

WOMEN'S VOICES
MARCH 8, 2023
WOMEN DEFEND LIFE



"How little is a single day, sisters!
how little for the world to pile up flowers in front of our houses!"
Gioconda Belli

March 8, International Women's Day, has historically been a day to commemorate the victories in our rights and speak out about the inequalities and violence that continue to affect our lives. Therefore, we ratify the call recognizing the situation as Humanitarian Emergency and the need to commit ourselves to the prevention of violence and the protection of women as a commitment to peace with the real and active participation of women.

Since January 1, 2023, to date, we have recorded ten fatal incidents of violence against women in the municipalities of Santander and Magdalena Medio: **Piedecuesta, Bucaramanga, Barrancabermeja, Yondó and San Pablo**. Among these is the death of a 13-year-old girl. The most recent of these events occurred on the night of March 7 in the municipality of San Pablo, where Sandra Lozano was murdered. This, in addition to being a severe act of gender violence, constitutes an affront to the dignity of our historical memory on the eve of such an important date for women, March 8, International Women's Day.

Faced with this wave of patriarchal violence, the Organización Femenina Popular (OFP) expresses a strong rejection and ratifies the call to society as a whole and especially to local, regional and national authorities to protect the lives of women, whose human rights situation in the territory of Magdalena Medio today - we reiterate – is in a humanitarian emergency.

We women want and need each other alive to build peace. Therefore, we reject the discourses that seek to justify violence against women and reaffirm our civilian-based position in defence of life: **No one has the right to attack the life and dignity of another person; no life should be taken under any circumstances and for any reason**. Furthermore, we call on the corresponding authorities to take effective action to protect the lives of women and communities in the region and to remove the cloak of impunity that keeps thousands of women in fear and uncertainty.

To ratify this call, on March 23, we will meet at the **Regional Meeting of Women for Life, Human Rights, Peace and Territory**, and on March 24, we will hold the **Ombudsman's Hearing for women's lives**.

ORGANIZACIÓN FEMENINA POPULAR
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