

Obituary Notice - Victoria Sandoval (1975-2026)

Much to our sadness, we learned that last week our President **Victoria Sandoval Cáceres de Lara** (1975–2026) passed away in Guatemala. Victoria was a passionate advocate, lawyer and leader who dedicated her life to advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, and in particular people with spina bifida.

As a person with lived experience of spina bifida, Victoria brought a powerful personal perspective to her advocacy. She was a strong believer in equality, participation and human rights, and worked tirelessly to ensure that people with disabilities had a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

As President of the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Victoria became a strong and courageous voice for our global community. She represented IFSBH internationally with determination and conviction, while always remaining closely connected to the people and organisations she represented.

Friends and colleagues will remember Victoria not only for her advocacy and leadership, but also for her warmth, humour and remarkable ability to connect with people. She had a gift for making others feel encouraged and valued. Whether meeting young people with spina bifida, working with colleagues and partners, or speaking up for the rights of people with disabilities, Victoria brought energy, conviction and a genuine belief in the potential of others.

Victoria leaves behind an important legacy of advocacy and leadership in Guatemala and internationally. But perhaps just as important is the inspiration she gave to the many people she met along the way. Her courage and determination reminded us that change is possible when people are willing to speak up and stand together.

Victoria will be deeply missed by her family, friends, colleagues and the entire spina bifida and hydrocephalus community. We extend our deepest condolences to all those who loved and worked alongside her.

We will remember Victoria with great affection and gratitude, and we will carry her voice and her commitment forward in our work.

