



**Recommendations for the UNSCR 2242 Informal Expert Group on the Situation in Colombia**  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)  
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The peace agreement that was signed over five years ago between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP represents a momentous opportunity to dismantle deeply-rooted structural inequalities and to address the multiple root causes that led to decades of conflict. However, the promise that the agreement represents is being undermined by uneven implementation and persistent violence in conflict-affected communities, including against social leaders and human rights defenders. The government's lack of political will to make progress on the National Commission of Security Guarantees and the continuous defunding of policies, programs and projects for the implementation of the Peace Agreement, including regarding its gender and ethnic provisions, are a reflection of a government that has avoided fulfilling the historic task of peace. In the context of a deeply-contested electoral period and amidst economic crisis, it is essential that the UN Security Council and relevant UN agencies are clear-eyed and vocal in support for the prevention of conflict and violence in Colombia.

In UNSCR 2603, the Security Council urged the parties to the final agreement to address challenges to comprehensive implementation, including with regards to rural reform and the ethnic and gender provisions. The Colombian government has reported that 9 out of 51 gender indicators of the Final Agreement have been completed thus far – a slower rate of progress than overall implementation. Only 4% of the National Budget has been allocated to gender-related actions. In 2020 and 2021, only 11% of the resources allocated to the Policy of Attention and Integral Reparation for Victims were oriented towards gender-related actions, and only 2% were exclusively allocated for women victims. Further, care burdens undermine women ex-combatants' abilities to reintegrate into society and achieve socio-economic autonomy.<sup>1</sup>

The holistic implementation of the peace agreement is more critical than ever; however, many of the strongest voices in defense of peace in Colombia face severe threats to their lives and work. As of March 2022, approximately 161 Colombian women human rights defenders (WHRDs) have been murdered since the signing of the peace agreement. According to the December 2021 report of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, in 2021, a total of 196 killings were reported to OHCHR, including 28 women, 47 indigenous persons, 8 Afro-Colombians and three members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.<sup>2</sup> There are persistent delays in investigating and prosecuting threats and killings of HRDs, which is a significant barrier to achieving justice and preventing future violations. In addition, police violence and repression of the right to peaceful protest, including through the use of sexual violence against women expressing their rights to free expression, directly undermines civic space. This violence has a significant impact on the mental health of women leaders. More

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, paragraph 33, dated 27 December 2021, accessed at:

[https://colombia.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/informe\\_en\\_n2139924.pdf](https://colombia.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/informe_en_n2139924.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraph 60.



broadly, there continue to be persistently high rates of gender-based violence against women in Colombia, rooted in structural gender discrimination and enabled in part by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

It is necessary that the international community pressures the Colombian government to adopt short, medium, and long term structural measures to guarantee the protection of human rights and the elimination of historical injustices and exclusion, and to adequately resource the holistic implementation of the peace agreement. The below recommendations come from LIMPAL (WILPF) Colombia's work for over two decades on women's rights, peace, and disarmament.

### Recommendations for UNSC Action

- **Resourcing and Implementing the Agreement:** Urge the government to accelerate the implementation of the gender and ethnic provisions of the Final Agreement, including through substantially increasing resources for implementation. All relevant entities within the government must fulfill their responsibilities in this regard, in particular with regards to human rights, protection of social leaders, reintegration, and meaningful participation.
- **National Commission of Security Guarantees:** Pressure the Colombian government to comply without delay with point 3.4.3 of the Final Agreement, in relation to the effective functioning of the National Commission of Security Guarantees.
- **Protection of WHRDs:** Urge the government to adopt a comprehensive national policy, informed by intersectional gender analysis, to guarantee civic space for the defense of human rights, including the security of human rights defenders.
- **Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN):** Pressure the ARN to structure effective protection and security strategies for women signatories of the peace process and their families, recognizing the particular risks they face.
- **Encourage a broad and comprehensive approach to peace** that is centered on human rights, intersectional approaches, and redressing structural inequalities, including by supporting women's participation and economic autonomy.
- **Demilitarization:** Support efforts for demilitarization in Colombia, including of the territories, and urge the Colombian government to center human rights, rather than weapons and militarization, in their conceptualization of security.

### Further Reading

- LIMPAL Colombia, *Realidades de Paz Territorial: Perspectivas de las Mujeres de Meta y Bolívar* (2021)
  - [Parte I](#): Informe de seguimiento a indicadores de género del Acuerdo de Paz firmado entre el Gobierno y las FARC-EP
  - [Parte II](#): Informe de seguimiento a acciones de género de la Política de Reincorporación socioeconómica de exintegrantes de las FARC-EP
- LIMPAL Colombia, [Situación de las mujeres líderes y defensoras de Derechos Humanos en los departamentos de Cauca y Meta](#), (2021)