



**Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean  
Network for Democracy (Redlad): high levels of persistent violence  
against people of sexual diversity**

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**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad) warns about the existence of high levels of violence against sexually diverse population in the region.

The violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity has alarming figures in the Latin America and the Caribbean, but more serious, is that because many of these issues go unnoticed, the figures are hidden or presents an impunity highest level, either by taboo, misunderstanding, antipluralismo, discrimination or indifference. Very disturbing is the statement by the victims, who have expressed to sexual diversity organizations the fear to report and denounce, by direct reprisals, since in many cases it is the police themselves who attacks them and violates their human rights.

The countries of the region, despite calling itself democratic, human rights defenders and social equity, in the vast majority of them, the rights of LGBTI people are not being claimed or protected and in many cases not even recognized.

In figures, countries like Colombia, only in the years 2006 and 2007, 67 people were killed on the grounds of gender identity (transgender people, Transgender, Transsexual and Intersex) and sexual orientation. In Nicaragua, in 2012 only 15 homicides were recorded for these causes, although only receives an average of five complaints per year.

Only between 2008 and 2011 recorded a total of 643 murders of transgender people in Latin America and the Caribbean, being the region with more killings of this kind in the world. All this without counting the murders that go unnoticed,



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unreported or whose information is hidden and thus crimes remain unpunished and unknown to the public.

In countries such as Chile, Ecuador and Colombia, the decriminalization of homosexual acts gave until the decades of the 80s and 90s. In cases of Nicaragua and Panama, decriminalization took until 2008. This, despite the fact that since 1990, the World Health Organization acknowledged that sexual orientation should not be seen as a disorder or disease.

While progress has been made in enabling unions between people of the same sex in countries like Argentina. Redlad is concerned about instances of Costa Rica (Justo Orozco) and Brazil (Marco Feliciano), where elected parliaments have in charge of the Human Rights Commission to parliamentarians, religious leaders in Protestant churches, whose declarations against people of sexual diversity have been evidenced and repeated.

Furthermore, in the case of Colombia, concerne the serious reviews of the Attorney General Alejandro Ordonez, who asked the country's Constitutional Court to declare unconstitutional the 1482 Act of 2011, known as anti-discrimination, a law that seeks to protect the rights of people, communities or peoples who are victims of acts of racism or discrimination and makes this conduct be catalogue as a crime.

In response, the Permanent Secretariat of RedLad, platform to promotion the democracy and human rights, comprising more than 480 organizations, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Calls on governments of the continent, to respect the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments that promote non-discrimination and equality, and promote policies to the inclusion of population of sexual diversity, a growing recognition of their rights and real protection to ensure the exercise of their freedoms and rights.
- Urges Civil Society Organizations in the region, to promote awareness initiatives and warning of the serious human rights violations that LGBTI people live and the need to advance the protection of human rights.
- Express its solidarity with people transgressed, whose rights are being trampled and violated because of their sexual orientation.
- Reiterates that access to decision-making in democratic countries, necessarily requires authorities to promote and expand the respect of human rights in order to achieve prevail societies where equal rights and



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opportunities. Actions contrary to equality only lead to exacerbate differences and lessen the country's democratic progress.

- Finally, it urges governments to support legal initiatives of organizations seeking sexual diversity rights are respected, is important to support the laws of Gender Identity and Equal Marriage without exception and without pathologizing.

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