. AMAZE exists as a clear voice cutting through a lot of noise. Our message is clear: sex is a natural part of life.”

Before coming to Uruguay, AMAZE en Español launched in Mexico and in less than a year reached more than 3,000 followers on social media. The introduction of this platform in Uruguay is the latest move in AMAZE’s international expansion, as it continues to collaborate and partner with countries to bring comprehensive sexual health education to youth across the globe.

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