

Reimagining Harm Reduction in Latin America

Centering Community, Social Justice & Feminist Ethics

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Setting the Stage

- Originated as health-based alternative to punitive drug policies
- Mainly evolved in the Global North
- Reduction in HIV transmission among people who inject drugs

- Decrease in overdose deaths through supervised consumption sites
- Improved health and social outcomes
- Problem in LATAM: Imported models reinforce social control Lack of contextual fit

A Call for a Latin American Model

Core principles

Community empowerment, social justice, feminist ethics

Key shift

From health outcomes to equity and collective agency





Harm Reduction as an Ethic of Justice

Reframing Harm Reduction

Not just health tool but moral-political stance

Focus areas

- Address structural inequalities
- Rooted in lived community experiences

Community-Led Approaches

Why community?

Local ownership and cultural competence

How it works

- Mobilization and grassroots organizing
- Building resilience through active participation





Feminist Ethics in Practice



Gendered Impacts of Drug Policies

Disproportionate harm to women and marginalized groups



Key concepts

- Safety, agency, intersectionality
- Inclusive, non-punitive care spaces

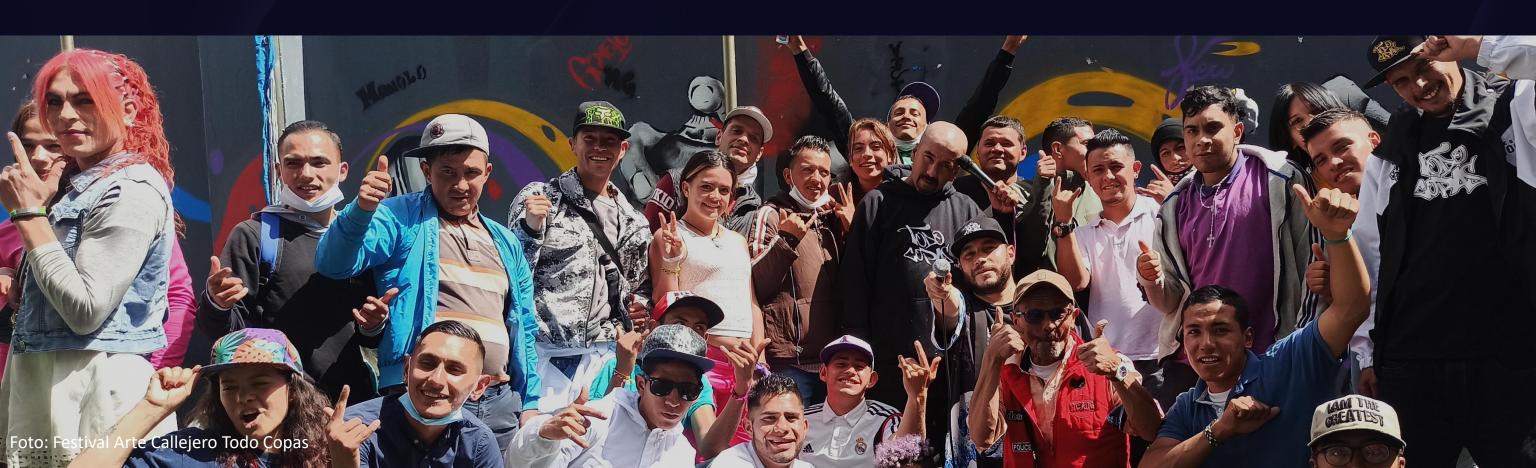
Epistemic Injustice & Extractivism

Recognizing community knowledge

Pushback against silencing of lived experience

Risks

External actors exploiting 'community-based' language for funding



Toward Social Innovation

1 Call for prototypes

Adaptive models prioritizing cohesion and violence reduction

Vision

Broaden metrics beyond health outcomes

3 Regional leadership

Position LATAM as pioneer in ethical harm reduction





Thank you!