MARIA BELEN QUELLET

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Communications and nonprofit leader with extensive experience in human rights advocacy, strategic communications, public diplomacy, journalism, and partnership building. Proven ability to translate complex policy and social justice issues into clear, accessible, and compelling narratives for diverse audiences at global, regional, and local levels. Experienced in leading communications strategy, digital platforms, media engagement, and cross-sector collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Learning Quest — Executive Director
Falls Church, VA | 2023–Present

- Leading the development of a city-wide learning ecosystem in Falls Church, connecting public, private, and civic resources through an open-walled learning model
- Building partnerships with city officials, educational institutions, nonprofits, and businesses

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Aurora House — Part-Time Counselor
Virginia | 2024-present

- Provided counseling support at a residential center for girls ages 13–20
- Certified by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Falls Church News-Press — Freelance Writer
Falls Church, VA | 2023-2024

- Contributing journalist covering local community, education, and civic issues
- Writing samples available upon request

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) — Senior Communications Officer

Remote / Global | November 2021 – November 2023

- Coordinated global, regional, and local communications strategies across Europe, Africa, and Latin America
- Led a comprehensive redesign of the organization's website and visual identity, strengthening brand coherence and user experience
- Oversaw production of reports and publications in close collaboration with designers and program teams
- Ensured consistency of messaging across advocacy, research dissemination, and digital platforms

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RED/ACCIÓN — Engagement Editor & Membership Coordinator

Buenos Aires, Argentina | August 2018 – October 2021

- Developed partnerships with organizations and companies to expand reach and engagement
- Managed community contributions, audience engagement, and membership growth strategies
- Served as Program Manager for projects with United Nations Argentina and the Spotlight Initiative

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HelpArgentina — Executive Director

Buenos Aires, Argentina | February 2016 – December 2018

- Directed a U.S.-based nonprofit facilitating cross-border donations and fiscal sponsorship for Argentine nonprofits
- Developed and implemented communications and social media strategies targeting Argentine communities abroad
- Partnered with the Freeman School of Business, Tulane University, to design and manage a pro bono consulting program
- Led the organization's transition into PILAS (Portal for Investment in the Latin American Social Sector) to expand regional impact

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World Bank (Argentina) — Communications Consultant

Buenos Aires, Argentina | August 2018 – November 2018; May 2021 – June 2021

- Supported communications for the Investor Forum held ahead of the G20 Summit
- Contributed to communications for the Inclusive Internship Program

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U.S. Embassy in Argentina — Social Media Information Specialist

Buenos Aires, Argentina | 2012 – 2016

- Led and implemented the Embassy's social media strategy
- Served as Public Affairs liaison with Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural, and Consular sections
- Trained Embassy officers on social media best practices
- Served as Grant Officer Representative, overseeing funded programs with Argentine nonprofits

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La Nación Newspaper Foundation — Journalist & Program Manager

Buenos Aires, Argentina | 2006 – 2012

- Co-coordinated the Foundation's corporate social responsibility volunteering program
- Launched and managed the Foundation's social media presence as its first Community Manager
- Created the Education Award supporting schools addressing community challenges, sustained for 16 consecutive years
- Authored articles on education, civil society, and social issues

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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Missionaries of Charity — Educator & Volunteer
India & Philippines | 1994 – 1998

- Teacher at the Gandhi School for homeless children in Calcutta
- Volunteer at Kalighat (home for the dying), Prem-Dam (home for the sick), and a medical dispensary for leprosy patients
- Founded a school for sick children in Naga, Philippines

Red Solidaria — Academic & Program Leadership Roles
Argentina | 1998 – 2020

- Academic Secretariat for multiple editions of the *Cátedra de Cultura Solidaria*
- Facilitator, *Orientador de la Comunidad* program
- Lecturer, Leadership School for Youth, University of Buenos Aires
- Volunteer Coordinator and Program & Communications Manager
- Coordinated humanitarian aid campaigns, including support for Kosovo refugees

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Argentine Catholic University — Professor
Buenos Aires, Argentina | 2015 – 2020

- Professor, "NGOs, Advocacy, and Civil Society in Argentina" at the Latin American Undergraduate Studies Program for international students

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EDUCATION

University of Belgrano — Buenos Aires, Argentina
B.A. in International Relations, Honors | 1994

Additional Training

- Strategic Management
- International Cooperation
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Social Media and Strategic Communications
- Leadership and Supervisory Skills
- Nonprofit Management and Project Evaluation
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Journalism
- MeD: Corporate Governance with a Gender Perspective (Fundación Flor)
- Public Diplomacy and Strategic Communications (Foreign Service Institute, United States)

LANGUAGES

- Spanish — Native
- English — Fluent