

July 19-25, 2016

Gender Sub-commission Presents Results in Havana

On Sunday, July 24, the joint GOC and FARC delegations released the results of the work of the Gender Sub-commission in Havana, which created in September 2014, two years after the start of the peace talks. It is the first commission of its kind to address gender and LGBT community concerns during peace negotiations.¹ To this end, it has received testimonies and recommendations from victims (60% of those who visited Havana were women), 18 women's and LGBT organizations, 10 experts on sexual violence, female ex-combatants from five other countries, and the permanent technical support of three experts from Colombia, Cuba, and Norway.²

Among the Gender Sub-commission's contributions are the following: on the first point of rural reform, women will have differential access to educational opportunities, to the Land Trust (an early provision in the accords that guarantees access to land for certain underprivileged and conflict affected actors³), and to mechanisms for closing the gender gap with regards to land ownership and retention. On the second point of political participation, risk assessments for violence against social leaders will include assessments of both gender- and sexual orientation-based discrimination and domestic violence. The fourth point of the accords addresses both illicit drug production and consumption, and promises gender-based evaluations of participation in and effects of both. Most notably on the fifth point of victims, sexual violence will be excluded from all amnesty considerations, and the Truth Commission emerging from the peace talks will have a dedicated gender work group.