

INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN MIDWIFERY DAY CELEBRATED IN CHILE

A virtual ceremony touched by strong emotions was experienced last night at the official International Latin American Day of Midwifery 2020, organized by the Chilean MA, and attended by the President of the Senate, Senator Adriana Muñoz; the WHO/PAHO Representative in Chile, Dr Luis Fernando Leanes; and the Vice-President of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Sandra Oyarzo.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health, Dr. Enrique Paris, sent a video greeting for the 186 years of midwifery in Chile, and in the middle of the broadcasting, he took the opportunity to call the President of the Association, Anita Román, to whom he confirmed the first midwife who will undertake the National Direction of Midwifery in the Ministry of Health, Giorgia Cartes Bravo, currently Coordinator Midwife of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit of the San José Hospital. This fact was valued in the audio-visual recording sent by ICM President Franka Cadee, who stressed that Chile, after England and Kyrgyzstan, is the third country in the world to have such a specialised unit within the health authority.

The news was also widely applauded by the panel of attendees at the virtual event, made up of the national board of directors and most of the regional councils, as well as by the more than 400 people connected to the Facebook Live broadcast, which also recognised 34 colleagues for 30 years of career service and announced the "Lorenzo Sazié" Award, which was presented to Alejandra Ceballos; and "Isidora Góngora Award", granted to Lucy Salgado, both from Concepción, and the posthumous award in the same category to Mercedes Mora (QEPD), from Rancagua.

A highly emotional moment was the tribute paid by a group of midwifery students from all over Chile, as well as the regional councils, to the 33 victims of femicide reported this year, in a video that was also broadcast on the Association's social networks.

DIRECTOR OF MIDWIFERY

At the end of the virtual ceremony, which included words not only from the national president Anita Román, but also from Senator Adriana Muñoz, Dr. Luis Fernando Leanes and ICM Vice President Sandra Oyarzo, it was the turn of the new Director of Midwifery of the Ministry of Health, Giorgia Cartes, who pointed out that "this position is of great importance because it strengthens us as professionals, recognises us and makes us relevant actors in the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, precisely the one aimed at improving maternal perinatal health".

"According to the WHO/PAHO, there is a global shortage of midwifery health professionals, which, of course, does not differ from domestic reality, and so this step is the starting point for improving quality standards of sexual and reproductive health care for women in Chile," she stressed.