



CALL FOR ALL FELLOWS TO RETURN HOME

Dear fellows,

We are aware of the far-reaching impact this new situation is having on your personal and professional lives and on the well-being of our communities and loved ones. Given further travel restrictions and uncertainty, in accordance with Princeton University policies and recommendations, and in constant communication with diplomatic and peer organizations in the US and on the ground we are moving now to end the fellowship cycle 2019-20 early, effective March 30th 2020, and call for all our fellows to come back to wherever they call home. As of that date, all our fellows will become alumni in good standing and there is no possibility of coming back as PiLA fellows to continue the 2019-20 placement at a later date.

We will continue to work with our partners to guarantee continuous joint support **for as long as our fellows stay in-country**. For those in Guatemala and Ecuador or in a country where travel restrictions are already in place, and fellows cannot directly book a flight, we are working through diplomatic and local means to create at least one viable safe option to return home in the next few days. We will share a list of safe places to gather in a central location if need be and are making arrangements to ensure that medical attention in private hospitals is available in case it is needed.

We hear from some fellows, partners and our network of in-country contacts that some feel it might be safer to stay put. Please be mindful that if you decide to stay after March 30th, or to refuse the options we offer for a safe return, you may no longer have the fellowship protections and support of Princeton in Latin America. Your current insurance (iNext et al.) is in place for the full year of your placement and will not be cancelled. As we have done in the past, we will send a note to our providers to inform them of the situation. Please be advised that repatriation in case of medical emergency associated with the virus is posing new and very complex challenges. If the partner decides to offer you employment after the termination of the fellowship, we won't object under the understanding that this continuation, either in-country or to work remotely, is a private arrangement between the alumni and the partner organization and no longer as a PiLA Fellow.

In these novel and trying times, we all have an important role to play. What you can do to help is keeping your family and loved ones informed, that we are all aware and conscientious of these unique challenges, that you have all our institutional support, and that we are moving decisively to address the situation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Annie Leister and/or me. We are going to be reaching out to you individually as well.

Thank you!

Alán José

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