



## DECALOGUE ABOUT THE TRUTH COMMISSION, IN ITS INTERNATIONAL MACRO- VICTIMS ABROAD AND IN EXILE

The Commission for Truth Clarification, Peaceful Coexistence and Non Repetition (The Truth Commission) in its work with victims abroad and in exile, presents the following key points, in response to some of the most common questions from the Colombian population abroad:

1. Participation with the Truth Commission does not mean renouncing refugee status. Participation in the activities or giving testimonies does not mean acknowledging the existence of safety guarantees in Colombia that would question the need for international protection.
2. The Truth Commission keeps the confidentiality of the sources and identities will not be known, excepting with the expressed consent of the person.
3. The Truth Commission is an independent and autonomous organism, it does not depend on the Colombian government, although it has a public character.
4. The Commission will function in different countries through nodes or networks where organizations working with exile and/or victims are participating, either as part of organizations or non-associated individuals.
5. The victims can participate in different ways: a) providing information and giving testimony about their cases, b) engaging in activities carried out by the nodes or support networks in the countries, c) attending public or private events organized by the Commission, such as Meetings on the Truth, Forums, Actions of pedagogy and sensibilization.
6. The Commission is not just for one type of victims, but rather for all the victims of the FARC, other guerrillas, of the paramilitary groups, or victims of the agents or state institutions.
7. The Commission will also gather testimonies from the people responsible and/or witnesses that have relevant information about human rights or International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations, continuing confidentiality.
8. If the victims have given their statements to the unit for the victims or any other institutions, they can provide that information as part of their cases' testimony to be expanded by the Truth Commission.
9. The testimonies will be taken by people who have the mandate of confidentiality, trust from the victims, and under the supervision from the Commission.
10. The information gathered will be subject to procedures of information technology security and will be available only to the Commission. No other public or private institution will have access to it. When the work of the Commission is finished, the information and files will be guarded under protocols of confidentiality and access to them will be only possible with the consent of the victims, witnesses or deponents.



In regard to

1. **PARTICIPATION.** We aspire to have a full, all-inclusive, broad and diverse participation. There are many concerns about the forms of participation in the groups and people in exile. There are, and there will be different “participation.” There is a lot of work in front of us, and the purpose is to make concrete the individual and collective commitments and coordinate ourselves with the best possible attitude, understanding that the time is short, and we have to be very flexible, knowing that it will be impossible to listen to everyone.
2. **OPERATION** in other countries. The countries have carried out a lot of the work of coordination, networking, establishing interinstitutional dialogues and between victims and organizations. The Truth Commission tries to make the most of these previous experiences in order to care and support its work. The goal is to overcome possible mistrust among organizations and/or individuals in exile. We are trying to increase the efforts to reach the maximum number of victims, including those who are not organized.
3. In order to reach the **INDIVIDUAL VICTIMS**, who are unassociated, it is key to contact the organizations processing asylum requests (their databases and/or talk to professionals like lawyers, psychologists and those who support them) and ask to people who have been working for a long time in the places of exile, and also to the most conciliatory of them, because they normally connect better with these individual victims. Our big strengths are circles of trust.
4. **REPRESENTATION** and **INCLUSION.** Avoiding appropriations by organizations and/or the voices of individual victims abroad, and of the collective and individual experiences. People in exile must have clear the functions and mission of the Truth Commission Team, and the supporting civil society organizations. It is knowing who to contact, that is, clarity in the tasks that correspond to individuals, associations, the Truth Commission, or the external professionals contributing in supporting, either with psychosocial actions, artistic, transformative, gender, ethnic, and generational. The goal is fostering participation, diversity and peaceful coexistence, listening to all the parts involved, and trying to achieve agreements on the tasks that will facilitate cooperative and coordinated work.
5. Possible **METHODOLOGIES:** Taking testimonies, having formation and organization workshops to generate collective and individual information, having informal meetings to listen to and seek the Truth, fostering public awareness and international impact.
6. The countries **ORGANIZE** themselves to support the Mission of the Truth Commission, the goal is concretely focusing on the objectives (who gathers what type of information, how and when), and coordinating the territorial deployment in an optimum manner to foster the protection and welfare of the victims.



7. TERRITORIAL DIVISION FOR THE STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT: We have a working map to be developed in several countries where it should have a working node by country, or a node that includes several countries.

- North American Region
- Central American Region
- Andean Region
- South American Region
- European Region

8. TRUTH COMMISSION IN COLOMBIA

- defines directives for working abroad.
- harmonizes, articulates and monitors of the strategies carried out by each country or region.
- defines protocols, working plans and guidelines.
- consolidates communication channels and procedures for the approval of decisions during the development of the implementation.
- articulates and coordinates with the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and No-Repetition and the Unit for the Victims.

9. The work with the totality of the cases, in the totality of countries will permit the identification of the patterns of victimization, the explanations of the violence suffered, the collective responsibilities, and measures of non-repetition.

10. For further information about the Truth Commission please visit “21 KEY POINTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE TRUTH COMMISSION:”

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