



Silence and Whisper

The philanthropy response to burning social issues: The case of femicides in Argentina Florencia Roitstein



1. Introduction

Hundreds of thousands of women mobilized online and on the streets all across the country to demand an end to gender-based violence. The hashtag used by activists, #NiUnaMenos (“not one less”) signalled frustration over recent cases of femicide (a term for the intentional murder of a woman or girl because of her gender), and what many saw as the lackluster response from policymakers and law enforcement to address the problem. The manifestations received massive support and were replicated the same day in cities such as Montevideo (Uruguay), Santiago, (Chile) Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) across the region.



2. Femicide Statistics for 2008/15

La Casa del Encuentro, a women's shelter that carries out the national estimate on femicides, calculates that a woman is killed every 31 hours. More than 1,800 women have been shot, stabbed, beaten, burned, strangled to death since 2008, when the records began. During 2016, 286 women were killed. The big majority in their homes by men they knew.

3. Main question

Could today’s institutional philanthropy respond to burning social issues?



Methodology

Qualitative research was done on primary and secondary sources:

- Mapped and analyzed corporate and private foundations response to gender based violence.
- Interviewed the largest grant-makers in Argentina that are NOT funding gender based violence
- Interviewed the largest women NGOs

4. Results

- The response from corporate and private foundations is marginal. Only 1.6 % of funding goes to gender topics and none to gender violence.
- Street mobilization of women got little support (for transport and meals) from women NGOs getting international funds.
- The massive online and street response comes from non-institutionalized individuals spreading their voice and seeking justice.

5. Conclusion

Innovative forms of locally driven philanthropic behaviour are emerging in Argentina, harnessing local resources and developing new managerial approaches. This phenomena may be the counterface of the lack of effective response from traditional philanthropic institutions to burning social issues. These type of models represent a different way of creating sustainable development, in which people invest their own resources to address their own social concerns in their own way.



6. Debate

- Is institutionalized philanthropy incapable to understand and innovate in ways that could meet the dynamics of people “real needs”?
- Could organizations that have created and sustained (women) inequality (part of the problem) be the ones coming with sustainable change (part of the solutions)?
- Is it possible to make sustainable social transformation trough horizontal forms of people’s led philanthropy?

7. What women say about femicides?

Aren't we going to raise our voice? They are killing us” Georgina Sticco. GROW. (Founder and coordinator)

These protests gathered people from the entire political, social, educational, and cultural spectrum. It is this critical, diverse mass that will finally force the government to address the problem of gender-based violence.” Martin Garica. Natalia Gherardi, ELAS (founder & CEO)

In recent years, there is a wave of attacks on women, a situation that the UN has called pandemic. Silvia Zubiri. President Avon Foundation. (former)

8. Recommendation for donors

Map ecosystem and support the individuals and social movements that create responsive approaches that meet “real social needs” and creates political pressure to respond.

