



**G**ender violence in Bolivia causes more death and disability among women aged 15 to 44 than do cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, or war. Around fifty percent of women from a variety of living circumstances have admitted to being subject to physical abuse or intimidation in their lifetime. The vast majority of these threats come from within the family. Among Latin American countries, Bolivia also has the highest rate of maternal mortality and the lowest frequency of prenatal care. Women have little access to cervical cancer screening, contraceptive methods, or education about sexual health of any kind despite the fact that fifty seven percent of Bolivian women engage in sex before the age of twenty. These problems are aggravated by the subordinate roles women play in Bolivian society. Women do not have the economic ability to separate themselves from oppressive, violent situations nor the educational opportunities to change their plight.

FSD works at the grassroots level to empower socio-economically excluded women and provide the resources and knowledge needed to mobilize change. Our partner NGOs provide women opportunities to gain job skills, start micro-enterprises, borrow money, live in safe communities, and become educated in all aspects of health. Solutions are well integrated into local customs and recognize the sensitivity of changing a culture that has channeled violence and anger through women for many generations.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in women's empowerment in Bolivia include:

- Support implementation of workshops and seminars that provide training to women in leadership, autonomy, literacy, sexual education, health, micro-enterprise development, and women's rights.
- Educate women who've suffered intra-familial violence in vocational skills and micro-enterprise management so that they may autonomously support their families.
- Provide legal counseling for victims of abuse and violence. Locate medical, psychological, social, legal, and educational help for victims of abuse and violence including children, adolescents, women, and families.
- Work at a residential shelter for girls who have been forced out of their homes by situations of physical, psychological or sexual abuse. The project encourages them to embark on a process of social reintegration. The shelter also works to sensitize society about the situation faced by marginalized young women.
- Get involved with a wide variety of business development trainings and micro-credit programs for the creation and support of women micro-entrepreneurs.
- Research newly implemented health, education, and micro-enterprise capacity building programs to assess their contribution to women's empowerment. Results are used to make programmatic adjustments.

For more opportunities in women's empowerment in Bolivia, see our website or contact us directly.