

## GET STARTED TODAY!

- **Visit the LWR website at [www.lwr.org/advocacy/colombia](http://www.lwr.org/advocacy/colombia).** From here, link to the latest action alerts, reports from the field, and plenty of educational resources.

- **Join LWR's Colombia advocacy network.** Get the latest action alerts and updates delivered right to your inbox! Messages often include communications from our partners who need your help in speaking out for peace. Opportunities to voice concerns to Congress can come up quickly; don't miss this important way to stay connected.

- **Start a discussion group in your church or community.** Watch a video from LWR partner CODHES, visit the website to download our Colombia Education Packet or other resources for group discussion, and get talking! (Hard copies available by mail).

- **Think about your community connections.** Who do you know in a position of leadership in your community? A local lawmaker? Business leader? Newspaper reporter? If you want to make advocacy for Colombia a part of your community, they can help you get the word out.



## **GIVE PEACE A PLACE is a Lutheran World Relief campaign for Colombia.**

- **A Place to Live**
- **A Place at the Negotiating Table**
- **A Place in U.S. Policy**



### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

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*give peace  
a place*

**A Lutheran World Relief  
Campaign for Colombia.**





*“Displaced people leave everything behind to preserve their lives. They live in the saddest places in the world.”*

-Colombian church leader and peacemaker

Close to 3 million people have been forced to leave their homes as a result of Colombia's ongoing civil conflict. Many are children. Many are single mothers.

Nearly 50 percent of Colombia's displaced are unemployed, and those who find work usually obtain only poorly paid day labor. Faced with few options, some displaced—including children as young as ten—are recruited by armed groups or join voluntarily to escape poverty.

Meanwhile, church leaders who speak out against war and injustice face threats from armed groups. Communities already deeply affected by violence must face the added stress of losing a respected leader or a place of worship. Within the last year, close to 40 church leaders were murdered. Armed groups forced 43 churches to close their doors.

*“We work for peace in ways that help people now.”*

-LWR partner

### **In the midst of violence, there is hope.**

Churches and civil society organizations are leading the way in efforts to assist the internally displaced and bring peace to Colombia.

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### **Our partners in Colombia**

- In Bogota, LWR partner the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of Colombia (LIMPAL) works with displaced women to develop income-generating activities, make them aware of their rights, and help them to join with other displaced women in promoting their families' rights and interests before local and national government agencies.
- In northern Colombia, LWR partners with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO) to provide housing, financial assistance, and training to displaced people.
- With help from LWR, the Christian Center for Justice, Peace, and Active Non-Violence (JUSTAPAZ) is empowering people, churches and communities to practice active non-violence, to transform conflicts, and to promote structures and lifestyles that promote just and sustainable peace.

### **U.S. Advocacy Efforts**

In the United States, LWR works to tell the stories of its partners in Colombia—stories of hope and faith amidst violence and destruction. Stories that aren't being heard over the battle cry of the war on drugs.

To date, the United States has sent almost \$3 billion in mostly military aid to Colombia in an effort to curb the drug trade and end the conflict.

**The result?** More violence, more internal displacement—and narco-trafficking continues. It is time for a new U.S. policy that will promote peace rather than fan the flames of violence.

Through our campaign to **Give Peace a Place**, Lutheran World Relief is working to make the dream of peace in Colombia a reality.

Working with partners in Colombia, bringing Colombian speakers to the United States, communicating action alerts and updates to communities around the country, and supporting community-based advocacy efforts, we are making a place for peace in Colombia—and in U.S. policy.

*“Most people do not hear our message. Now you have our stories and can share the truth with others.”*

-LWR Colombia delegate, April 2002

### **Peace Can't Happen Without You.**

Together, we will change minds—and votes—in Congress. We will send a message to partners in Colombia that we stand in Christian solidarity with them as they work for peace. And, we will learn what it means to answer the biblical call of justice for all. Join us today. Find a place for Colombia in your heart.