

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

COLOMBIA RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for ensuring women's inclusion in the security sector were developed by a coalition of Colombian women convened by The Initiative for Inclusive Security in January 2008.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S FULL INCLUSION IN FORMAL SECURITY SECTOR STRUCTURES (MILITARY, POLICE, PRISONS, JUDICIARY).

1. Encourage members of Colombia's House of Representatives to support the current bill granting women operational command in the armed forces, and encourage the Ministry of Defense to increase the number of women in its anti-narcotics efforts.
2. Modify Colombian recruitment campaigns to be more appealing to women. Create a public campaign to inform the public and armed forces personnel of the value women bring to the armed forces. Compile Colombian and international examples of women in military service.
3. Develop a public campaign to increase sensitivity and emphasize the rights that women have under the law, using the Police Officer of the Year as the spokeswoman. Establish mechanisms within the Human Rights Division in the Vice-President's Office to prevent harassment of women in the security forces, including formal meetings, anonymous drop boxes, a harassment hotline, and mentoring of new recruits by women in leadership positions.
4. Include incentives within the private security bill to encourage private security companies to hire and train more women.
5. Convene a forum of women leaders in the armed forces, government, judiciary, and legislature, to share their experiences in the public service. Part of the forum will be reserved for women in the military and police to discuss their experiences in the uniformed services.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OVERSIGHT BODIES (DEFENSE, INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES, LEGISLATURES, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES) INVOLVED IN THE SECURITY SECTOR:

1. Pass a congressional resolution endorsing the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, highlighting the need to mainstream gender in the Justice and Peace Law.
2. Expand and strengthen support networks and mentoring systems for women with security responsibilities in local, regional, and national government.
3. In cooperation with academics, provide leadership training on the security sector, gender, and human security for women in key leadership positions with security oversight.
4. Compile and disseminate best practices on the prevention of gender-based violence. In cooperation with women mayors, identify and establish pilot programs in areas with a history of violence against women.

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5. Launch a government-led campaign on gender-based violence as a crime against humanity.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP OF CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS:

1. Give women in civil society a larger role in the Minister of Interior's conflict resolution centers and provide training to more women as conflict mediators.
2. Organize a summer course on inclusive and human security targeted at government, military, and civil society representatives.
3. Design indicators to assess the status of human security with a specific focus on women's security.
4. Hold a hearing in Congress with civil society, academia, judiciary, and the media to highlight gender-based violence.
5. Create a committee of women in government and Congress to support the gender component of the Historical Memory Commission.