



# NATIONAL REPORT 2024

## ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

ANALYSIS OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS AND  
PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE



ISBN 978-0-473-73880-8

© GRAC: Global Rights Action 2025

ISBN 978-0-473-73880-8

This publication is officially registered with the National Library of New Zealand under

ISBN 978-0-473-73880-8.

© GRAC: Global Rights Action 2025

### **Free Distribution Work**

This report may be reproduced, photocopied, or replicated, in whole or in part, provided the source is cited.

### **GRAC: Global Rights Action**



#### **Websites:**

[www.gracglobal.org](http://www.gracglobal.org) | [www.fundaciongrac.org](http://www.fundaciongrac.org)



#### **Address:**

372 Annesbrook Drive, Nelson 7011, New Zealand



#### **Phone Numbers:**

+64 274 996 766

+64 211 647 827



#### **Emails:**

[info@gracglobal.org](mailto:info@gracglobal.org)

[contact@gracglobal.org](mailto:contact@gracglobal.org)



#### **Social Media:**

- **Instagram:** grac.1974
- **X (Twitter):** @FUNDACIONGRAC
- **Facebook:** GRAC - Global Rights Action
- **YouTube:** GRAC: Global Rights Action

**Note to the Reader Regarding References:**

The references included in this report are listed in the order in which they are cited within each chapter, rather than in alphabetical order. This approach aims to facilitate the location of relevant sources in direct relation to the corresponding content, promoting a smoother and more understandable reading experience.

Although this is a serious and rigorous report, it is not an academic or scientific publication subjected to a peer-review process. However, it adheres to international academic research protocols to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information presented. This document is intended to shed light on human rights issues in a manner that is accessible and understandable to a broad audience.

**How to Cite This Report:**

To cite this report in academic papers, essays, or publications, use the following formats:

---

**APA (7th edition):**

GRAC: Global Rights Action. (2025). *National Report on Human Rights in Colombia 2024*. Nelson, New Zealand: GRAC: Global Rights Action.

---

**MLA:**

GRAC: Global Rights Action. *National Report on Human Rights in Colombia 2024*. GRAC: Global Rights Action, 2025.

---

**Chicago:**

GRAC: Global Rights Action. *National Report on Human Rights in Colombia 2024*. Nelson, New Zealand: GRAC: Global Rights Action, 2025.



# Table of Content

Table of Content .....	5
Foreword .....	9
Abstract .....	11
Introduction.....	13
Chapter 1: The Right to Life and Security .....	16
1.1 General Context of the Right to Life and Security.....	16
1.2 Impact on Vulnerable Communities .....	17
1.3 Main Causes of Violence .....	18
1.4 Humanitarian Consequences .....	20
1.5 Recommendations .....	24
1.6 Conclusion .....	26
References .....	27
Chapter 2: Rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Communities .....	29
2.1 General Context .....	29
2.2 Violations of Territorial Rights.....	30
2.3 Impact of the Armed Conflict.....	31
Analysis: The Pacific Region as the Most Affected.....	32
2.4 Socioeconomic Exclusion .....	34
2.5 Recommendations .....	34
2.6 Conclusion .....	35
References .....	35
Chapter 3: Rights of Social Leaders and Human Rights Defenders .....	36
3.1 General Context .....	36
3.2 Types of Threats and Violence .....	38
3.3 Impact on Communities .....	39
3.4 State and International Responses.....	40
3.5 Recommendations .....	41
5. Community Participation: .....	41
3.6 Conclusion .....	41
References .....	41
Chapter 4: Women's Rights .....	43

4.1 General Context .....	43
4.2 Economic Inequality .....	44
4.3 Access to Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights .....	45
4.4 Gender-Based Violence .....	46
4.5 Recommendations .....	47
4.6 Conclusion .....	47
References .....	48
<b>Chapter 5: Rights of Children and Adolescents .....</b>	<b>49</b>
5.1 General Context .....	49
5.2 Access to Education .....	50
5.3 Child Labour .....	51
5.4 Violence and Forced Recruitment .....	52
5.5 Child Sexual Abuse .....	53
5.6 Homeless and Abandoned Children .....	54
5.7 Recommendations .....	55
5.8 Conclusion .....	55
References .....	56
<b>Chapter 6: Right to Freedom of Expression .....</b>	<b>57</b>
6.1 General Context .....	57
6.2 Restrictions on Freedom of Expression .....	58
6.3 Journalism in Conflict Zones .....	59
6.4 Freedom of Expression on social media .....	59
6.5 Recommendations .....	59
6.6 Conclusion .....	60
References .....	60
<b>Chapter 7: Rights of the LGBTIQ+ Population .....</b>	<b>61</b>
7.1 General Context .....	61
7.2 Institutional and Social Discrimination .....	62
7.3 Legal Advances and Setbacks .....	62
7.4 Violence and Hate Crimes .....	62
7.5 Recommendations .....	63
7.6 Conclusion .....	64
References .....	64
<b>Chapter 8: Right to Health .....</b>	<b>65</b>
8.1 General Context .....	65
8.2 Inequalities in Access to the Healthcare System .....	66

8.3 Health Crisis and Resource Shortages .....	66
8.4 Mental Health.....	66
8.5 Recommendations .....	67
8.6 Conclusion .....	68
References .....	68
<b>Chapter 9: Right to Education .....</b>	<b>69</b>
9.1 General Context .....	69
9.2 Limitations in Rural Areas .....	70
9.3 Educational Quality .....	70
9.4 Exclusion and Vulnerability.....	71
9.5 Recommendations .....	71
9.6 Conclusion .....	72
References .....	72
<b>Chapter 10: Right to a Healthy Environment .....</b>	<b>73</b>
10.1 General Context .....	73
10.2 Deforestation .....	74
10.3 Illegal Mining .....	74
10.4 Climate Change and Natural Disasters .....	75
10.5 Recommendations .....	75
10.6 Conclusion .....	76
References .....	76
<b>Chapter 11: Rights of Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons .....</b>	<b>77</b>
11.1 General Context .....	77
11.2 Challenges in Accessing Rights.....	78
11.3 Impact on Host Communities .....	78
11.4 Institutional Responses.....	79
11.5 Recommendations .....	79
11.6 Conclusion .....	80
References .....	80
<b>Chapter 12: Justice and Access to Judicial Resources .....</b>	<b>81</b>
12.1 General Context .....	81
12.2 Inequities in Access to Justice.....	82
12.3 Corruption in the Judicial System .....	82
12.4 Access to Justice for Victims of Armed Conflict .....	82
12.5 Recommendations .....	83
12.6 Conclusion .....	83

<b>Conclusion and General Recommendations .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>General Recommendations .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Final Reflection .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>GRAC: Global Rights Action.....</b>	<b>86</b>

# Foreword

It is a profound honour and a commitment to truth to present the *2024 National Report on Human Rights in Colombia*, prepared by GRAC: Global Rights Action. This report represents a collective effort to document the realities faced by millions of Colombians during 2024 and, above all, is a call to action.

Colombia, a country of contrasts and unparalleled wealth, is also a land where structural inequalities and the scars of armed conflict continue to affect broad sectors of the population. In 2024, we witnessed a landscape oscillating between hopeful progress in human rights and alarming setbacks in key areas. This report seeks to capture those complexities, not only from a critical perspective but also with a forward-looking vision.

The work presented here is not limited to highlighting the most violated rights but also aims to amplify the voices of those who have suffered in silence: persecuted social leaders, displaced communities, women and children's victims of violence, and marginalized populations who continue to fight for the recognition of their basic rights. This report also highlights the courage and resilience of those who, whether anonymously or visibly, work tirelessly for a fairer nation.

Within its pages, you will find an in-depth and detailed analysis of the most violated human rights in Colombia during 2024. From the right to life and security to access to health, education, and the environment, each chapter of this report is supported by rigorous data, testimonials, and an unwavering commitment to truth. Furthermore, clear and viable recommendations are

proposed to address these issues, aiming to guide institutions, civil society, and international organizations toward effective solutions.

At GRAC, we are guided by the values of honesty, humanity, and humility. This report reflects those principles and our vision of a world where human rights are respected and protected for all, without distinction. Our work would not be possible without the support of communities, organizations, and individuals who have contributed their time, expertise, and courage to make this document a reality.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to work on this report, a testament to dedication, hope, and commitment to social justice. This document not only represents an analytical effort but also a declaration of principles, aimed at making visible the struggles, stories, and voices that cry out for change. May this work inspire concrete actions and reaffirm our faith in a more just and dignified future for all.

I hope this report inspires its readers to act with empathy, determination, and a renewed sense of collective responsibility. Human rights are not merely aspirations; they are an obligation we must fulfil to ensure a better future for everyone.

With gratitude and hope,

Dr. Alfredo José López Severiche  
International Executive Director  
**GRAC: Global Rights Action**



# Abstract

The *2024 National Report on Human Rights in Colombia*, prepared by GRAC: Global Rights Action, is a comprehensive analysis of the most significant human rights violations that occurred in the country during 2024. This document delves deeply into the causes, consequences, and challenges related to the protection of fundamental rights and proposes recommendations to advance effective and sustainable solutions.

The report is structured into twelve thematic chapters, covering the most vulnerable rights in the country. These include the right to life and security, the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, the rights of social leaders and human rights defenders, women's rights, the rights of children and adolescents, freedom of expression, and access to health, education, and a healthy environment, among others.

Through a data-driven and testimonial approach, the report highlights:

- The intensification of violence in rural areas, particularly against Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, who continue to face forced displacement and violations of their territorial rights.
- The alarming number of attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders, underscoring the urgency of implementing more effective protection measures.
- The impact of gender-based violence and femicide, which remains one of the main human rights issues in the country.
- The critical situation of children and adolescents, who are still victims of forced recruitment by illegal armed groups and face significant barriers to accessing quality education.

- Environmental degradation caused by deforestation and illegal extractive activities, which affect both communities and ecosystems.

The report also highlights progress achieved in some areas, such as efforts to implement transitional justice policies and programs aimed at strengthening citizen participation. However, it emphasizes that these advances are insufficient in the face of the magnitude of existing challenges.

In its conclusions, the report urgently calls on Colombian authorities, the international community, and civil society to unite efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. Key recommendations include:

1. Strengthening protection mechanisms for social leaders and at-risk communities.
2. Implementing effective measures to prevent gender-based violence and ensure justice for victims.
3. Prioritizing investment in education and health, especially in areas most affected by conflict.
4. Promoting active participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in decision-making processes impacting their territories.
5. Intensifying efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change and preserve natural ecosystems.

This report is a collective call to action to build a fairer, more equitable, and human rights-respecting Colombia. GRAC reaffirms its commitment to continue working alongside communities and organizations striving for a better future for all.

# Introduction

The *2024 National Report on Human Rights in Colombia*, prepared by GRAC: Global Rights Action, aims to analyze and document the most significant human rights violations that occurred in the country during 2024. In a context marked by persistent inequalities, armed conflicts, and challenges in implementing peace agreements, this report seeks to provide a comprehensive view of the most pressing issues while promoting actions to ensure the protection and respect of fundamental rights.

Colombia has historically been a complex political, social, and economic landscape. While recent years have seen progress in institutional strengthening and the implementation of peace-oriented policies, 2024 highlighted numerous challenges yet to be addressed. Violence in rural areas, persecution of social leaders and human rights defenders, and the deep inequalities affecting Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and campesino communities are just some of the urgent issues demanding attention.

This report is structured into 12 thematic chapters, each addressing a specific aspect of human rights in Colombia. Topics include the right to life and security, freedom of expression, women's rights, children's rights, vulnerable communities, and the environment, among others. Each chapter combines statistical data, qualitative analysis, and testimonials from affected communities to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture of the current situation.

The methodology used in this report is based on the collection of information from primary and secondary sources, including interviews with victims, human rights defenders, and experts, as well as the analysis of prior reports and

relevant databases. This approach allows for identifying patterns of violations and proposing concrete, viable solutions.

At GRAC, we firmly believe in the importance of amplifying the voices of people and communities who face these realities daily. This report is not only a critical analysis but also a tribute to the resilience and dignity of those who continue fighting for their rights under diverse conditions.

We call on Colombian authorities, international actors, and civil society to work jointly to address the challenges outlined here. Only through a collective and sustained effort can we build a Colombia that is fairer, more equitable, and respectful of human rights.

The introduction of this report seeks to establish a foundation for a detailed analysis of the issues and solutions, aiming to inspire a renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of all people in Colombia.

## **Note on the Accuracy of Figures in This Report**

In preparing this report, we have worked with the utmost rigor to collect and analyse information that reflects the state of human rights in Colombia during 2024. However, we acknowledge that some of the figures presented may not be entirely accurate due to inherent limitations in data collection. This challenge arises from the fact that various reliable sources, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, Human Rights Watch, and international organizations, often report figures that differ from one another. These discrepancies reflect the difficulties in recording, tracking, and validating certain data in complex contexts.

For this reason, some of the figures presented should be interpreted as approximations rather than absolute values. Although we have made an effort to cross-check and validate the information, we are aware that such differences are inevitable in studies of this nature. Nonetheless, we are confident that this report provides a faithful and well-founded representation of reality, serving as a tool to highlight and address the issues affecting human rights in Colombia.



# Chapter 1: The Right to Life and Security

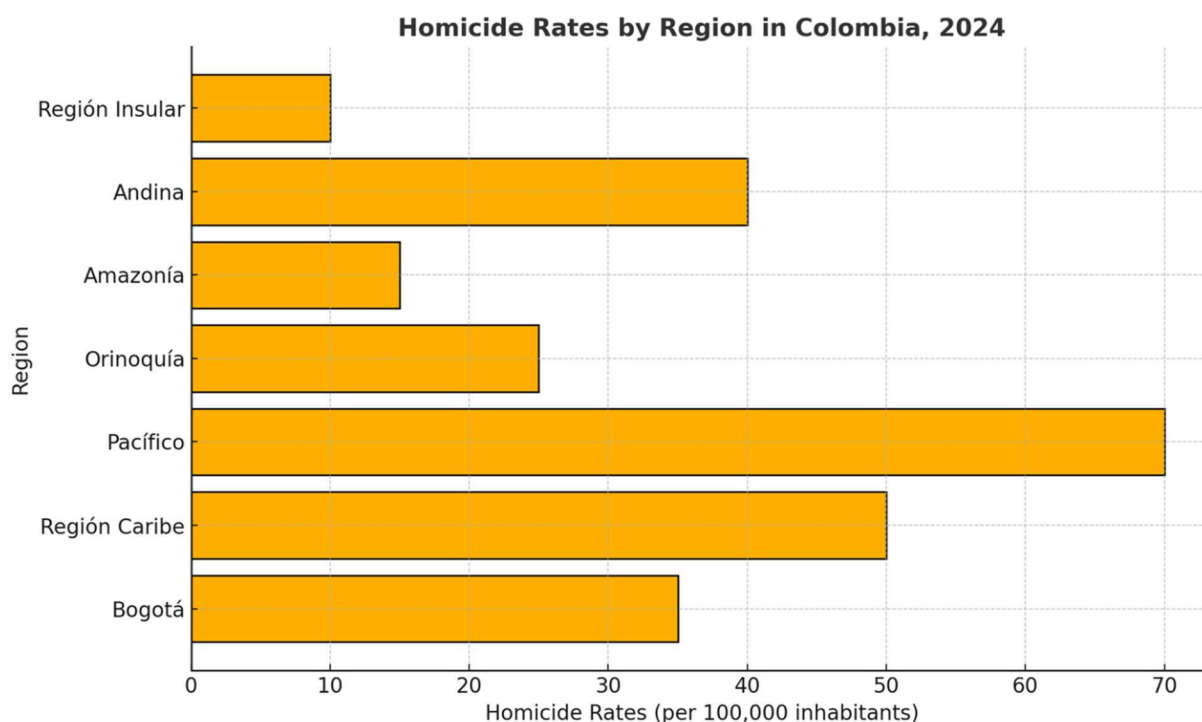
---

The right to life and security is fundamental and enshrined in international instruments such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Article 3) and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (Article 6). In Colombia, this right has historically been violated due to factors such as armed conflict, the presence of illegal groups, and institutional weaknesses in certain regions.

## 1.1 General Context of the Right to Life and Security

In 2024, Colombia recorded a decrease in the number of homicides compared to previous years. According to data from the Ministry of Defense, between January and May 2024, intentional homicides decreased by 2.3% compared to the same period in the previous year (*Infobae*, 2024). However, this reduction was not uniform across the country. Regions such as Bogotá and the Caribbean Region reported the highest homicide rates in the country during 2024 (*Universidad Externado de Colombia*, 2024).





## 1.2 Impact on Vulnerable Communities

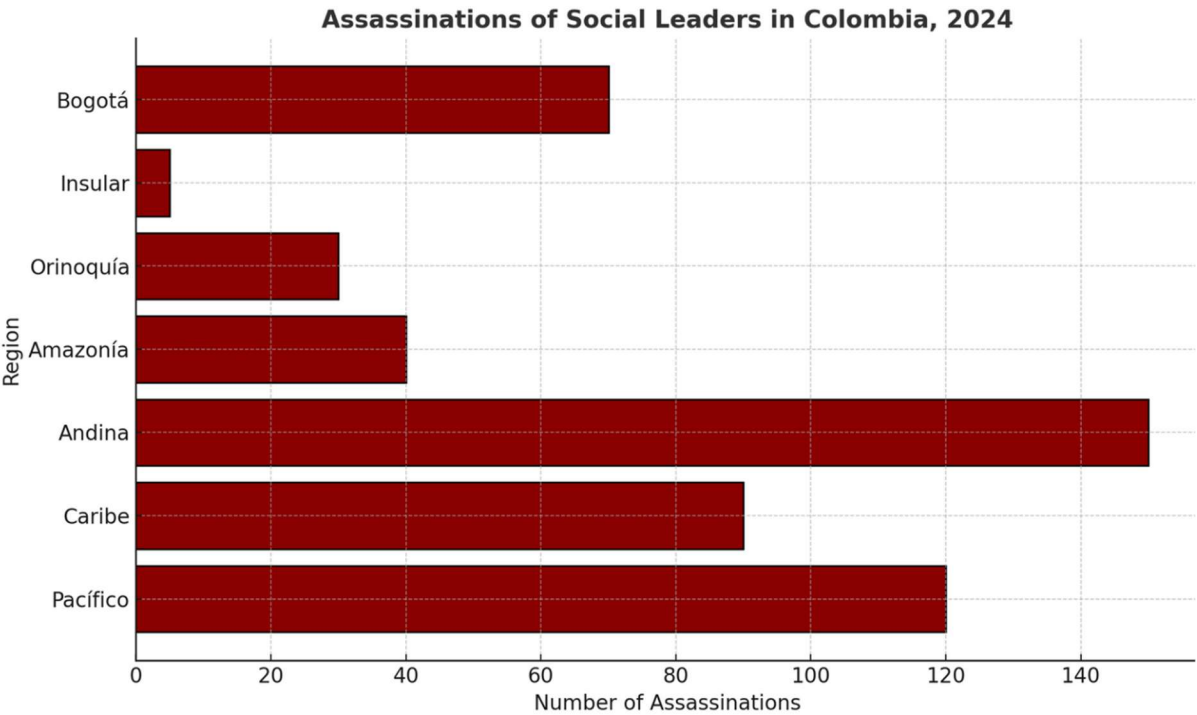
### Indigenous and Afro-descendant Communities

Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities have been particularly affected by violence. In departments such as Nariño, there has been an increase in forced disappearances, human trafficking dynamics, and sexual violence, which have severely impacted these populations (*United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2024*).

### Social Leaders

Social leaders continue to face threats and violence. Despite the implementation of protection programs, many human rights defenders return to their communities only to face renewed risks. For instance, social leaders who participated in protection programs in Catalonia reported hostility upon their return to Colombia (*El País, 2025*).

In 2024, Colombia recorded the murder of 204 social leaders and human rights defenders, according to data collected by the Office of the Ombudsman (2024). This figure represents one of the most alarming in recent years, highlighting the constant persecution and vulnerability faced by these individuals in their work to protect fundamental rights, land, and natural resources. The departments most affected include Cauca, Nariño, and Antioquia, which account for the highest number of murders, reflecting the dynamics of conflict and the lack of security guarantees for those leading community processes.



### 1.3 Main Causes of Violence

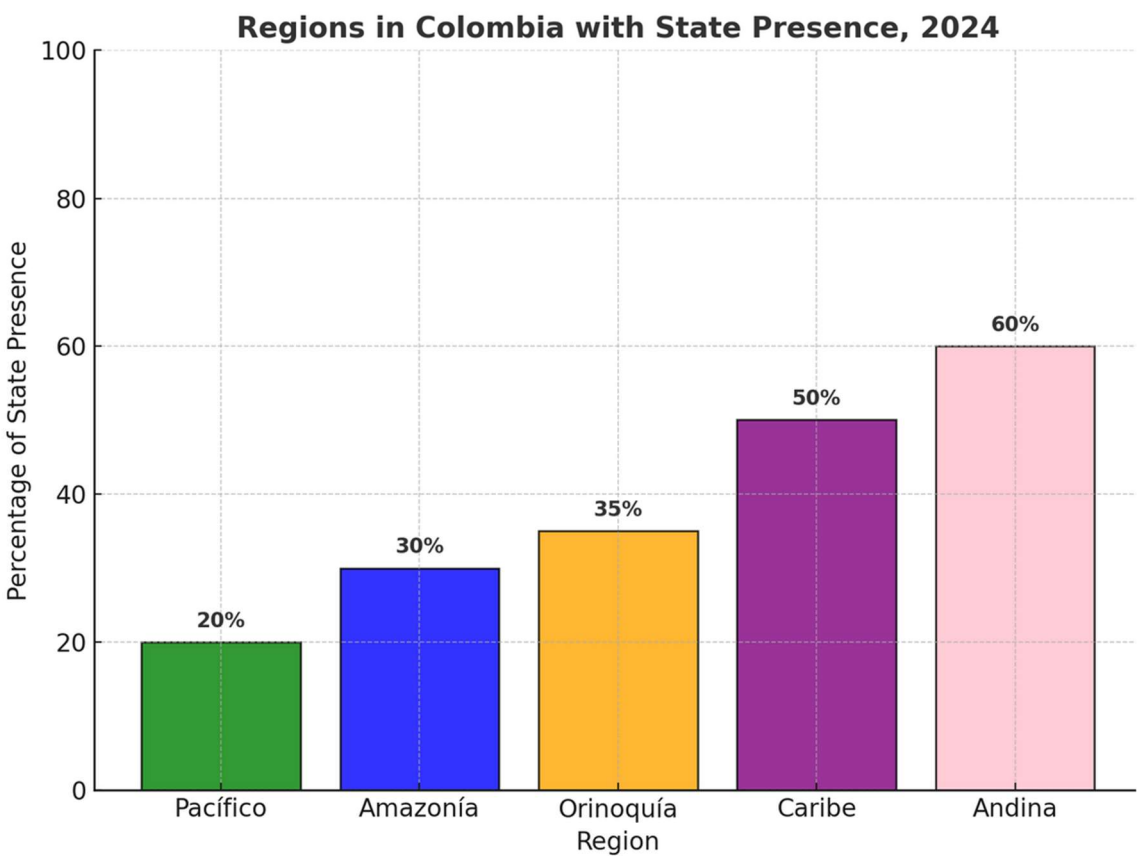
#### Drug Trafficking and Illegal Economies

Drug trafficking remains a primary driver of violence in Colombia. Illegal armed groups use intimidation and murder to control strategic territories. In 2024,

multiple armed confrontations related to disputes over drug trafficking routes were documented (*El País*, 2025).

**Lack of State Presence**

The absence of the state in vast rural areas enables armed groups to exert control, impose their own laws, and foster a climate of fear. This lack of institutional presence also contributes to delays in access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and justice (*Human Rights Watch*, 2024).



The chart above illustrates the percentage of state presence across five key regions in the country. The Andean region leads with 60% state presence, followed by the Caribbean region with 50%. However, regions such as the Pacific

(20%), Amazon (30%), and Orinoquía (35%) face alarmingly low levels of state presence, reflecting significant governmental weaknesses in these areas.

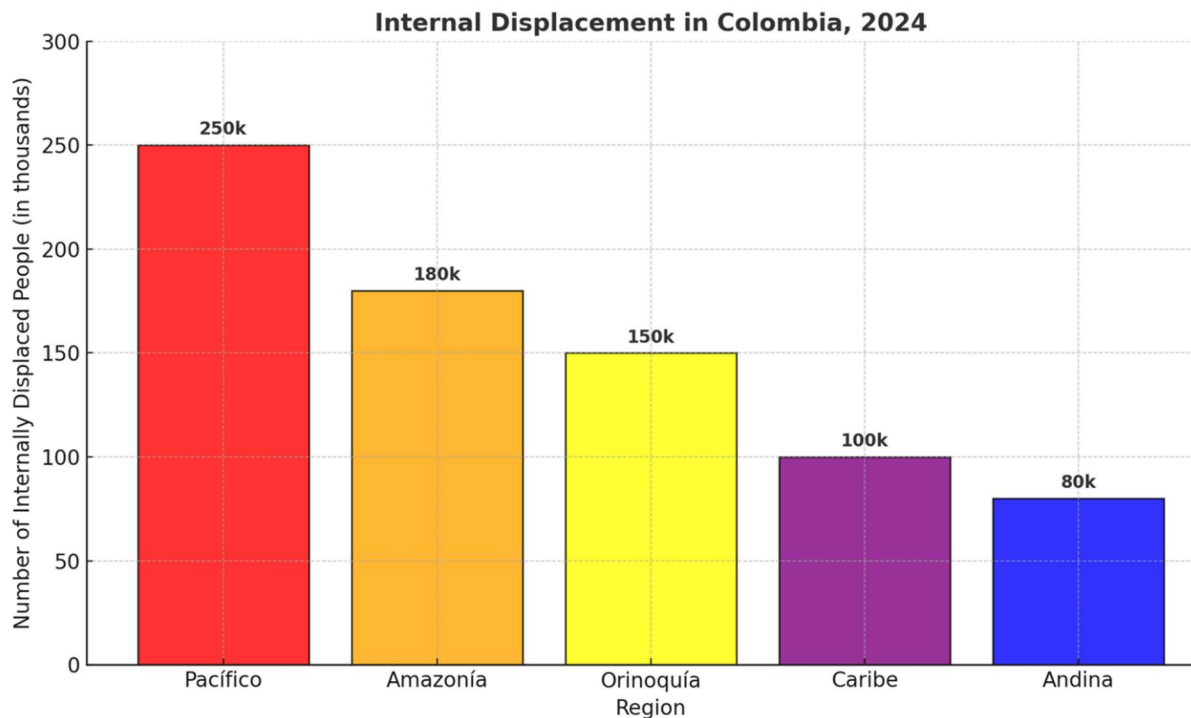
These deficiencies in state presence have severe social and economic consequences. The lack of government institutions in regions like the Pacific and Amazon facilitates the expansion of illicit economies, such as drug trafficking and illegal mining. Furthermore, the absence of basic services such as healthcare, education, and justice increase the vulnerability of communities, particularly Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. This also creates fertile ground for illegal armed groups to exert territorial control, exacerbating insecurity and perpetuating cycles of poverty and forced displacement.

Addressing these issues requires strengthening governance in these regions through investments in infrastructure, sustainable development programs, and effective security strategies that prioritize the human rights of affected communities. Without such actions, regional disparities will continue to widen, perpetuating social and economic challenges in the country.

## **1.4 Humanitarian Consequences**

The humanitarian impact of this crisis is significant. In 2024, more than 388,100 people were affected by forced displacements, confinements, and mobility restrictions, with emergencies concentrated in the Pacific region (*United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, 2024). Additionally,

the number of people confined increased by 42.5% compared to the total in 2023 (*United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2024*).



The chart above reveals a profound humanitarian crisis primarily affecting the Pacific and Amazon regions, with 250,000 and 180,000 internally displaced persons, respectively. These figures reflect the lack of safe conditions for communities to remain in their territories, which is directly linked to the limited state presence previously described.

The absence of an effective state in these regions has enabled the strengthening of illegal economies and armed groups, which exert territorial control and generate violence. Without adequate state intervention, these areas become scenes of conflict, extortion, and persecution, forcing thousands of people to abandon their homes in search of safety.

For instance, in the Pacific region, where only 20% of the territory benefits from significant state presence, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities face mass forced displacements due to the illegal exploitation of natural resources and disputes over strategic drug trafficking routes. Similarly, in the Amazon, the limited governmental presence (30%) facilitates activities such as illegal mining and deforestation, forcing communities to migrate to urban areas or regions with greater security.

These dynamics not only uproot communities but also place additional strain on host cities, which often lack the resources necessary to meet the needs of displaced populations. This situation perpetuates a cycle of poverty, social exclusion, and human rights violations, affecting both displaced communities and the cities that receive them.

It is urgent for the Colombian state to implement comprehensive strategies to increase its presence in these regions, combining efforts in security, economic development, and access to basic services. Without these actions, the internal displacement crisis will continue to escalate, exacerbating inequalities and perpetuating insecurity across the country.



## Colombians Fleeing Violence



## 1.5 Recommendations

### 1. Strengthening Justice

The judicial system in Colombia must be expanded and reinforced to ensure that victims of forced displacement and other crimes related to the absence of state presence receive prompt and effective justice. This includes:

- **Expanding judicial infrastructure:** Building courthouses in rural and remote areas where access to justice is nearly non-existent.
- **Training judicial personnel:** Specialized training for judges, prosecutors, and public defenders on human rights, forced displacement, and transitional justice.
- **Reducing impunity:** Establishing special investigative units for crimes related to internal displacement, such as homicides, threats, and land dispossession.
- **Protecting witnesses and victims:** Implementing programs to guarantee the safety of those reporting crimes in regions controlled by illegal actors.

### 2. Increasing State Presence

It is crucial for the Colombian state to increase its presence in historically marginalized regions. This requires not only greater military presence but also an integrated approach that includes economic development and access to basic services. Specific actions should include:

- **Establishing multifunctional government centres:** Facilities offering health, education, justice, and social assistance services in remote communities.

- **Employment and economic development programs:** Initiatives to generate local employment, such as infrastructure projects, road construction, and rural electrification.
- **Education and technical training:** Investment in schools and technical training programs for young people in these regions, providing future opportunities and reducing their vulnerability to recruitment by armed groups.
- **Connecting rural and urban areas:** Building and improving infrastructure to better integrate these regions with urban centres.

### 3. Protecting Social Leaders

Social leaders play a fundamental role in defending human rights and protecting community territories. However, their work makes them targets for attacks and persecution. Measures to ensure their safety include:

- **Strengthening existing protection programs:** Increasing resources for state protection programs and ensuring their effective implementation in high-risk areas.
- **Early warning systems:** Enhancing systems to identify threats against social leaders, enabling rapid and coordinated responses.
- **International support:** Establishing partnerships with international organizations to monitor and denounce attacks on social leaders, creating external pressure to protect them.
- **Community empowerment:** Supporting communities in protecting their leaders through collective defence networks and community surveillance initiatives.

## 4. Eradicating Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is a primary driver of violence and internal displacement in Colombia. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond eradicating illicit crops to provide sustainable alternatives for affected communities. Actions include:

- **Crop substitution programs:** Promoting legal crops with economic incentives for farmers, ensuring guaranteed markets for their products.
- **Rural development investments:** Improving infrastructure, access to credit, and technical training for farmers transitioning away from illicit crops.
- **Effective territorial control:** Strengthening military presence in key areas to prevent illegal armed groups from reclaiming territories where crops have been eradicated.
- **International cooperation:** Collaborating with consumer countries to reduce drug demand and increase resources to combat drug trafficking in Colombia.

## 1.6 Conclusion

This chapter has outlined the profound violations of this fundamental right in Colombia, emphasizing how violence, internal displacement, and the persecution of social leaders remain significant issues. Despite some improvements in homicide statistics in certain regions, the reality in rural territories, such as the Pacific and Amazon, highlights the fragility of institutions and the absence of an effective state.

The analysis detailed how the lack of state presence facilitates territorial control by armed groups and illegal economies, perpetuating cycles of violence and displacement. Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities have been disproportionately affected, facing mass displacements and violations of their territorial rights. The alarming figure of 204 social leaders murdered in 2024 underscores the impunity and risks associated with defending human rights in the country.

The recommendations presented—strengthening justice, increasing state presence, protecting social leaders, and eradicating drug trafficking—aim to address the structural roots of these violations, promoting sustainable solutions to protect human rights and ensure the safety of the most affected communities.

The next chapter, **Chapter 2: Rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Communities**, explores the specific violations faced by these populations, including land dispossession, the lack of recognition of their cultural and territorial rights, and the impact of armed conflict on their communities. This chapter also highlights how these communities have resisted and fought for the protection of their rights in the face of adversity, providing a comprehensive view of their challenges and strengths.

## References

1. **Defensoría del Pueblo.** (2024). *Informe sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Colombia, 2024*. Recuperado de <https://www.defensoria.gov.co>
2. **El País.** (2025, enero 6). *Colombia suma casi 270 muertos en masacres en 2024, el año con menos víctimas desde la pandemia*. Recuperado de <https://elpais.com/america-colombia/2025-01-06/colombia-suma-casi-270-muertos-en-masacres-en-2024-el-ano-con-menos-victimas-desde-la-pandemia.html>
3. **El País.** (2025, enero 6). *El hostil regreso a Colombia de tres líderes sociales tras un programa de protección en Cataluña: "Seguimos en pie de lucha"*. Recuperado de <https://elpais.com/planeta-futuro/2025-01-06/el-hostil-regreso-a-colombia-de-tres->

lideres-sociales-tras-un-programa-de-proteccion-en-cataluna-seguimos-en-pie-de-lucha.html

4. **Human Rights Watch.** (2024). *Informe Mundial 2024: Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.hrw.org/es/world-report/2024/country-chapters/colombia>
5. **Infobae.** (2024, junio 10). *Las masacres disminuyeron, pero las amenazas y el desplazamiento forzado aumentaron en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.infobae.com/colombia/2024/06/10/las-masacres-disminuyeron-pero-las-amenazas-y-el-desplazamiento-forzado-aumentaron-en-colombia/>
6. **Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios de las Naciones Unidas.** (2024, noviembre 6). *Informe - Tendencias e Impacto Humanitario en Colombia 2024*. Recuperado de <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/colombia/informe-tendencias-e-impacto-humanitario-en-colombia-2024>
7. **Universidad Externado de Colombia.** (2024, diciembre 13). *Bogotá y la Región Caribe con los homicidios más altos en el país en 2024: DELFOS* \u2013 Centro de Análisis de Datos. Recuperado de <https://www.uexternado.edu.co/delfos-centro-analisis-datos/bogota-y-la-region-caribe>





## Chapter 2: Rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Communities

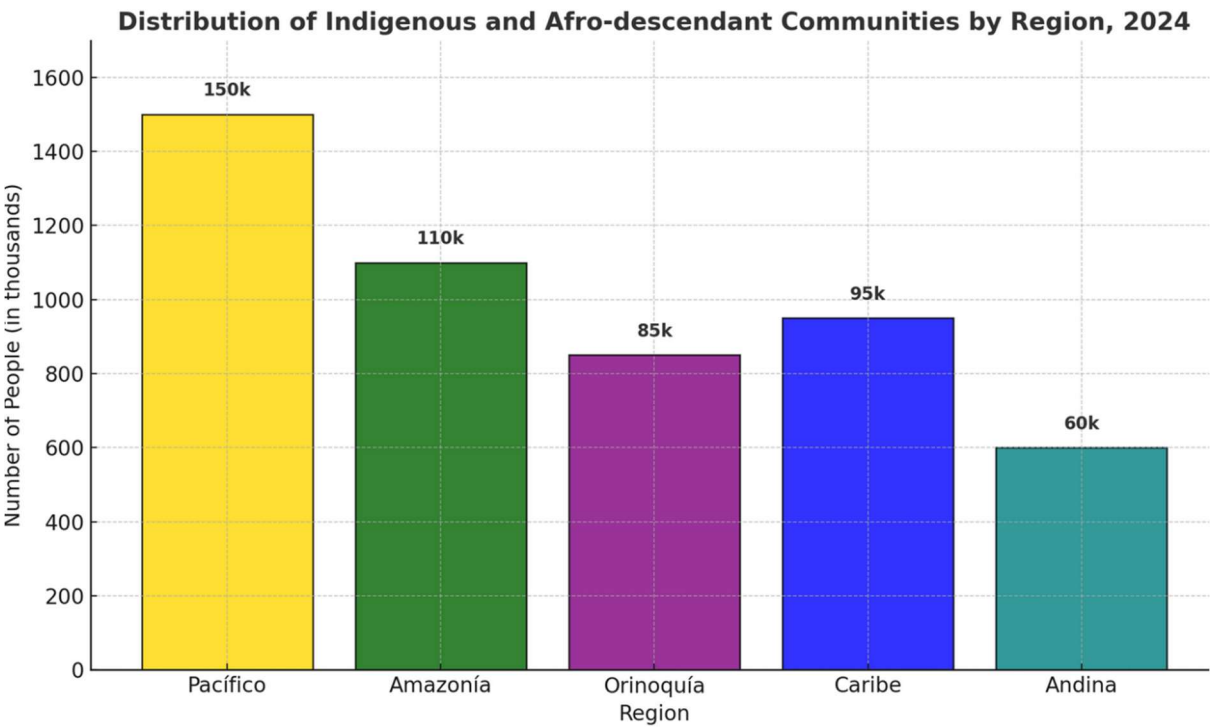
---

Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Colombia are custodians of a rich cultural heritage and have a profound connection to their ancestral territories. However, these communities have historically faced systematic violations of their rights, exacerbated by armed conflict, illegal economies, and the lack of full recognition of their autonomy. In 2024, these violations persisted, with land dispossession, targeted violence, and socio-economic exclusion standing out as key issues.

### 2.1 General Context

According to data from the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (*Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural*, INCODER, 2024), 70% of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are concentrated in rural regions such as the Pacific, Amazon, and Catatumbo, where state presence is significantly limited. These regions are characterized by high levels of poverty and inequality.

Despite having legal frameworks such as Law 70 of 1993, which recognizes collective rights over territories, these communities continue to face constant threats from armed actors and extractive companies.



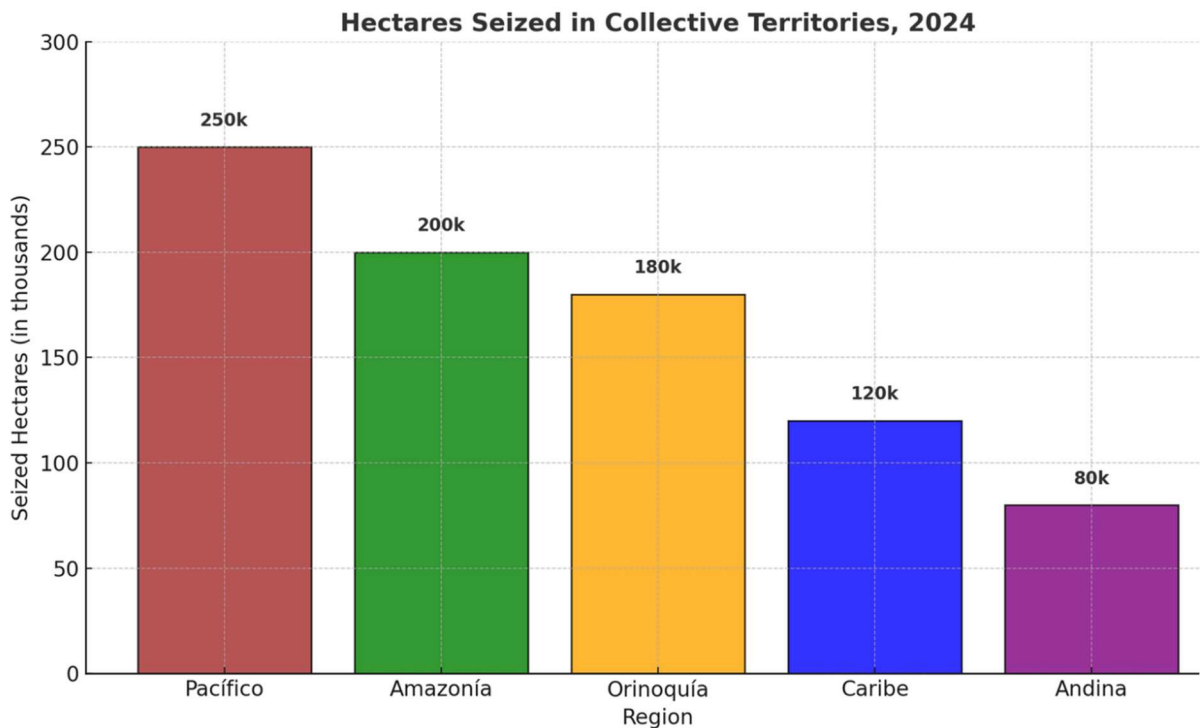
## 2.2 Violations of Territorial Rights

Land dispossession and territorial conflicts remained constant issues in 2024. According to the *National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation* (*Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación, CNRR*), over 200,000 hectares of collective lands were illegally occupied by armed groups and extractive companies. This situation has led to forced displacements and negatively impacted the food security of these communities.

### Representative Case: Alto Mira y Frontera Community

In Nariño, the Afro-descendant community of Alto Mira y Frontera experienced massive land dispossession during the first half of 2024. Illegal armed groups-

imposed mobility restrictions, disrupting agricultural production and forcing the displacement of 5,000 people to Tumaco.



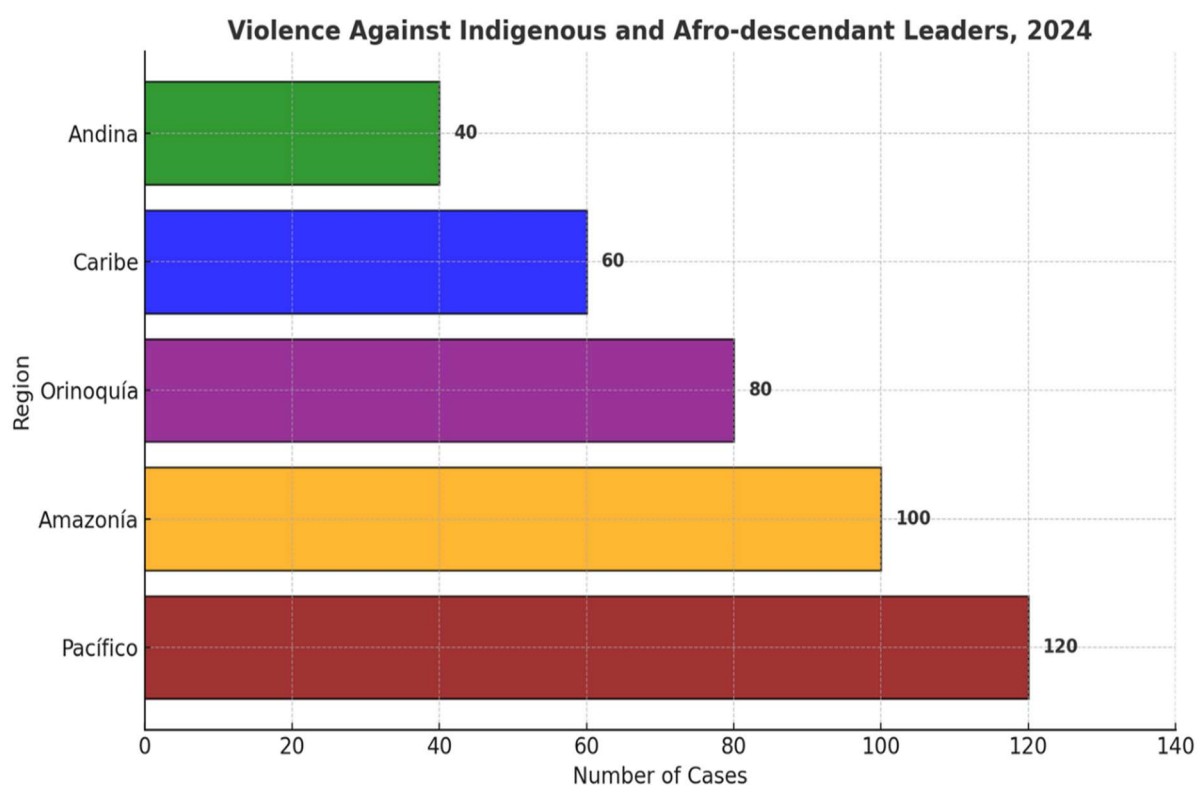
### 2.3 Impact of the Armed Conflict

The armed conflict has intensified violence against Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. According to the *National Center for Historical Memory* (*Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica*, 2024), 60% of the massacres recorded during the year occurred in Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories. This violence affects not only the inhabitants but also their leaders, who face threats and assassinations due to their defense of community rights.

#### Leadership Under Threat

In 2024, the Office of the Ombudsman reported the murders of 45 Indigenous and Afro-descendant community leaders. These attacks aim to dismantle

organized resistance and facilitate the exploitation of resources within their territories.



**Analysis: The Pacific Region as the Most Affected**

The Pacific region consistently stands out as the most impacted across the indicators analyzed, including violence against Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders, land dispossession, and conflict-related aggression. This pattern reflects a combination of historical, geographical, and structural factors that have perpetuated the region's vulnerabilities.

**Geographical and Strategic Factors**

Colombia’s Pacific region is rich in natural resources, with exceptional biodiversity and territories strategically important for drug trafficking and other illegal economies. The presence of illegal armed groups seeking to control these

routes and resources has led to high levels of violence and forced displacement. According to human rights reports, this region accounts for 60% of the country's illicit crop cultivation, making it a focal point for territorial disputes.

### **Lack of State Presence**

The absence of effective governmental institutions in the Pacific has allowed armed actors to control vast areas. The region's inhabitants, primarily Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities, lack access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and justice, exacerbating their exclusion and vulnerability.

### **Impact on Communities**

Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities in the Pacific face a disproportionate level of violence and dispossession. In 2024, 120 cases of violence against community leaders were recorded—the highest in the country. Additionally, more than 250,000 hectares of collective lands were dispossessed in the region, the largest proportion nationwide. These dynamics have forced thousands of people to migrate, deepening local humanitarian crises.

### **Need for Comprehensive Intervention**

The situation in the Pacific highlights the urgent need for integrated strategies that not only reinforce security but also promote sustainable development and social justice. It is critical to ensure land restitution for dispossessed communities, protect community leaders, and provide economic opportunities to address the structural inequalities affecting the region.

This analysis underscores how historical and structural conditions have positioned the Pacific as the most affected region in Colombia. Addressing these challenges requires sustained commitment from the state and the international community, prioritizing the needs and rights of the most vulnerable communities.

## 2.4 Socioeconomic Exclusion

Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities also face significant barriers in accessing basic services. According to DANE (2024), 68% of these communities live in multidimensional poverty. The lack of school infrastructure, healthcare access, and employment opportunities perpetuates inequality.

## 2.5 Recommendations

1. **Recognition and Protection of Territories:** Implement effective mechanisms to protect territorial rights, including stricter control over extractive activities on collective lands.
2. **Strengthening Community Autonomy:** Ensure active participation of communities in decisions affecting their territories and resources.
3. **Access to Basic Services:** Design and implement comprehensive education, healthcare, and economic development programs specifically tailored for these communities.
4. **Protection of Community Leaders:** Establish early warning systems and protection networks to guarantee the safety of Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders.

## 2.6 Conclusion

Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Colombia face a combination of socioeconomic exclusion, violence, and land dispossession that threatens their cultural and physical survival. Despite these challenges, these communities continue to resist and fight for the full recognition of their rights.

The next chapter will address the **Rights of Social Leaders and Human Rights Defenders**, analyzing the risks and challenges faced by those working to protect the most vulnerable communities.

## References

1. **Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (INCODER).** (2024). *Informe Anual sobre Territorios Rurales en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.incoder.gov.co>
2. **Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación (CNRR).** (2024). *Impacto del Conflicto en Comunidades Afrodescendientes e Indígenas*. Recuperado de <https://www.cnrr.gov.co>
3. **Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica.** (2024). *Masacres y Violencia en Territorios Étnicos*. Recuperado de <https://www.centrodememoriahistorica.gov.co>
4. **Defensoría del Pueblo.** (2024). *Liderazgo Bajo Amenaza: Informe sobre la Situación de Líderes Sociales en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.defensoria.gov.co>
5. **Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE).** (2024). *Pobreza Multidimensional en Colombia: Informe 2024*. Recuperado de <https://www.dane.gov.co>





## Chapter 3: Rights of Social Leaders and Human Rights Defenders

---

Social leaders and human rights defenders play a crucial role in protecting the most vulnerable communities and advocating for fundamental rights in Colombia. However, in 2024, these leaders continued to face alarming levels of violence, persecution, and threats. This chapter presents verified data provided by the *Institute for Development and Peace Studies (Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz, Indepaz)*, highlighting the severity of the situation.

### 3.1 General Context

According to Indepaz, 204 social leaders and human rights defenders were murdered in Colombia in 2024. This alarming figure represents a significant increase and underscores the persistence of violence across various regions of the country. The murders were distributed as follows:

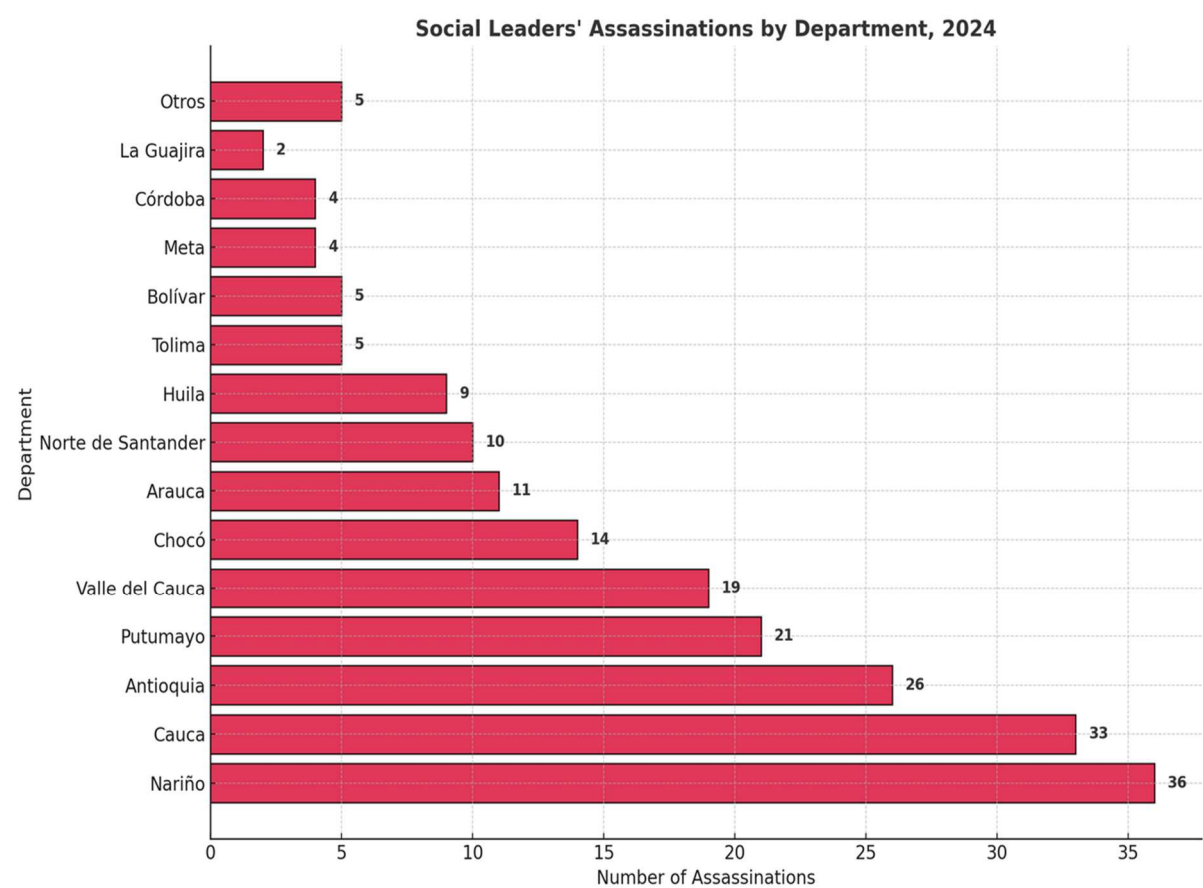


- **Nariño:** 36 cases
- **Cauca:** 33 cases
- **Antioquia:** 26 cases
- **Putumayo:** 21 cases
- **Valle del Cauca:** 19 cases
- **Chocó:** 14 cases
- **Arauca:** 11 cases
- **Norte de Santander:** 10 cases
- **Huila:** 9 cases
- **Tolima:** 5 cases
- **Bolívar:** 5 cases
- **Meta:** 4 cases
- **Córdoba:** 4 cases
- **La Guajira:** 2 cases
- **Other Departments:** 5 cases across regions with lower incidence.

Of these victims, 31 were signatories of the Peace Agreement, representing a troubling pattern of selective extermination. These individuals had committed to reconciliation and building a peaceful Colombia but became targets due to their leadership and dedication. This phenomenon echoes the tragic case of the *Unión Patriótica*, a political party whose members were systematically exterminated by paramilitary groups during the 1980s and 1990s. The current situation demonstrates that political violence against leaders remains a persistent and structural threat.

The data also indicate that regions with a strong presence of illegal armed actors and illicit economies are the most affected. The department of Nariño tops the

list, followed by Cauca and Antioquia—historically vulnerable regions due to armed conflict and disputes over territorial control.



The situation described above highlights the urgent need to strengthen state protection measures and ensure justice in cases of violence against social leaders.

### 3.2 Types of Threats and Violence

Social leaders face various forms of violence aimed at dismantling their work and instilling fear within their communities:

## Direct Threats

According to Indepaz, threats are one of the most common strategies used by illegal armed groups to intimidate leaders. Most of these threats are linked to the defense of land and natural resources.

## Targeted Killings

Selective assassinations are concentrated mainly in regions where territorial conflicts and illicit economies are prevalent. Nariño and Cauca lead the figures for these crimes.

## Judicial Harassment

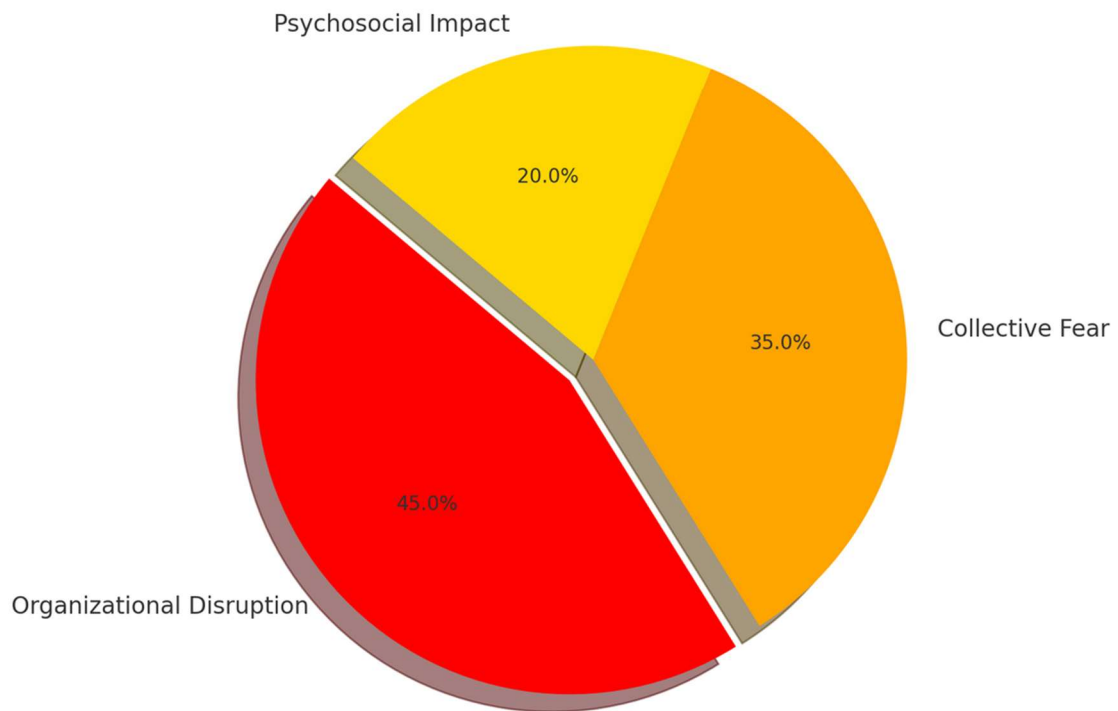
Some leaders face baseless accusations, which aim to delegitimize their work and weaken the organizational processes of their communities.

## 3.3 Impact on Communities

The violence against social leaders has devastating consequences for the communities they represent:

- **Organizational Disruption:** The loss of key leaders weakens community structures.
- **Collective Fear:** Threats and killings create a climate of terror that limits civic participation.
- **Psychosocial Impact:** Families and communities face profound trauma and a sense of insecurity.

### Impact of Violence Against Social Leaders on Communities



## 3.4 State and International Responses

While measures such as those provided by the *National Protection Unit* (*Unidad Nacional de Protección*, UNP) have been implemented, they have proven insufficient:

- **Limited Coverage:** Less than 40% of threatened leaders receive effective protection measures.
- **Resource Shortages:** The UNP faces financial and logistical constraints that hinder its operations.

At the international level, the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* (*Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*, CIDH) and the United Nations have issued recommendations to strengthen protection mechanisms and ensure justice in cases of violence against social leaders.

## 3.5 Recommendations

1. **Expansion of Protection Measures:** Increase the budget and operational capacity of the UNP to ensure adequate coverage.
2. **Early Warning Systems:** Implement effective mechanisms in high-risk regions to prevent attacks.
3. **Justice and Combating Impunity:** Establish specialized units to investigate crimes against social leaders.
4. **Psychosocial Support:** Design programs for affected families and communities.
5. **Community Participation:** Promote the active organization of communities to protect their leaders.

## 3.6 Conclusion

Violence against social leaders and human rights defenders remains one of the most pressing social crises in Colombia. This chapter has presented verified data reflecting the severity of the problem and the urgent need for action by the state and the international community.

The next chapter will address **Women's Rights**, highlighting the inequalities they face and the measures necessary to advance gender equity.

## References

1. **Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz (Indepaz).** (2024). *Líderes sociales, defensores de DD.HH. y firmantes de acuerdo asesinados en 2024*. Recuperado de <https://indepaz.org.co>
2. **Defensoría del Pueblo.** (2024). *Informe sobre la violencia contra líderes sociales en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.defensoria.gov.co>
3. **Human Rights Watch.** (2024). *World Report 2024: Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.hrw.org>
4. **Naciones Unidas.** (2024). *Informe Anual sobre Derechos Humanos en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.un.org>

5. **Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH).** (2024). *Recomendaciones sobre protección a líderes sociales*. Recuperado de <https://www.cidh.org>
6. **El Colombiano.** (2024). *420 firmantes asesinados en Colombia desde el Acuerdo de Paz*. Recuperado de <https://www.elcolombiano.com>



## Chapter 4: Women's Rights

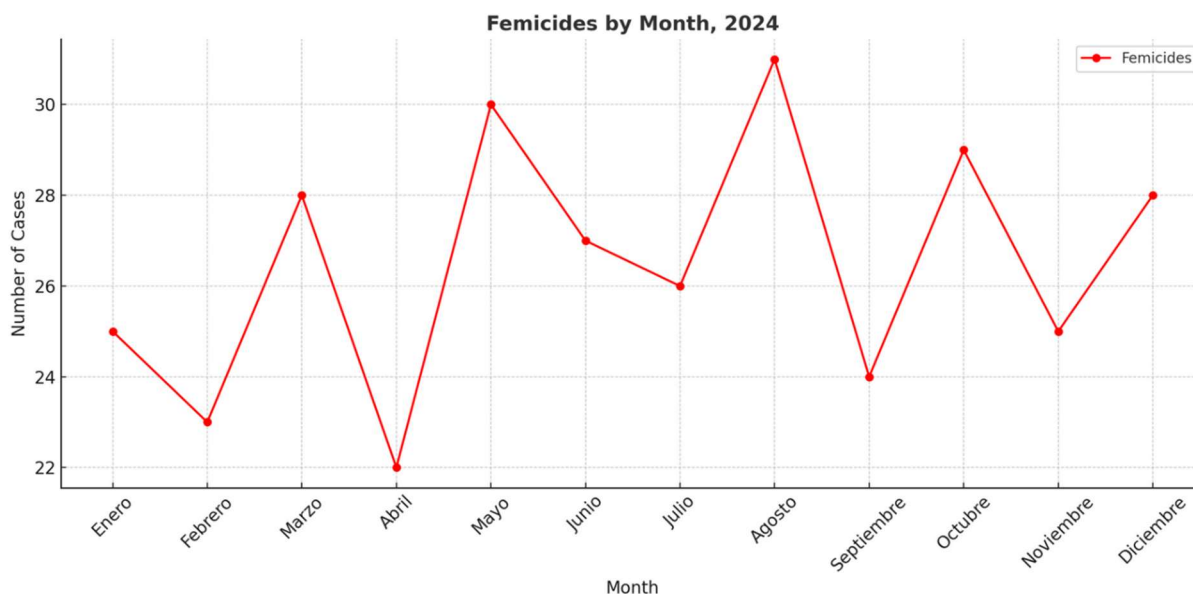
---

Women in Colombia have played a crucial role in building society and advocating for human rights. However, they face numerous barriers that perpetuate gender inequality, violence, and exclusion. In 2024, women continued to experience significant violations of their rights, requiring urgent attention from the state and civil society.

### 4.1 General Context

According to data from the Office of the Ombudsman (*Defensoría del Pueblo*) and the *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (ECLAC/CEPAL), 60% of women in Colombia experienced some form of violence in 2024, including physical, psychological, and economic violence. Additionally, femicides were reported at an average of 6.11 per week, highlighting a deeply rooted human rights crisis.





In 2024, a total of 318 femicides were reported in Colombia, reflecting a monthly average of approximately 26.5 femicides. These figures demonstrate a persistent crisis of gender-based violence that profoundly affects women in the country. The urgent need for effective prevention and protection policies is evident, as these cases not only represent severe human rights violations but also have a devastating impact on the victims' families and communities.

## 4.2 Economic Inequality

The wage gap and lack of equitable access to the labor market remain critical issues. According to DANE (2024):

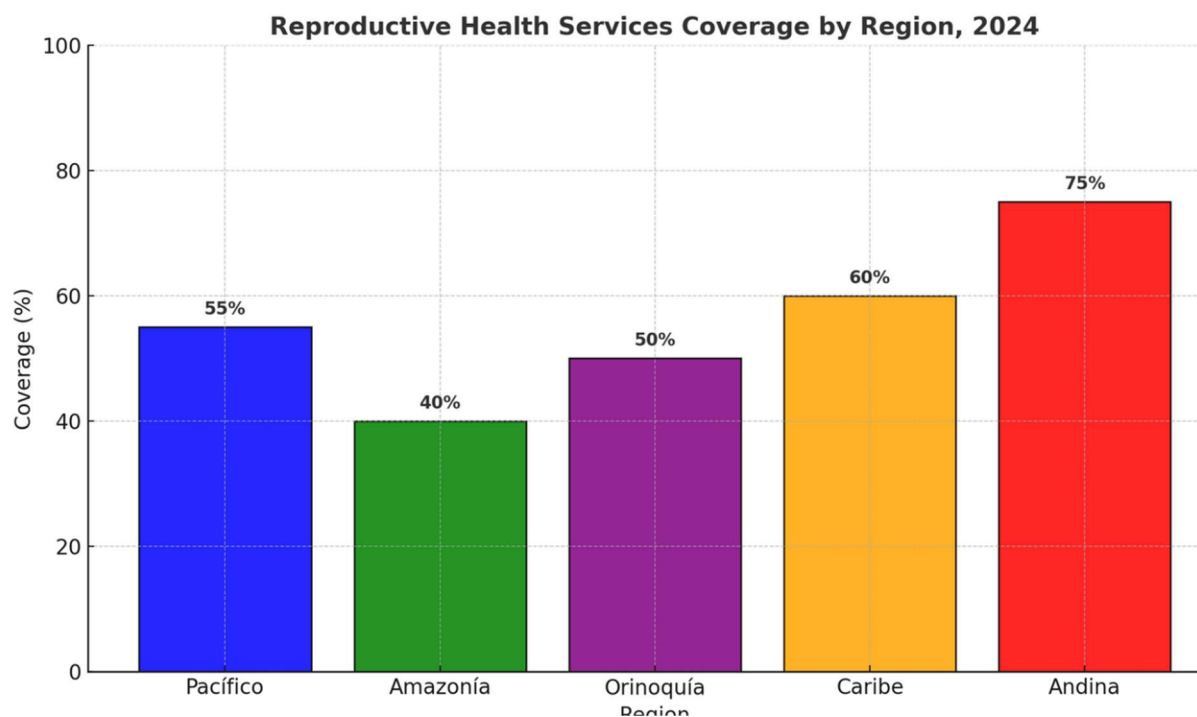
- Women earn, on average, 20% less than men in equivalent positions.
- Only 47% of women have access to formal employment, compared to 65% of men.
- Women spend twice as much time as men on unpaid work, such as childcare and eldercare.



## 4.3 Access to Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Although Colombia has made progress in guaranteeing reproductive rights, barriers to their implementation persist:

- **Limited access to safe abortion<sup>1</sup>:** Despite decriminalization under three circumstances, many women face administrative hurdles and stigmatization.
- **Lack of specialized health services:** In rural areas, access to gynecological and prenatal services remains limited.



---

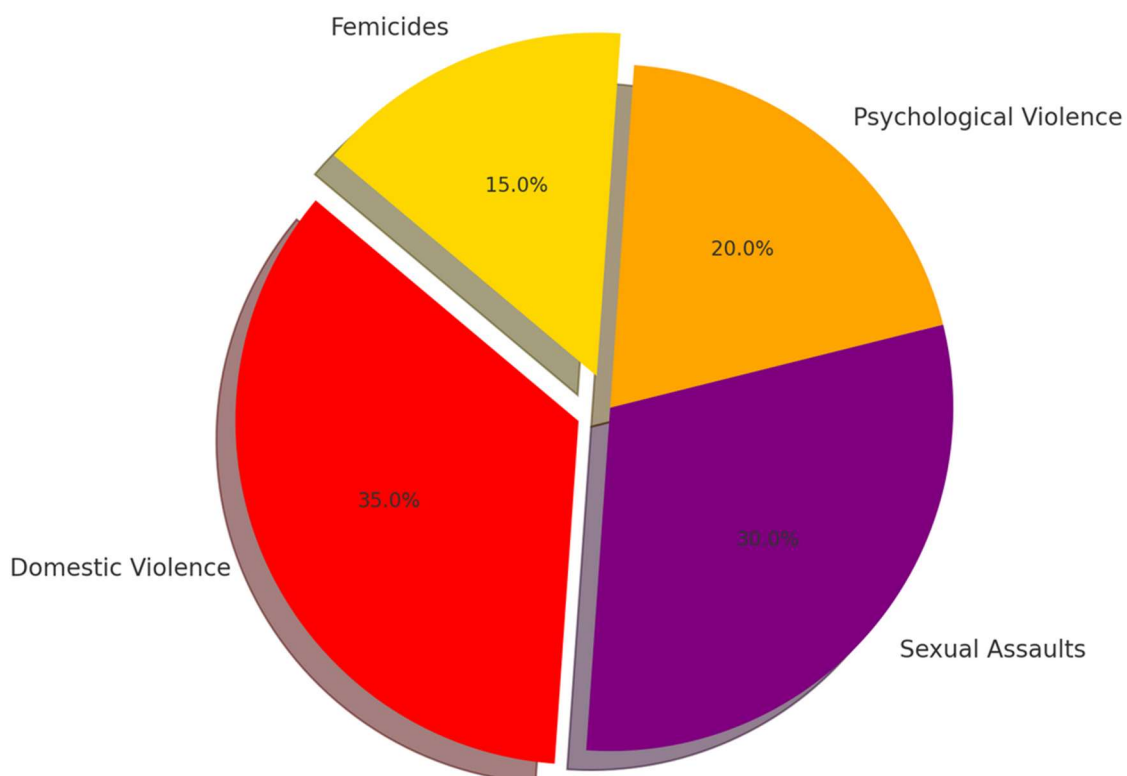
<sup>1</sup> At GRAC: Global Rights Action, we value, respect, and defend life in all its forms. We firmly believe that all life, including that of a baby in the womb, is sacred. Therefore, we do not support or recommend abortion as a means of family planning. However, we also deeply respect the opinions and decisions of each individual, understanding that these are sensitive and personal matters. We remain committed to respectful dialogue and empathy toward all perspectives.

## 4.4 Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is one of the most severe forms of human rights violations faced by women:

- In 2024, 14,500 cases of domestic violence were reported, according to the *National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences*.
- Femicides increased by 15% compared to 2023.
- Sexual assaults accounted for 30% of reported cases, with a disproportionate impact on girls and adolescents.

**Types of Gender-Based Violence, 2024 (Including Femicides)**



The chart shows the different types of gender-based violence in Colombia during 2024, highlighting four main categories: domestic violence (35%), sexual assaults (30%), psychological violence (20%), and femicides (15%). These figures reflect the severity and diversity of the forms of violence affecting women in the country, with domestic violence and sexual assaults being the most prevalent. The inclusion of femicides emphasizes the urgent need to implement effective policies to prevent and address these forms of violence, ensuring the safety and rights of women.

## 4.5 Recommendations

1. **Strengthening Gender Equality Policies:** Implement educational and labor programs that promote gender equity at all levels.
2. **Enhancing Protection Against Violence:** Expand shelters for women victims of violence and ensure swift access to protective measures.
3. **Access to Comprehensive Healthcare:** Guarantee coverage of sexual and reproductive health services, particularly in rural and marginalized areas.
4. **Justice and Reducing Impunity:** Establish specialized units to investigate gender-based violence cases, thereby reducing impunity.
5. **Promoting Political Participation:** Increase women's representation in elected positions and decision-making roles.

## 4.6 Conclusion

The year 2024 was marked by significant challenges in guaranteeing women's rights in Colombia. Despite some progress, inequality, violence, and lack of access to opportunities continue to limit their well-being and development. It is imperative that the state, in collaboration with civil society and the international

community, prioritizes the gender equality agenda to build a more just and equitable society.

The next chapter will explore **Children and Adolescents' Rights**, analyzing the main violations and the policies necessary to ensure their protection.

## References

1. **Defensoría del Pueblo.** (2024). *Informe sobre la situación de derechos de las mujeres en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.defensoria.gov.co>
2. **Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL).** (2024). *Estadísticas de violencia de género en América Latina*. Recuperado de <https://www.cepal.org>
3. **DANE.** (2024). *Informe sobre brechas de género y desigualdad económica*. Recuperado de <https://www.dane.gov.co>
4. **Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses.** (2024). *Estadísticas sobre violencia intrafamiliar y agresiones sexuales*. Recuperado de <https://www.medicinalegal.gov.co>
5. **Naciones Unidas.** (2024). *Informe anual sobre derechos de las mujeres en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.un.org>
6. **Human Rights Watch.** (2024). *World Report 2024: Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.hrw.org>



## Chapter 5: Rights of Children and Adolescents

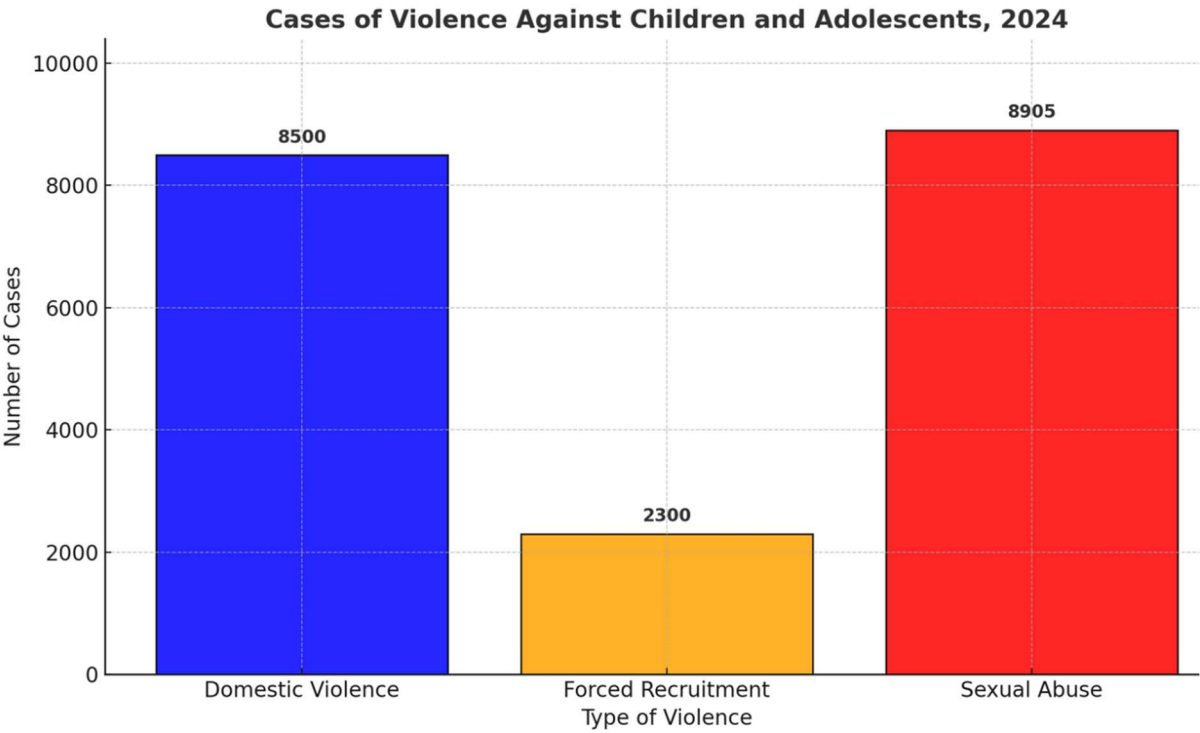
---

Children and adolescents in Colombia face numerous violations of their fundamental rights, including violence, child labour, and lack of access to education and healthcare. In 2024, these issues worsened in various regions of the country, primarily affecting those living in rural areas and communities impacted by armed conflict.

### 5.1 General Context

According to the *Office of the Ombudsman (Defensoría del Pueblo, 2024)*, 42% of children in Colombia live in poverty, limiting their access to basic rights such as education, nutrition, and healthcare. Furthermore, violence remains one of the greatest threats:

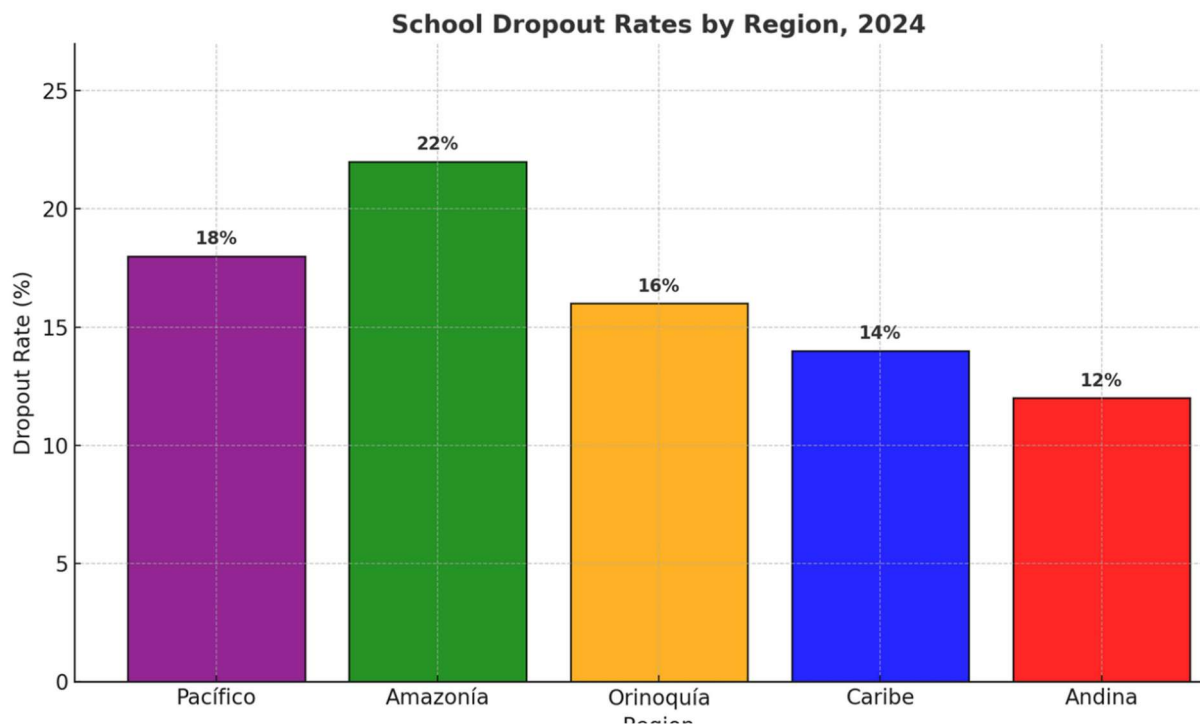
- **8,500 cases of domestic violence** against minors were reported.
- **2,300 cases of forced recruitment** by illegal armed groups were documented.
- **8,905 cases of sexual abuse** were registered (*Defensoría del Pueblo, 2024*).



## 5.2 Access to Education

Education is a fundamental right that ensures opportunities for development, yet in 2024:

- **25% of children in rural areas did not attend school** (*UNICEF, 2024*).
- **School dropout rates increased by 15%**, particularly in regions with the presence of armed actors (*Ministry of Education, 2024*).
- **Over 1,200 educational institutions were affected** by inadequate infrastructure (*DANE, 2024*).



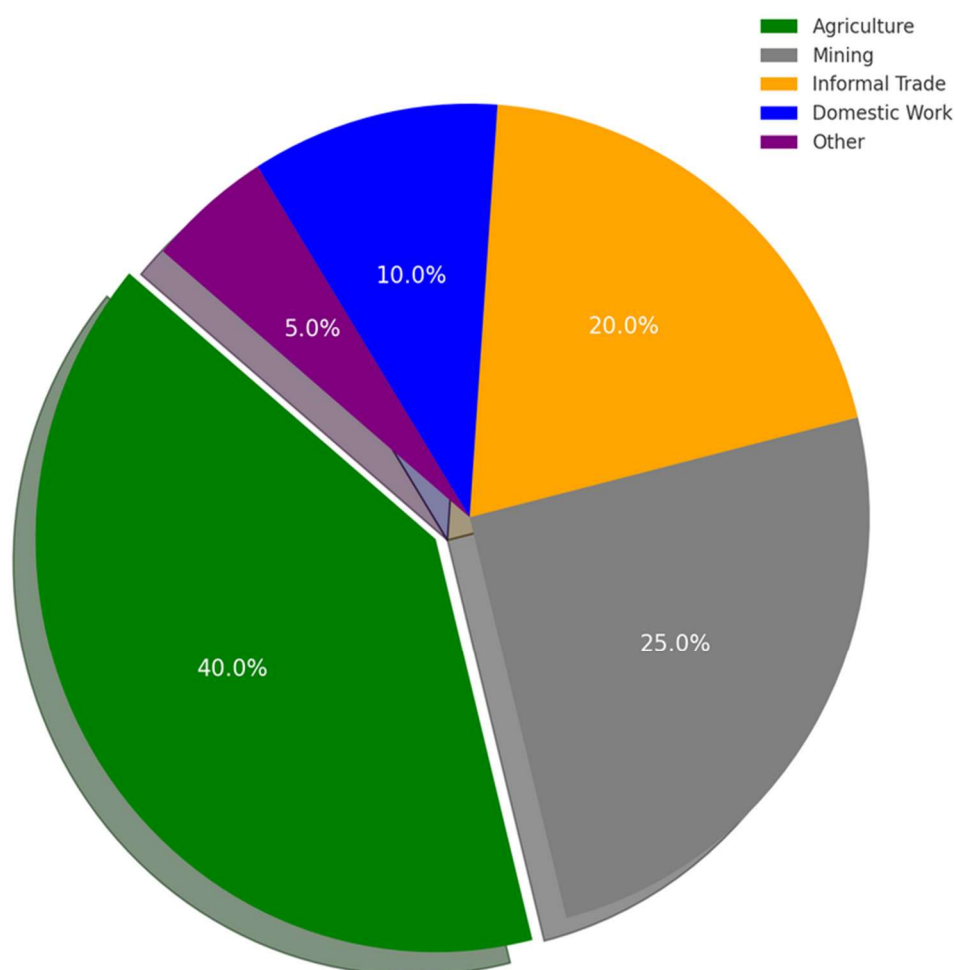
## 5.3 Child Labour

Child labour remains an alarming issue:

- In 2024, it was estimated that **1 in 10 children in Colombia** was involved in labour activities (*ILO, 2024*).
- The main activities include agriculture, mining, and informal commerce.
- The most affected regions are the **Pacific and Amazon**, where child labour impacts **18% of minors**.



**Distribution of Child Labor by Sector, 2024**

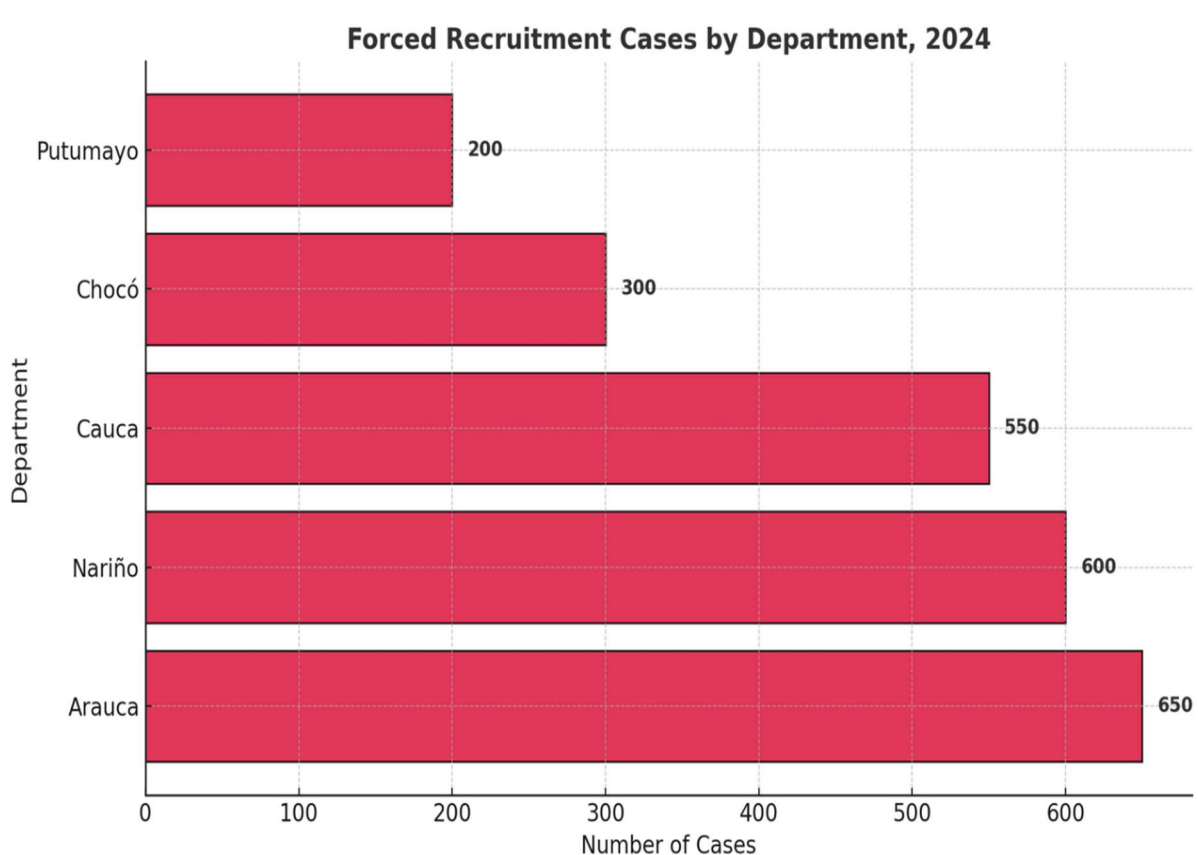


## 5.4 Violence and Forced Recruitment

Violence and forced recruitment remain a constant threat to minors:

- **2,300 children were recruited** by illegal armed groups in 2024, marking a **12% increase** compared to 2023 (*Office of the Ombudsman, 2024*).
- The **mainly affected areas** are Arauca, Nariño, and Cauca, where armed groups seek to control vulnerable communities.
- The **psychosocial impact** includes severe trauma and challenges in reintegrating into society.





## 5.5 Child Sexual Abuse

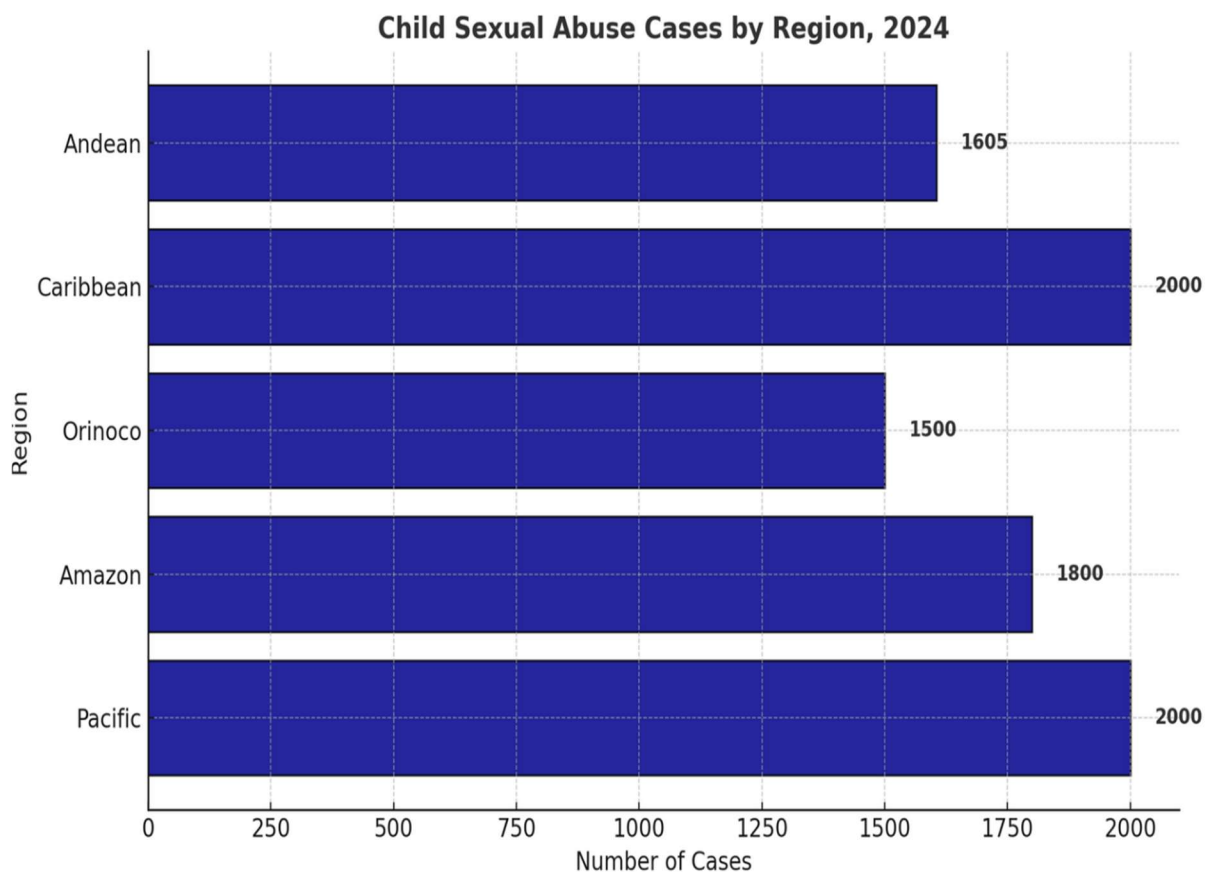
Child sexual abuse in Colombia remains a deeply alarming issue. In the first half of 2024, the *Office of the Ombudsman* received **8,905 reports** of sexual abuse against minors, of which **7,658 were girls** and **1,247 were boys**.

The regions with the highest incidence of these cases were:

- **Bogotá:** 1,585 reported cases.
- **Antioquia:** 897 cases.
- **Valle del Cauca:** 691 cases.

It is particularly concerning that in **49.7% of the cases**, the perpetrator was a family member or someone living in the household, underscoring the vulnerability of children in environments that should be safe.

Additionally, according to data from the *National Police*, between January and August 2023, **8,295 sexual offenses against minors** were reported in Colombia, highlighting the persistence of this issue into 2024.



## 5.6 Homeless and Abandoned Children

The situation of homeless and abandoned children in Colombia is alarming. According to the *Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, ICBF)*, **63,994 minors are under state protection** due to various rights violations. Of this total, **4,255 were admitted due to abandonment**, 69% of whom were declared eligible for adoption, while only 3.5% were reintegrated into their family nucleus.

In Bogotá alone, during 2024, the *National Police* assisted **454 children and adolescents in situations of abandonment**. The main causes identified include parental neglect, extreme poverty, and domestic violence.

Additionally, it is estimated that more than **850,000 minors in Colombia have been orphaned** due to violence, while another **55,000 lost parents due to causes related to the COVID-19 pandemic**. This situation increases their vulnerability, exposing them to risks such as labour exploitation, recruitment by armed groups, and sexual violence.

## 5.7 Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Child Protection:** Implement comprehensive protection programs to prevent violence and forced recruitment.
2. **Improve Access to Education:** Ensure adequate school infrastructure and support programs for students in rural areas.
3. **Eradicate Child Labour:** Design and implement policies to eliminate child labour, with a special focus on the most vulnerable regions.
4. **Psychosocial Assistance:** Provide mental health services for children affected by armed conflict and violence.
5. **Community Participation:** Promote active community involvement in protecting children's rights.

## 5.8 Conclusion

The year 2024 was a challenging one for children and adolescents in Colombia. Violations of their fundamental rights, exacerbated by poverty, violence, and armed conflict, demand an immediate and coordinated response from the state,

civil organizations, and the international community. Only through joint action can a safe and dignified future be ensured for the next generations.

## References

1. **Defensoría del Pueblo.** (2024). *Informe sobre la situación de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Colombia.* Recuperado de <https://www.defensoria.gov.co>
2. **UNICEF.** (2024). *Educación y derechos de la infancia en Colombia: Desafíos en 2024.* Recuperado de <https://www.unicef.org>
3. **Ministerio de Educación Nacional.** (2024). *Estadísticas sobre deserción escolar en zonas rurales.* Recuperado de <https://www.mineducacion.gov.co>
4. **DANE.** (2024). *Acceso a la educación y pobreza infantil en Colombia.* Recuperado de <https://www.dane.gov.co>
5. **Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT).** (2024). *El trabajo infantil en Colombia: Informe Anual 2024.* Recuperado de <https://www.ilo.org>
6. **Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF).** (2024). *Situación de niños y niñas bajo protección en Colombia.* Recuperado de <https://www.icbf.gov.co>
7. **Semana.** (2024). *Las graves consecuencias del abandono infantil en Colombia.* Recuperado de <https://www.semana.com>
8. **Noticias RCN.** (2024). *Alarmantes cifras de abuso sexual y abandono infantil en Colombia.* Recuperado de <https://www.noticiasrcn.com>
9. **Radio Nacional de Colombia.** (2024). *Casos de explotación sexual de menores en 2024.* Recuperado de <https://www.radionacional.co>



## Chapter 6: Right to Freedom of Expression

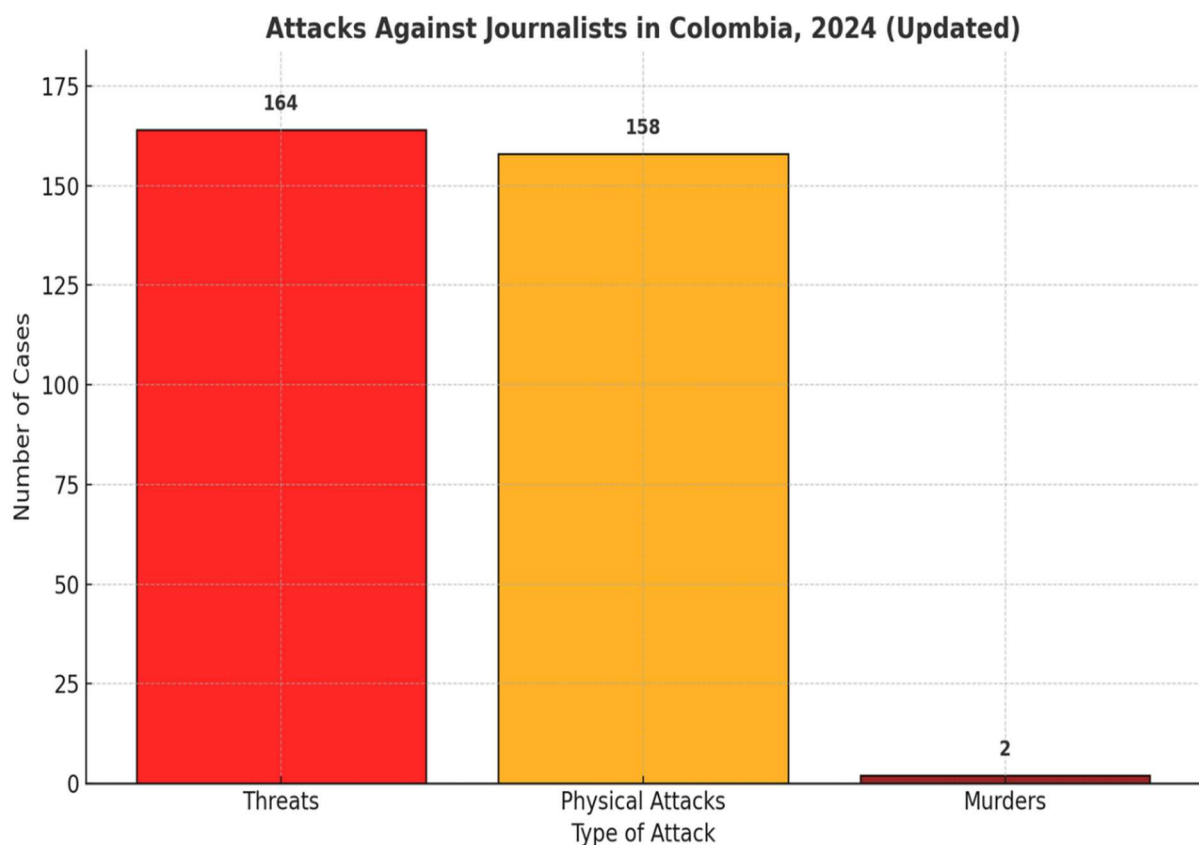
---

The right to freedom of expression is fundamental to strengthening democracy and ensuring other human rights. In Colombia, this right continues to face significant challenges due to threats, intimidation, and aggression against those who exercise their critical voice, particularly journalists, activists, and human rights defenders.

### 6.1 General Context

According to data from the *Foundation for Press Freedom (Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, FLIP, 2024)*, by October 2024, **164 threats against journalists** were reported in Colombia, along with **158 documented physical assaults** throughout the year. Additionally, the country recorded **2 journalist murders**, ranking as the second most dangerous country in the Americas for journalism, after Mexico.

These incidents reflect the adverse conditions under which journalists carry out their work, especially in rural areas and regions with a strong presence of illegal armed groups.



## 6.2 Restrictions on Freedom of Expression

In 2024, various restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression were identified, including:

- **Prior censorship:** Some local media reported pressure from authorities to prevent the publication of corruption investigations.
- **Digital blockages:** Twenty-five cases of online information access restrictions were reported, primarily affecting independent platforms.
- **Stigmatization:** Social leaders and journalists were targeted by smear campaigns on social media.

## 6.3 Journalism in Conflict Zones

Practicing journalism is particularly dangerous in regions with high levels of armed conflict:

- In departments such as Cauca, Arauca, and Nariño, **70% of journalists reported receiving threats** during 2024 (*FLIP, 2024*).
- Illegal armed groups seek to control the media narrative, limiting the availability of information for communities.
- The lack of state protection exacerbates the situation, with only **25% of reported cases receiving judicial follow-up**.

## 6.4 Freedom of Expression on social media

Social media has become a key space for citizen expression but also faces significant challenges:

- In 2024, **1,200 cases of cyberbullying** against activists and journalists were reported (*Digital Security Network of Colombia*).
- Hate speech increased by **18%** compared to 2023, primarily affecting women and minorities.
- The most affected platforms were **X (formerly Twitter)** and **Facebook**, which accounted for **75% of reported cases**.

## 6.5 Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Protection Mechanisms:** Increase resources for the *National Protection Unit* (UNP) to provide effective support to journalists and activists.



2. **Combat Hate Speech:** Implement digital literacy programs to promote responsible communication on social media.
3. **Ensure Press Freedom in Conflict Zones:** Deploy specialized teams to protect journalists in high-risk regions.
4. **Promote Digital Transparency:** Regulate restrictions on online information access and ensure internet neutrality.
5. **Encourage Citizen Participation:** Establish secure platforms where citizens can express their opinions without fear of retaliation.

## 6.6 Conclusion

The right to freedom of expression in Colombia faces significant challenges that require immediate and coordinated action. Attacks on journalists, censorship, and the rise of hate speech endanger not only those who exercise their critical voice but also democracy itself. It is essential for the state and civil society to work together to ensure that this right is protected in all its dimensions.

## References

1. **Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP).** (2024). *Informe sobre ataques a periodistas en Colombia, 2024*. Recuperado de <https://www.flip.org.co>
2. **Red de Seguridad Digital de Colombia.** (2024). *Ciberacoso y discurso de odio en redes sociales*. Recuperado de <https://www.seguridaddigitalcolombia.org>
3. **Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (MinTIC).** (2024). *Estudio sobre bloqueos digitales y restricciones en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.mintic.gov.co>
4. **Unidad Nacional de Protección (UNP).** (2024). *Protección a periodistas y defensores de derechos humanos en zonas de conflicto*. Recuperado de <https://www.unp.gov.co>
5. **Naciones Unidas (ONU).** (2024). *Libertad de expresión en Colombia: Informe anual*. Recuperado de <https://www.un.org>
6. **Amnistía Internacional.** (2024). *Censura y estigmatización en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.amnesty.org>





## Chapter 7: Rights of the LGBTIQ+ Population

---

The LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia has achieved significant progress in the recognition of their rights over the past decade. However, 2024 was marked by significant challenges, including high levels of discrimination, violence, and setbacks in certain legal guarantees, particularly in regions with strong conservative influences and social conflict.

### 7.1 General Context

According to the annual report by the *National Network for LGBTIQ+ Human Rights* (2024):

- **325 cases** of physical or psychological violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity were reported.
- **12 murders** were classified as hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- **70%** of incidents occurred in urban areas, while **30%** were concentrated in rural regions with high levels of armed violence.

## 7.2 Institutional and Social Discrimination

Despite legal advances, such as the recognition of same-sex marriage and adoption by same-sex couples, structural discrimination persists:

- **Denial of services:** 15% of respondents reported discrimination when attempting to access healthcare or education services (*National Network, 2024*).
- **Workplace environment:** 28% said they had faced discrimination in their workplace due to their gender identity or expression.
- **Family rejection:** 40% of LGBTIQ+ youth aged 15 to 24 reported being expelled from their homes due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

## 7.3 Legal Advances and Setbacks

Colombia's legal framework provides important protections, but 2024 also saw notable regressions:

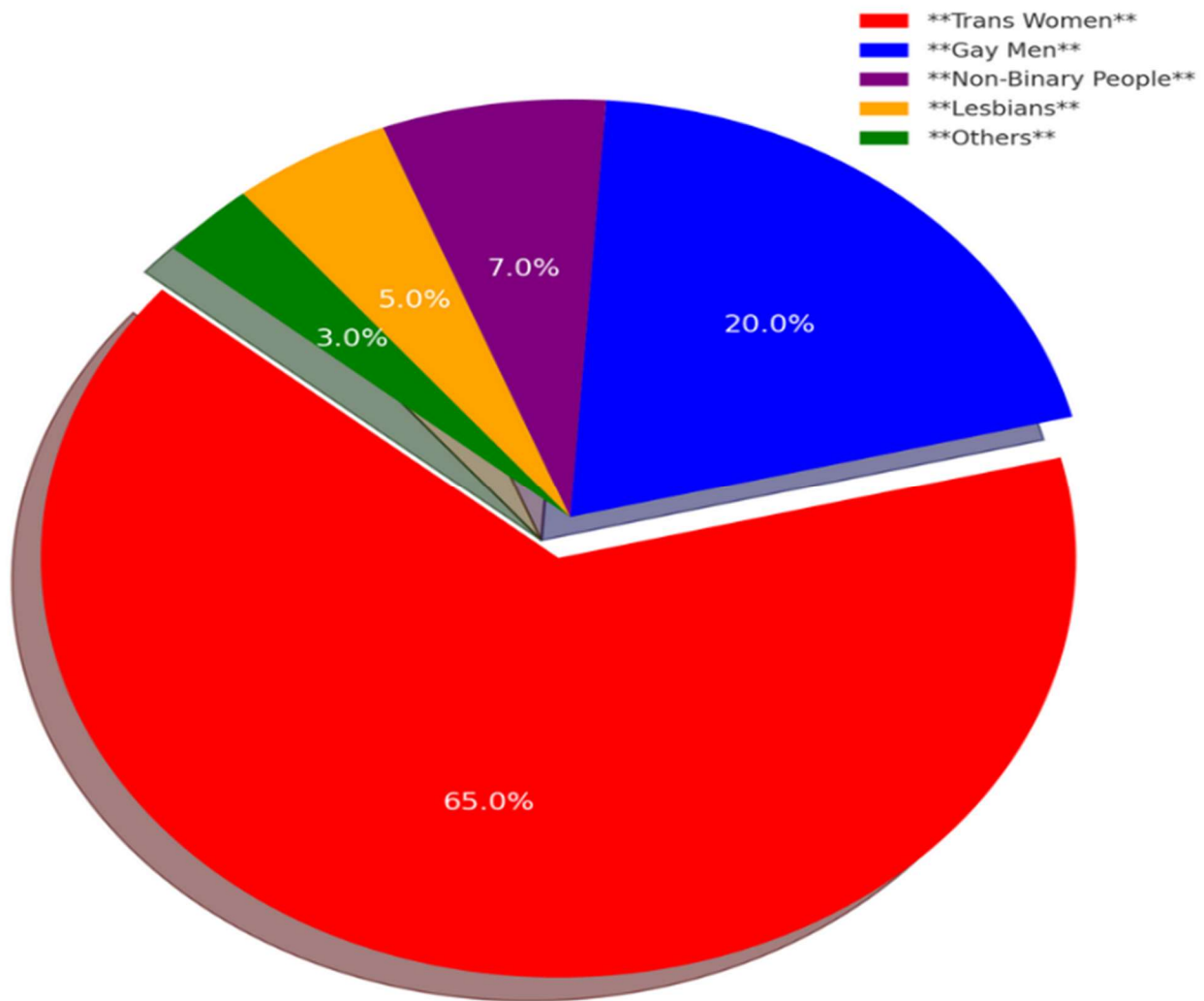
- **Local restrictions:** Some municipalities implemented discriminatory measures limiting LGBTIQ+ individuals' access to public spaces.
- **Positive judicial actions:** The Constitutional Court reaffirmed the right to gender identity, facilitating the legal document changes for transgender individuals.
- **Political resistance:** Conservative groups intensified their opposition to bills aimed at strengthening anti-discrimination protections.

## 7.4 Violence and Hate Crimes

Prejudice-motivated violence remains one of the greatest threats:

- In 2024, **45 serious assaults** in public spaces, including physical and verbal attacks, were documented.
- **Transgender women** were the most affected, accounting for **65%** of hate crime victims.
- **90% of cases** remain in impunity due to inadequate investigation and stigma within judicial institutions.

**Distribution of Hate Crime Victims by Identity, 2024**



## 7.5 Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Anti-Discrimination Policies:** Implement awareness programs in educational institutions and public offices.
2. **Improve Access to Justice:** Establish specialized units to investigate hate crimes and ensure justice for victims.
3. **Promote Workplace Inclusion:** Design incentives for companies that adopt inclusive policies.
4. **Ensure Security:** Develop protection programs for LGBTIQ+ activists and human rights defenders.
5. **Monitoring and Accountability:** Implement mechanisms to track inclusion policies and penalize discriminatory acts.

## 7.6 Conclusion

The year 2024 was marked by contrasts for the LGBTIQ+ population in Colombia, with significant legal advancements alongside a worrying increase in violence and discrimination. Protecting their rights requires a strong commitment from the state and civil society, prioritizing inclusion and justice as fundamental pillars.

The next chapter will focus on **The Right to Health**, addressing inequalities in access to the healthcare system and the crises that affected the country during 2024.

## References

1. **Red Nacional de Derechos Humanos LGBTIQ+.** (2024). *Informe anual sobre la situación de derechos de las personas LGBTIQ+ en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.redlgbtiq.org>
2. **Corte Constitucional de Colombia.** (2024). *Sentencias relacionadas con la identidad de género y derechos de las personas LGBTIQ+*. Recuperado de <https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co>





## Chapter 8: Right to Health

---

The right to health is fundamental to ensuring the dignity and well-being of all individuals. In Colombia, 2024 was marked by deep inequalities in access to healthcare, a health crisis caused by a lack of resources, and a significant disparity between urban and rural areas.

### 8.1 General Context

Colombia operates a mixed healthcare system that combines public and private models. However, according to the *Ministry of Health* (2024):

- **18 million Colombians** experienced difficulties accessing basic health services.
- Rural regions faced **60% less coverage** than urban areas.
- **35% of public hospitals** were affected by shortages of essential medicines.

## 8.2 Inequalities in Access to the Healthcare System

The disparities between rural and urban areas are particularly concerning:

- In the Pacific and Amazon regions, only **40% of the population** has regular access to healthcare services.
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations face greater barriers, including a lack of infrastructure and trained medical personnel.
- The average waiting time for medical consultations in rural areas is **45 days**, compared to **15 days** in urban areas (*DANE, 2024*).

## 8.3 Health Crisis and Resource Shortages

The year 2024 was marked by a healthcare crisis that severely impacted the system:

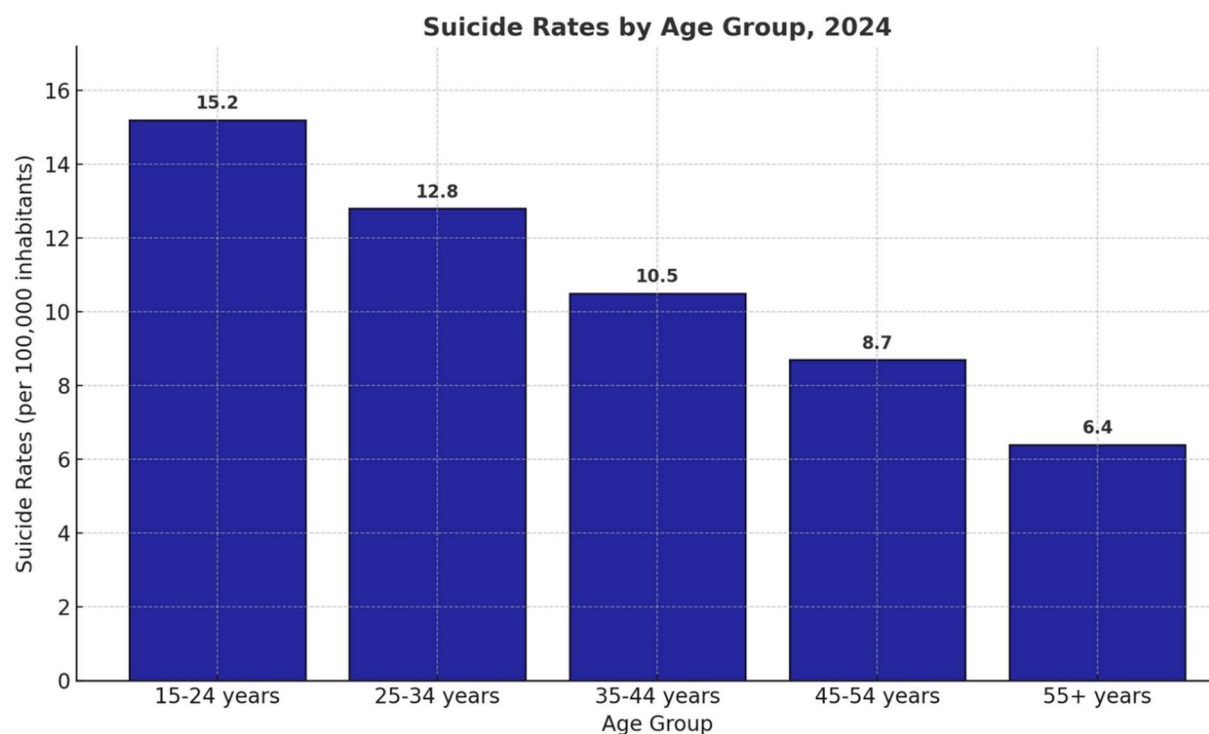
- **8,000 healthcare workers** participated in strikes demanding better working conditions.
- Budget cuts in healthcare decreased by **12%** compared to 2023.
- More than **10,000 chronic patients** reported a lack of adequate treatments.

## 8.4 Mental Health

Mental health remains an underserved area:

- **30% of the population** reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression, but only **12% received professional care**.
- Suicide rates increased by **8%** compared to the previous year, primarily affecting youth aged 15 to 24.

- The lack of psychologists and psychiatrists in rural regions limits adequate care for the most vulnerable communities.



## 8.5 Recommendations

1. **Increase Healthcare Investment:** Boost the budget to improve infrastructure, resources, and working conditions for medical personnel.
2. **Reduce Regional Disparities:** Implement targeted programs to ensure equitable access to healthcare services in rural areas and Indigenous communities.
3. **Strengthen Mental Health Services:** Establish specialized mental health centres and increase the hiring of mental health professionals.
4. **Ensure Medicine Supply:** Improve distribution systems and guarantee the availability of essential medications nationwide.
5. **Promote Telemedicine:** Expand access to remote healthcare services for rural and isolated populations.

## 8.6 Conclusion

The right to health in Colombia faces serious challenges, especially for the most vulnerable populations. Inequalities in access to services, resource shortages, and the lack of mental health care underscore the urgent need for reform. Ensuring this right requires a genuine commitment from the state and the active participation of civil society.

The next chapter will address **The Right to Education**, exploring limitations in rural areas, the quality of education, and the challenges to guaranteeing this fundamental right.

## References

1. **Ministerio de Salud.** (2024). *Informe de Gestión 2023*. Recuperado de <https://www.minsalud.gov.co>
2. **Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE).** (2024). *Estadísticas sobre acceso a servicios de salud en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.dane.gov.co>





## Chapter 9: Right to Education

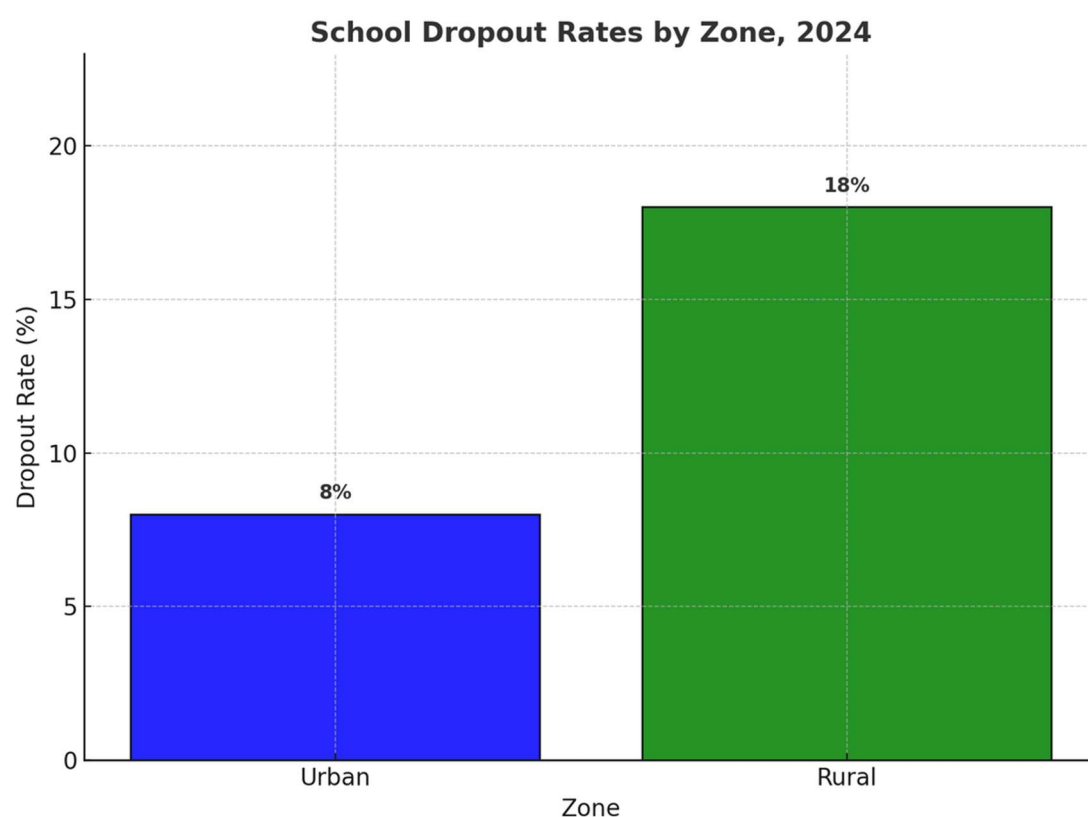
---

Education is a fundamental right that ensures personal and social development for individuals and drives the progress of nations. In Colombia, during 2024, this right faced significant challenges, particularly in rural areas where structural limitations and educational inequalities are more pronounced.

### 9.1 General Context

The Colombian education system shows notable disparities between urban and rural areas. According to the *National Ministry of Education* (2024):

- The school dropout rate in rural areas reached **18%**, compared to **8%** in urban areas.
- **1.2 million children and adolescents** were not enrolled in the formal education system.
- Only **60% of rural schools** had internet access, limiting the implementation of digital learning strategies.



## 9.2 Limitations in Rural Areas

Rural regions face significant barriers in guaranteeing the right to education:

- **Deficient infrastructure:** **35% of rural schools** lack basic services such as potable water or electricity.
- **Shortage of teachers:** There is a **deficit of 10,000 teachers** in the most remote areas of the country.
- **Long distances:** Many students must walk between **5 and 10 kilometers daily** to reach their schools.

## 9.3 Educational Quality

Educational quality also reveals significant disparities:

- In the **SABER 11 tests**, urban students scored an average of **58 points**, while rural students averaged **42 points**.

- Access to extracurricular programs is virtually non-existent in **80% of rural schools**.
- The **student-teacher ratio** is **30:1 in urban areas** and **45:1 in rural areas** (DANE, 2024).

## 9.4 Exclusion and Vulnerability

Educational exclusion disproportionately affects certain groups:

- **Indigenous and Afro-descendant children** are **30% less likely** to complete secondary education compared to their mestizo peers.
- In conflict-affected areas, access to education is severely limited, with many schools closed due to security concerns.
- **Pregnant adolescents** face school dropout rates of **50%**, one of the highest in the region.

## 9.5 Recommendations

1. **Investment in Infrastructure:** Ensure basic services and adequate technology in all rural schools.
2. **Teacher Training:** Implement training programs for teachers working in rural and vulnerable contexts.
3. **Scholarships and Economic Support:** Design incentives for at-risk students, especially pregnant adolescents and ethnic communities.
4. **School Transportation Programs:** Establish public transportation systems to facilitate access to schools in remote regions.
5. **Reducing Digital Gaps:** Expand connectivity and access to technological tools in all regions of the country.

## 9.6 Conclusion

The right to education in Colombia faces serious challenges that reflect the country's deep structural inequalities. Rural areas and vulnerable communities require prioritized attention to ensure all children and adolescents have access to quality education. Reducing these inequalities is essential for social inclusion and national development.

The next chapter will address the **Right to a Healthy Environment**, analysing the impacts of deforestation, illegal mining, and climate change on the country during 2024.

## References

1. **Ministerio de Educación Nacional.** (2024). *Informe sobre las desigualdades educativas en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.mineduccion.gov.co>
2. **Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE).** (2024). *Estadísticas sobre acceso y calidad educativa en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.dane.gov.co>





## Chapter 10: Right to a Healthy Environment

---

The right to a healthy environment is essential to ensuring the life and well-being of present and future generations. In Colombia, 2024 was marked by significant environmental challenges, including deforestation, illegal mining, and the impacts of climate change, which disproportionately affect the most vulnerable communities.

### 10.1 General Context

According to the *Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies* (*Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales*, IDEAM, 2024), deforestation in Colombia during the first quarter of 2024 reached approximately **40,219 hectares** in the Amazon region, indicating a possible increase compared to the same period in previous years.

Meanwhile, the *Office of the Attorney General* (*Procuraduría General de la Nación*) reported that illegal mining affects **29 of the country's 32 departments**,

with prominent activity in regions such as Antioquia, Bolívar, Chocó, Santander, Caldas, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Boyacá, Amazonas, Putumayo, and Guainía. This activity continues to cause severe environmental impacts, including soil and river pollution, primarily due to the use of mercury and other toxic chemicals.

## 10.2 Deforestation

Deforestation remains one of the country's biggest environmental challenges:

- The **Amazon and Pacific regions** were the most affected, accounting for **65% of total deforested areas**.
- Illegal logging and the expansion of illicit crops continue to be the primary drivers of deforestation.
- Loss of forest cover threatens biodiversity, affecting species such as the jaguar and various endemic birds.

## 10.3 Illegal Mining

Illegal mining causes severe environmental and social impacts:

- Illegal mining activities are concentrated in departments such as **Antioquia, Chocó, and Cauca**.
- The use of mercury and other toxic chemicals has polluted rivers such as the **Atrato** and **Caquetá**.
- Local communities face health risks and forced displacement due to mining activities.

## 10.4 Climate Change and Natural Disasters

Climate change is intensifying natural disasters and affecting thousands of people:

- In 2024, **320 extreme weather events** were recorded, including floods and prolonged droughts.
- Rural communities were the most affected, with **50,000 displaced** by climate-related disasters.
- Changes in climate patterns have reduced agricultural productivity by **12%** in vulnerable regions.

## 10.5 Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Conservation Policies:** Increase resources for the protection of natural areas and the control of illegal activities.
2. **Transition to Sustainable Economies:** Promote sustainable economic alternatives for communities reliant on activities such as logging and illegal mining.
3. **Climate Change Mitigation:** Implement reforestation programs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **Environmental Education:** Develop awareness campaigns to promote environmental protection at all educational levels.
5. **Strengthen Environmental Governance:** Ensure the enforcement of environmental laws and increase community participation in decision-making processes.

## 10.6 Conclusion

Colombia's environment is facing an unprecedented crisis, jeopardizing biodiversity and the quality of life for millions. Deforestation, illegal mining, and the effects of climate change are challenges requiring urgent and coordinated action from the government, communities, and the international community. Protecting the environment is not just a moral imperative but an essential condition for ensuring a sustainable future.

The next chapter will address **The Rights of Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons**, analysing the challenges these populations faced in 2024.

## References

1. **Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales (IDEAM).** (2024). *Informe sobre deforestación en Colombia durante el primer trimestre de 2024*. Recuperado de <https://planetasostenible.co>
2. **Procuraduría General de la Nación.** (2024). *Impactos de la minería ilegal en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.elheraldo.co>





## Chapter 11: Rights of Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons

---

Colombia faces a complex humanitarian crisis affecting both international migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2024, there were advancements in assistance policies, but significant challenges remained in ensuring access to basic rights such as housing, health, and education for these vulnerable populations.

### 11.1 General Context

Colombia hosts one of the largest migrant populations in Latin America, primarily from Venezuela. Additionally, internal armed conflict and natural disasters continue to cause massive displacements within the country. According to the *Victims Unit* (2024):

- **6.9 million IDPs** are registered in the country.
- **2.8 million Venezuelan migrants** currently reside in Colombia, **54% of whom lack regular status**.
- **40% of IDPs** reported difficulties in accessing adequate housing and essential services.

## 11.2 Challenges in Accessing Rights

Migrant and displaced populations face significant barriers in exercising their fundamental rights:

- **Housing:** Only **25% of IDPs** access temporary or permanent housing programs.
- **Education:** **30% of migrant and displaced children** are not enrolled in the formal education system.
- **Health:** **45% of Venezuelan migrants** lack access to the healthcare system, exacerbating their vulnerability.

## 11.3 Impact on Host Communities

The massive arrival of migrants and IDPs has also generated tensions in host communities:

- In cities such as **Bogotá, Cúcuta, and Barranquilla**, public services are overwhelmed, affecting water, electricity, and transportation quality.
- Labour conflicts have increased, with reports of **job displacement** toward migrant workers who accept lower wages.
- **65% of host communities** reported an increased perception of insecurity, according to local surveys.

## 11.4 Institutional Responses

The Colombian government and the international community have implemented various measures to address this crisis:

- **Temporary Protection Status (TPS):** In 2024, the program was renewed, allowing Venezuelan migrants access to employment and public services.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** The UN and other organizations delivered over **200,000 basic aid kits** in the most affected areas.
- **Integration Programs:** Initiatives were launched to train migrants in job skills and promote their economic integration.

## 11.5 Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Housing Policies:** Develop strategies to guarantee access to dignified housing for migrants and displaced persons.
2. **Expand Access to Healthcare:** Increase resources to integrate these populations into the healthcare system.
3. **Ensure Educational Inclusion:** Create specific programs to facilitate the enrolment and retention of migrant children in schools.
4. **Promote Social Cohesion:** Implement campaigns to reduce xenophobia and foster coexistence in host communities.
5. **Increase International Cooperation:** Seek greater financial and technical support from international organizations to address this crisis.

## 11.6 Conclusion

The situation of migrants and internally displaced persons in Colombia reflects the magnitude of the humanitarian challenges the country faces. While significant progress has been made, substantial barriers still limit access to fundamental rights. Collaboration between the government, civil society, and the international community is essential to ensure an effective and sustainable response.

The next chapter will address **The Right to Justice and Access to Judicial Resources**, highlighting the main challenges and necessary reforms in Colombia's judicial system during 2024.

## References

1. **Unidad para las Víctimas.** (2024). *Informe anual sobre desplazados internos en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co>
2. **ONU Colombia.** (2024). *Asistencia humanitaria para migrantes y desplazados en Colombia*. Recuperado de <https://www.un.org/es/colombia>
3. **Encuestas locales.** (2024). *Percepción de comunidades receptoras sobre la migración en Colombia*. Datos recopilados por universidades y centros de investigación regionales.





## Chapter 12: Justice and Access to Judicial Resources

---

The right to justice is a fundamental pillar for the protection of human rights and the consolidation of the rule of law. In Colombia, access to justice faces multiple challenges, including judicial inefficiency, corruption, and socioeconomic barriers that limit equity within the judicial system.

### 12.1 General Context

The Colombian judicial system has unequal coverage and faces chronic issues of congestion and lack of resources. According to the *Superior Council of the Judiciary* (2024):

- **1.2 million cases** remained unresolved by the end of the year.
- The average time to resolve a case in rural areas is **3.5 years**, compared to **1.8 years** in urban areas.

- Only **40% of the population** has access to free legal assistance.

## 12.2 Inequities in Access to Justice

Economic and social barriers perpetuate inequality in the judicial system:

- Rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities face significant challenges in accessing courts due to distance and associated costs.
- Only **15% of women victims of gender-based violence** obtain favourable rulings within a reasonable timeframe.
- In conflict-affected regions, courts operate at **50% capacity**, leaving many victims without justice.

## 12.3 Corruption in the Judicial System

Corruption remains one of the greatest obstacles to ensuring a transparent and effective judicial system:

- **35% of Colombians** believe judges and prosecutors are involved in acts of corruption (*National Consulting Centre, 2024*).
- Bribery and evidence tampering are commonly reported in high-profile cases.
- In 2024, **50 disciplinary investigations** were launched against judicial officials for alleged acts of corruption.

## 12.4 Access to Justice for Victims of Armed Conflict

The armed conflict in Colombia has left a historic debt in terms of justice:

- **8 million registered victims** are entitled to reparations, but only **25% have received** any form of compensation.

- Specialized courts, such as the *Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)*, issued **12 key rulings** but face criticism for their slow pace.
- Many conflict-affected communities report a lack of trust in the judicial system to ensure justice and truth.

## 12.5 Recommendations

1. **Reduce Judicial Backlogs:** Implement technologies and allocate additional resources to decrease case resolution times.
2. **Expand Rural Coverage:** Establish mobile courts and legal assistance systems in remote regions.
3. **Strengthen Transparency Mechanisms:** Create citizen observatories to monitor potential acts of corruption in the judicial system.
4. **Promote Restorative Justice:** Expand conflict resolution mechanisms in rural and Indigenous communities.
5. **Guarantee Comprehensive Reparations:** Expedite compensation and reparations processes for victims of armed conflict.

## 12.6 Conclusion

Access to justice in Colombia remains a significant challenge, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Corruption, structural inequalities, and judicial system congestion hinder the effective fulfilment of this fundamental right. Implementing comprehensive reforms and encouraging active civil society participation are essential to strengthening the rule of law and ensuring equitable justice for all.

# Conclusion and General Recommendations

---

The **2024 National Human Rights Report on Colombia** has highlighted the profound challenges the country faces across multiple areas, from guaranteeing fundamental rights to building a sustainable and equitable future. Each chapter of this report has emphasized structural problems, human rights violations, and persistent inequalities that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, including rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities; women; children; migrants; and victims of armed conflict.

Despite efforts by the government and civil society, significant obstacles remain in achieving full human rights compliance. However, the report has also identified opportunities for change and social transformation through structural reforms and inclusive public policies.

## General Recommendations

### 1. Strengthen Democratic and Judicial Institutions:

- Expand judicial system coverage in rural areas and conflict-affected communities.
- Implement technology and training systems to reduce judicial congestion and improve efficiency.
- Create monitoring and transparency mechanisms to combat corruption at all levels of government.

### 2. Promote Equality and Inclusion:

- Develop policies to bridge the gap in rights access between rural and urban populations.
- Ensure Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities have effective representation in public decision-making processes.
- Implement culturally sensitive and inclusive education programs.

### 3. Protect the Rights of Women, Children, and Vulnerable Groups:

- Increase resources to combat gender-based violence and ensure justice for victims.
- Strengthen child protection systems to prevent abuse, child labor, and forced recruitment.
- Create support networks for migrants and internally displaced persons, ensuring access to housing, education, and healthcare.

### 4. Advance Environmental Protection:



- Strengthen conservation policies and control deforestation and illegal mining.
- Promote reforestation and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, focusing on the most vulnerable communities.

#### **5. Enhance International Cooperation:**

- Seek financial and technical support from international organizations to implement sustainable development programs.
- Promote partnerships with other countries to exchange best practices in human rights promotion.
- Ensure compliance with international commitments regarding human rights and justice.

### **Final Reflection**

Colombia has a historic opportunity to consolidate its democracy and ensure a fairer future for all its citizens. This report underscores the need for collective commitment among the government, civil society, the private sector, and the international community. Only through coordinated and sustainable actions can the country address the profound inequalities and challenges that hinder its development.

Respect for human rights must be at the core of all public policies and government decisions. Building an equitable, inclusive, and environmentally respectful society is not only a moral imperative but also an essential condition for achieving peace and prosperity.

## GRAC: Global Rights Action

### Websites:

[www.gracglobal.org](http://www.gracglobal.org) | [www.fundaciongrac.org](http://www.fundaciongrac.org)

### Address:

372 Annesbrook Drive, Nelson 7011, New Zealand

### Phone Numbers:

+64 274 996 766

+64 211 647 827

### Emails:

[info@gracglobal.org](mailto:info@gracglobal.org)

[contact@gracglobal.org](mailto:contact@gracglobal.org)

### Social Media:

- **Instagram:** grac.1974
- **X (Twitter):** @FUNDACIONGRAC
- **Facebook:** GRAC - Global Rights Action
- **YouTube:** GRAC: Global Rights Action

© GRAC: Global Rights Action 2025

