



The Ibero-American Confederation of Family Medicine (CIMF) Region of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), is an organization committed to the search and advancement of health in South America, Mesoamerica and Iberia, and globally.

Both scientific advances and socio-historical processes have allowed us to appreciate that peace, freedom and equity are inescapable components of health. Our region enjoys an extraordinary natural, human and cultural wealth. At the same time, it remains an extremely inequitable and violent region, with high mortality rates for homicides of different types, including femicides and deaths related to territorial conflicts or urban violence where drug trafficking and poverty are intertwined.

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in violence derived from political conflicts and social mobilizations in several of our countries, with outstanding indigenous and popular prominence and strong repressions arranged from the state level. During the month of October and the few days after November, clashes have been present almost daily in the streets of several cities in Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia. The seriousness of the events has translated into numerous deaths, injuries and people missing. This situation which compromises not only physical integrity but other fundamental rights such as freedom and the possibility of expression, has a direct impact on health.

CIMF wishes to express its upmost solidarity with the Ibero-American people, who now suffer from gun violence and destruction resulting from the fighting. Particularly, we want to send a message of encouragement and support to all family medicine professionals and residents who in each of the countries continue without hesitation to carry on the work required of them as professionals and citizens. Even in these conditions full of pain and indignation, they are doing their best.

Finally, we call upon those who have government responsibilities, to cultivate dialogue and incessantly search the paths of agreement that will allow for the advancement in unity, without violence, with democratic participation, avoiding social fractures. Diversity is inherent in our regional wealth. Different views and opinions, different political perspectives should not lead us to ruptures but to deeper constructions, for greater equity, greater peace and greater health.

Health for all!

Peace, equity, democracy and freedom in Latin America and Ibero-America!

WONCA Iberoamericana CIMF, November 9th 2019