

STORIES OF CHANGE

ERADICATING INEQUALITIES THROUGH **GENDER-** **TRANSFORMATIVE** APPROACH

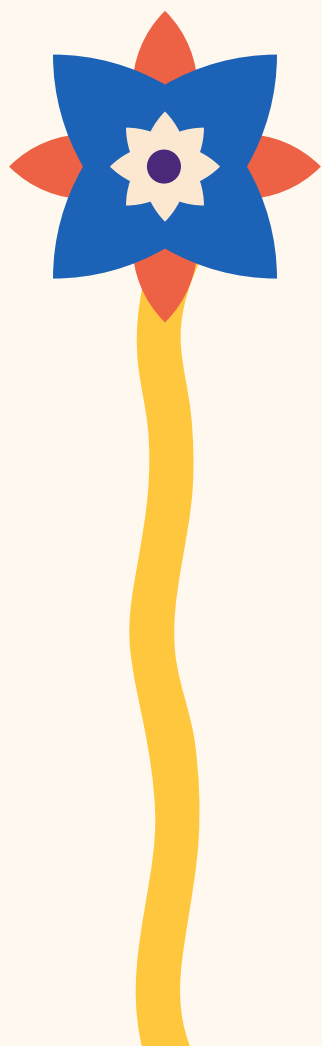
 Guayaquil, Ecuador



Ariel is an Ecuadorian gender-diverse person from Guayaquil, single and in charge of two children, an adolescent girl, and an adolescent boy. Ariel is a professional in communications and had the opportunity to work with CEPAM-G in Ecuador in the past, as a facilitator with young people.

In 2023, Ariel had the opportunity to participate in the National Training Initiative implemented by Equimundo in collaboration with CEPAM-G in Ecuador. In this space, along with other participants, Ariel had the opportunity to learn about how a gender transformative approach can be used as a tool to analyze, question, and seek to transform harmful gender norms and gender inequalities that permeate our society.

This space changed Ariel's perspective on the importance of working with men, acknowledging its difficulties, but also recognizing their relevance not only in terms of questioning harmful forms of masculinity but also in terms of collaborating with men to generate transformations in society.



At that moment, Ariel's work was only focused on supporting and collaborating with and for women, so their participation in this initiative was crucial to transform their work and engage with men to question and transform harmful gender norms.

In addition to this, another significant change that Ariel personally experienced was how the training allowed them to generate a process of personal reflection to deeply analyze and reconcile with the absence of their father. Through this process, Ariel recognized that they have been able to both eradicate the guilt they felt about their role in their father's absence and symbolically forgive him.

This whole process has led Ariel to think about how to improve the raising of their children, to provide them with a clear perspective of reality, where both their daughter and their son know the world

they will face and the differentiated effects of gender roles for each of them.

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IN ADDITION TO THIS, ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGE THAT ARIEL PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED WAS HOW THE TRAINING ALLOWED THEM TO GENERATE A PROCESS OF PERSONAL REFLECTION TO DEEPLY ANALYZE AND RECONCILE WITH THE ABSENCE OF THEIR FATHER.

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Finally, Ariel stressed that all these changes generated by the program are extremely relevant to making a positive social transformation a reality, where all the people who make up society are part of it.

**Name and personal details have been changed to protect privacy and confidentiality of the person.*