Alto al Fuego

No more Fireworks: Saving The Future Children
A Civil Society’s Initiative

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Gobierno de Chile

Ministerio de Salud
Gobierno de Chile

COANIQUEM
todo por el niño quemado
COANIQUEM’s Campaign:  
¡Alto al Fuego!

**What does COANIQUEM stand for?**
COANIQUEM is the Acronym for CORPORACION DE AYUDA AL NIÑO QUEMADO (Corporation for the aid of burned children). It is a Chilean private nonprofit institution created in 1979 that provides free rehabilitation treatment for burned victims from Chile and other countries of the Region. In almost 40 years, COANIQUEM has treated over 130,000 patients with a holistic approach internationally renowned.

**ALTO AL FUEGO? What does it mean?**
“ALTO AL FUEGO” is the PREVENTION CAMPAIGN conducted in Chile by COANIQUEM to raise awareness on the risk of FIREWORKS for children. It started in 1993, monitored the annual pediatric burns due to the use of FIREWORKS and created campaigns to prevent this kind of burns.
Is a prevention campaign enough to stop this kind of burns?

No. COANIQUEM promoted the regulation on the private use of FIREWORKS. The Chilean Parliament took the initiative very seriously and enacted the LAW 19,680 in 2000, which bans the domestic use of FIREWORKS and punishes the sale and purchase of pyrotechnic elements.

“Forbid the fabrication, import, sale, distribution, delivery under any title and use of fireworks, pyrotechnic elements and others of similar nature, their pieces and parts.”

The manipulation of domestic FIREWORKS is a crime punishable by law. Do not put at risk the eyes, hands and skin of your children.

FIREWORKS ARE NOT A GAME
Were the burns by FIREWORKS reduced after the enactment of the LAW?
Yes, the number of children that were admitted at health centers across the country were reduced 10 times! The support of the Chilean Ministry of Public Health and Police Department were crucial to achieve this goal.

![Graph showing decrease in cases before and after the law](image-url)
After the enactment of the law
This is amazing...
But how do Chileans celebrate now?
Professional pyrotechnic events are organized in different cities along the country. They are beautiful, safe and gather lots of people. These events have become a tradition in New Year’s Eve. Families and friends celebrate and wish each other the best for the next year, enjoying a spectacular show. Valparaíso’s FIREWORKS over the bay are the most famous and the FIREWORKS reflect in the sea.

New Year’s Eve Celebration-
Valparaíso, Chile 2018.
Are these kind of burns no longer an issue in Chile or are there still prevention actions?

COANIQUEM conducts the campaign “ALTO AL FUEGO” every year during the holidays season. This is a collaborative work between the Government and Civil Society:

- The Ministry of Health is in charge of the notification of the admission of pediatric patients at health centers because of burns produced by FIREWORKS;
- The Police Department inspects the sale and confiscates pyrotechnic materials.
- COANIQUEM conducts communication campaigns to raise awareness of the risk of FIREWORKS burns and promote prevention.
Burnt children annually (by different causes)

80,000 children in Chile*
6,000,000 in the Americas

Annual Children’s need of rehabilitation treatment

8,000 children in Chile*
500,000 in the Américas

* Source: “Encuesta de diagnóstico de la incidencia y prevalencia de quemaduras y factores asociados en menores de 20 años residentes en tres comunas de la Región Metropolitana” Informe Final Proyecto FONIS -2011 código SA11i2115
The drama of pediatric burns

Burns produce:
- Loss of functionality and aesthetic damage because scars impede the normal growth of tissues.
- Amputations can also be a result of burns.
- Psychologic trauma for the child and family.

They Impact:
- Every day’s activities.
- Self esteem.
- Social integration.
- Work possibilities.

Burns reduce the chances of leading a normal and fulfilling life.
Although burns by FIREWORKS are not among the main causes of children burns, all pyrotechnic elements put adults and children at high risk of injury as they can produce severe damage:

- They contain gunpowder.
- Their trajectory cannot be controlled.

FIREWORKS are dispensable in children games. Celebrations should avoid the handling of all kind of pyrotechnic articles.

THESE KIND OF BURNS CAN AND MUST BE PREVENTED.
A dangerous tradition on New Year’s Eve celebrations.

How do children get burned by Fireworks?
• Manipulating different kinds of pyrotechnic elements available in the market.
• They get hit while watching other people handling them.

DON’T USE, DON’T BUY, DON’T SELL

The Chilean Law 19,680 enacted in 2000 prohibits the sale, possession and use of FIREWORKS, determines safety standards for pyrotechnic events and sets punishment for Lawbreakers

Enactment of Law’s Outcome:
• The number of annual cases of burns by fireworks in Chile in the period of surveillance has been reduced ten times.
• No deaths have been reported since the enactment of the law.
• No cases of burns have been reported at professional firework events.

A dangerous tradition on New Year’s Eve celebrations.

How do children get burned by Fireworks?
• Manipulating different kinds of pyrotechnic elements available in the market.
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FIREWORK ARE NOT TOYS. Leave it to professionals.
Children will suffer burns by Fireworks again these holidays ALL OVER THE WORLD.

We cannot remain indifferent. We need to work on safety measures and SAFE THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN
COANIQUEM’s initiative involves GLOBAL COLLABORATION:

COANIQUEM is accredited at DPI/NGO since 2015.

- Create together a proposal with a Standard Law that regulates the measures needed for the safe use of Fireworks.

- States Members of the UN are invited to incorporate the proposal in their local legislation.
Global Solutions for Global Problems

Invitation to work together:
- States members of UN.
- NGOs.
- Universities.
- Communication and Public Relations Agencies.

Initiative of:
- COANIQUEM.
- State of Chile.

Partners:
- DPI/NGO.
- Fundación Probono.

Activities COANIQUEM
- We The Peoples Workshop, Aug 22-23, 2018.
- Public Health Ministries - Geneve, Jun 2019
- General Assembly UN, Side Event, Sep 2019.
WE the PEOPLES
Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems
UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
22–23 AUGUST 2018
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