

Violence Against Women in Colombia



A Shared Responsibility

Every woman deserves to live free from fear. Yet in Colombia, too many face emotional, physical, and systemic violence simply because of their gender. But change is possible—when communities rise, institutions listen, and voices are no longer silenced.

Why This Matters

Violence against women in Colombia constitutes a systemic human rights violation that undermines national development and social cohesion. Despite legal frameworks intended to protect women, persistent cultural norms, institutional weaknesses, and post-civil war environments have allowed gender-based violence to flourish. This issue directly impacts public health, economic productivity, and social stability. Therefore, a comprehensive response combining legal reform, prevention education, and community empowerment is not only necessary but urgent for Colombia's progress and peace.

Impact on Women

Nearly two women are killed every day in Colombia.

They are more likely to leave the workforce or miss out on job opportunities.

They often suffer from PTSD, anxiety, depression, and chronic physical health issues.

Violence undermines their financial independence and limits their chances of economic mobility.

Economy Disempowerment and Mental Health

- Gender-based violence contributes to economic inequality. In Colombia, many of them are forced to leave jobs due to abuse. In rural and post-conflict areas, these effects are even more severe, reinforcing cycles of poverty.
- Survivors frequently suffer from anxiety, depression, PTSD, and substance abuse. In some areas, access to mental health services is limited, leaving many women without the support they need to heal and rebuild. The trauma experienced by survivors also affects their children, with long-term psychological consequences that span generations.

School Based Programs

- By introducing lessons on empathy, consent, and gender studies, schools can help challenge harmful stereotypes early.
- Incorporating topics like gender-based violence, human rights, and healthy relationships into the national curriculum ensures students across Colombia grow up informed and empowered.

Conclusion

Ending violence against women in Colombia is not only a moral imperative—it is essential to building a more just, peaceful, and prosperous society. By investing in prevention, enforcing protections, and amplifying community voices, we can break cycles of abuse and create lasting change.