



Youth-Led Change for Health, Equity, and Dignity



What Are the Big Pink Youth Dialogues?

The Big Pink Youth Dialogues is a bold, global initiative designed to break taboos and ignite inclusive, intergenerational conversations about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Created through a partnership among Rotaract Clubs, the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health (RMCH), PMNCH (hosted by the World Health Organization), and the Apollo Shine Foundation, the movement began in India and Australia. Since 2023, it has grown into a dynamic Latin America and Europe-based platform thanks to the strategic leadership of Phalarope, which adapted the initiative for diverse cultural contexts.

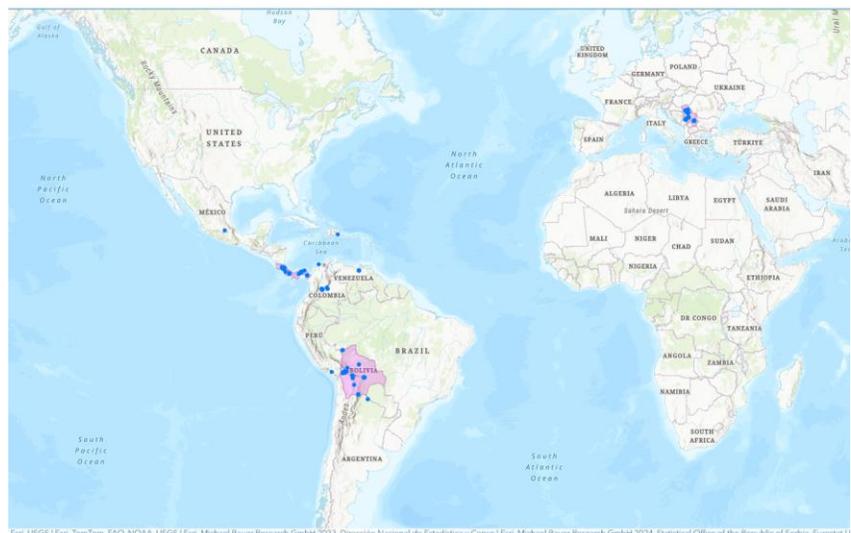
With its unique combination of youth voice, cultural relevance, and civic empowerment, the Big Pink Dialogues are more than a conversation, they are a spark for change. The program uses three flexible formats:

1. Live Zoom sessions connecting youth globally,
2. In-person community gatherings, and
3. Pre-recorded dialogues followed by small group discussions, especially designed for rural and Indigenous communities with limited internet access.

How It Has Expanded

Since January 2024, Big Pink Dialogues have reached youth in nine countries: Panama, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Serbia, Colombia, and others. These have included dialogues in remote, often underserved communities, such as Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé and Madugandí in Panama. The initiative has also expanded to Europe through Rotaract Clubs in Serbia and is under consideration in Africa and Central America. Supported by UNAIDS, AHF, UNICEF, and grassroots partners, the dialogues include health services such as on-site HIV testing (in Panama), leadership training, and grant-writing workshops to empower long-term engagement.

RMCH & Phalarope Youth Activities- Big Pink Youth Dialogues



Phalarope collects pre- and post-surveys during the dialogues and analyzes them using ArcGIS, creating visual maps of youth health perceptions and service gaps that inform future programming and policy advocacy

Who Participates?

From January 2024 to April 2025, the Big Pink Youth Dialogues engaged over 160 youth with the following profile:

Age: 66% between 19–25

- Gender: 77% female; 4% non-binary or undisclosed

- Ethnicity: 51% Indigenous

- Geography: 44.7% Panama, 32.9% Bolivia, 9.9% Serbia

This demographic distribution highlights the success of the initiative in reaching historically excluded and marginalized populations.

What We've Learned

Youth across regions recognize sexual and reproductive health as a vital part of their lives, with 75% affirming its importance. However, a striking 93% report limited or no access to SRHR education.

Conversations around these topics remain difficult.

Half of the participants feel comfortable discussing

them, often due to cultural barriers such as machismo, religious taboos, misinformation, and family silence. The most commonly cited barriers include a lack of formal SRHR education (29%), persistent stigma (28%), and limited access to health services (25%). Beyond SRHR, youth also highlighted the need to address mental and emotional health (37%), communicable disease prevention (33%), and nutrition and physical well-being (17%). Their proposed solutions are clear: integrate comprehensive SRHR education in schools, launch public campaigns to reduce stigma, and expand access to youth-friendly health services.

Impact Highlights

In Panama, the Big Pink Dialogue held in the Indigenous territory of Madugandí sparked the creation of the Rotaract Club Juventud Indígena de Panamá, the first Indigenous youth-led Rotaract club in the region. Youth leaders from the Guna, Emberá, and Ngäbe-Buglé communities are now expanding the initiative to other areas with support from Phalarope and RMCH.

In Bolivia, post-dialogue surveys revealed significant gains: recognition of SRHR as essential rose from 86.7% to 92.7%, comfort discussing SRHR increased from 51.7% to 68.3%, and many participants expressed intentions to stay engaged, 38% plan to join youth groups, while 30% aim to share information on social media.

What Comes Next

The Big Pink Dialogues are growing and the demand is real. Youth are leading the way. We invite you to be part of this movement to create a more informed, inclusive, and compassionate world. Join us. Amplify youth voices. Change starts with a conversation.

Contact:

Dr. Miriam U. Rittmeyer Co-Founder & CEO, Phalarope | Board Member, RMCH
mrittmeier@phalarope.org | +1 912-398-4810

