



# **Colombia: Situation of LGBTQI+ people**

**Asylos, June 2025**

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**Acknowledgements:** Researched by Carol Bohmer, Kauthar Menhal and Joseph Blackmore. Edited by Joseph Blackmore.

**Dear reader,**

This report was researched, written and edited by Asylos, an international network of volunteers providing free-of-charge research for lawyers helping asylum seekers with their claim. Everyone engaged in Asylos believes that asylum matters and so do fair decisions, based on the best available knowledge. We believe that your work as a lawyer dealing with such cases is so important that it is a good thing to assist you for free - and we do that in our spare time.

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Further, the COI presented is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain, nor is it determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue does not exist.

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Your Asylos Team

## Research timeframe

The earliest source dates from April 2016 and the most recent source dates from June 2025. Most sources date from 2020 onwards.

## Sources consulted

All (web) sources were consulted in June 2025.

### 1. International Organisations

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

### 2. (Inter)governmental sources

- Departamento Nacional de Planeación
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United States Department of State (USDOS)
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)

### 3. (I)NGOS and think tanks

- Amnesty International
- Colombia Diversa

*Colombia Diversa is an NGO based in Bogota that conducts research and strategic litigation for the rights of lesbians, gay, bisexual and trans people in Colombia.* [Colombia Diversa](#)

- Corporación Caribe Afirmativo

*A Colombian NGO focused on transforming “prejudices, perceptions, and social and institutional practices surrounding sexual and gender diversity through the implementation of comprehensive strategies for research, training, psychosocial support, rights promotion, access to justice, sociopolitical advocacy, humanitarian assistance, and the strengthening of the organization and its allies.”* [Corporación Caribe Afirmativo](#)

- Equaldex

*Equaldex is a collaborative knowledge base for the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) movement that crowdsources public opinion data and laws related to LGBTQ+ rights.* [Equaldex](#)

- Freedom House
- Global Protection Cluster

*The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a network of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and United Nations (UN) agencies, engaged in protection work in humanitarian crises including armed conflict and disasters.* [Global Protection Cluster](#)

- Human Rights Watch

- The Interreligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF)  
*“A Cleveland-based interfaith group that promotes peace and human rights in Central America and Colombia.”* [IRTF](#)
- Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.  
*A “consensus-based coalition of leading civil society actors”* [Working Group on Women, Peace and Security](#)

#### 4. Media

- Al Jazeera
- BBC
- Colombiaone  
*An independent publisher and digital media collective with the mission to produce English content and news showcasing Colombia around the globe.*  
[Colombiaone](#)
- The Guardian
- El País  
*A Spanish language newspaper based in Madrid, it is the second most circulated daily newspaper in Spain.*

#### 5. Academic Sources

- UCLA School of Law Williams Institute
- School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University

## Findings

*The findings in this report are presented in reverse chronological order within the sections.*

### 1. Legal recognition of LGBTQI+ people in Colombia

Although there are laws protecting LGBTQI+ people in Colombia, several sources including Equaldex, the UN, and the annual United States Department of State (USDOS) report on human rights published in 2024 (covering events in 2023), suggested that these are not effectively enforced and that LGBTQI+ people may face discrimination in Colombia.

#### i. Same-sex marriage

- “[In April 2016] ‘The judges affirmed by a majority that marriage between people of the same sex does not violate the constitutional order,’ judge Maria Victoria Calle said.”

Equaldex, “[LGBT Rights in Colombia](#)”, no date, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Colombia's top court has legalised same-sex marriage, making the country the fourth in Latin America to do so. Gay couples were already allowed to form civil partnerships, but Thursday's ruling extends them the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples. Earlier this month the constitutional court dismissed a judge's petition against equal marriage rights for heterosexual and homosexual couples.”

BBC, “[Colombia legalises gay marriage](#)”, 29 April 2016, last accessed: 27 June 2025

#### ii. Right to change legal gender in Colombia

Equaldex suggested that adults can legally change their gender in Colombia, but a report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples indicated that indigenous transgender people face obstacles in this regard.

- “[Since Jun 4, 2015] In response to two rulings of the Constitutional Court in 2015, the Colombian Government issued a decree on 4 June 2015 to simplify the process by which adults over 18 can legally change their gender. The decree, signed by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, says the gender change is justified by a person’s individual choice; it eliminates the requirement for psychiatric or physical examinations.”

Equaldex, “[LGBT Rights in Colombia](#)”, no date, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “VII. Indigenous women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex plus (LGBTI+) persons

[...] 50. Indigenous transgender people face several obstacles in obtaining identity documents that reflect name and sex changes, including the high cost and a lack of sensitivity and knowledge among public servants. They also reported difficulties in obtaining access to culturally appropriate health services, including HIV diagnosis and treatment.”

UN Human Rights Council, “[A/HRC/57/47/Add.1: Visit to Colombia - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)”, 10 September 2024, page 8, last accessed: 22 June 2025

### iii. Legal recognition of non-binary gender

Equaldex stated that LGBTQI+ people may register as non-binary, while the annual USDOS report on human rights published in 2024 (covering events of 2023) noted that it may be prohibitively expensive for some individuals.

- “[Since Mar 1, 2022] The Constitutional Court of Colombia ruled that non-binary people should be able to choose an X instead of having to put male or female on their official documentation. Also, in August 2023 Colombia began allowing an X to be put on passports”

Equaldex, “[LGBT Rights in Colombia](#)”, no date, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Availability of Legal Gender Recognition: The country recognized male, female, transgender, or nonbinary markers as the gender in legal identification documents. NGOs such as Caribe Afirmativo highlighted that updating a gender designation was difficult due to the financial costs associated with acquiring the underlying documents, such as birth certificates and updated medical documents

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, page 39, last accessed: 22 June 2025

## 2. Discrimination against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia

The annual USDOS human rights report published in 2024 (covering events in 2023) highlighted that anti-discrimination legislation is not enforced by the government and so-called conversion therapy is not criminalised, citing an estimate by Fundación GAAT that around 20% of LGBTQI+ persons had experienced it. Other sources including the Inter-Religious Taskforce on Central America (IRTF), UNHCR and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) observed that LGBTQI+ people face prejudice and discrimination.

- “Discrimination: The law prohibited discrimination by state and nonstate actors

based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics. The government did not enforce the law, however, especially when it concerned transgender individuals. The law explicitly recognised LGBTQI+ couples and their families and granted them rights equal to rights of other persons.

[...] Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices: Laws did not prohibit so-called conversion therapy. Fundación GAAT estimated approximately 20 percent of LGBTQI+ persons had been a victim of so-called conversion therapy. NGOs reported transgender individuals, particularly transgender men, were often sexually assaulted in so-called corrective rape [...] Official data for victims of conversion therapy did not exist because conversion therapy was not considered a crime and the practice was not legally regulated.”

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, pages 38 - 39, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “LGBTQ people in Colombia have long been targeted for who they are, much as women have, due to entrenched patriarchal norms and social and legal discrimination, which have contributed to extreme violence against both women and queer people during the armed conflict.”

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, “[UN Security Council Briefing on Colombia by Marcela Sánchez](#)”, 9 April 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Despite the important change that Colombia, like the rest of the world, has experienced in the last two decades regarding respect for the rights of LGBTQ people, there is continuing violence. The country has one of the most advanced laws in the world regarding the protection of this group, but social discrimination is still important, and violence against some of its members is unstoppable. [...] Although the country has anti-discrimination laws, prejudice and discrimination against LGBTQ people continue to be present in a considerable part of Colombian society.”

Inter-Religious Taskforce on Central America (IRTF), “[Colombia’s LGBTQ Community at Risk Despite Legal Protections](#)”, 21 March 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “13) Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and/or Gender Expressions

[...] LGBTQI+ persons are subjected to discrimination in terms of employment and livelihoods.<sup>589</sup>”

589 Colombia, Defensoría del Pueblo, Informe derechos humanos de personas OSIGD-LGBT 2020 y 2021, 28 June 2021, <https://t.co/cSMikSCZXZ?amp=1>, pp. 3, 4. For details on violence against LGBTQI+ persons and social leaders, see Indepaz, Líderes sociales y defensores de derechos humanos asesinados en 2020\*, accessed 14 June 2022, [www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/](http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/); Programa Somos Defensores, In Evil Hour, Annual Report 2020, 20 May 2021, [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwSTrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi\\_ya94j/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwSTrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi_ya94j/view), pp. 85, 86.

UNHCR, "[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)", August 2023, pages 75 - 76, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "2.2 Attitudes towards Same-Sex Households

Despite having one of the most robust legal frameworks in Latin America, activists argue that it does not fully protect them against discrimination. According to multiple NGOs including Colombia Diversa and Caribe Afirmativo, longstanding stereotypes and misinformation regarding gender identity and sexual orientation still persist (Bocanumeth, 2020).

[...] Bocanumeth, M. (2020). LGBT+ rights and peace in Colombia: The paradox between law and practice. for Washington Office for Latin America (WOLA)."

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), "[Is there discrimination against children of same-sex households? Evidence from an experimental study in Colombia](#)", February 2023, pages 7 - 25, last accessed: 22 June 2025

### **3. Access to employment and public services for LGBTQI+ individuals in Colombia**

Several sources, including the Colombian government, a Colombian NGO, a report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the annual USDOS human rights report published in 2024 (covering events of 2023) indicated that some LGBTQI+ people have experienced precarious working and living conditions and struggled to access healthcare and other public services.

- "Why is this CONPES needed?"

In Colombia, economic, social, cultural, institutional, and political barriers persist, combined with violence motivated by prejudice, which differentially affect the LGBTQI+ population. Discriminatory social representations in educational, family, cultural, and workplace settings limit access to fundamental rights, while inequalities in education, employment, health, and housing reinforce the exclusion and vulnerability of this population. Furthermore, the high rates of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence are exacerbated by revictimization in reporting processes and by inadequate judicial support. All of this highlights the urgent need for comprehensive tools and measures to guarantee the rights of LGBTQI+ people in the country." [Translated with Google Translate, therefore accuracy cannot be 100% guaranteed.]

#### ORIGINAL TEXT

"¿Por qué se necesita este CONPES?"

En Colombia aún persisten barreras económicas, sociales, culturales, institucionales y políticas que, sumadas a violencias motivadas por prejuicios, afectan de forma diferenciada a la población LGBTQI+. Las representaciones sociales discriminatorias en espacios educativos, familiares, culturales, laborales limitan el acceso a derechos fundamentales, mientras que inequidades en educación, empleo, salud y vivienda refuerzan la exclusión y la vulnerabilidad de esta población.

Asimismo, los altos índices de violencia física, sexual, psicológica y económica se ven agravados por la revictimización en los procesos de denuncia y por la deficiente atención judicial. Todo esto evidencia la urgente necesidad de contar con herramientas y medidas integrales para garantizar los derechos las personas de la población LGBTIQ+ en el país.”

Departamento Nacional de Planeación, “[Colombia avanza a una nueva era de inclusión y justicia. Aprobado por unanimidad el CONPES LGBTIQ+](#)”, 28 March 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “This territorial exercise, led by the Ministry of Equality for almost two years, identified four significant structural problems facing LGBTIQ+ people in Colombia:
  1. Everyday barriers to accessing services and fully exercising citizenship limit the effective enjoyment of rights such as decent employment, social security, adequate food, decent housing, quality education, use of public spaces, and access to sports, culture, and recreation.
  2. The persistence of structural violence, both physical and symbolic, which worsens in a context of impunity and is constantly reinvented in new and more dehumanizing forms of expression.
  3. Deficiencies in institutional capacities at the national and local levels, with a lack of effective services and differentiated, key, and efficient access routes.
  4. The urgent need for a cultural transformation in the country\*\*, which dismantles the prejudiced imaginings that validate violence against gender-diverse people as normal.” [Translated with Google Translate, therefore accuracy cannot be 100% guaranteed.]

#### ORIGINAL TEXT

“Este ejercicio territorial, liderado por el Ministerio de la Igualdad durante casi dos años, identificó cuatro problemas estructurales significativos que enfrentan las personas LGBTIQ+ en Colombia:

1. Barreras cotidianas para acceder a servicios y ejercer plenamente la ciudadanía, lo que limita el goce efectivo de derechos como empleo decente, seguridad social, alimentación adecuada, vivienda digna, educación de calidad, uso del espacio público, acceso al deporte, la cultura y la recreación.
2. Persistencia de la violencia estructural, tanto física como simbólica, que se agudiza en un contexto de impunidad y se reinventa constantemente en nuevas y más deshumanizadoras formas de expresión.
3. Deficiencias en las capacidades institucionales a nivel nacional y local, con ausencia de servicios efectivos y falta de rutas de acceso diferenciadas, claves y eficientes.
4. La necesidad urgente de una transformación cultural en el país\*\*, que desmonte los imaginarios prejuiciosos que validan la violencia contra las personas sexo-género diversas como algo normal. ”

Corporación Caribe Afirmativo, “[¿El CONPES para la Política Pública LGBTIQ+ de Colombia para cuando?](#)”, 14 March 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “VII. Indigenous women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex plus (LGBTI+) persons  
[...]

51. The severe discrimination suffered by Indigenous LGBTI+ persons translates into dire working conditions, particularly in the informal economy, which exposes them to exploitation, precarious living conditions and various forms of violence. Public institutions provide only a limited range of services in the area of assistance and training for Indigenous LGBTI+ persons, which increases their vulnerability.”

UN Human Rights Council, “[A/HRC/57/47/Add.1: Visit to Colombia - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)”, 10 September 2024, page 8, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Discrimination:  
[...] NGOs reported transgender individuals faced significant discrimination in accessing public services. According to the NGO Foundation Group of Action and Support for People with Trans Life Experience (in Spanish, Fundación GAAT), in addition to the bullying and discrimination they faced in public, transgender individuals had difficulty accessing formal jobs; health services, including mental health support; and education. Only four of every 100 transgender individuals had formal jobs, according to Fundación GAAT. The organization reported that delays for transgender individuals in receiving updated identification documents were obstacles to employment. Transgender individuals cited barriers to public services when health-care providers and police refused to accept their government-issued identification.”

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, page 38, last accessed: 22 June 2025

A study that described itself as the “largest and most comprehensive study conducted on LGBT people in Colombia” examined the “demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, exposure to stress, discrimination and violence, and the health status of LGBT Colombians”. Although the research was conducted in 2019, this study has been included as it provides a unique and comprehensive snapshot of the experiences of LGBT people in Colombia, through in-person and social media interviews of 4,867 LGBT respondents.

- “75% of LGBT respondents were bullied at least once before they turned 18 and 25% of LGBT respondents were fired from or denied a job in their lifetimes.”

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute, “[Stress, Health and Well-Being of LGBT People in Columbia. Results from a National Survey](#)”, May 2020, pages 5 - 6, last accessed: 22 June 2025

## 4. Violence against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia

Several sources, including the Amnesty International, Colombiaone, Human Rights Watch, and USDOS, all indicate that violence against LGBTQI+ people has occurred and has been perpetrated by a variety of actors. Forms of violence against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia referred to by the sources include killings, sexual assault, so-called corrective rape and police violence. A 2023 article by El Pais observed that there are significant difficulties in obtaining reliable statistics on violence against LGBTQI+ people for reasons including that there are no official government figures, such crimes are not always correctly classified by the authorities as hate crimes, and there is likely to be significant underreporting.

### a) General statistics and reports of violence against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia

- “LGBTI people’s rights

LGBTI activists and human rights defenders continued to face threats and attacks because of their work. Violence against LGBTI people in general also continued. In December, the NGO Affirmative Caribbean reported that throughout the year a provisional figure of 44 LGBTI people had been killed, including 21 transgender women killed up to October.”

Amnesty International, “[The State of the World's Human Rights: Colombia 2024](#)”, 29 April 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “1. Introduction

[...]

2. The Special Rapporteur [on extreme poverty and human rights] travelled to Bogotá, Buenaventura, Cali and Soacha, meeting with local, regional and national government officials, international institutions and United Nations entities, civil society organizations and people affected by poverty in both urban and rural areas. [...] The Special Rapporteur met with persons with disabilities, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples, women, peasants, young leaders and LGBTQI+ persons living in poverty and subjected to various forms of violence and segregation.”

UN Human Rights Council, “[A/HRC/59/51/Add.1: Visit to Colombia - Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter\\*](#)”, 22 April 2025, page 3, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Despite constitutional protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people continue to face high levels of violence and discrimination. According to figures from the NGO Colombia Diversa published in July, 159 LGBT people were killed in 2023, including 32 possibly based on prejudice. In February, the Attorney General’s Office created a unit to investigate crimes motivated by a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Human Rights Watch, "[World Report 2025: Colombia](#)", 16 January 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Wilson Castañeda, director for Caribe Afirmativo, a foundation that protects sexual diversity and human rights, stated '2023 was a year in which the extent of the precarious situation of LGBT individuals in Colombia has been revealed.' According to Inconatables, in 2023 there were 156 homicides and femicides related to LGBT people in Colombia. This is a homicide once every 2.3 days."

Colombiaone, "[History of LGBT Rights in Colombia](#)", 29 June 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Violence and Harassment: There were reports of societal abuse and sexual assault of LGBTQI+ persons. According to the NGO Colombia Diversa, from January 1 to September 10, there were 23 homicides of LGBTQI+ persons, including 12 gay men, six transgender women, three lesbian women, one transgender man, and one nonbinary person [...]"

USDOS, "[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)", 22 April 2024, pages 37 - 39, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices: Laws did not prohibit so-called conversion therapy. Fundación GAAT estimated approximately 20 percent of LGBTQI+ persons had been a victim of so-called conversion therapy. NGOs reported transgender individuals, particularly transgender men, were often sexually assaulted in so-called corrective rape... Official data for victims of conversion therapy did not exist because conversion therapy was not considered a crime and the practice was not legally regulated."

USDOS, "[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)", 22 April 2024, pages 38 - 39, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "LATIN AMERICA  
Equality on paper, hate and murders in the street  
[...]  
Latin America continues to be one of the most dangerous regions in the world for the LGBTQ+ community. It's difficult to know the true scope of the violence due to the lack of official government figures and the fact that these crimes are not always classified as hate crimes. LGBTQ+ organizations warn that the official figures are grossly underreported, with the trans community hardest hit by the violence. Around 90% of these attacks are reported in Colombia, Mexico and Honduras —countries where there is widespread violence that permeates the attacks on LGBTQ+ people."

El Pais, "[The worldwide offensive against the rights of the LGBTQ+ community](#)", 28 June 2023, last accessed: 22 June 2025

## b) Violence against LGBTQI+ people by state actors in Colombia

Several intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and media sources indicated that despite legal protections, LGBTQI+ people have been subject to state violence in Colombia. The USDOS annual human rights report published in 2024 (covering 2023), the Human Rights Watch annual report published in 2024 (covering events of 2023), and UNHCR all noted allegations of police violence. This was also corroborated by the UCLA study published in 2020.

- “Violence and Harassment: [...] There were allegations of police violence based on sexual orientation.”

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, pages 37 - 38, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity  
[...] In 2022, Colombia Diversa reported 148 killings of LGBT people, including 28 possibly based on prejudice. Colombia Diversa also reported 97 cases of police violence that affected 107 LGBT people in 2022.”

Human Rights Watch, “[World Report 2024: Colombia](#)”, 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “13) Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and/or Gender Expressions

[...]

The Office of the Ombudsperson reported 54 cases of abuse of LGBTQI+ individuals by State authorities in 2021,<sup>595</sup> and the FGN reported that, as of August 2022, there were 50 open investigations for excessive use of force by members of the security forces against LGBTQI+ persons.<sup>596</sup> Colombia Diversa reported 175 cases of police violence against LGBTQI+ persons in 2020, representing a significant increase compared to 109 cases in 2019.<sup>597</sup> Discrimination and prejudice are reported to prevail in the police response to cases of violence against LGBTQI+ persons[...]

595 Colombia, Defensoría del Pueblo, Una radiografía del prejuicio: Informe de derechos humanos de personas OSIGD-LGTBI 2021, June 2022,

<https://repositorio.defensoria.gov.co/bitstream/handle/20.500.13061/371/Informe%20OSIGD%20ver1.pdf>, p. 18.

596 US Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2022: Colombia, 20 March 2023,

[www.ecoi.net/en/document/2089108.html](http://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2089108.html). See also, IACHR, Annual Report 2020 - Chapter IV.A: Human Rights Development in the Region, 2021, [www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap.4A-en.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap.4A-en.pdf), para. 277.

597 Colombia Diversa, Nada que celebrar, June 2021, [https://colombiadiversa.org/c-diversa/wp-](https://colombiadiversa.org/c-diversa/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Nada-que-celebrar-Colombia-Diversa-cifras-de-asesinatos-a-personas-LGBT.pdf)

[content/uploads/2021/06/Nada-que-celebrar-Colombia-Diversa-cifras-de-asesinatos-a-personas-LGBT.pdf](https://colombiadiversa.org/c-diversa/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Nada-que-celebrar-Colombia-Diversa-cifras-de-asesinatos-a-personas-LGBT.pdf).

UNHCR, “[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)”, August 2023, pages 75 - 76, last accessed: 22 June 2025

A study that described itself as the “largest and most comprehensive study conducted on LGBT people in Colombia” examined the “demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, exposure to stress, discrimination and violence, and the health status of LGBT Colombians”. Although the research was conducted in 2019, this study has been included as it provides a unique and comprehensive snapshot of the experiences of LGBT people in Colombia, through in-person and social media interviews of 4,867 LGBT respondents.

- “Victimization and Discrimination  
[...] Overall, 20% of LGBT respondents reported that the police or state officials had been verbally abusive, and 11% reported physical abuse. [...]

#### Police violence against LGBT people

Police violence has become a form of de facto criminalization of the most vulnerable and excluded LGBT people in Colombia, and coercive measures are applied in an unjustified and arbitrary manner. Most of the LGBT victims of police violence are young, with low employment and education.

According to the Information System on Violence against LGBT Persons in Colombia (2018) in 2017, 66 acts of police violence against LGBT persons were recorded in 17 departments of Colombia, and 26% of the cases were motivated by the police officers’ prejudice towards the gender identity and sexual orientation of the victims

[...] Police violence occurred in public spaces and in the homes of the LGBT victims. Police have also targeted same-sex couples and groups of LGBT people. In 2017, 12% of the 66 cases of police violence were recorded as acts of violence or discrimination against same-sex couples (Colombia Diversa, Caribe Afirmativo and Santamaría Fundación, 2018).

Acts of police violence prevent LGBT people from fully participating in the cultural and political life of their country. For example, in Bogotá, there have been cases of LGBT people being harassed by police while participating in political protests (Colombia Diversa, Caribe Afirmativo, and Santamaría Fundación, 2018).”

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute, “[Stress, Health and Well-Being of LGBT People in Columbia. Results from a National Survey](#)”, May 2020, pages 4 - 7, last accessed: 22 June 2025

### **c) Violence against LGBTQI+ people by non-state actors in Colombia**

Sources including inter-governmental, international and media sources noted that LGBTQI+ people have been deliberately targeted and have faced violence from non-state actors, such as armed groups, criminal gangs or paramilitaries.

- “Protection Without Enforcement  
[...]

In areas where the conflict continues, armed groups govern, using violence to control the local population. Queer and trans people are particularly victimized and targeted by armed groups. According to Daniela Diaz, a researcher interviewed by Universidad de los Andes, armed groups establish the legitimacy of their rule in part by capitalizing on ‘the shared idea that LGBT people are not desirable.’ Violence against LGBTQ+ people also sends a message to local populations: this is what happens when you disobey us, when you do not conform. The absence of state authority in these regions makes it difficult to implement national protections for LGBTQ+ people.”

USCRI, “[When the Law is Not Enough: The Persecution of LGBTQ+ Colombians](#)”, 11 June 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Gender-based violence

[...] Likewise, the LGBTQ+ population has been the target of direct threats by Non-State Armed Groups in Catatumbo. Some women leaders have reported that these actors have declared this population a ‘military objective,’ demanding their expulsion from the territory. These threats have led to forced displacement and have revealed underreporting in censuses and characterization processes, which limits the institutional response and the guarantee of their rights.”

Global Protection Cluster, “[Colombia Protection Analysis Norte de Santander](#)”, April 2025, page 3, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “A. Security and human rights situation

[...]

20. OHCHR documented cases of gender-based violence in the context of the armed conflict, carried out as part of a strategy for social and territorial control by armed actors and as a means of recruiting girls and punishing women human rights defenders and LGBTQ+ persons.

[...]

B. Situation of human rights defenders

25. OHCHR received 191 allegations of the killing of human rights defenders. In 89 of those cases, OHCHR verified that there was a link between the human rights defenders in question and their work; in 33 cases, OHCHR verified that the those killed were human rights defenders but it was not possible to determine the causal link between the killing and the defenders’ work; and, in 69 cases, the findings were inconclusive.

26. The verified cases involved 77 men, 11 women and 1 trans woman. For the second consecutive year, there was a decrease (15 per cent) in the number of verified cases compared to 2023. Various non-State armed groups are assumed to be responsible for 71 per cent of the verified killings.

27. OHCHR received 569 allegations of threats and other human rights violations against human rights defenders; this is merely a sample of the total number of cases. Of those, 353 allegations concerned men, 200 women and 16 defenders of the LGBTQ+ community; 21 were collective threats. In five cases, the threats against women and LGBTQ+ persons may amount to gender-based violence.”

UN Human Rights Council, "[A/HRC/58/24: Situation of human rights in Colombia - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)", 22 January 2025, page 3 - 5, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Protection Risks

[...] These deaths, which include community leaders, demobilized individuals undergoing reincorporation, peasants, indigenous authorities, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, are directly linked to the territorial dispute between state and nonstate armed groups. The selective targeting of these individuals is associated with efforts by these groups to assert control over territory and population."

Global Protection Cluster, "[Colombia Protection Analysis Update - Arauca](#)", August 2024, page 3, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Violence against LGBTQ+ individuals has been on the rise in Colombia: eight trans women were killed between February and April this year, while 41 were killed in 2023.

Activists say armed groups are seeking to create a parallel state where those who are seen as damaging society – which for them includes trans women – are punished or killed.

Flyers have been appearing on the streets in Caquetá, a stronghold of the armed groups, and circulating through WhatsApp, warning of a plan of 'social cleansing' where 'faggots, lesbians and men and women who destroy homes' would be among those considered legitimate military targets."

The Guardian, "['We are killed for what we are': trans women in Colombia targeted by armed groups](#)", 30 July 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "III. State Violence

[...] Direct non-legitimized State violence

[...] 29. [...] In Iraq and Colombia, LGBT persons were reportedly forced to leave their homes after suffering death threats during 'corrective violence' and 'population cleansing' campaigns by armed groups.<sup>42</sup>

42 Alon Margalit, 'Still a blind spot: the protection of LGBT persons during armed conflict and other situations of violence', International Review of the Red Cross, vol. 100, Nos. 1–3 (2018).

UN General Assembly, "[A/79/172: Investigating and preventing unlawful deaths of LGBTIQ+ persons - Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions](#)", 17 July 2024, pages 7 - 10, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "Conflict-related violence

[...] 45. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace of Colombia has determined

that conflict driven violence against LGBTQ persons is gender persecution, a crime against humanity. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was recently accused of persecution of 29 LGBTQ victims. ‘The [Special Jurisdiction for Peace] recognized that armed actors persecuted these LGBTQ victims because of their perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and as a broader tactic to cement control.’<sup>59</sup> Moreover, ‘it is crucial to attend to power differentials that are exploited during war and to commit to undoing these toxic hierarchies, including hierarchies of gender and sexuality. ... The [Special Jurisdiction’s] recognition of gender persecution against queer people and women in all their diversity provides hope that States, following Colombia’s example, will commit to inclusive approaches to atrocity prevention and peacebuilding.’<sup>60</sup>  
[...]

59 Outright International, “Colombia’s peace tribunal breaks new ground on LGBTQ persecution”, 2 October 2023.

60 Ibid.

UN General Assembly, [“A/79/172: Investigating and preventing unlawful deaths of LGBTIQ+ persons - Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions”](#), 17 July 2024, page 11, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “I. Introduction

[...] 8. [...] Between 1 January and 29 October [...] OHCHR documented threats, attacks against individuals and political party headquarters, harassment and bans on campaign activities, including cases of gender-based violence against women and LGBTIQ+ participants allegedly committed by non-State armed actors.

[...] II. Territorial violence, armed conflict, security and human rights

A. Security and human rights situation

[...] 15. [...] It also received reports of threats, displacement and violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Since most cases are not reported, strategies must be developed to ensure the comprehensive and confidential care of women, girls and members of the LGBTIQ+ community in the territories.

[...] V. Civic space

A. Situation of human rights defenders

[...] 57. OHCHR received allegations of 763 cases of threats and other human rights violations against human rights defenders; this is of course a mere sample of all the cases in the country. Of those, 546 cases concerned men, 186 women and 9 members of the LGBTIQ+ community; 22 were collective threats. In 26 cases, the threats and attacks may amount to gender-based violence. Of the 763 total cases, 65 involved attempted murder and 23 involved cases of kidnapping or disappearance. The case of William Castro Muñoz, a defender of African descent from Nariño, is illustrative of the human rights abuses defenders have faced. Despite benefiting from measures adopted by the National Protection Unit, Mr. Castro Muñoz was disappeared by a non-State armed group from November 2022 to August 2023, during which time he was subjected to torture, ill-treatment and forced

labour.”

UN Human Rights Council, “[A/HRC/55/23: Situation of human rights in Colombia - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)”, 12 July 2024, pages 3 - 11, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “LGBTQ people in Colombia have long been targeted for who they are, much as women have, due to entrenched patriarchal norms and social and legal discrimination, which have contributed to extreme violence against both women and queer people during the armed conflict.”

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, “[UN Security Council Briefing on Colombia by Marcela Sánchez](#)”, 9 April 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “13) Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and/or Gender Expressions

[...] Violent incidents also include threats and psychological, physical, and sexual violence, including against leaders of LGBTIQ+ organizations; [...].<sup>589</sup>  
[...].”

589 Colombia, Defensoría del Pueblo, Informe derechos humanos de personas OSIGD-LGBT 2020 y 2021, 28 June 2021, <https://t.co/cSMIkSCZXZ?amp=1>, pp. 3, 4. For details on violence against LGBTIQ+ persons and social leaders, see Indepaz, Líderes sociales y defensores de derechos humanos asesinados en 2020\*, accessed 14 June 2022, [www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/](http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/); Programa Somos Defensores, In Evil Hour, Annual Report 2020, 20 May 2021, [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwSTrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi\\_ya94j/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwSTrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi_ya94j/view), pp. 85, 86.

UNHCR, “[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)”, August 2023, pages 75 - 76, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “13) Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and/or Gender Expressions

[...] Violent incidents also include threats and psychological, physical, and sexual violence, including against leaders of LGBTIQ+ organizations[...].<sup>589</sup>

The armed conflict is reported to have exacerbated violence and threats against LGBTIQ+ persons.<sup>590</sup> According to the organization Caribe Afirmativo, in the context of the armed conflict, LGBTIQ+ persons have been victims of threats, forced displacement, enforced disappearance, kidnappings, serious physical and psychological violence, sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture, and killings, at the hands of post-FARC-EP irregular armed groups, the ELN, other irregular armed actors, the police, and the armed forces.[...].”

589 Colombia, Defensoría del Pueblo, Informe derechos humanos de personas OSIGD-LGBT 2020 y 2021, 28 June 2021, <https://t.co/cSMIkSCZXZ?amp=1>, pp. 3, 4. For details on violence against LGBTIQ+ persons and social leaders, see Indepaz, Líderes sociales y defensores de derechos humanos asesinados en 2020\*, accessed 14 June

2022, [www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/](http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres/); Programa Somos Defensores, In Evil Hour, Annual Report 2020, 20 May 2021, [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwStrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi\\_ya94j/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QaCwStrkScbsWA2H4gajBrtGvi_ya94j/view), pp. 85, 86.  
590 El Tiempo, Los colectivos LGBT que resistieron al conflicto armado, 3 December 2020, [www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/lgbt-colectivos-presentan-informe-a-comision-de-la-verdad-sobre-violencia-en-el-conflicto-armado-552560](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/lgbt-colectivos-presentan-informe-a-comision-de-la-verdad-sobre-violencia-en-el-conflicto-armado-552560); Colombia, Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas, La Unidad reafirma su compromiso con las víctimas del conflicto armado con orientaciones sexuales e identidades de género diversas, 16 May 2020, [www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/es/enfoques-diferenciales/la-unidad-reafirma-su-compromiso-con-las-victimas-del-conflicto-armado-con](http://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/es/enfoques-diferenciales/la-unidad-reafirma-su-compromiso-con-las-victimas-del-conflicto-armado-con).

UNHCR, "[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)", August 2023, pages 75 - 76, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- "COLOMBIA

Rising discrimination amid general violence

[...]

In Colombia, the LGBTQ+ population has been caught in the crosshairs of the resurgence of the armed conflict. The South American country — where at least 148 LGBTQ+ people were murdered in 2022, according to the organization SinViolencia LGBTI — has seen a comeback in armed groups and a rise in conflicts in many states. And that violence puts LGBTQ+ people at greater risk."

El Pais, "[The worldwide offensive against the rights of the LGBTQ+ community](#)", 28 June 2023, last accessed: 22 June 2025

A study that described itself as the "largest and most comprehensive study conducted on LGBT people in Colombia" examined the "demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, exposure to stress, discrimination and violence, and the health status of LGBT Colombians". Although the research was conducted in 2019, this study has been included as it provides a unique and comprehensive snapshot of the experiences of LGBT people in Colombia, through in-person and social media interviews of 4,867 LGBT respondents.

- "VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE IN COLOMBIA

LGBT activists and advocates are at risk for violence as well. In 2017, 60 activists reported having been threatened individually and collectively and six activists were killed. Most of these acts were carried out by criminal gangs and paramilitary groups through flyers, telephone calls, social networks, and direct intimidation"

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute, "[Stress, Health and Well-Being of LGBT People in Columbia. Results from a National Survey](#)", May 2020, pages 5 - 6, last accessed: 1st December 2024

- "Violence against LGBT people by armed gangs

Historically, the LGBT population has been discriminated against and suffered violence by armed groups. Violence against LGBT people is part of the strategies of social and territorial control of the armed groups that impose behavioral

norms and act as administrators of justice, subjecting LGBT people to a social policing by armed groups and the imposition of a unique moral order based on heterosexuality as the only socially approved path accepted by these groups, and strict adherence to traditional gender roles. LGBT people who breach this moral code were sanctioned or killed by groups operating outside the law. Thus, LGBT people have been subject to social exclusion, public humiliation, violence, prejudice, exile, and harassment by these groups.”

UCLA School of Law Williams Institute, “[Stress, Health and Well-Being of LGBT People in Columbia. Results from a National Survey](#)”, May 2020, pages 5 - 6, last accessed: 1st December 2024

#### **d) Violence against LGBTQI+ people by family members in Colombia**

Limited information was found among the [sources consulted](#) regarding violence against LGBTQI+ people perpetrated by their families within the time constraints for this research. The sources included are now several years old. It should be noted that limited information on an issue should not be taken to mean that an issue does not exist.

A 2024 study published by the Virginia Commonwealth University drew on data from the 2015 Colombian National Demographic and Health Survey of over 70,000 people, which indicated that more than half of respondents had witnessed LGBTQI+ people face discrimination from family members.

- “3. Results  
[...] As reported by respondents, almost 60% of participants, regardless of their sexual orientation, had witnessed a sexual minority person being discriminated against at school (59.1%), by friends (60%), and by family (53%).”

School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, “[Negative Associations between Minority Stressors and Self-Reported Health Status among Sexual Minority Adults Living in Colombia](#)”, 7 February 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

In 2021, Colombia Diversa suggested that many instances of domestic violence go unreported and measures to protect LGBTQI+ people from family violence are ineffective.

- “Other LGBT Issues and Access to Justice  
[...] One of the greatest issues surrounding cases of family aggression is that many victims don’t report the domestic violence. This happens because for many the consequences of reporting this type of violence means the loss of support networks and lack of protection, as well as being subjected to discriminatory environments. Additionally, the Family Police Stations, which are the entities in charge of receiving these cases, often do not have adequate infrastructure, complete equipment or knowledge and awareness of gender-based violence. Finally, it was revealed that protection measures against this violence are ineffective for LGBT people, even more

so when the intra-family violence comes directly from the family group.”

Colombia Diversa, “[Nothing to Celebrate](#)”, June 2021, last accessed: 22 June 2025

A 2021 Al Jazeera article reported that in the city of Buenaventura, many LGBTQI+ people are abandoned by their family.

- “Abandoned by their family members, many from Buenaventura’s LGBTQ community have developed their own support system. Diaz, wearing an elegant red and white floral jumpsuit, smiles and looks around the room at those sitting near her.

‘They are my family. We are family and we all support each other. And here we’re are together and we want to move forward,’ Diaz says. ‘We’re surviving ... We’re surviving but the truth is that it’s painful.’”

Al Jazeera, “[In Colombian port town, LGBTQ community faces increasing threats](#)”, 1 March 2021, last accessed: 22 June 2025

#### **e) Violence against indigenous LGBTQI+ people in Colombia**

A 2024 report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples suggested that indigenous LGBTQI+ people may face discrimination and violence.

- “VII. Indigenous women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex plus (LGBTI+) persons

[...] 49. Indigenous lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex plus (LGBTI+) persons face discrimination and rights violations, both within and outside their communities. The situation is so unfortunate that Indigenous transgender women have established a shelter in order to escape the violence and discrimination they experienced in their communities.”

UN Human Rights Council, “[A/HRC/57/47/Add.1: Visit to Colombia - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)”, 10 September 2024, page 8, last accessed: 22 June 2025

### **5. State responses to crimes against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia**

A U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) brief suggested that the legal framework is not effective at protecting LGBTQ+ people in Colombia.

- “Protection Without Enforcement

Two key reasons explain why Colombia remains dangerous for LGBTQ+ people, despite its progressive legal framework. The first is that much of the protection stems not from legislated changes, but jurisprudence passed down from the Constitutional Court. Molinares [‘a researcher at Caribe Afirmativo. A leading LGBTQ+ advocacy group in Colombia’] explains:

‘The protections that exist in Colombia for LGBTQ people are not really laws—they’re rulings by the Constitutional Court. What does that mean? It means that there aren’t fixed parameters for their implementation... The Court issues a ruling, but it doesn’t create laws. Instead, it invites or urges Congress to legislate on the matter. But they don’t do it. So, the application of those rulings is very inconsistent. Usually, one has to go to court or file legal complaints to make those rulings valid.’”

USCRI, “[When the Law is Not Enough: The Persecution of LGBTQ+ Colombians](#)”, 11 June 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

In its 2025 annual report (covering developments in 2024), Freedom House reported that 59 incidences of violence against LGBTQ+ political leaders in Colombia required the intervention of law enforcement agencies.

- “B Political Pluralism and Participation  
[...] LGBTQ+ people’s rights are legally protected and LGBTQ+ politicians and civil leaders participate in the political process. However, LGBTQ+ representation is poor in rural areas and in zones where armed groups dominate. In May 2024, the Ombudsman’s Office reported that 59 violent incidents against LGBTQ+ political leaders required the intervention of the National Police, public prosecutors, or the National Protection Unit in 2023.”

Freedom House, “[Colombia: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report](#)”, 2025, last accessed: 22 June 2025

In its annual Freedom on the Net report of 2024, Freedom House reported on the case of a video streamer who was ordered by the Constitutional Court to publicly acknowledge the harms of discriminatory speech and attend a training session on LGBTQ+ rights.

- “C. Violations of User Rights  
In February 2024, the Constitutional Court ordered video streamer Luis Villa, also known as ‘WestCOL,’ to make posts on his social media accounts acknowledging the harms of discriminatory speech on marginalized populations. It also ordered him to attend a training session on LGBTQ+ rights. The case stemmed from a 2022 incident in which Villa said he would shoot and kill a hypothetical child for identifying as transgender.”

Freedom House, “[Colombia: Freedom on the Net 2024 Country Report](#)”, 16 October 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

A 2024 report by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs cited several sources which opined that little progress has been made in punishing acts of violence against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia. The report also highlights police prejudice and violence against LGBTQI+ people, which has reportedly deterred them from seeking protection. The 2024 USDOS annual human rights report (covering events of 2023) observed that frequent mislabelling of gender identities and improper interviewing of LGBTQI+ people by police led to LGBTQI+ people feeling intimidated.

- “Risk to family members of LGBTIQ+ activists

[...]

Possibility to report and protection for LGBTIQ+ activists As stated in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.5.2, anyone in Colombia can report threats. However, sources believe that little progress has been made in punishing acts of violence against LGBTIQ+ people, and in particular when it comes to threats against LGBTIQ+ leaders. According to sources, there are prejudices within the Colombian police against the LGBTIQ+ community and police officers are also guilty of violence against the community. As a result, many members of the LGBTIQ+ community do not report threats or violence.<sup>333</sup>

333 Colombia Diversa, The reality of discrimination Human rights situation of LGBTIQ+ people in Colombia, p.124, 6 December 2023; published by the National Police, 14 February 2024; El País, The risk of being gay in Colombia, 2 August 2022; published by the National Police, 13 February 2024; Infobae, Police violence against a transgender woman in Sogamoso reported, and it would not be the first time she has been violated, 14 April 2023.” [Translated with Google Translate, therefore accuracy cannot be 100% guaranteed.]

#### ORIGINAL TEXT

“Risico familieleden van LHBTIQ+-activisten

[...]

Mogelijkheid tot aangifte en bescherming voor LHBTIQ+-activisten Zoals in paragraaf 3.2 en 3.5.2 wordt geschreven kan eenieder in Colombia aangifte doen in het geval van bedreiging. Bronnen menen echter dat er weinig voortuitgang geboekt was als het ging om de bestraffing van gewelddaden tegen LGBTIQ+ personen, en in het bijzonder als het gaat om bedreigingen van LGBTIQ+-leiders. Volgens bronnen bestaan er binnen de Colombiaanse politie vooroordelen over de LHBTIQ+-gemeenschap en maken politieambtenaren zich ook schuldig aan geweld tegen de gemeenschap. Hierdoor doen veel leden van de LHBTIQ+-gemeenschap geen aangifte bij bedreigingen of geweld.<sup>333</sup>

[...]

333 Colombia Diversa, La realidad de la discriminación Situación de derechos humanos de las personas LGBTIQ+ en Colombia, p.124, 6 december 2023; vertrouwelijke bron, 14 februari 2024; El País, El riesgo de ser gay en Colombia, 2 augustus 2022; vertrouwelijke bron, 13 februari 2024; Infobae, Denuncian violencia policial contra una mujer transgénero en Sogamoso, y no sería la primera vez que es violentada, 14 april 2023.”

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “[Algemeen ambtsbericht Colombia](#)”, 24 June 2024, page 68, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “Violence and Harassment: [...]

Investigators and police often mislabeled the gender identities of victims and improperly interviewed LGBTQI+ victims, leading to intentional and unintentional intimidation [...]

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, pages 37 - 38, last accessed: 22 June 2025

The 2024 USDOS annual human rights report (covering events of 2023), the Freedom House 2024 report (covering developments in 2023) and a 2023 UNHCR report referred to high levels of impunity for crimes committed against LGBTQI+ individuals.

- “Violence and Harassment: [...]

The country experienced high levels of impunity for crimes against LGBTQI+ persons, especially against transgender individuals. Investigators and police often mislabeled the gender identities of victims and improperly interviewed LGBTQI+ victims, leading to intentional and unintentional intimidation. LGBTQI+ NGOs noted it was common for police either in conversation or in their reports to identify transgender victims as ‘a man disguised as a woman’ or vice versa.”

USDOS, “[2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Colombia](#)”, 22 April 2024, pages 37 - 38, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “F. Rule of Law

[...] Though Colombian law prohibits discrimination against LGBT+ individuals, they often suffer societal discrimination and abuse, and there are high levels of impunity for crimes committed against them. According to a June 2023 report from a group of civil society organizations, 148 LGBT+ citizens were murdered in Colombia in 2022, in crimes they classified as being related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Freedom House, “[Colombia: Freedom in the World 2024 Country Report](#)”, 2024, last accessed: 22 June 2025

- “According to Colombia Diversa, the impunity rate for homicides of LGBTIQ+ persons committed in the period 1993-2020 was 90.57 percent, rising to 100 percent for homicides of transgender men.<sup>588</sup>”

[...]

588 As of June 2021, 300 cases of homicides of transgender women and 10 of transgender men committed between 1993 and 2020 were still under investigation. El Tiempo, 'Ser una persona trans en Colombia es una sentencia de muerte', 30 June 2021, [www.eltiempo.com/colombia/dia-del-orgullo-gay-homicidios-en-colombia-contra-personas-trans-598946](http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/dia-del-orgullo-gay-homicidios-en-colombia-contra-personas-trans-598946).

UNHCR, “[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)”, August 2023, pages 75 - 76, last accessed: 22 June 2025

The UNHCR observed concerns relating to LGBTQI+ people’s access to justice.

- “13) Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and/or Gender Expressions

[...]

The IACHR has also raised concerns about the obstacles LGBTIQ+ persons face when trying to access justice.<sup>600</sup>

[...]

600 IACHR, Annual Report 2020 - Chapter IV.A: Human Rights Development in the Region, 2021,  
www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap.4A-en.pdf, para. 272.”

UNHCR, “[International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Colombia](#)”, August 2023, pages 75 - 77, last accessed: 22 June 2025



## About Asylos

Asylos is a network of volunteers providing research assistance to lawyers who represent refugees. Founded in 2010, it was created to respond to a dysfunctional asylum system in Europe that fails to live up to its own legal and ethical standards. Asylos provides case-related information to lawyers in countries where legal aid is non-existent or does not cover the cost of researching up-to-date evidence documenting rights violations or persecution in specific cases. The research concerns conditions in the claimant's country of origin or other facts pertinent to an individual case. For more information, please visit our website [www.asylos.eu](http://www.asylos.eu).

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