

Colombia's Displacement Crisis: Facts and Acts

Choose a fact and/or act to write or cut/paste to paper doll.

To reflect the diversity of the Colombian displaced population, please use a variety of tan, dark brown, and black paper. Remember that Afro-Colombians, indigenous people, women, campesinos, and children are especially impacted. (You can also spray paint the paper dolls.)

FACTS

With 4 million internally displaced persons, Colombia has the worst internal displacement crisis in the world.

Indigenous people represent only 2-3% of the total population, but make up as much as 8% of the displaced population.

75% of the internally displaced are women and children.

The displaced suffer an unemployment rate that is three times higher than for the urban poor in general.

Under free trade, Colombian farmers can't compete. For every \$1 Colombia spends on agricultural subsidies, the US spends \$222.

The free trade agreement threatens to displace the 21% of employed Colombians who work in agriculture.

Despite billions in Plan Colombia aid, nearly twice as much coca was planted in 2007 as in 2000.

1500 Colombians are violently driven from their homes each day.

Since 2000, the US has spent over \$6 billion on mostly military aid to Colombia. 2.5 million Colombians have been displaced during that time.

A half million refugees have spilled over Colombia's borders into neighboring countries.

Afro-Colombians represent over 25% of the overall population, and 40% of the displaced population.

Only one in eight internally displaced pupils have returned to school after having been displaced.

98% of Colombia's indigenous people, wheat farmers, highland farmers, and rice farmers say they oppose the Colombia free trade agreement.

In the first half of 2008, 13,134 people were displaced due to fumigations and manual eradication of coca.

2.9 million hectares of land have been stolen from forcibly displaced Colombians during the past twenty years.

ACTS (what our government should do)

End all U.S. military aid to Colombia

Use U.S. influence to promote a negotiated end to the conflict

Prioritize social and humanitarian funding for internally displaced persons and refugees

Forge economic relationships that protect and create opportunities for small farmers, the rural poor, and endangered workers

Do not pass a free trade agreement capable of pushing Colombia's poor into further poverty

End fumigation and forced eradication programs that have pushed thousands of farmers from their lands without reducing coca production

Support victims' efforts to find truth and obtain justice and reparations