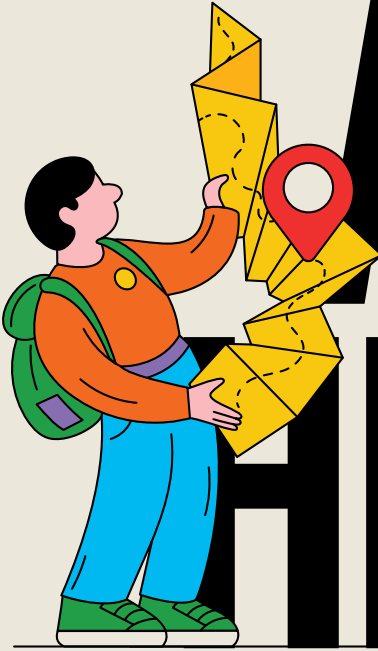


**YOU  
ARE  
HERE**





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# Journey Map

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- 📍 Starting Point
  - 📍 Before and Now
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# Starting Point

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It was the 1940s. My grandmother separated from her husband. She was very young and had to support a household on her own with two small daughters. I grew up admiring that story: the one featuring a strong woman, an example of resilience, with an unwavering work ethic. Yet my mother remembers that time through the eyes of a child marked by stigma: at school, she was known as the daughter from a “broken home.”

But my mother grew up, and together with my father, they lived in a different era. In the 1980s, with the return of democracy, a new horizon began to open up: more voices, more debate, more freedom. It was during this time that the Supreme Court recognized the right to divorce, among many other changes, allowing many families to rebuild their lives.

Today, my son and daughter are growing up in yet another era, another time: one shaped by a society that values different ways of pursuing dreams and recognizes that diversity as an essential part of who we are. You are here. In a present that is different from the one our grandparents and parents knew. Different because there is greater freedom to choose, more tools to shape our futures, and broader recognition of the diverse talents we each have, and the effort we make to develop them. Different too, because over several decades of democracy, public policies have been designed to address past shortcomings and expand opportunities; institutions have supported these changes; and people -like you- have imagined that we could live better lives. And they were right. Every step we take opens new paths, but also reminds us that we can lose our way or come to a standstill. The most prosperous, stable, and modern societies are those that build on what they have learned, strengthen what works, and continue to expand the conditions that allow each person to pursue their own life project with greater freedom.

We have come this far because many generations, including our own, dared to think and act differently. Because at every moment, many chose to believe in a future better than their present. This book is a brief

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logbook of that journey: what we have left behind, what we have achieved, and what we can -and must- continue to imagine.

It is also an invitation to stay the course so that Argentina can continue to build a freer, happier, and more humane future. Because if we have learned anything from those who came before.

**Natalia Gherardi**  
Executive Director

ELA - Latin American Team  
for Justice and Gender

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## 📍 Before



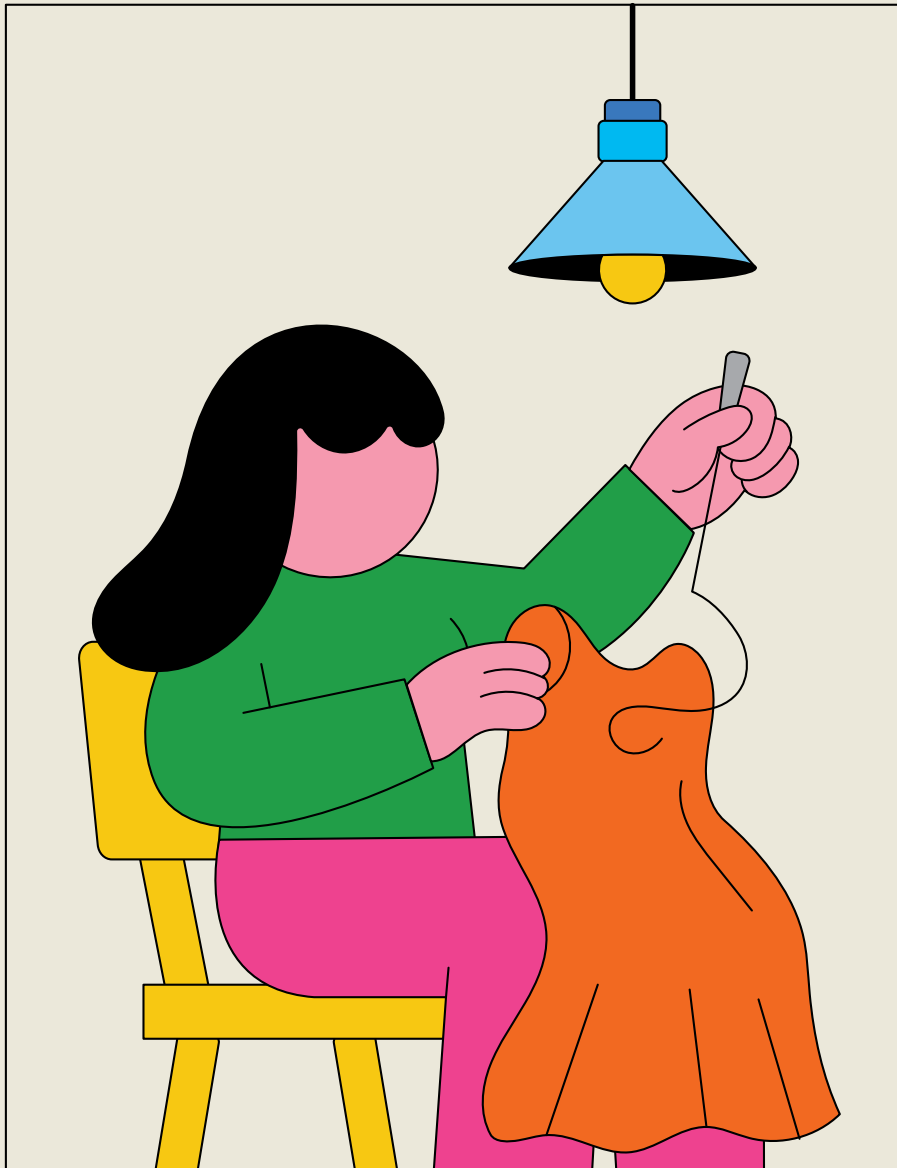
From the moment we were born, our paths were shaped in advance: separate worlds, limited possibilities.

## Now 📍



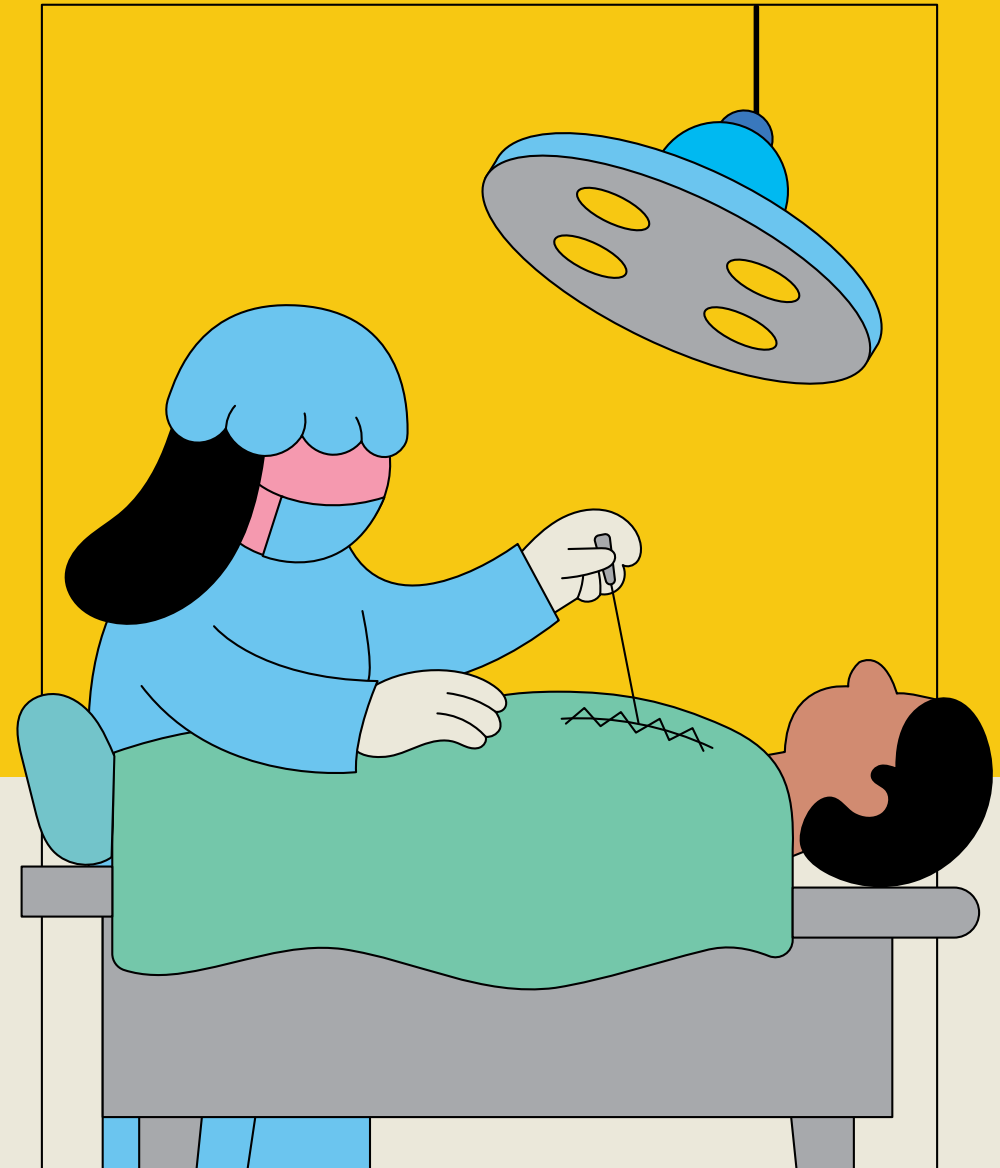
Today, we can build our life projects with greater freedom.<sup>1</sup>

## 📍 Before



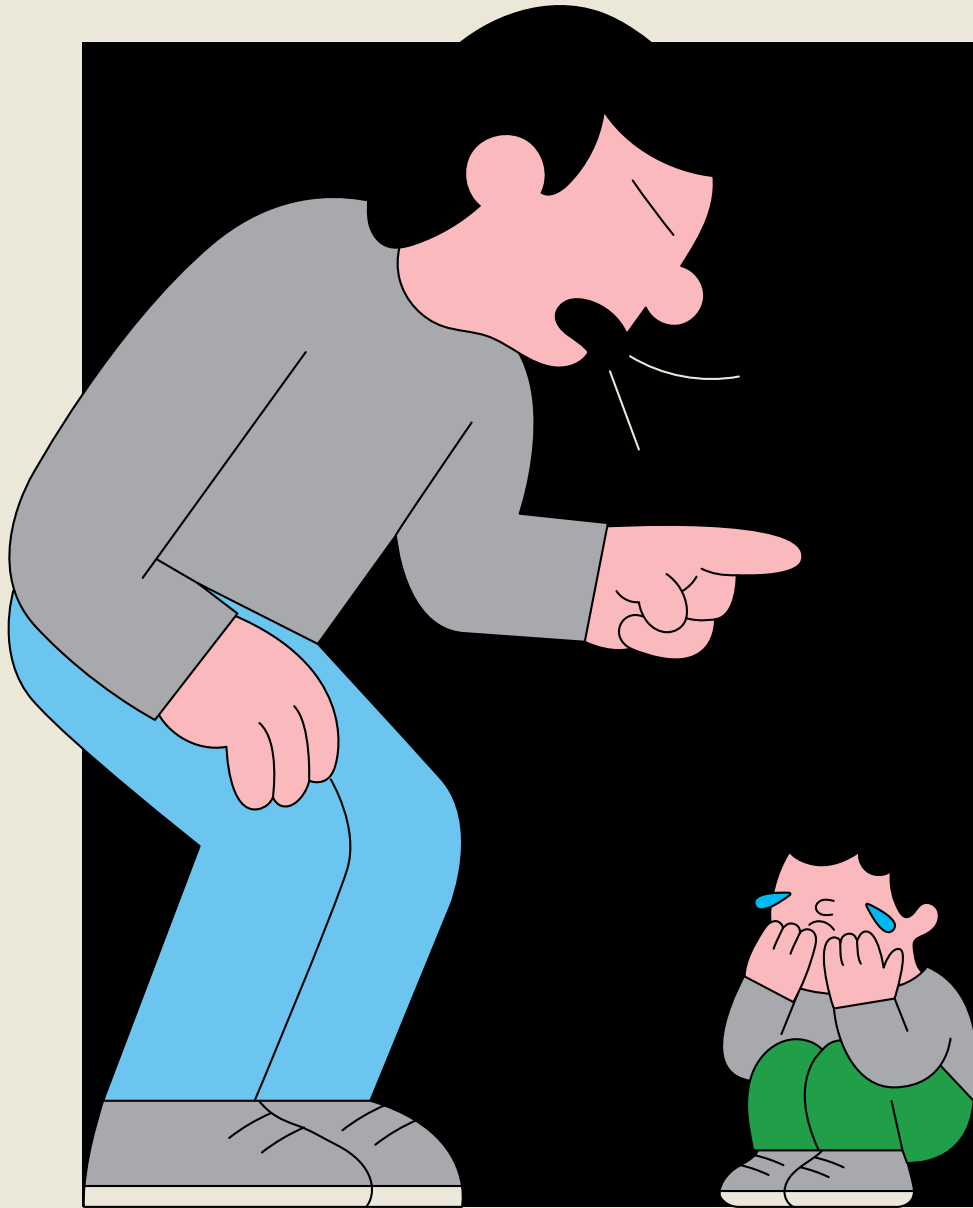
Most women were homemakers or employed in traditionally female roles. In 1980, only 27% participated in the labor force

## Now 📍



Women's participation in labor force has reached 51.6%, although gender stereotypes remain.<sup>2</sup>

## 📍 Before



Men were expected to be strong and to be providers.  
In 1986, 65% of households depended on a single male breadwinner.

## Now 📍



We know that men can be sensitive too -and they are no longer the only providers:  
57.1% of households have dual-income.<sup>3</sup>

## 📍 Before



There was only one accepted model of family: a mother, a father, a daughter, a son and a pet.

## Now 📍



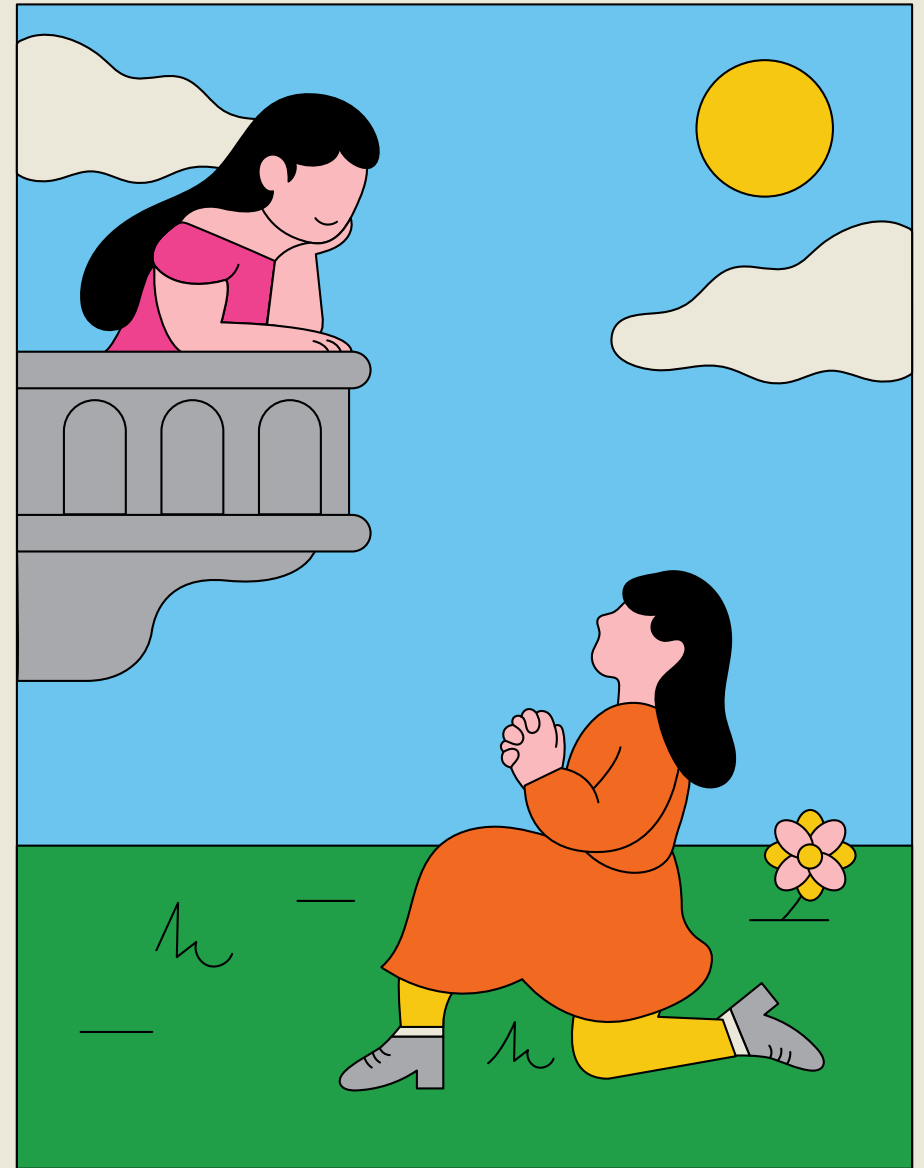
We recognize and value the diversity of family structures in which people grow up and live.<sup>4</sup>

## 📍 Before



Only one form of attraction was seen as "normal":  
men attracted to women -and women to men.

## Now 📍



We know that our sex does not determine who we can love.<sup>5</sup>

## 📍 Before



Violence against women often went unrecognized -common, yet normalized

## Now 📍



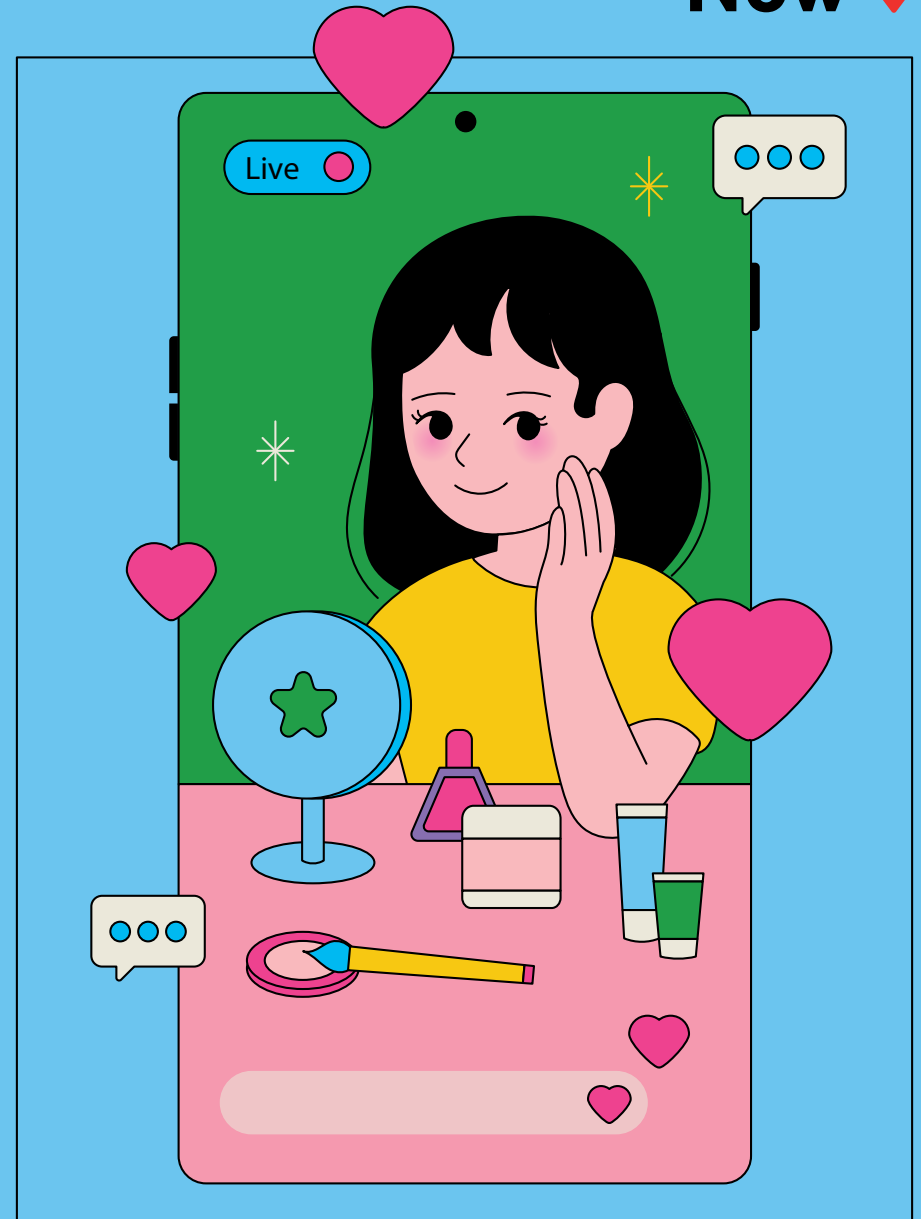
We can recognize it: in Argentina, 1 in 2 women have experienced violence from their partner at some point in their lives.<sup>6</sup>

## Before



Women were expected to meet impossible standards of beauty.

## Now



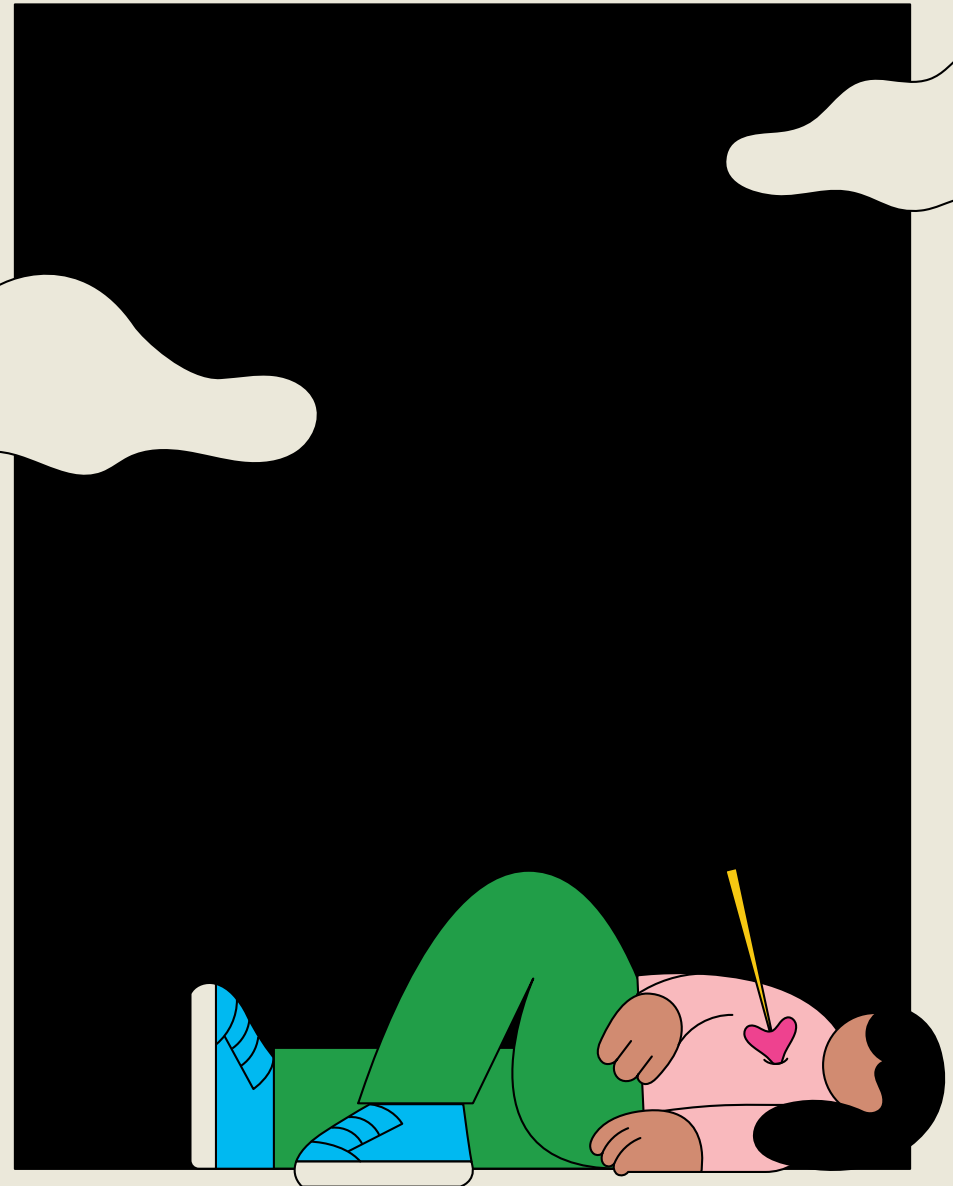
These expectations persist, but we can recognize them and understand how they affect women's lives. <sup>7</sup>

## 📍 Before



The killing of women by their partners was often labeled as “crimes of passion,” treated as private matters driven by jealousy or intense emotions.

## Now 📍



They are recognized as: “femicides.” Official records track them as a serious social problem that demands action.<sup>8</sup>

## 📍 Before



Care and support were considered the sole responsibility of families, especially women.

## Now 📍



They are beginning to be seen as a shared responsibility -across the public sector, the private sector, and the community. Yet they still fall largely on families and women.<sup>9</sup>

## 📍 Before



Men were considered exempt from household care responsibilities.

## Now 📍



75.1% of men report engaging in care work, spending an average of 3.4 hours per day on these activities.<sup>10</sup>

# Before

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
PEDIATRICIAN	/	GROCERY RUN	PTA MEETING	PICK UP MATI FROM SOCCER
TAKE DAD TO DOCTOR	BUY DIAPERS	JUAN - DENTIST	PLUMBER + GAS GUY	X
DROP OFF DRESS AT DRY CLEANERS	COQUI'S BDAY	/	BUY PAINTS	TODAY!!!
X	HOA MEETING	FAMILY DAY	/	BUY POSTER BOARDS

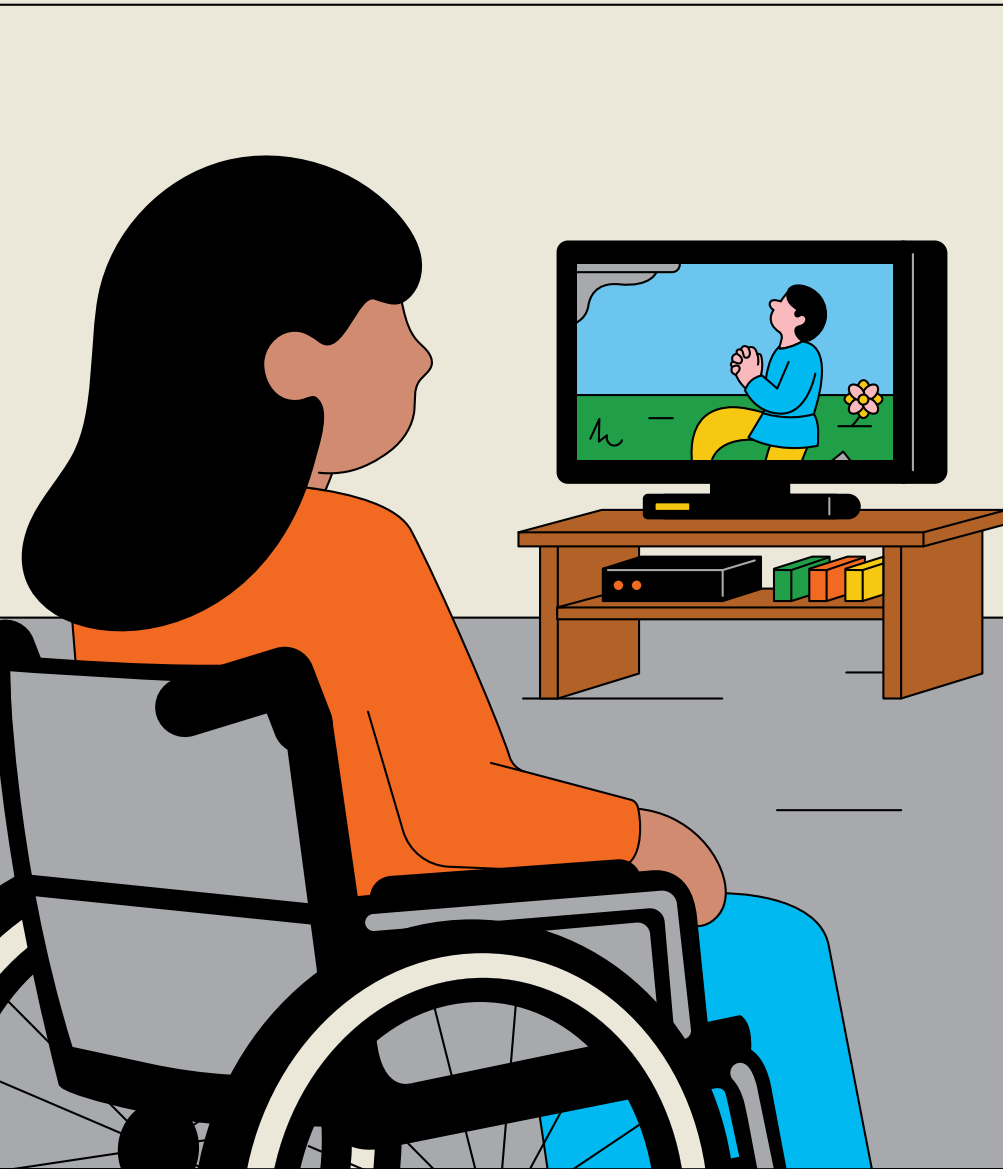
Most women were homemakers and devoted themselves exclusively to caregiving.

# Now

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
PEDIATRICIAN	ZOOM CALL	GROCERY RUN PREP REPORT	PTA MEETING	PICK UP MATI FROM SOCCER
TAKE DAD TO DOCTOR	BUY DIAPERS	BUDGET JUAN - DENTIST	PLUMBER + GAS GUY	REUNIÓN DE CAMPAÑA
COQUI'S BDAY	*CALL VEN DORS	TEAM MEETING	BUY PAINTS	
HOA MEETING	FAMILY DAY	CALL ACCOUNTANT	BUY POSTER BOARDS	

Although much has changed, women still spend an average of 6.3 hours on these tasks -on top of their work outside the home.<sup>11</sup>

## 📍 Before



Disability was understood as an individual problem that needed to be corrected to integrate into society.

## Now 📍



We know that barriers exist in the environment and in society. Yet only those with financial resources can overcome them and access a full life.<sup>12</sup>

## Before



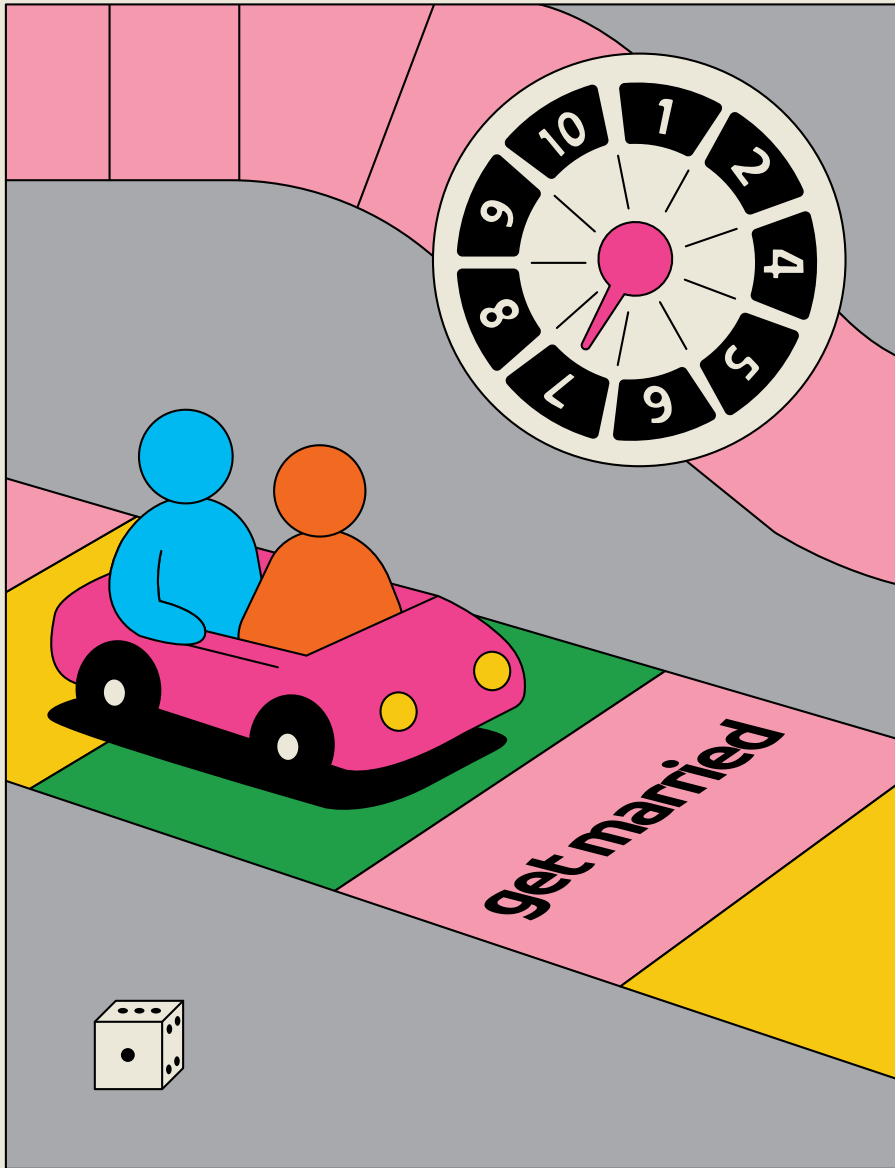
In 1974, the law granted three months of maternity leave to mothers and just two days to fathers.

## Now



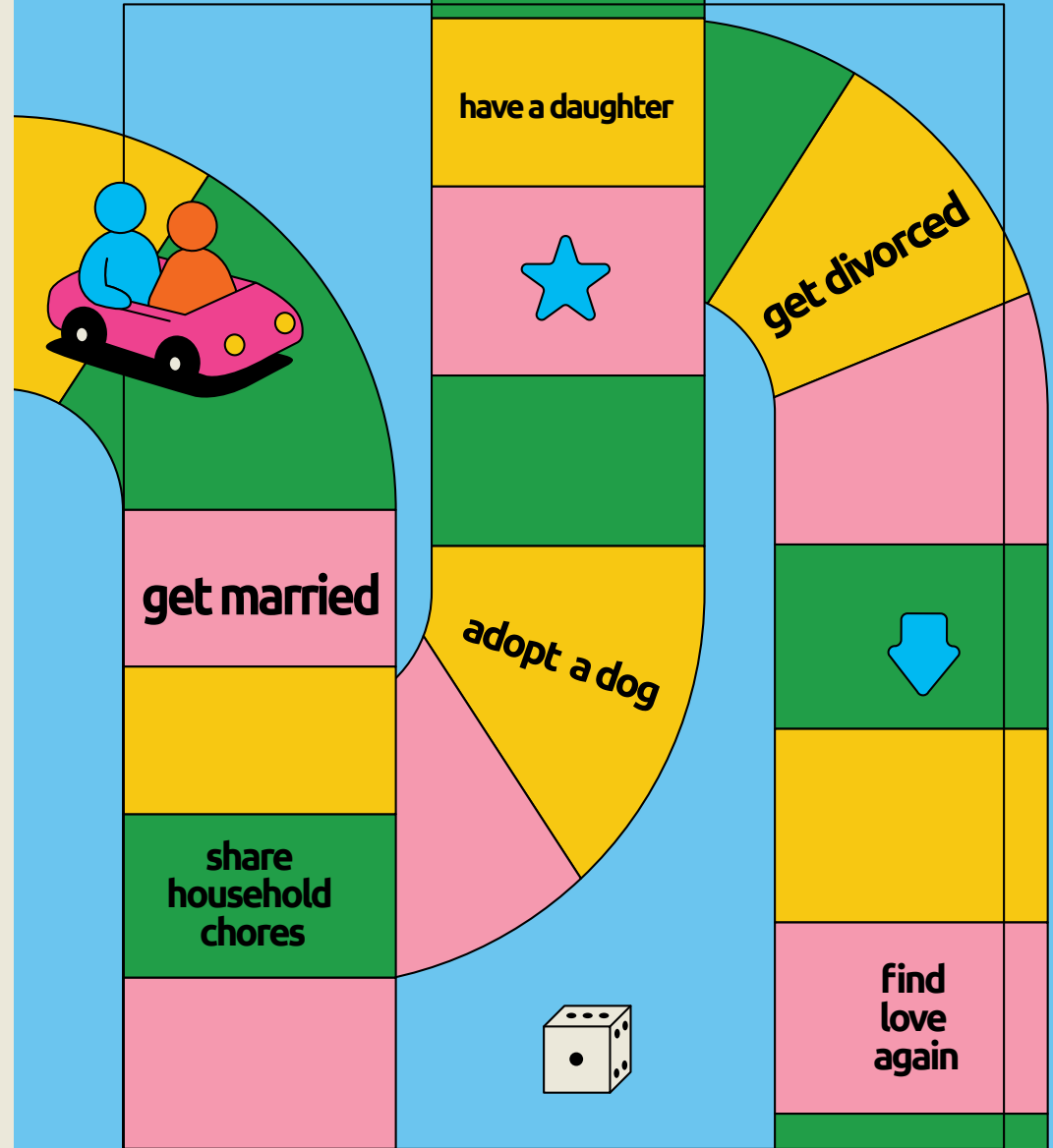
Despite all the changes, paternity leave remains the same: just a weekend.<sup>13</sup>

# Before



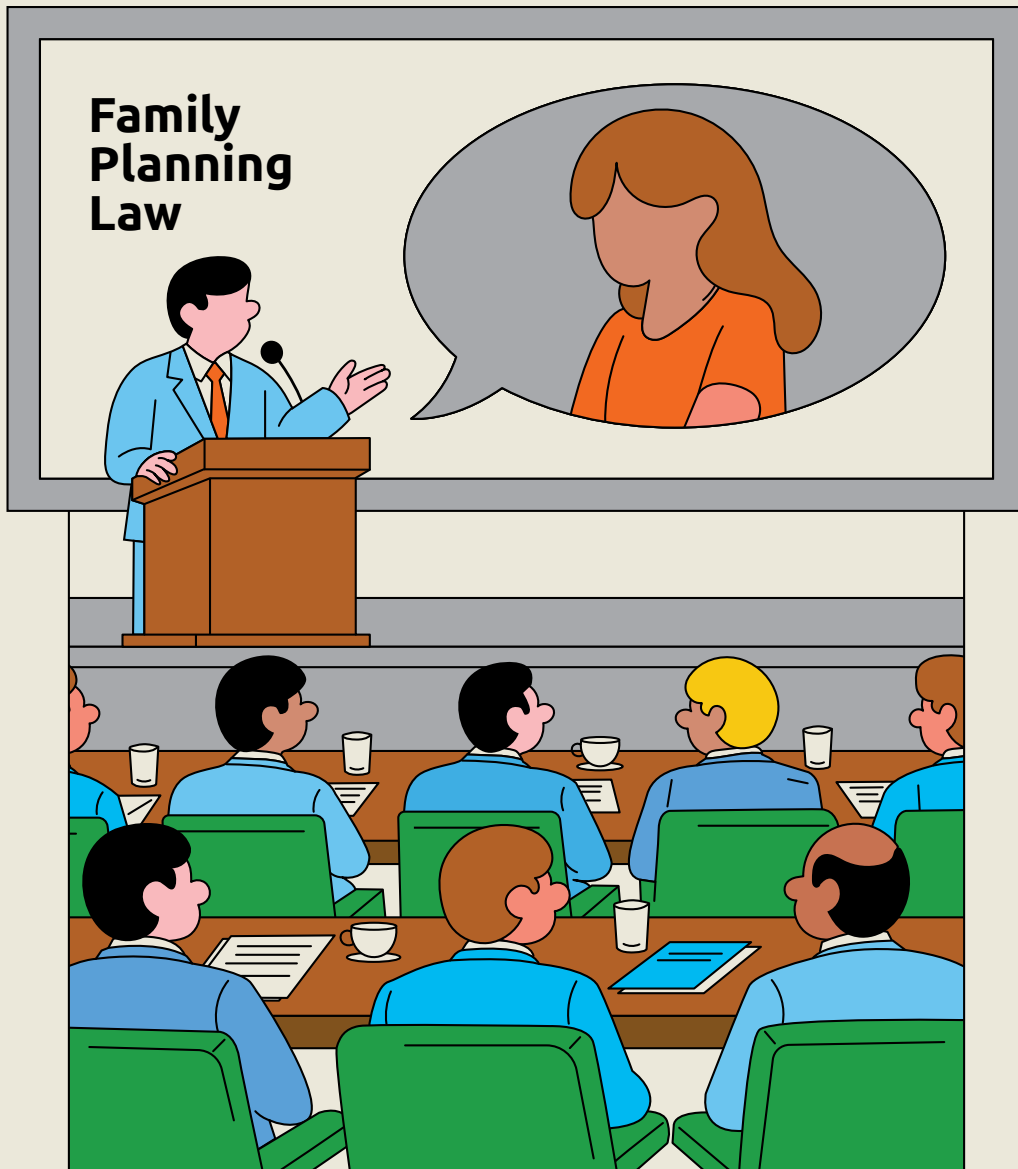
Married couples could not divorce, and legal responsibility for children rested exclusively with the father.

# Now



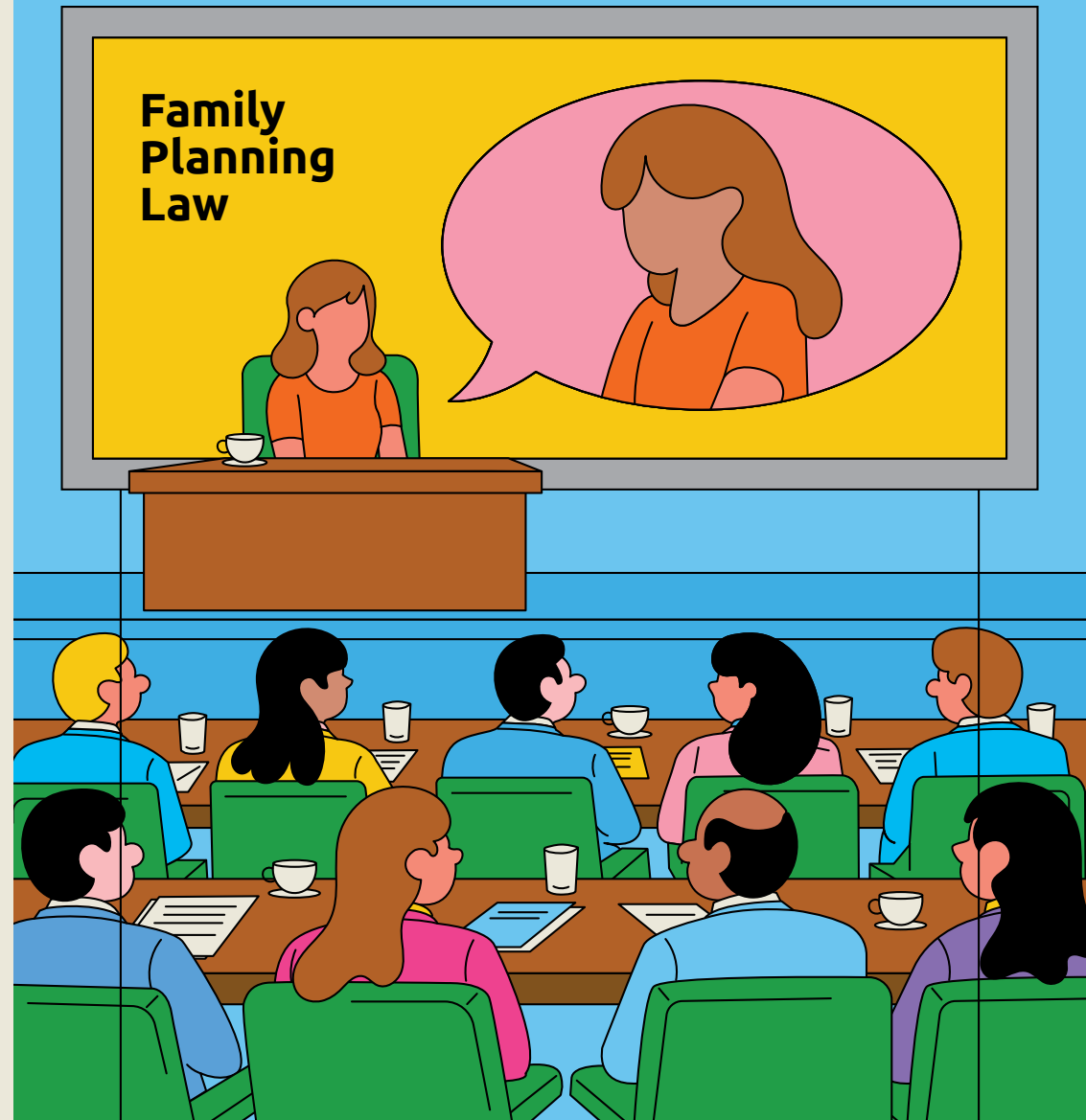
Divorce is legal (1987), and parental responsibility is shared (1985).<sup>14</sup>

## 📍 Before



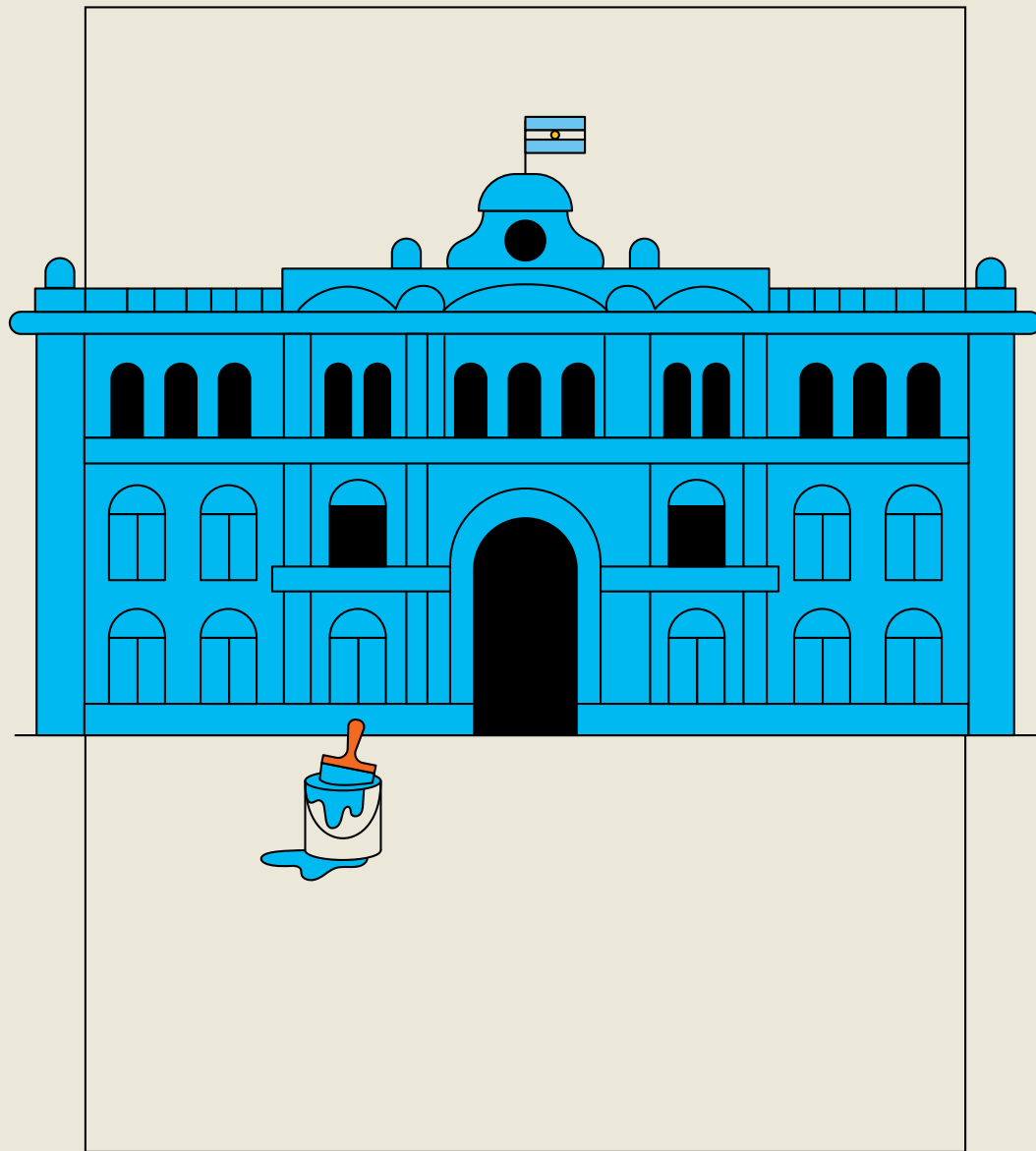
There were no women in the National Congress. Between 1983 and 1991, they represented just 4% of the Chamber of Deputies.

## Now 📍



Thanks to the Gender Quota Law (1991) and the Parity Law (2017), women hold 42.1% of seats in the National Congress, while men hold 57.9%.<sup>15</sup>

## 📍 Before



There were no women serving as president, governor, or mayor.

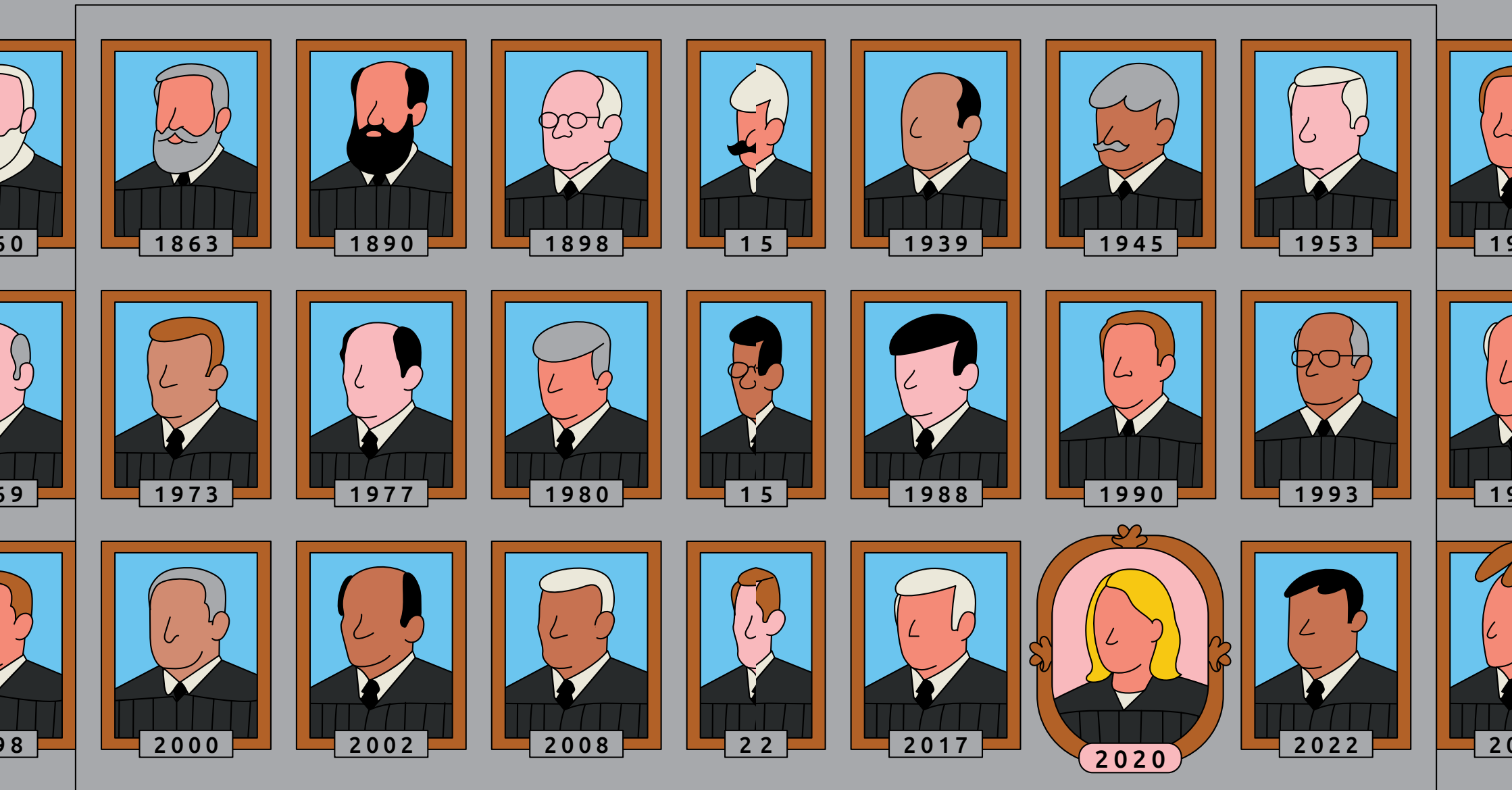
## Now 📍



There are more women in decision-making positions. However, as of 2025, there are no women governors.<sup>16</sup>

# 📍 Before

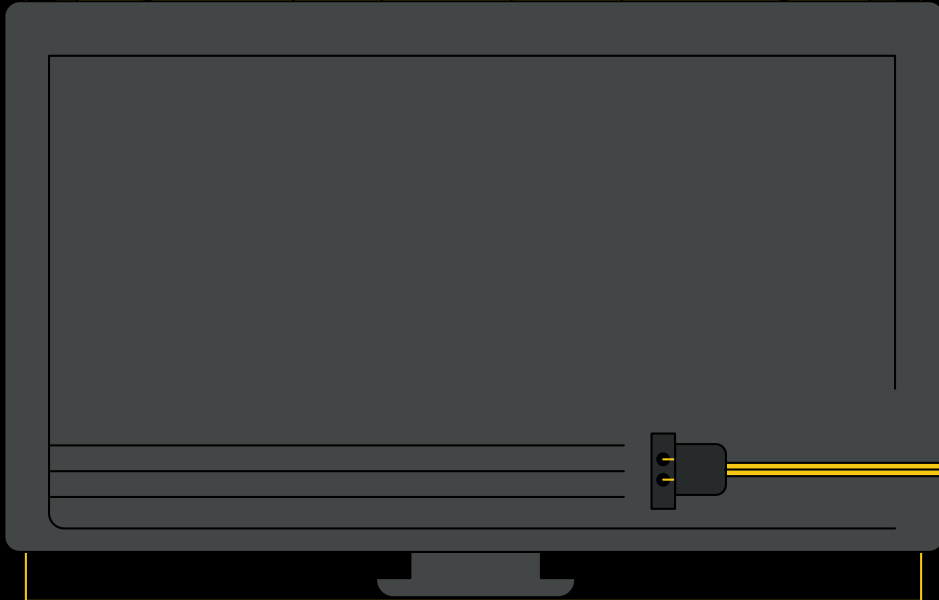
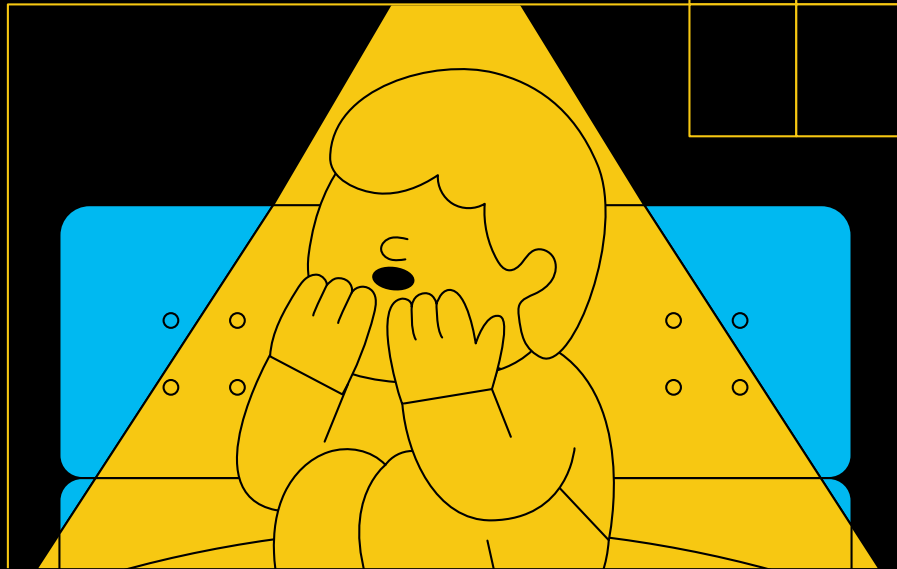
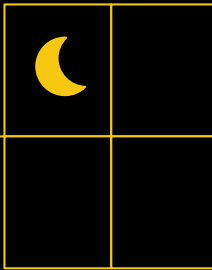
# Now 📍



The Supreme Court was made up entirely of men. Over 162 years, 104 justices served. The first woman was appointed in 1970.

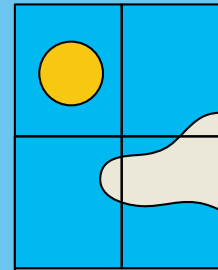
There are no women on Argentina's highest court. In 162 years, only three women have ever served.<sup>17</sup>

## Before



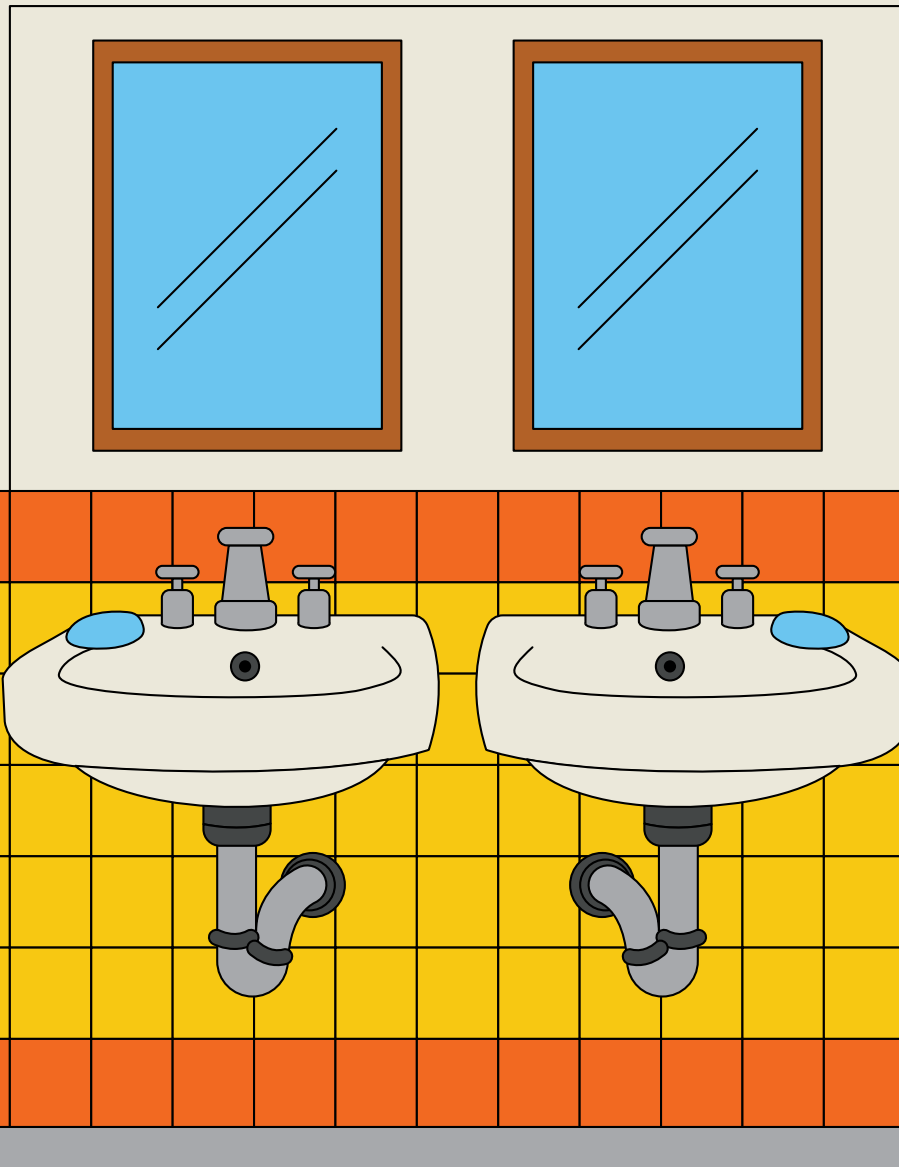
Sexuality was taboo, and young people turned to unreliable or unsupervised sources for information.

## Now

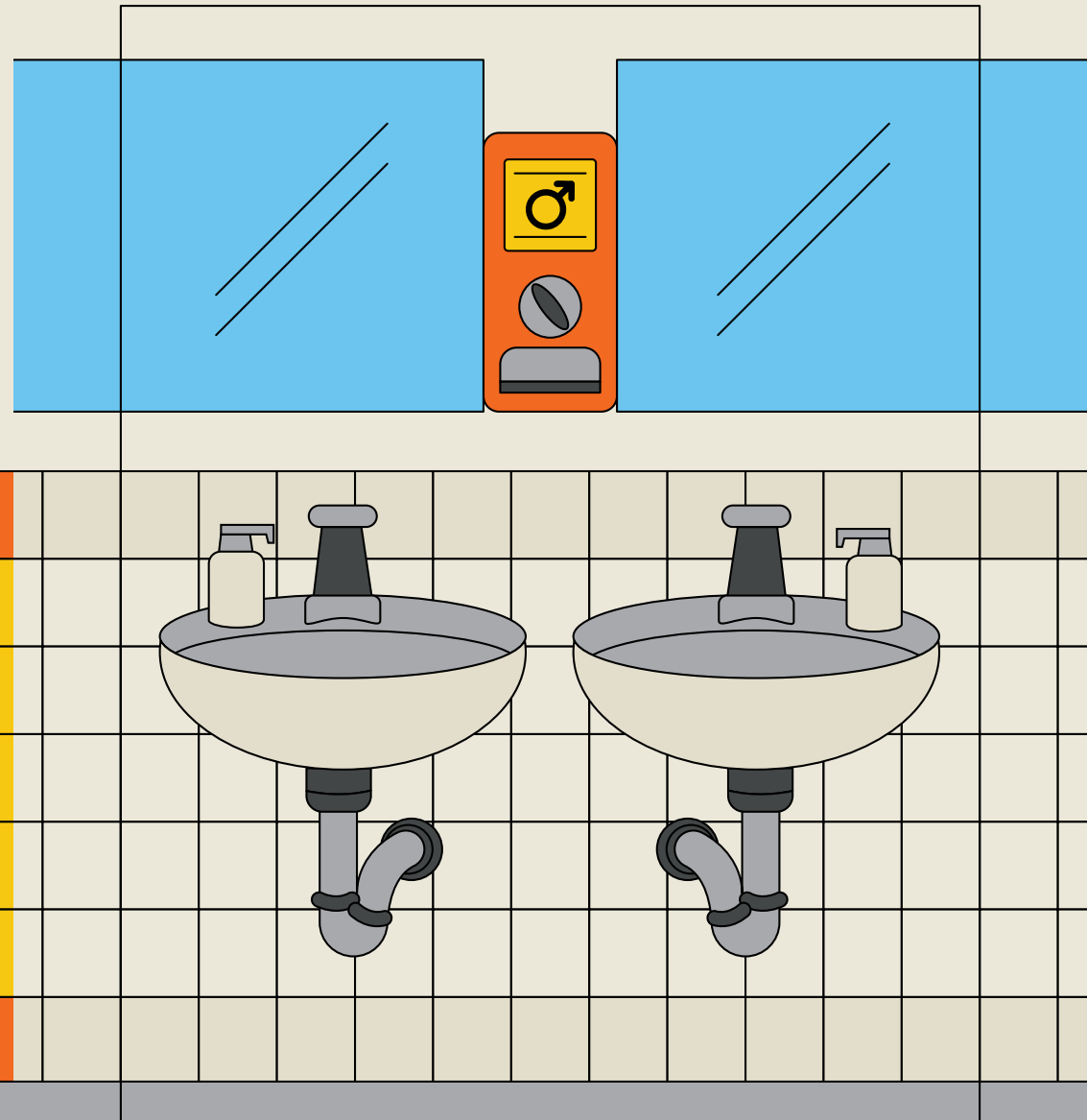


The implementation of the Comprehensive Sexual Education Law has opened up spaces for dialogue and learning, supported by adults.<sup>18</sup>

## 📍 Before



## Now 📍



Sex was tied to procreation: motherhood and fatherhood were understood as social mandates.

With information and access to contraception, people can decide whether, when, and how to form a family as part of their life plans.<sup>19</sup>

## 📍 Before



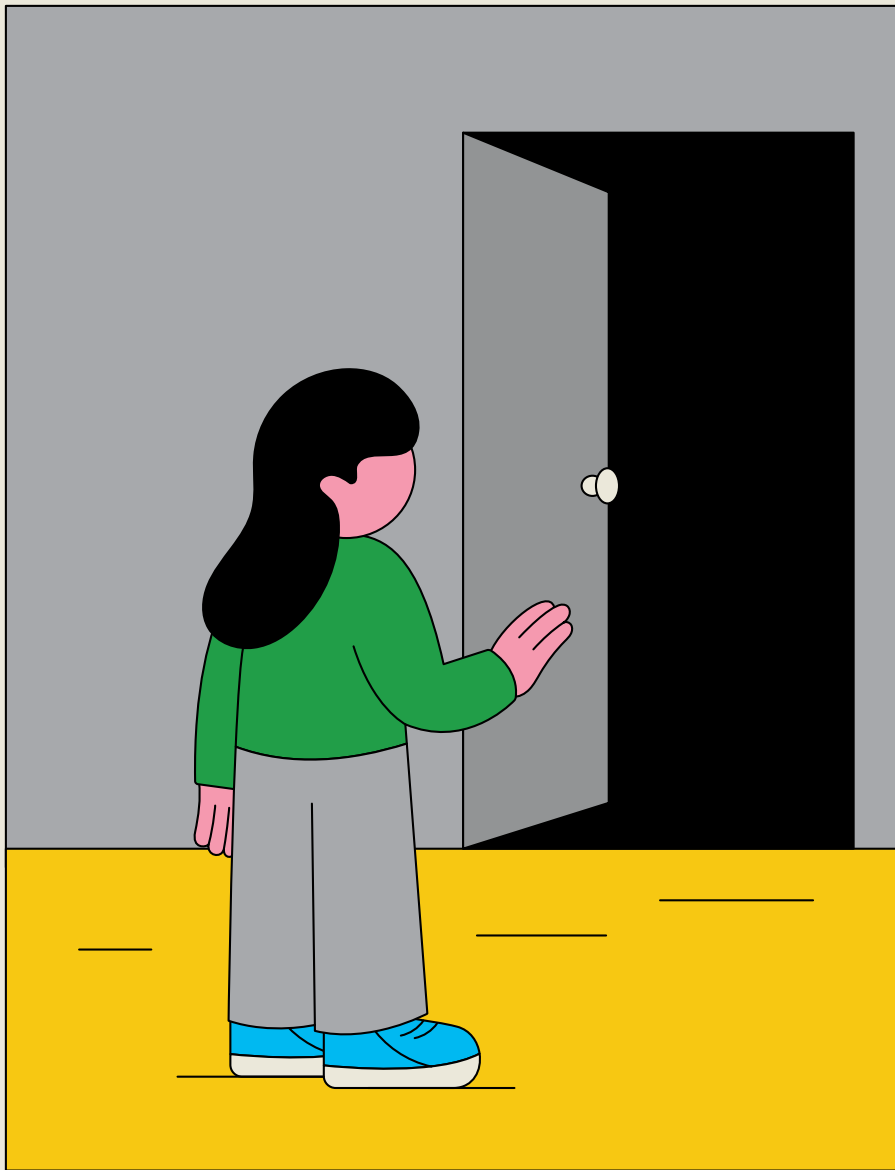
Thousands of girls and teenagers faced unplanned pregnancies, most as a result of sexual abuse.

## Now 📍



Between 2010 and 2022, rates were reduced by nearly 50%, thanks to access to information, sexual and reproductive health counseling, and free contraception.<sup>20</sup>

## 📍 Before



Abortion was clandestine, unsafe, and dangerous for women—marked by fear, risk, and criminalization by law.

## Now 📍



Fewer women are dying -safe access has reduced risk. Between 2020 and 2022, deaths from abortion fell by 53%.<sup>21</sup>

# Key Coordinates

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**1.** From the moment we are born, society transmits expectations based on sex. These are learned within families, in schools, through play, in the media, and in workplaces. They shape the decisions people make and the opportunities available to them throughout their lives. For a long time, these norms constrained the possibilities of both women and men.

Public policies have helped expand real options, enabling individuals to pursue their life projects with greater freedom. The progress we see today is the result of sustained decisions over time. Equality before the law is a principle; achieving substantive equality is an ongoing process -one we continue to build together.

**2.** For a long time, women were expected to be fragile, docile, and willing to obey and support others. Our grandparents were taught that men should provide, while women should be responsible for the home and care work.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, women had very limited opportunities to study, work, earn an income, or vote. Gradually, this reality began to change. These advances were reflected in laws and public policies, although significant challenges remain.

Today, the labor market still reflects this history. Men predominate in primary activities, construction, and transportation, with average incomes of ARS

1,278,053. Meanwhile, women are concentrated in health, education, and domestic work, with average incomes of ARS 713,626 (INDEC, Q2 2025).

**3.** For a long time, men were expected to be strong, brave, and providers. This model defined who they should be and how they should

behave, leaving little room for other ways of living and expressing themselves.

This ideal limited many men's ability to share their feelings, seek help when needed, or fully participate in family and community life. Many grew up believing that caregiving, showing vulnerability, or sharing responsibilities was not part of their role.

Today, we know that expanding these boundaries benefits everyone: it fosters closer relationships, more equitable families, and everyday lives with fewer pressures. Educational tools such as Comprehensive Sexual Education (ESI) help support this shift by promoting more respectful and inclusive relationships.

Seventy-two percent of the Argentine population supports campaigns that promote less rigid and healthier ways of being men (ELA and CEDES, 2025).

*Source: Authors' calculations based on microdata from the Permanent Household Survey (INDEC), first half of 2025, and CIPPEC (2025).*

**4.** For many years, the idea of a single "correct" model of family prevailed. Yet families are diverse: single-parent households, blended families,

adoptive families, families with two mothers or two fathers, extended families, and single-person households. This diversity has always existed; what has changed is our ability to recognize it.

Today, 20% of households consist of a single person (up from 13% in 1991); 35.4% are couples with children; and 15.4% are single-parent households -8 in 10 of which are headed by women (INDEC, 2025).

It is increasingly clear that a family is not defined by its structure, but by the relationships and care that sustain it. Public policies have also advanced: many laws and programs now recognize this diversity. The challenge is to continue strengthening these conditions so that more

# Key Coordinates

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people can build stable, safe households aligned with their life projects.

5. The ability to choose whom to love and how to live one's identity is part of the freedoms Argentina has expanded over recent decades.

For a long time, only one way of loving and existing was considered "normal." Over time, as a society, we have come to recognize that people live and feel in diverse ways -and that this diversity deserves respect.

The Equal Marriage Law (2010) and the Gender Identity Law (2012) positioned Argentina as a regional leader: they expanded rights, provided legal certainty,

and recognized identities and relationships that previously had no place in the law. These advances were accompanied by policies such as the Travesti-Trans Employment Quota, aimed at reducing persistent inequalities.

However, intolerance persists: in the first six months of 2025, 102 hate crimes related to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression were recorded, highlighting ongoing challenges in ensuring respectful coexistence for all.

*Source: LGBT+ Hate Crimes Observatory, 2025.*

6. From an early age, boys are taught that they must be strong and dominant, while girls are expected to be docile and obedient. These messages shape relationships through rigid expectations. In numerous instances, they create unequal dynamics that lie at the root of gender-based violence.

In Argentina, 1 in 2 women has experienced violence from a current or former partner (Spotlight, 2023). Recognizing that violence has deep and longstanding causes marked a decisive step forward. In 2009, Law

26,485 defined it as a social problem requiring a comprehensive response and established tools such as the 144 Hotline. Today, more women are seeking help: in Buenos Aires City, the share increased from 22% in 2018 to 29% in 2023 (ELA and GCBA, 2023).

These advances reflect a society that has learned not to look the other way. Sustaining and strengthening this progress is essential to building healthier relationships and ensuring a safer life for all.

7. Not all violence leaves visible marks. It can also take the form of valuing women solely for their appearance or subjecting them to expectations that are not applied to men.

For decades, advertising, the media, and education have reproduced images that reinforce stereotypes and rigid roles. These representations have contributed to sustaining inequalities and minimizing instances of harassment and abuse.

Forty-two percent of women in Argentina have experienced psychological violence, and 18% have experienced sexual violence (Spotlight, 2023). These are not isolated incidents; they are part of a culture in which certain behaviors have long been tolerated or considered "normal."

Recognizing these forms of violence has helped broaden our understanding: it is not only about physical aggression but also about the everyday messages and practices that enable it. Sustaining this progress is key to building more effective responses and ensuring safer coexistence for all.

8. The notion of a "crime of passion" framed the killing of women as impulsive acts driven by love, failing to recognize prior violence or its structural dimension. In the absence of systematic records, each case

# Key Coordinates

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appeared as an isolated incident.

Today, we know that these killings are femicides -the most extreme manifestation of gender-based violence. The data confirm this: 40% of female homicides are committed by a current or former partner, compared to 2% of male victims (Ministry of Security, 2023).

Since 2015, the Supreme Court has maintained an official registry of femicides. The incorporation of this category into the Criminal Code has provided the state with tools to address them for what they are: a social problem that requires specific policies.

**9.** The tasks that sustain daily life -preparing meals, accompanying others to appointments, organizing, and coordinating schedules- are often carried out with care and commitment, but also with fatigue. Six in ten people with children report that dividing household tasks generates high levels of stress (ELA and Equimundo, Las voces del Cuidado, 2023).

For many years, care was understood as the exclusive responsibility of families and, within them, of women. However, if care enables people to work, study, and live with well-being, it is reasonable to share this responsibility among the state, the private sector, and the community.

In 2025, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights recognized care as a human right. This implies that states must guarantee the time, resources, and services necessary for each person to pursue their life project.

**10.** For decades, care was considered the exclusive responsibility of women. Recently, however, this has begun to change: more men are actively participating in household tasks and in the care of children, older individuals, and people with disabilities.

According to INDEC, in 2013, 58% of men engaged in care work; by 2021, this figure had risen to 75%, with an average of 3.4 hours per day.

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Although women still devote nearly twice as much time (6.3 hours), the trend is clear.

These changes show that caregiving is also a way of building relationships, shared time, and well-being within families. The challenge ahead is to continue supporting this cultural shift with policies that promote a more balanced distribution of time and responsibilities for all.

*FSources: INDEC, Time Use Survey 2013 and 2021.*

**11.** In recent decades, many things have changed. However, the social organization of care has evolved more slowly, and much of this responsibility continues to fall on women.

Since 1974, the Labor Contract Law has provided three months of leave for mothers and only two days for fathers. At the time, fathers held legal guardianship, and their primary responsibility was understood to be registering the child at the civil registry. Today, this framework no longer reflects the realities of families.

The consequences remain visible: 1 in 10 women leaves the workforce after having a child, and 2 in 10 after having two (INDEC, 2024).

Policies that better reflect today's families benefit everyone: women can continue their professional careers, men can be more present, and children can grow up seeing that care is a shared responsibility.

**12.** In the past, disability was understood as an individual problem: people were expected to "rehabilitate" to participate. Today, we recognize that environmental barriers limit autonomy.

When supports and services are lacking, this responsibility falls on households -particularly on women. In Argentina, 10% of the population aged six and over has a disability, representing nearly 5 million

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# Key Coordinates

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people (INDEC, 2018). In Buenos Aires City, 61.9% require regular assistance, and 47% of the cost of supports is borne directly by families. Across Latin America, between 76% and 94% of daily support is provided by family members, most of them women (Center for Inclusive Policy, 2023).

Ensuring access to the resources and services needed for an autonomous life is essential to continued progress. Recognizing the right to care and support is a critical step forward.

**13.** Work, families, and parenting have changed. Yet one thing remains the same: fathers are entitled to just two days of leave -the equivalent of a weekend- to get to know their child.

- Seven in ten people believe that paternity leave should last at least 30 days.
- Nine in ten say that a father's presence in the early years is key to children's development.

Today, men want to be more present -and children need them to be. Expanding leave policies is an opportunity to better support families and advance equality from the very beginning.

*Source: ELA and Equimundo, The Voices of Care, 2023.*

**14.** Until a few decades ago, marriage was a largely indissoluble bond, and men were granted authority over children and family assets.

In 1985, reforms to the Civil Code established shared parental authority (now referred to as parental responsibility). Two years later, in 1987, the introduction of legal divorce recognized the autonomy of each partner and made it possible to formalize separation with clear rules regarding childcare and support.

Despite these advances, inequalities persist: 56% of separated mothers do not receive child support, and this figure rises to 68% when irregular payments are considered (UNICEF, 2024).

Laws have paved the way; now their spirit must reach all families. What more can be done to ensure that children grow up with the care and support they deserve?

**15.** Less than a century ago, women could neither vote nor run for office. In 1983, with the return of democracy, only 4% of seats in the Chamber of Deputies were held by women ([argentina.gob.ar](http://argentina.gob.ar)).

In recent decades, the Gender Quota Law (1991) and the Parity Law (2017) have promoted more equitable representation. Today, women hold 40.9% of seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 46.5% in the Senate (Women in Power, 2025).

This increased representation has helped bring previously overlooked issues -such as care, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive rights- into public debate and institutional agendas.

Democracy is strengthened when more voices are included: incorporating diverse experiences into decision-making spaces helps shape policies that better reflect the needs of society.

**16.** For a long time, politics was shaped by roles and stereotypes that reserved decision-making for men and relegated women to secondary positions.

The first woman elected president in Argentina took office in 2007. That same year, the first woman governor was also elected. In 2025, women hold 30.8% of ministerial positions, yet there are no women governors in the country (Women in Power, 2025).

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# Key Coordinates

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Although the legal framework has advanced, substantive equality still faces significant barriers. What stereotypes continue to shape our understanding of leadership and representation?

**17.** In 2025, there are no women on Argentina's Supreme Court. Argentina is the only country in the region without female representation on its highest court.

Over 162 years, 104 male justices have served on the Court, and only three women have ever held a seat.

Although women now make up most of the judiciary (57%), they hold only 30% of the highest-ranking positions (CSJN, 2022).

When women's perspectives and experiences are absent from decision-making spaces, the justice system becomes disconnected from social realities and loses diversity of perspectives.

Achieving parity on the Supreme Court is not a sectoral demand; it is a condition for a more representative, democratic, and people-centered justice system.

**18.** For a long time, sexuality was not openly discussed: children and adolescents grew up surrounded by silence, myths, and confusing messages that placed them at risk.

The Comprehensive Sexual Education Law (2006) marked a positive shift. It enabled young people to access clear, evidence-based information, in dialogue with families and the education community. A total of 84.6% report that CSE helped them identify signs of violence, and 80% say it was key to understanding consent (FUSA and Impacto Digital, 2021).

Between 2017 and 2023, 15,699 cases of sexual violence against children and teenagers were recorded (help line 137). In most cases, the

perpetrator was a family member or someone living in the same household. According to the Public Guardian's Office of Buenos Aires City (2024), in 1 in 4 cases, the situation was first identified in the school setting.

Ensuring comprehensive sexual education in all classrooms means providing further information, stronger support, and better tools to protect children and adolescents.

**19.** Until recently, motherhood and fatherhood were experienced more as obligations than as choices. Limited access to information, restricted availability of contraceptive methods, and prevailing social norms constrained people's ability to decide.

Since then, Argentina has made significant progress: in 1986, restrictions on the sale of contraceptives were removed; in 2002, the National Program for Sexual Health and Responsible Parenthood was established; and in 2017, the ENIA Plan strengthened efforts to prevent unintended adolescent pregnancy. In 2020, the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy Law and the "1,000 Days" Law established a comprehensive framework to support different life decisions.

Eighty-three percent of Argentines strongly or somewhat agree that access to contraception should be guaranteed to prevent unintended pregnancies (ELA and CEDES, 2025).

Today, more people can decide whether, when, and how to form a family. This freedom enables individuals to build life projects that are better aligned with their aspirations.

**20.** In 2018, 7 in 10 pregnancies among adolescents aged 15 to 19 were unintended, and 8 in 10 among girls under the age of 15 -the majority resulting from sexual abuse.

# Key Coordinates

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That same year, the National Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Adolescent Pregnancy (ENIA) was implemented across 36 districts in 12 provinces in the Northwest (NOA), Northeast (NEA), and Buenos Aires, prioritizing the most affected areas.

By 2021, the adolescent pregnancy rate had been cut in half: 5 in 10 pregnancies among adolescents and 7 in 10 among girls under the age of 15 (Isla, V., and Ramos, S., 2024, Adolescent Pregnancy in Argentina and the ENIA Plan as a Response).

Early motherhood limits educational and labor trajectories: only 38% of adolescents who became mothers completed secondary school, and their labor inactivity rate is 25% higher than that of young adult women (MILENA UNFPA, 2020).

Access to information, comprehensive sexual education (CSE), sexual and reproductive health counseling, and free contraceptive methods has enabled more adolescents to make informed and autonomous decisions about their futures.

<sup>21</sup> Since the enactment of Law 27,610 on Access to Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy (2020), abortion has moved from a clandestine practice into the public health system.

Safe access has reduced health risks for women and decreased deaths associated with unsafe abortion by 53% between 2020 and 2022 (Ministry of Health of Argentina, Vital Statistics: Basic Information, 2022).

The law has also strengthened health care provision: it guarantees access to information, support, confidentiality, respectful care, and timely referral in cases of conscientious objection. This has made it possible for decisions to be made with medical support and without discrimination based on socioeconomic status or place of residence.

Today, fewer women are dying, and more can access a health system that protects, supports, and saves lives.

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# The Road Ahead

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This book has traced scenes from the past and the present: moments when Argentina moved forward, when it stalled, and others when it moved backward, not to look back with nostalgia or judgment, but to remember that each change leaves a mark on the daily lives of millions of people.

You Are Here is a historical point of reference -a reminder that the map is shaped by the decisions of those who can redraw its lines, and that beyond our different perspectives and paths, we share a common starting point: the conviction that every person deserves real opportunities to choose their life project.

The future is not written -it is open. We can decide to ensure that future generations continue this journey and that the path that brought us here remains unfinished, with more still to be built.

Now we know where “here” is. Where do we want to go next? Let us move forward together, with equality as our shared horizon. ♡

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# About ELA

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The **Latin American Team for Justice and Gender** (ELA) is a feminist, nonpartisan organization founded in Argentina in 2003. It works to promote rights and advance gender equality across Latin America through access to justice and public policy.

Its mission is to help build a more just and equitable society, so that girls, adolescents, and women in all their diversity can select how to pursue their life projects free from structural inequalities and violence. ELA produces rigorous evidence and research to address structural inequalities from a gender perspective and to strengthen efforts aimed at transforming them.

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