

Viviam Perrone

She has dedicated herself to fight for the rights of road crash victims since the loss of her son Kevin Adrian Sedano (aged 14) in a hit-and-run incident on May 8th 2002. When she lost her son, everyone in Argentina said that “it was just an accident” so she decided to dedicate herself to be the voice of those who lost a loved one and to work to avoid more deaths.

She is a mother of three children and a high school English language teacher so she is fully bilingual and is constantly in contact with adolescents about to get their driving license.

In 2004 she founded the NGO Madres del Dolor (Mothers in Pain) that has as its main objective to accompany victims and/or their families with judicial and psychological issues providing law and medical short-term assistance and to create projects or bills which are presented in the National Congress to change laws so as to save lives.

Viviam has worked hard in her country not only to change laws but also the way in which authorities consider road safety as very little is done to avoid the 9,000 deaths each year in Argentina.

She has written letters to the most important newspapers (Clarín and La Nación) 37 of which have been published.

She received the prize “Mujeres Innovadoras” (Inventive Women) in the National Congress by the Senator and Vice Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires Dr Balestrini (Oct 2008); received a special honor given by the US Embassy Mr. Anthony Wayne (28th May 2009) and was named “Outstanding Woman” in the district of Vicente Lopez where her son was killed (2010), where she lives (2012) and by the House of Senators of the Province of Buenos Aires (2013). She also received recognition by the National Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (May 2013) and for her gender work in Road Safety on Women’s International Day in Congress by the National Representative Ramona Pucheta (March 2014).

She has also been working on prevention by participating in the 1st National Congress on Education and Road Safety in Argentina (2009) and spreading the Red Flag Project in schools for disabled.

She participated in Assemblies and Congresses held on Road Safety in different provinces in Argentina and internationally. She lectured in the III Ibero Americano Congress in Bogota, Colombia (2012) and her technical project on Justice and Road Safety was published for this event.

She attended the Global Meetings of Nongovernmental Organizations Advocating for Road Safety in Washington DC (USA), Antalya (Turkey), Marrakesh (Morocco), was asked by WHO to talk in the 2nd Global High Level Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia, Brazil (2015) at the Justice and Post Crash side event.

She has been a member of the GA Post Crash Committee since the Antalya meeting where she was elected and contributed to reports submitted by the GA board to the UNRSC and to the PC justice

side event in Brasilia, including the booklet 'Justice and the Post Crash Response' which was published and distributed widely for this event.

One of her main achievements has been to struggle in Congress for 12 years to change the Road Safety law in Argentina and this was accomplished on Dec 22nd, 2016. Now in all the provinces in Argentina both hit-and-run and drunk driving are serious offences.

Her road safety work is not for financial gain. She knows that more can and needs to be done with the lack of progress being made in saving lives and reducing serious injury on our roads

She has dedicated her life to try to prevent other families experiencing her needless loss and suffering. She does this because she knows that these deaths and serious injuries are totally preventable and families are being left further traumatized through a lack of justice and recognition of their rights to information and support.