

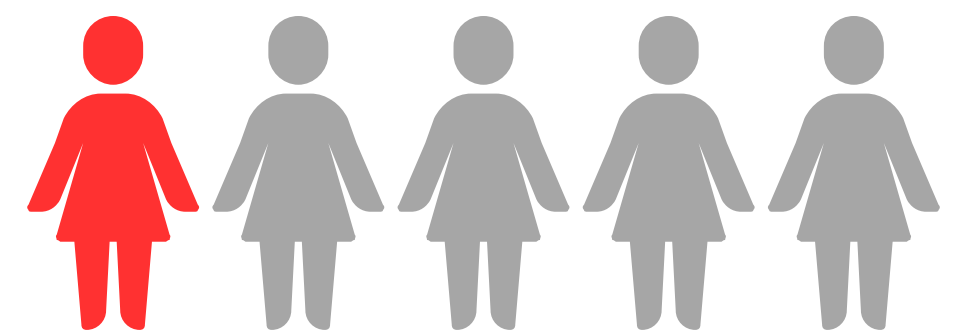
A WOMEN'S HISTORY OF COLOMBIA

INTRODUCTION

From 1990 until the present day, women in Colombia have shaped their country's history, and they will continue to do so. Women have been consistently marginalized and excluded from the historical narrative, and spotlighting them and their actions helps to inform their present situations and needs.

1990s-2000s

As conflicts, especially over drug cartels, raged in 1990s Colombia, women found themselves caught in the middle. Though they did not often participate directly in the violence, women took on peacekeeper roles and were sometimes harshly punished for it, especially through rape. Women, especially Indigenous women with few other options, were also forced to grow poppy plants (used to make heroin) and coca plants (used to make cocaine) to stay afloat economically and provide for their families, leading to a dangerous connection with the cartels. In the 2000s, conditions were not much better, with women being disproportionately displaced and having their human rights violated.



**Approximately
one in five
women displaced by the
Colombian conflicts
were raped.**

Violence Against Women in Colombia

POST-2016 PEACE ACCORD

After the 2016 Peace Accord declared a tentative peace in Colombia, women could devote themselves to keeping the peace and rebuilding their war-torn country. Women have formed groups that have put pressure on lawmakers to enforce the promises that the Peace Accord made.

PRESENT DAY

Despite progress, Colombia can still be dangerous for women today. Feminists in Colombia have shifted their focus to the *ni una menos* (not one more [woman killed]) campaign against femicide. Other issues that Colombian women face in the present day include battles for reproductive rights, for access to education, and efforts to bridge class differences.

LOOKING FORWARD

Though Colombian women have faced extreme difficulty from the civil war in the 1990s until the present, they have not given up in their fight for peace and justice and have proven themselves to be extraordinarily resilient. They have been forced to keep a precarious peace, involve themselves in dangerous situations to survive, and tolerate inequality in regards to economics, digital access, and access to birth control. Understanding the factors that have created their present situation enables us to better support Colombian women in reaching their educational and entrepreneurial dreams.

Protagonists and Victims.

Indigenous Women and Violence in Colombia.

Unraveling the Factors behind Women's Empowerment in the Labor Market in Colombia