



UNESCO



Candidacy Promotion Areas at Embassies and Consulates

Strong efforts were made in recent weeks to create areas within the consulates and



Public Event “Cultural Heritage Preservation Linked to Human Rights. MERCOSUR Experiences”

embassies of the Argentine Republic abroad to promote the Museum's candidacy to the UNESCO World Heritage List through materials such as paintings, posters and videos. The goal is to provide the application with notoriety among citizens and officials who visit these areas where Argentina is represented. This increased promotion is linked to the work carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of the candidacy. The materials are already available at the embassies in El Salvador, Honduras, Tunisia and promotion areas are in the works at the embassies of Cuba, Tunisia, Sweden, Brazil, Norway, Uruguay, Panama, Hamburg, Lebanon and Frankfurt.

Presentation and Support from the European Parliament

Executive Director Alejandra Naftal presented the details of the Museum's application to the UNESCO World Heritage List at the meeting of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights. The initiative was led by Pablo Grinspun, ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the European Union. Different representatives from different political forces expressed their support for the candidacy. So did representatives of the European External Action Service, the diplomatic service of the European Union.

On Wednesday, June 16, the event was held with the contributions of referents, specialists and officials from the region. The floor was opened by Horacio Pietragalla Corti, Secretary for Human Rights, and Juan Valle, Undersecretary for Latin American Affairs of the Foreign Ministry. Officials from different institutions, perspectives and fields were invited to give an account of the challenges in the formulation and execution of public policies. They included Ariela Peralta (Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights of MERCOSUR), Leonardo Castriota (ICOMOS Brazil and ICOMOS International), Viviana Usubiaga (Ministry of Culture of Argentina), France Jamett (Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage of Chile) and Alejandra Naftal (ESMA Museum and Site of Memory).

Multiple Supports for The Candidacy

So far in 2021, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory's candidacy to the UNESCO World Heritage List has received multiple supports from organizations, institutions and personalities from many countries, including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, United States, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Portugal, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Switzerland and Uruguay. More support has been expressed by regional and international organizations, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the European Parliament, the MERCOSUR Parliament, and different bodies and organizations belonging to the European Union and MERCOSUR.

AUDIOVISUAL SERIES

Since March 2020, the context of isolation and social distancing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges. The experience of the site of memory took on new meanings and allowed us to expand promoting activities and content through digital communication tools.

Social networks and our YouTube channel also allowed us to generate greater interaction with younger generations.

Interviews with ESMA Survivors

In May 2020, with the 5th anniversary of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory, we kicked off the series “Virtual Meetings with ESMA Survivors”, featuring stories, anecdotes, and reflections from witnesses and survivors of the clandestine center.

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The Five O'clock Tour

On Saturday, May 30, 2020, the first Five O'clock Tour of that year took place and it was carried out entirely in virtual form. It was a tribute to Dagmar Hagelin, the young woman of Swedish descent kidnapped by the ESMA task force. Due to the mandatory preventive social isolation, tours are made through Facebook Live and our YouTube channel. And as long as the isolation continues, participation in the upcoming tributes will be possible only virtually, on the last Saturday of each month.

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A Look Into Justice

In August 2020, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory began a series of interviews with men and women of the judicial system whose work has been essential in the processes of justice for crimes against humanity.

The series has already featured María Roqueta, the judge who presided over the court that condemned the systematic plan to steal babies; Sergio Torres, the judge who led the investigation for crimes committed at ESMA; Mercedes Soiza Reilly, ad hoc prosecutor for the Unified ESMA case; Carolina Varsky, former coordinator of the Office for Crimes against Humanity; among others.

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EDUCATION



Dialogues of Memory

In August 2020, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory began a series of talks aimed at high school teachers and students from all over the country. The activity “Dialogues of Memory. Talks with students about the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory”, takes place online and aims to introduce the space and what happened during State terrorism as a complement to what has already been done in class –or as a first approach– through talks with the team of guides and members of the Museum’s educational area.

Teachers’ Meetings

The educational area of the Museum aims to generate a way to strengthen the relationship with the teachers, who are the main drivers of student visits. Hence, the Teachers’ Meetings were created to provide a space for reflection, knowledge of the museum and preparation for the student visits. The First Virtual Teachers’ Meeting, "The Pedagogical Role of Spaces of Memory in the (Post) Pandemic. New Challenges and Goals in the Transmission of Memories" took place in June 2020.

The activity brought together 711 attendees, including teachers, students, workers from Sites of Memory and academics from all the provinces of Argentina and countries such as Chile, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico, United States and France. To date, three meetings have been held in virtual format.

Censored Writing

This year the museum launched a literary workshop aimed at high school students that proposes a different way to address State terrorism, using three sources of language: the short story (*La planta de Bartolo* by Laura Devetach), poetry (*Poemas* by Loli Ponce) and the letter (Rodolfo Walsh’s Open Letter).

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM

Last May 19 marked the 6th anniversary of the inauguration of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory. The celebration was made through social networks and featured interviews in different media.

Since May 19, 2015, the day when it was inaugurated by President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the museum has been fully active within the framework of a process of collective construction of memory. But 2020 imposed a challenge on us, starting in March and in the face of global confinement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to close our doors and reconsider how to continue. Given this unprecedented event, we made the decision to reinvent ourselves and adapt our proposals to virtuality in order to continue building memory.

YOUTUBE

MONTH OF MEMORY FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

45 Anniversary of the Last Civic-Military Coup

The consensus around 'Never Again' was forged in Argentina after the last civic-military dictatorship, 45 years ago. Since then, thanks to Human Rights organizations, the people, and the Argentine State's a political decision, we say "never again" to State terrorism, "never again" to silence. We share the commemorative video made by the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory.



**“The Museum Goes
Out on The Street”**



We Plant Memory

On March 24, 2021, 45 years after the

Project - Mapping on the Kirchner Cultural Center

A mapping live event that projected the video of the Context Room of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory on the facade of the Center Cultural Kirchner was organized in the context of the National Day of Memory for Truth and Justice together with the Ministry of Culture of the Nation. The video was an audiovisual piece belonging to the permanent exhibition that runs through the democracies and dictatorships of the 20th century up until the last civic-military dictatorship (1976 - 1983), and the resistance of society during those years.

civic military coup, members of Human Rights organizations, restored grandchildren, survivors of the clandestine center and staff members of both the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory and the Space for Memory, called on society to plant 30 thousand trees for the disappeared detainees and for the future, under the slogan "On This March 24 We Plant Memory."

SPECIAL GUESTS



Pedro Sánchez

The President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, toured the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory as part of his visit to Argentina. The president took the guided tour and learned the details of the institution's application to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

"What we saw here today has inspired us, because our country has not reached the consensus that you have here on Memory and Never Again. In Spain we are fighting for the Democratic Memory Law and there are people who delegitimize it, who measure it in

terms of resource spending. I have deep respect for this space and for the work you do for memory, and I wish you a lot of encouragement with the task that lies ahead”, expressed Sánchez, moved after the visit.



Felipe Solá

Last June, in the context of the nomination of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory to the UNESCO World Heritage List, Chancellor Felipe Solá was welcomed by the Secretary of Human Rights of the Nation, Horacio Pietragalla Corti, and the team working on the application, who joined him on a guided tour of the permanent exhibition.



Fabiola Yañez

In the month of memory, the first lady of Argentina Fabiola Yañez took the guided tour of the permanent exhibition and learned details of the application to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Visibly moved after the visit, Yañez stressed that “the Museum’s candidacy to Unesco is very important, as we are a global example of the struggle for human rights, embodied in the statement “Memory, Truth and Justice”. This space constitutes collective memory and fulfills a fundamental role as a legacy for the new generations”.



IPPDH Authorities

The executive secretary of the MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH), Ariela Peralta, visited the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory during the month of March. Peralta pointed out that “the candidacy of the Museum to the UNESCO World Heritage List is extremely important. It means a lot for the region and beyond, not



Ulrich Sante

The German ambassador to Argentina visited the museum in April and represented the German government in the signing of an agreement with the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory and the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) to carry out the second edition of the exhibition "Being Women at ESMA, Testimonies to Look Again" and in support

only because of more memory, more truth, more justice and more reparation of the past, but also because that past constitutes the present and it's the construction of public policies for the future: prevention policies, access to justice, reparation, knowing the truth, policies for future generations ”.

of investigations into sexual abuses committed at ESMA.

INSTITUTIONALS

Volunteering Program with Harvard University

In January 2021 we welcomed –for three weeks and online– students from Harvard University for a work program that allowed them to connect with the history, mission and contents of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory.

PARTICIPATIONS

The Strength of Movements. Feminisms and Human Rights

The executive director of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory, Alejandra Naftal, participated in the debate in the context of the International Week of Working Women, as part of the cultural and federal event "We Move the World", organized by the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation at the Kirchner Cultural Center.

A dialogue between two key movements in the construction of basic rights, senses of struggle and resistance in our country, the Human Rights movement and the Feminist movement, identifying elements of mutual interest, of mutual transformation, and impact in our people through cultural symbols and common demands.

YOUTUBE



Memory, Non-Repetition, and Reintegration of Survivors

An online exchange organized by the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation on transitional justice and the reintegration of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born out of war.

Being women at ESMA, testimonies to look again

A traveling exhibition based on the judicial testimonies of the survivors on gender violence and various sexual crimes committed by the ESMA Task Force. Since its inauguration in 2019, the exhibition has traveled to Bilbao, the Basque Country and the city of Rosario in Argentina. But 2020 forced us to pause the openings scheduled for that year. Therefore, together with the different venues we analyzed health protocols that would allow the exhibition to open in some of them. Within this context, Being Women at ESMA – Testimonies to Look Again has already traveled to more than 5 Argentine cities.



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