

## **Statement from the Phoenix Feathers Foundation on the Opening of the Truth and Responsibility Recognition Stage in Case No. 11 of Gender-Based Violence in the Colombian Armed Conflict**

The Phoenix Feathers Foundation is pleased to express its support and recognition of the historic decision taken by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP), which marks a significant step towards recognizing the truth, responsibility, and determination of facts and behaviors within the framework of Case No. 11. This case addresses "gender-based violence, sexual violence, reproductive violence, and other crimes committed due to prejudice based on sexual orientation, expression, and/or diverse gender identity in the context of the Colombian armed conflict."

The opening of this stage represents a fundamental advancement in the pursuit of justice and truth for the victims who have suffered various forms of gender-based violence during the armed conflict in Colombia. Historically, these victims have faced significant barriers in accessing justice, and this decision is a crucial step towards recognizing their rights and experiences.

We want to highlight the tireless efforts of civil society organizations that have worked closely with the victims, advocating for the visibility of their stories and demanding justice. This decision by the SJP is a testament to the power of social mobilization and the commitment of these organizations.

However, the SJP's decision also presents significant challenges for both the justice mechanisms and the victims. It is essential to emphasize three of these challenges:

**Underreporting of Cases:** The decision acknowledges significant underreporting of cases, especially among victims belonging to ethnic groups. This underscores the importance of addressing this underreporting and ensuring that all victims have the opportunity to recount their experiences and seek justice.

**Identification of Perpetrators:** The complexity of the armed conflict in the territories has thus far made it difficult to identify alleged perpetrators of these acts. This underscores the need for comprehensive investigations and the cooperation of all parties involved to ensure accountability.

**Post-Incident Analysis:** The decision provides limited analysis of the situation of victims of these violences after the events, including the conditions of victims of reproductive violence and the upbringing of children born as a result of these violences. It is essential to consider comprehensive support for victims at all stages of the process.

The Phoenix Feathers Foundation expresses its willingness to collaborate closely with civil society organizations, victims, and the SJP on this important path towards truth and justice. The Foundation commit to jointly addressing these challenges, providing support to the victims, conducting detailed cases analysis to fill existing information gaps, and ensuring the effective participation of victims in the judicial process.

The opening of this stage is a fundamental step towards reconciliation and the construction of a fairer and more equitable future for all individuals affected by gender-based violence in the Colombian armed conflict. The Phoenix Feathers Foundation reaffirms its commitment to this cause and its support for all victims in their quest for truth and justice.

**PHOENIX FEATHERS FOUNDATION**

Address: 19th Street No. 3a - 37 Office 902 Tower B, Bogotá, Colombia

Email: [fundacionplumasdefenix@gmail.com](mailto:fundacionplumasdefenix@gmail.com)

Phone: +573208496367

