

Public Statement

Following a week of peaceful protests, with incidents of violence in various cities, on behalf of the Colombia Forum of Humanitarian Organizations, we make an appeal for:

- Respecting, protecting, and upholding the rights and dignity of the general population.
- Guaranteeing and protecting humanitarian and medical missions and all humanitarian action amidst the current situation.
- Guaranteeing humanitarian access and transit of humanitarian organizations and staff in order to provide assistance to people in need. Limiting access to goods, services and humanitarian assistance destined for this population endangers the lives and the physical integrity of the most vulnerable, especially persons with needs and affected by the COVID-19 crisis, armed conflict and migration.

Guaranteeing these rights and access to the population with needs will prevent an increase of humanitarian needs in Colombia, thus saving lives.

In Colombia, at least 9 million people are in need due to armed conflict and violence, the migration crisis, natural disasters, and the pandemic's effects. The country must find a peaceful solution through dialogue to avoid a worsening humanitarian crisis for those already in need.

We reject violence of every form. We believe in peaceful mechanisms of conflict resolution.

Bogota, 5 May 2021

Respectfully,
Colombia Forum of Humanitarian Organizations