

## Promoting dialogue & citizen participation in Chile

Better collaboration between institutions, organizations and community groups is contributing to a society where everyone can participate.

## Strengthening governance

Promoting a national dialogue is fundamental to achieving a better, more representative society in Chile. BHP Foundation's Chile Program encourages institutions, organizations and community groups to be actively involved in the decision-making processes which directly impact them. The Foundation supports two initiatives promoting social participation and dialogue as a means to address the root causes of Chile's social unrest in 2019. The aim is to enhance the ability of citizens to participate in decision-making and enable more effective dialogue and participation mechanisms. This will help strengthen democracy and contribute to a more cohesive and respectful society.

## **Nuestra Voz (Our Voice)**

Nuestra Voz was born from a conviction that the views and priorities of women should be far more visible to decision makers and an integral part of the solution for the country to meet the challenges ahead. The views of 16,000 Chilean women have so far been captured through digital platforms, analysed and more recently, incorporated into discussions around the country's new Constitution. A second stage of the project launched in August 2021 uses social research to monitor public debate and promote conversation around about critical gender equality issues. The project involves Fundación Kodea, Fundación Hay Mujeres, and Escuela de Gobierno de la Universidad Católica.

## **Times of Dialogue**

Fundación Colunga was established to deliver tools and create spaces that promote dialogue as a peaceful means of conflict resolution. Four inspirational videos and a series of workshops, training sessions and other activities were delivered across the country providing nearly 20 social organisations with the tools to address conflict situations. The project concluded in August 2021 with the launch of a video inviting citizens to 'unmute' themselves and talk with those who think differently to build a more just society. It also demonstrates how technology can help strengthen citizen participation and democracy.

The BHP Foundation Chile Country program works to improve long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability in Chile.

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