

The Colombian Truth Commission at 'A Museum for Me' 11-15 May 2020

Listening Space

- **Testimonios:** Listen as exiles employ a range of creative forms to break silences, honour loved ones, and present **personal testimony on truth, recognition and exile**
- **Colombian Truth Commission UK representative Peter Drury** talks to Dr Lucia Brandi about the work of the Commission in the UK and how exiles and supporters can connect to the process

Discussion Space

- **Nombrar lo Innombrable.** Colombian Truth Commissioner **Lucía González** talks with **Ignacio Piedrahíta**, author of *La Verdad de los Ríos* and an online audience about the power of creative arts to clarify and communicate truth to the Commission
- **Festival Special: Roundtable Discussion**
Memory, victims and representation of the Colombian conflict: cultural and community interventions for Truth and Recognition
Prof. Claire Taylor of the University of Liverpool hosts a unique and inspiring roundtable discussion between Colombian exiles, artists, activists, and the UK representative of the Colombian Truth Commission UK, Peter Drury.

Learning Space

- Detailed information in English and Spanish on the Truth Commission in the UK and how to make contact if you wish to consider giving testimony

Exhibition Space & Performance Space

- A richly diverse artistic programme with artists from Colombia and the UK communicates the role and power of culture to facilitate the production and reception of testimony, deepen public understanding, and maintain a momentum for change

Museum for Me Workshop

- **Mujer Diaspora**, who are playing a key role in bringing testimony from the UK to the Commission, create and narrate their own mini-museums, embedded with memories

Read more here about the Colombian Truth Commission

The Colombian Truth Commission was set up as part of the peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC in 2016. It seeks to uncover the truth surrounding human rights violations and abuses that were carried out during decades of conflict, and bring to light not only the responsibilities of the security forces, paramilitaries and the FARC, but also the collective responsibilities of society, including political and economic sectors, and international interests, for the crisis of human rights in Colombia

The Commission's mandate runs until 2021 when it will launch a final report. Its three main objectives are:

- to promote knowledge, clarification and acknowledgement of human rights abuses and violations that took place during the conflict
- to promote coexistence (*convivencia*)
- to promote non-repetition

The Commission is a non-judicial body, working alongside two other bodies set up for the peace process: the **Special Jurisdiction for Peace** (*Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz*) is a judicial body with the authority to impose alternative sentences on combatants who admit to serious crimes, or criminal sentences against those considered for serious human rights abuses and deemed not to have told the truth; and the **Unit for the Search for Disappeared People** (*Unidad de Búsqueda de Personas Desaparecidas*), a non-judicial body charged with the search for thousands of people disappeared during the conflict.

Testimonies of victims, witnesses and perpetrators - **including from the Colombian diaspora in the UK and around the world** - are gathered by the commission, to reveal and report on patterns of violence that have characterised the conflict. To date more than 7,000 testimonies have been gathered in Colombia and worldwide. For many, this is the chance to tell their story and break the silence. The commission also explores the many different ways in which the conflict has impacted lives; for example, on **second-generation Colombians** brought up in another country, who have never been told the whole story of why their parents fled. Furthermore, the Colombian Truth Commission aims to be the first truth commission to address in-depth the impact of discrimination and gender and identity-based prejudice and violence on women and LGBTQI+ people, in the context of an armed conflict, and as burdens that are carried into exile.

Through participation in public-facing events (such as **A Museum for Me** at the University of Liverpool), the commission aims to increase awareness of its work among Colombian refugees, and create opportunities to present testimony. Indeed, **A Museum for Me** exists in order to create cultural spaces, resources and activities for the sharing of personal stories, and to facilitate communication between a range of social actors working on memory, representations of victims, exile, testimony, truth, and recognition.

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