

## Colombia | Protection International

Protection International (PI) has proven experience in accompanying communities and organisations working in hostile contexts, characterised by social, territorial and armed conflicts, and has developed methodologies and tools for empowerment and the development of collective capacities to autonomously manage their security and protection, while recognising the role of the state as a guarantor of rights.

PI has been present in Colombia since 2009, and works with grassroots organisations and communities that carry out processes to defend their rights. During this time PI has accompanied communities and collective processes in defence of human rights in various regions and departments of the country: Cauca, Caquetá, Santander, Putumayo and Vichada. It supports communities, rural organisations and women with the aim of contributing to increasing their agency and collective capacities to exercise their right to defend human rights and to autonomously manage the risks that this generates. It seeks to contribute to the protection of their lives and integrity, as well as their space for action.

Protection International also acts to influence duty bearers: it urges authorities to fulfil their obligations to protect the right to defend human rights, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and develops new knowledge on protection, with an emphasis on rural defenders.

The team in Colombia also works beyond its borders, accompanying community processes and human rights organisations in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Uruguay, among others. This accompaniment is done in close collaboration with the global team based in Europe, and with local organisations, which provides a broad vision of the situation of human rights defenders in the world and the exchange of experiences and good practices from a global perspective. It also makes possible the complementarity of pedagogical practices and diverse learning methodologies, with an intercultural and gender focus.

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