

Annual Report of ILC-DR January-December 2024

The year started in ILC-DR with a decision to strengthen our influence among NGOs working for and with older people in the Dominican Republic to be able to improve our influence at National level over the policies implemented by the government in favor of the older population and so we had a meeting with the Director of the National Council for the Elderly and we reached an agreement to work together in order to improve condition of our older population.

Being an election year, we decided to do a survey interviewing 632 people over 65 to know what did they considered were the priorities to have dignity in old age and 83% of them answered in order of importance:

1. A pension
2. Better access to health service
3. A roof over their heads.

Funnily enough, those answers were practically the same the same as those given in 1998 when the UN asked us to do the same survey and it only showed that very little had been done to solve the problems of that part of the population, taking into account that the great majority of people over 75 and 80 specially women never worked in the formal sector and therefore never contributed to Social Security so those people were asking for solidarity pension but since they are the ones that are always ready to vote, we let them know that they have the power to change any government because they represent 10% of the population of the DR.

Those results were presented to the candidates of the mayor parties so that we could have their proposals to change the state of affairs.

The candidate that was opting for a second term wan the elections because during his campaign, he made reference to those needs and promised actions to start changing the situation.

After the elections that took place on the 20th of May, we took a plane to participate in the OEWGGOA 14 action that we have been doing for the past 14 years. We came out very pleased with the resolution that came out of that meeting and we plan to continue now going to Geneva were the action has been transferred.

Dr. Pereyra, as Vice president of INPEA, participates very actively in the Awareness Day, doing her accustomed media tour, putting in the minds of the Dominican Society the cases of abuse and the damage that it causes to older people and presents the number of cases reported that year the advances we have had and the actions taken to face the problem. The government has designated a public defender and every Thursday there is a hearing where the reported cases are judged.

In September Dr. Pereyra entered as Investigator to a project proposed by Berkeley University in California (CADAS Dementia Diagnosis). The project involves investigators from USA, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The population studied is people over 65. This project will extend till June this year.

On October first we were invited by the President to the presidential Palace to attend the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons, where they give an award to the older person of the year and to the institution or person that have shown the best action towards the elderly in that period.

On Oct 5th, we participated in the Julia's Awards, activity that started in 2023, promoted by Dr. Pereyra in collaboration with NTD ingredients an NGO of which she is a member of its Executive Council. This Award recognizes the contributions of Senior Citizens in the Dominican Republic. This year we had more than 40 nominees and 18 of them were chosen.

In October, we joined the Campaign Against Ageism launched by ILC-Argentina and promoted it in the DR through radio, TV and Newspaper.