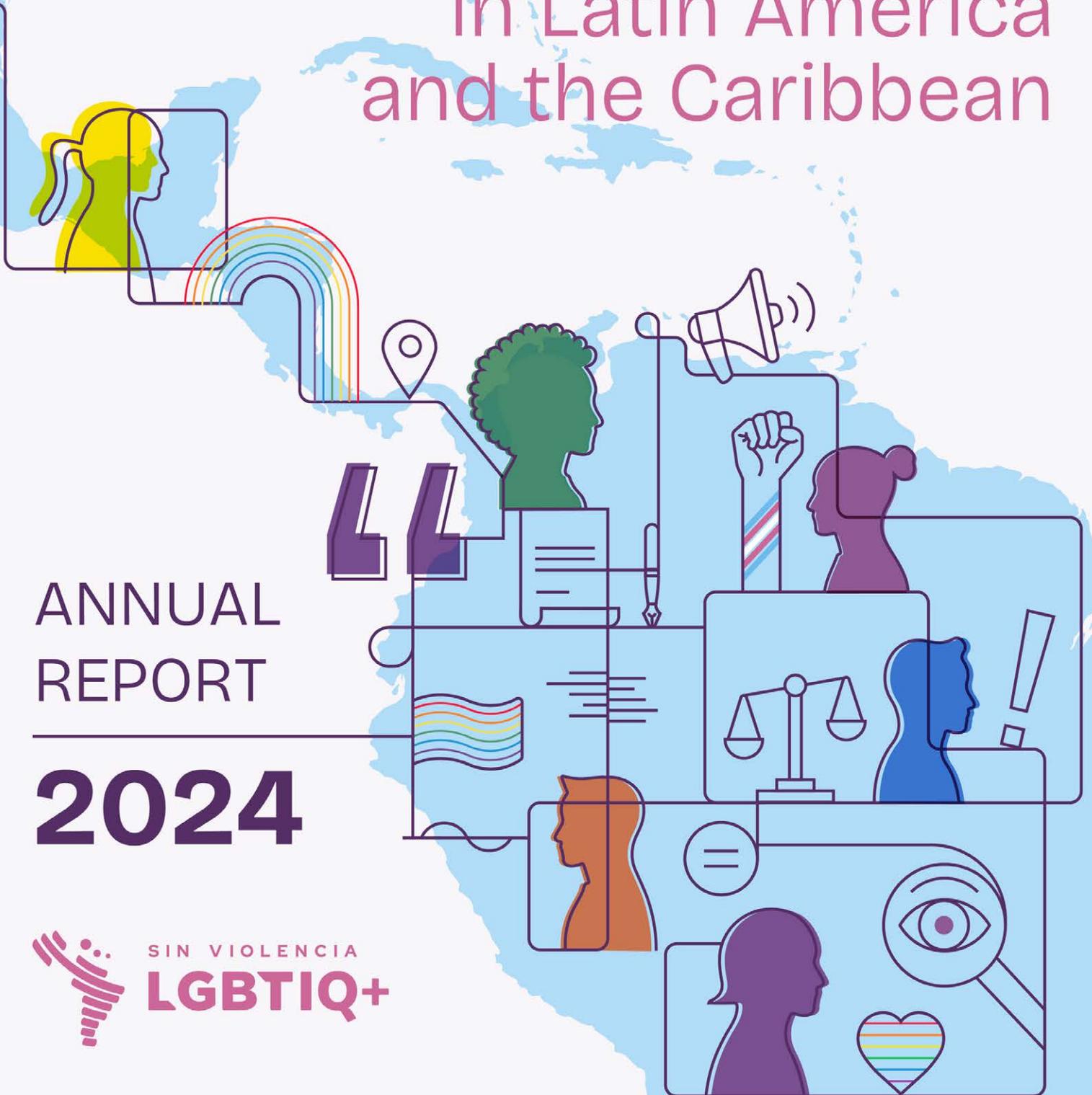


Homicides of LGBTQI+ People in Latin America and the Caribbean

ANNUAL
REPORT

2024



Annual report

Homicides of LGBTIQ+ people in Latin America and the Caribbean
2024

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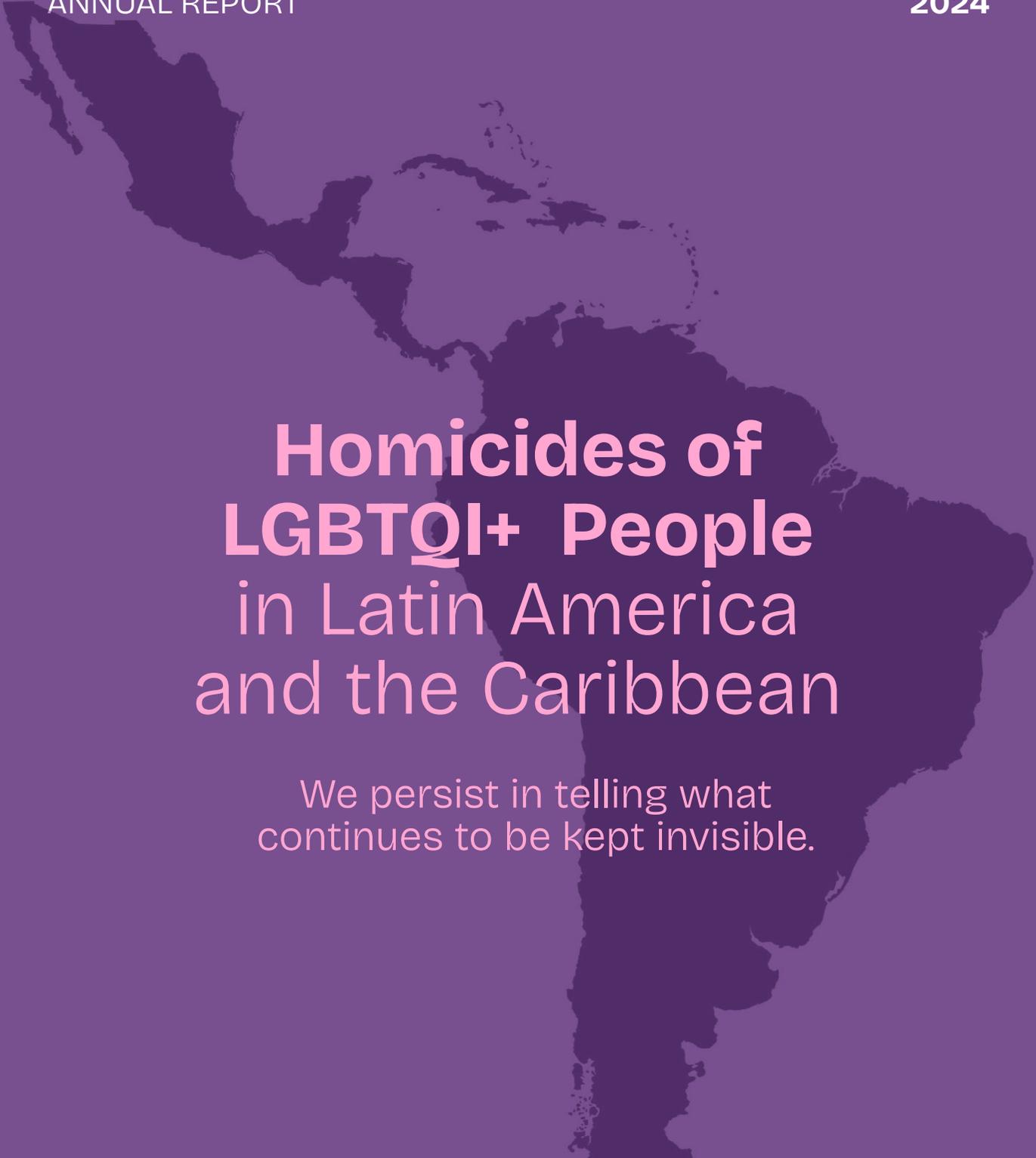
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Homicides of LGBTQI+ People in Latin America and the Caribbean

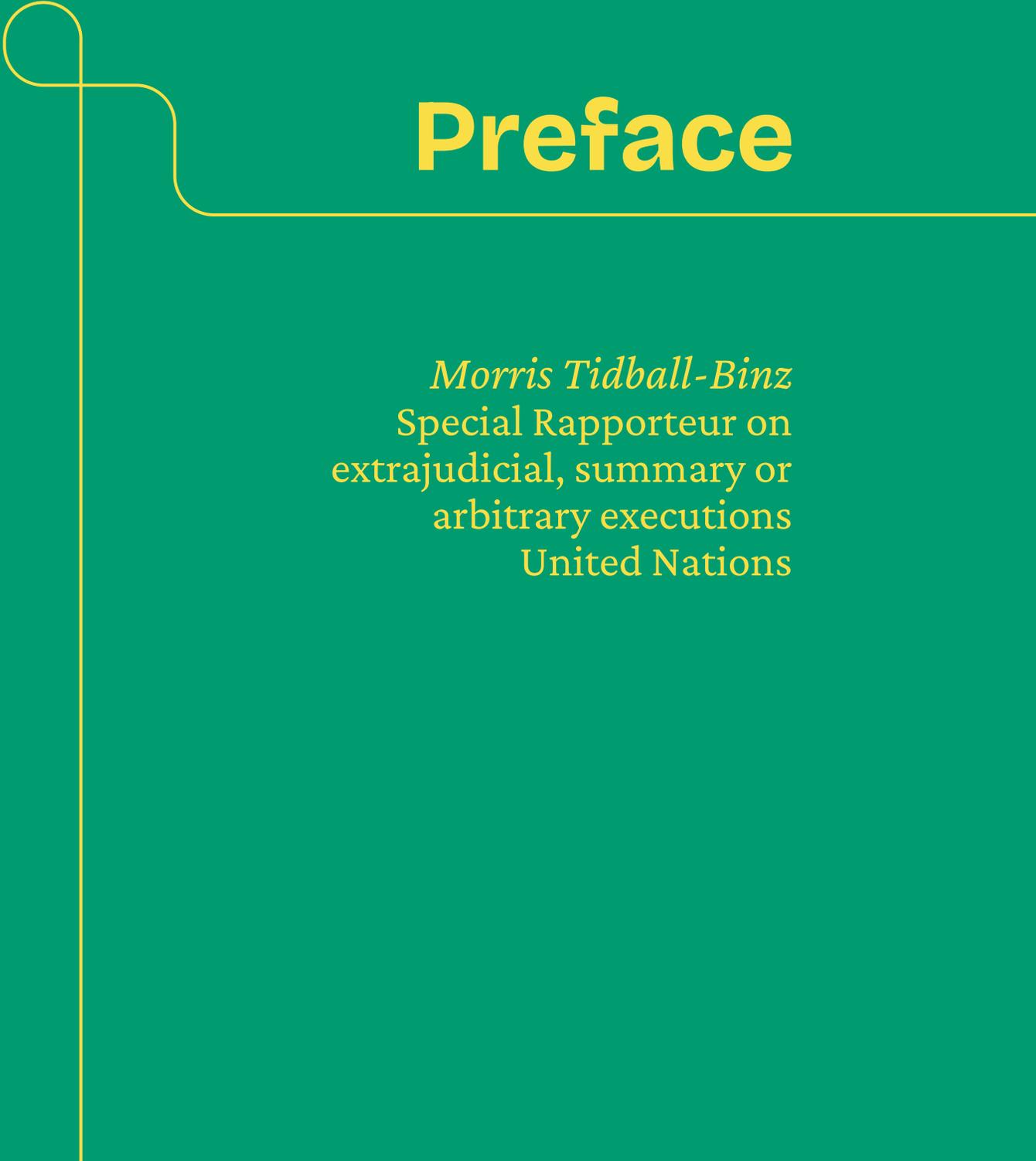
We persist in telling what
continues to be kept invisible.

¹ Although this report retains the same title each year —now including the acronym LGBTQI+— this does not mean that data are collected on all identities included in the acronym in each period. The title is maintained to ensure the continuity of the Network's series of publications, even though information on certain groups may vary depending on the availability of records each year. Furthermore, we maintain the full name as a statement of our commitment to the visibility and inclusion of all the identities that face different forms of violence in the region.

Contenido

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| | Preface | 6 |
| 1 | Introduction | 10 |
| 2 | Methodology | 12 |
| 3 | Homicides of LGBTQI+ people in Latin America and the Caribbean | 14 |
| | 3.1 Regional sociopolitical context | 15 |
| | 3.1.1. Global political changes and their impact on LGBTQI+ rights: the state of affairs in the United States and the return of Trumpism | 15 |
| | 3.1.2 Criminalization of social organizations and restrictions on international cooperation | 17 |
| | 3.2 Records by year and by country | 20 |
| | 3.3 Rates by country | 26 |
| | 3.4 Characteristics of the victims at a regional level | 28 |
| | 3.4.1 Sexual orientation and gender identity | 28 |
| | 3.4.2 Age range | 32 |
| | 3.4.3 Other characteristics | 32 |
| | 3.4.4 Occupation | 32 |
| | 3.4.5 Ethnic background | 32 |
| | 3.4.6 Schooling | 34 |
| | 3.4.7 Differential approach | 34 |
| | 3.4.7.1 Sex workers | 34 |
| | 3.4.7.2 Victims in the context of organized crime or armed groups | 35 |
| | 3.4.7.3. Migrants | 36 |
| | 3.4.7.4 Human rights defenders | 37 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 4 | Characteristics of the events | 39 |
| | 4.1 Crime scenes or body disposal sites | 40 |
| | 4.2 Method or weapon used | 42 |
| | 4.3 Related forms of violence | 44 |
| | 4.3.1 Background: threats, disappearances and sexual violence | 44 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5 | 5. Characteristics of perpetrators | 45 |
| | 5.1. Sex of the perpetrators | 46 |
| | 5.2. Relationship with the victim | 46 |
| | 5.3. Procedural situation of perpetrators | 46 |
| | 5.4 Extrajudicial executions by state agents | 47 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6 | Response of the justice system | 50 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7 | Dynamics of violence by subregion | 54 |
| | 7.1 North American Subregion | 55 |
| | 7.1.1 Mexico | 56 |
| | 7.2 Central American Subregion | 59 |
| | 7.2.1 Guatemala | 63 |
| | 7.2.2 Honduras | 65 |
| | 7.2.3 El Salvador | 66 |
| | 7.2.4 Nicaragua | 67 |
| | 7.3 Spanish-speaking Caribbean subregion | 68 |
| | 7.3.1. Dominican Republic | 70 |
| | 7.4 Andean Subregion: | 72 |
| | 7.4.1 Colombia | 77 |
| | 7.4.2 Bolivia | 79 |
| | 7.4.3 Peru | 81 |
| | 7.4.4. Ecuador | 82 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8 | Conclusions | 86 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 9 | General and country recommendations | 90 |



Preface

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on
extrajudicial, summary or
arbitrary executions
United Nations



The inability of Governments to effectively ensure respect for and protection of the right to life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and gender diverse (LGBTQI+) people costs them their lives. Structural violence against these demographics is neither an isolated nor a random phenomenon: it is the result of cultural and social systems deeply rooted in patriarchy, which imposes heteronormativity as the only legitimate form of existence, while censoring and punishing other sexual orientations and gender identities.

During the year 2024, at least 361 LGBTQI+ people were murdered in ten countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. This alarming figure reveals a systematic pattern of violence which is nevertheless rendered invisible by the States themselves. In most countries, disaggregated and comprehensive data on the harsh reality of the deaths and unlawful disappearances of

LGBTQI+ people are not collected. In order to understand the magnitude of this violence and design public policies that effectively respect and protect the right to life of LGBTQI+ people, official records should, at the very least, incorporate information on the sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics —both real and perceived— of victims and perpe-



trators, as well as data on their vulnerability, the relationship between victims and their perpetrator(s), and the potential presence of motives rooted in prejudice or hatred.

In light of this state omission, the work of civil society becomes paramount, and this report is an excellent example of this. It is the result of rigorous and committed research and monitoring work by the ten organizations that make up the Regional Network for LGBTI Violence Information in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+). Thanks to their commendable efforts of monitoring, documenting, recording, tracking, and analyzing crimes against LGBTIQ+ people, the ongoing tragedy of the deaths of LGBTIQ+ people is made visible. Given this indisputable evidence, authorities must urgently step up their efforts to design and implement effective public policies for prevention, punishment, and reparation. This is not a matter of choice, but a binding obligation under international law.

Data on its own is not enough. Without rigorous analysis, hypotheses about violence against LGBTIQ+ people will remain

mere speculation. Interdisciplinary research based on empirical evidence, as well as situated knowledge, are essential for developing effective criminal justice strategies. This report embodies that approach: it offers a qualitative understanding of who the victims were, how they identified, what they did for a living, and their ethnic, political, migration, or occupation. It also examines

Los países y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil pueden usar los resultados de este informe para implementar políticas públicas basadas en los patrones descriptivos y elementos contextuales identificados.

the conditions under which they were murdered: the physical locations, the methods used, and the institutional response to each case.

The analysis confirms that gay men and trans women continue to be the groups with the most documented crimes and that homicides against young people are prevalent. Moreover, 22 victims were identified as sex workers —most of them being trans women— and 21 were human rights defenders. Firearms were the most common weapon used. Finally, the report also reveals that the majority of attackers were men and that, in the vast majority of cases, the judicial response has been weak or nonexistent.

In my role as Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, I



would like to emphasize the importance of including a specific focus on the extrajudicial executions committed against LGBTQI+ people by agents of the State. The report not only presents quantitative figures, but also offers an in-depth and contextualized analysis of the homicides, which is essential in order to understand the structural roots of this violence.

Therefore, I must reiterate that this document should be used as a tool for State governments. Reading it provides an empirical understanding of who the victims are and the identification of specific patterns of lethal violence against LGBTQI+ people, contributing to strengthening the investigation processes, criminal prosecution, and, above all, prevention of these crimes. This greater understanding must be accompanied by transformations in institutional attitudes, structures, and procedures, particularly in criminal investigation agencies, but also in society at large.

Along these lines, it is worth highlighting an important development: in 2022, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Specialized Network on Gender of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, and the Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+ began the process of developing a regional protocol for the criminal and forensic investigation of

gender-based crimes against LGBTQ+ persons. This instrument has the potential to serve as a reference point for other regions of the world. I am proud to have been part of this process since its inception and hope that this instrument will serve as a model for other regions of the world. To this end, I also offer the support of my mandate.

Finally, I want to issue a call to action: officials must familiarize themselves with local patterns of discriminatory violence to adequately protect communities. Governments, in partnership with communities, must take immediate and sustained action, including the decriminalization of sex work, to address the structural barriers LGBTQI+ people face that can cause or contribute to their deaths.

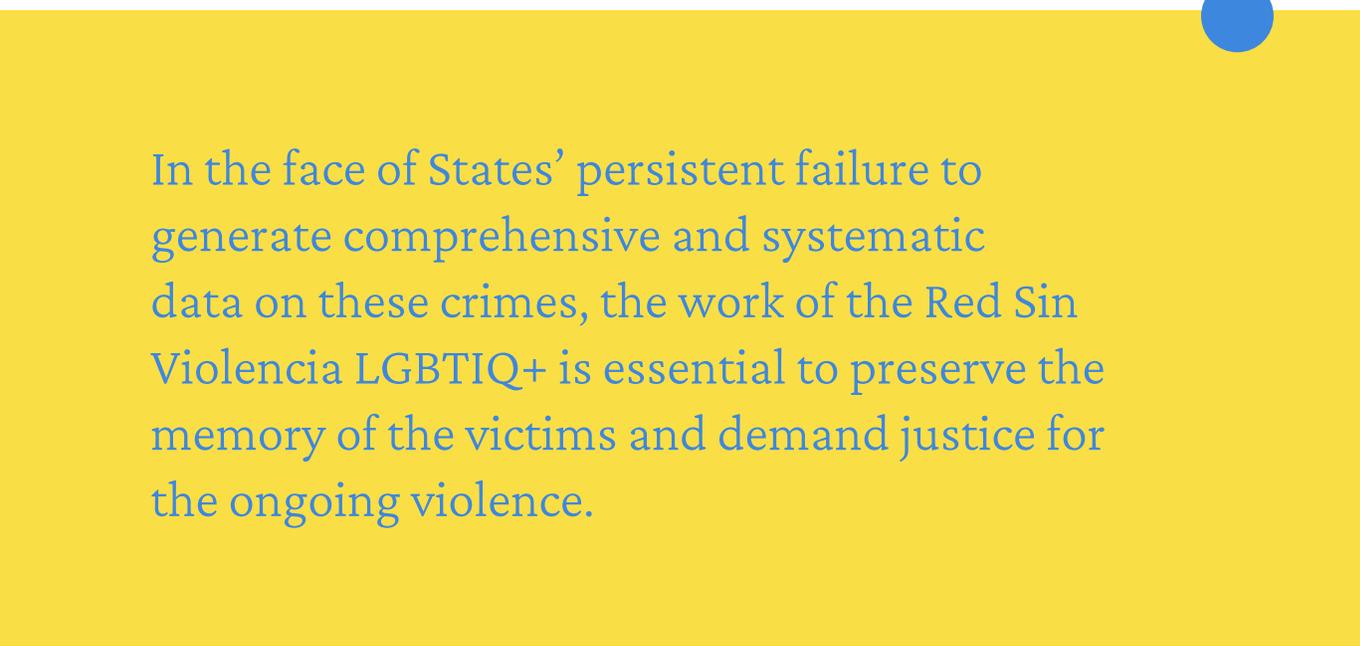
States must commit to collecting disaggregated and comprehensive data on the deaths and unlawful disappearances of LGBTQI+ people and support the observatories that responsibly produce unofficial data. Furthermore, public campaigns for social inclusion and the condemnation of violence must be promoted, and financial and technical assistance must be guaranteed to organizations working to protect the right to life of LGBTQI+ people.

1.



Introduction

This report analyzes the homicides of LGBTQI+ people recorded during 2024 in ten countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on the collaborative work of the organizations that make up the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+, the main regional patterns are identified, along with the local dynamics that shape contexts of violence against these demographics.



In the face of States' persistent failure to generate comprehensive and systematic data on these crimes, the work of the Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+ is essential to preserve the memory of the victims and demand justice for the ongoing violence.

The role and work of the Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+ in the current context takes on critical relevance. Its documentation of lethal violence, field research, and regional advocacy have exposed patterns of violence and impunity that would otherwise remain invisible. In contexts where the space for civil action is shrinking, sustaining these processes constitutes a form of resistance, both symbolic and material.

Networks play a key role in connecting organizations from countries with varied political contexts but shared authoritarian influences. This enables a regional and shared understanding of the risks faced by LGBTIQ+ people.

In this sense, independent monitoring, the generation of internal data, and regional coordination must be understood as essen-

tial strategies for safeguarding democracy through citizen action and the strengthening of civil society and the collective defense of human rights.

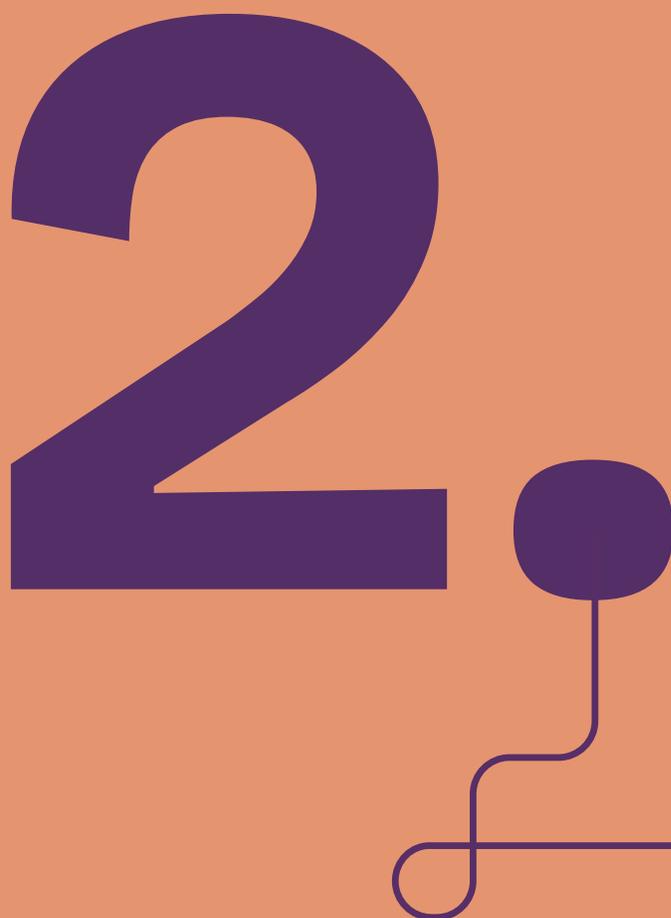
This report is structured into several sections that provide a comprehensive overview. Firstly, it addresses the profiles and characteristics of the victims, the acts of violence themselves, and the perpetrators. The next section analyzes the response of the justice system. Subsequently, the main findings are presented by subregion and country. Finally, it offers conclusions and recommendations for States and key stakeholders.

This report is also a tool to demand memory, justice, and reparation.

Every piece of data recorded here is a life that must not be forgotten.

Methodology

The methodology of this report is based on the analysis of quantitative and qualitative information provided by the research teams of each of the observatories that make up the Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+.





During 2024, the organizations documented cases of homicides of LGBTQI+ people from various sources, applying methodologies adapted to the sociopolitical contexts of each country.

The main source used for monitoring was mainstream media and social media coverage. This information was contrasted with official sources, primarily from prosecutors' offices, depending on the particular situation of each country. For instance, in countries with limited or partial access to official sources, analysis of mainstream media, social media, and testimonies was prioritized. However, in countries where official data exist but are incomplete, the data complemented and contrasted with social media and press monitoring.

Additionally, some organizations have access to key information through **partnerships**

with community actors, which enables the expansion of the coverage of documented cases and the deepening of their understanding from a situated territorial perspective. These partnerships strengthen documentation processes in contexts where formal or official sources have significant limitations or gaps.

Starting in 2024, the organizations recorded their cases in an updated **Plataforma RSV**; a data recording system that users can interact with through Excel and Power Apps, that stores information in an Azure SQL database. This shared digital tool centralizes the data collected by each observatory, guarantees security and confidentiality criteria, and enables the traceability of documented cases throughout the region. The platform also facilitates unified recording based on a common set of variables.

Once the information is uploaded, the Technical Secretariat of the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+ organizations conducts a data review and evaluation process, which includes data cleansing, standardization, monitoring, and quality control. This enables the consolidation of all records into a single regional database, which constitutes the main input for studying patterns of lethal violence, compiling statistics, and producing contextualized analyses at the regional, subregional, and national levels.



3.

**Homicides
of LGBTQI+
people in Latin
America and
the Caribbean.**



3.1 Regional sociopolitical context

3.1.1. Global political changes and their impact on LGBTQI+ rights: the state of affairs in the United States and the return of Trumpism

The global human rights landscape for LGBTQI+ people is going through a critical phase characterized by the resurgence of governments with authoritarian values, regressive policies, and rhetoric that openly strives against the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and social justice. In this context, Latin America and the Caribbean are particularly affected by the reconfiguration of the international order and the significant decrease of political and financial support for human rights agendas by key actors such as the United States.

Donald Trump's arrival at the presidency in 2025 marked a turning point for the global LGBTQI+ rights agenda. Since his inaugural address and through numerous executive orders, his administration established a strictly binary view of gender, declaring as

official policy that only two sexes exist: male and female. This approach resulted in the elimination of inclusion guidelines and the suspension or redirection of strategic international cooperation funds, such as those from the Global Equality Fund and USAID. This amalgamation of financial cuts and institutional rejection of sexual and gender diversity has had direct consequences for grassroots organizations around the world, weakening the protection and promotion of LGBTQI+ rights in regions such as Latin America.²

Throughout the years 2011 to 2024, the United States government was visibly committed to promoting LGBTQI+ rights through cooperation mechanisms that enabled the development of health programs, legal assistance, violence prevention, and organizational strengthening.

² Outright International. *Defunding Freedom: Impacts of U.S. Foreign Aid Cuts on LGBTIQ People Worldwide*. 2025, p. 13. Available at: <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/human-rights-research/defunding-freedom-impacts-us-foreign-aid-cuts-lgbtqi-people>; The White House. *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Ai*. 2025. Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/> y The White House. *Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*. 2025. Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>



Nevertheless, the political shift in the White House has reversed these advances and reinforced harmful narratives that were already spreading in the region. The suspension of funding has been supplemented by rhetoric that labels these agendas as "ideological," "opposed to traditional American values," or "unnecessary spending." This discourse has been amplified and legitimized among conservative actors in Latin America and the Caribbean. This overlap has strengthened local movements that already questioned the legitimacy of LGBTQI+ rights, generating a climate of distrust and hostility toward those who defend these causes.³

Thus, the budget reconfiguration is part of a political strategy aimed at reducing international influence in the defense of human rights. The narrative of the new U.S. administration has diminished not only financial support, but also political and symbolic support for the principles of freedom of as-

sociation, equality and non-discrimination, the right to self-determination, protection from violence, and access to healthcare for people of sexual and gender diversity.

Furthermore, this political shift has a direct impact on multilateralism. The abandonment of this commitment jeopardizes alliances built in forums such as the Equal Rights Coalition and the LGBTI Core Group at the United Nations, which for more than a decade have upheld an international framework, protecting the work of civil society. The reduction in funding limits the operational capacity of these forums and jeopardizes global coordination.⁴

The recent defunding by the United States must be understood as part of a broader political agenda aimed at dismantling progress on the rights of LGBTQI+ people through budget cuts and regressive narratives. This shows that, without structural

The budget reconfiguration is part of a political strategy aimed at reducing international influence in the defense of human rights.

³ Saskia Brechenmacher. *Trump's "Gender Ideology" Attacks Are Following a Global Movement. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2025. Available at: <https://carnegieendowment.org/emissary/2025/02/trump-gender-ideology-global-trend-women-lgbtq-rights?lang=en>*

⁴ *Ibid.*



guarantees or mechanisms for international accountability, hard-fought accomplishments can be reversed with alarming speed.⁵ However, this reality has also highlighted the capacity for resilience and collective coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean, where networks like ours operate as spaces for mutual care, collective action, and an active defense of rights in the face of adverse contexts.

3.1.2 Criminalization of social organizations and restrictions on international cooperation

We are confronted with a common pattern of measures aimed at silencing and dismantling civil society organizations, which have been adopted in countries with different ideological leanings. These measures include legal reforms to increase government control over NGOs, to make their registration more difficult, to limit their public funding, and to dissolve them without judicial safeguards.

In Nicaragua, the continued enforcement of the Foreign Agents Regulation Law, passed in 2022, has since been responsible for the systematic cancellation of the legal status of numerous civil society organizations, including many that defend the human rights of LGBTQI+ people. This policy also involves the confiscation of institutional assets and the direct persecution of activists, journalists, and human rights defenders, who face imprisonment, forced expatriation, or the arbitrary loss of their nationality.⁶

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association has warned that these regulatory frameworks are frequently justified on the basis of oversight, funding requirements, or even anti-terrorism. Nevertheless, in reality, they are characterized by broad and ambiguous legal definitions, excessive state control, and rhetoric that stigmatizes human rights work. This situation perpetuates the criminalization of dissenting individuals and organizations, including LGBTQI+ activists.

⁵ Williams Institute. *Impact of Executive Order Pausing US Foreign Aid On Lgbtqi+ People*. 2025. Available at: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Foreign-Aid-Pause-EO-Jan-2025.pdf> and Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). *Trump Accountability Tracker on LGBTQ People*. Available at: <https://glaad.org/trump-accountability-tracker/#presidency>

⁶ El País. *A wave of laws against NGOs rises in Latin America*. 2025. Available at: <https://elpais.com/sv/una-oleada-de-leyes-contra-las-ong-se-levanta-en-america-latina/>



Similar restrictions have recently been implemented in countries such as Venezuela, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Peru. In the latter, Law No. 32301⁸, which stipulates that all civil society activities or projects funded with international cooperation resources must have prior authorization from the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), was approved after a hasty legislative debate without a comprehensive analysis, highlighting the lack of public and pluralistic deliberation. These types of measures are frequently supplemented by hostile narratives and anti-rights agendas that reinforce the exclusion of LGBTQI+ people from political discourse and spaces.⁹

This trend of closing civic spaces reflects a broader process of waning that erodes institutions and weakens the role of civil soci-

ety within democratic checks and balances. This situation requires a firm response from international human rights systems and a strengthening of regional solidarity networks to counter the growing persecution of LGBTQI+ rights organizations.¹⁰

The reform of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI) Law in 2025 is paradigmatic. The reform was supported by the Executive Branch and approved by Congress, but civil society has denounced the changes as unconstitutional.¹¹ This legislation not only affects the institutional functioning of organizations with a history of defending human rights, making it impossible to channel financial resources, but also it compromises their ability to provide care to victims of state violence, including LGBTQI+ people, for whom strategic liti-

⁷ Gina Romero. *Report from the Special Correspondent on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*, Gina Romero: *The impact of the 2023-2025 super-electoral cycle on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*. Human Rights Council. (A/HRC/59/44). 2025. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5944-impact-2023-2025-super-election-cycle-rights-freedom-peaceful>

⁸ See more at: <https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/dispositivo/NL/2390801-1>

⁹ El País. *A wave of laws against NGOs rises in Latin America*. 2025. Available at: <https://elpais.com/sv/una-oleada-de-leyes-contra-las-ong-se-levanta-en-america-latina>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Promsex (@promsexcomunica). Instagram post. April 14th, 2025. Available at: https://www.instagram.com/p/D1cOFFyvMui/?hl=es&img_index=1 and André Duchiade. *Peru reinforces control over NGOs and media with international funding through new law*. LatAm Journalism Review. 2025. Available at: <https://latamjournalismreview.org/es/articles/ley-peruana-exige-aprobacion-del-gobierno-para-ong-y-medios-de-comunicacion-financiados-internacionalmente/>



gation and legal support are fundamental tools for accessing justice.¹² These measures, far from strengthening accountability, create an environment of mistrust and criminalization of social work.¹³

Rapporteur Romero's aforementioned report warns that in many States, activities promoting the human rights of LGBTQI+ people have been prohibited, the association and expression of these identities has been criminalized, and hostile environments have led candidates to withdraw from the electoral race.¹⁴

In El Salvador, the Foreign Agents Law, approved in 2025, establishes that any natu-

ral or legal person receiving funding from abroad must register in a special registry, or face sanctions such as fines or the suspension or cancellation of their legal status. Furthermore, the legislation imposes a 30% tax on all international funds received, which seriously compromises the sustainability of civil society organizations. These provisions have been denounced for their potential to illegitimately restrict the right to freedom of association and participation in public life, amidst growing state hostility toward autonomous social actors. The law has been used as a mechanism of intimidation and persecution against human rights defenders, including LGBTQI+ people and their organizations.¹⁵

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). *Serious threat to civic space in Peru: organizations condemn law that restricts civil society and violates victims' rights*. 2025. Available at: <https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/grave-amenaza-al-espacio-civico-en-peru-organizaciones-condenan-ley-que-restringe-la-labor-de-la-sociedad-civil-y-vulnera-los-derechos-de-las-victimas/>

¹⁴ Gina Romero. *Report from the Special Correspondent on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*, Gina Romero: *The impact of the 2023-2025 super-electoral cycle on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association*. Human Rights Council. (A/HRC/59/44). 2025, p. 16. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5944-impact-2023-2025-super-election-cycle-rights-freedom-peaceful>

¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, *El Salvador: Foreign Agents Law Targets Civil Society, Media*. 2025. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/23/el-salvador-foreign-agents-law-targets-civil-society-media>



3.2 Records by year and by country

During the year 2024, at least **361 homicides¹⁶ of LGBTQI+ people** in the ten Latin American countries were monitored by the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+. This figure reflects a slight **decrease of 0.82%** compared to 2023 (when 364 cases were reported), **which does not indicate substantial improvement** but reaffirms the persistence of **systematic and structural violence** against LGBTQI+ people.

Chart 1: LGBTQI+ homicides by country



¹⁶ For the purposes of this report, the term "case/crime/homicide/murder" refers to an individual victim. While a single crime may involve multiple victims, each individual victim has been considered as a unit of analysis in this study.



Colombia remains the country with the highest number of recorded homicides, with **175 cases**¹⁷, which is equivalent to **48% of the overall regional figure**. This number reflects an increase of **10.06%** compared to 2023. It evidences the persistence of violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ people, fueled by hate speech that is, in some cases, intensified in the public sphere. The proliferation of anti-rights narratives by political, religious, and social figures directly influences the increase in violence by generating a climate of hostility and intolerance.¹⁸

Mexico is the second country with the most cases, **80 homicides**, which represents an **increase of 23.08%** in relation to the previous year. This increase partially reverses

the downward trend that was seen in 2023 and may be related to a rejection of the greater public visibility of LGBTQI+ people in certain sectors of the population.

On the other hand, **Guatemala is ranked third with 36 reported homicides, a slight decrease of 7.69%** compared to the previous year. This decline should be analyzed with caution, as it is not sufficiently representative to positively determine that lethal violence against LGBTQI+ people has diminished. The persistence of homicidal violence indicates that the deep roots of the problem remain. Discrimination, prejudice, conservative narratives, and a lack of legal protections continue to expose LGBTQI+ people to constant risk in this country.

¹⁷ In order to land on the figure of 175 homicides, data from media outlets, social organizations, and state institutions was triangulated. Subsequently, petitions were sent out to public entities such as the Prosecutor's Office, the National Police, and the Ombudsman's Office. Although these entities did provide lists of cases, the Prosecutor's Office's data, for example, presented significant limitations that prevented the collection of detailed information on the victims beyond the location of the events (department and municipality), their nationality, and their sexual orientation or gender identity. Possible duplicates were identified among the different sources, but not all could be verified, creating a margin of uncertainty. As a result, the total figure remains under review and may be adjusted in future updates.

¹⁸ One of the key factors that may explain the increase in homicides against LGBTQI+ people in Colombia during 2024 is the persistent –and even intensification– of openly sexist, homophobic, and transphobic hate speech within the Colombian population, as well as anti-rights expressions in the public sphere by religious leaders, politicians, and influential social actors. This type of discourse legitimizes exclusion and violence by reinforcing negative stereotypes that dehumanize LGBTQI+ people, portraying them as a threat to traditional values, family, or morality. Agencia Presentes. ¿What is going on? 2024. Available at: <https://agenciapresentes.org/>



Likewise, Honduras, in fourth place, has 28 registered cases and shows a **decrease of 37.78%** in comparison with 2023. However, it continues to be one of the countries with the highest number of homicides. The State's inaction, which sends a message of impunity and lack of protection, might be normalizing violence against LGBTQI+ people. Furthermore, the lack of effective public policies and the absence of actions taken by the Prosecutor's Office contribute to the perpetuation of these crimes. Among other factors, there is also the influence of certain political and religious sectors that promote anti-rights narratives and foster an environment of contempt toward LGBTQI+ people.

In the south, Ecuador recorded 17 homicides, with a 22.73% reduction compared to 2023. However, this reduction must be analyzed critically, especially given the context of a consistent increase in these

Colombia continúa siendo el país con el mayor número de homicidios registrados, con 175 casos¹⁷, lo que equivale al 48 % del total regional. Este número refleja un incremento del 10,06 % respecto a 2023.

crimes in previous years: 11 cases in 2022 and only 1 in 2021. The figures may have more to do with structural deficiencies in registration, investigation, and prosecution rather than to a positive transformation in terms of safety. In fact, overall, Ecuador¹⁹ also reported an official decrease in

the total number of homicides during 2024. However, several independent and civil society analyses have raised concerns about the transparency and accuracy of official data.²⁰

Peru reported 8 homicides, which represents a decline of 55.56%. Despite this figure, the levels of underreporting and the limited visibility of these cases make it difficult to establish a positive trend with certainty. While the impact of crime on the lives of sex workers has lessened, recorded cases demonstrate its persistence. In 2024, the use of methods of extortion by organized crime syndicates expanded to new economic sectors, such as transpor-

¹⁹ See more at: <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/balance-insight-crime-homicidios-2024/#h-ecuador-12-8>

²⁰ Information provided by Pakta



tation²¹, corner shops (known as *bodegas*)²², and even schools²³. This situation, coupled with the organized response of the trans and sex worker movement in Lima, could explain the decrease in murders.

In the Caribbean, specifically the **Dominican Republic**, homicides increased from 2 to **6 cases**, which implies a **200% increase**. Although this figure does not reach the levels observed in 2022 (17 cases), it does show a worrying resurgence of violence. Additionally, it is particularly alarming that the highest rate of violent deaths continues to mainly affect cis gay men, highlighting their consistent vulnerability. Moreover, the lack of accountability in identifying perpetrators remains a key factor that contributes to the surge in cases.

In **Bolivia**, homicides doubled, going from 2 to **4 cases**, compared to 2023. Although the absolute figure is low, the increase is

significant and is likely related to the economic crisis and the conflicts that currently shape the country's social and political landscape. Structural violence has intensified, and prejudice-driven crimes thrive amid the lack of political oversight, response, and will. In addition, the continued absence of effective public policies for the prevention of violence, as well as a culture of impunity in the judicial system, allow these crimes to go unpunished time and time again.

Nicaragua and **El Salvador**, on the other hand, reported **4 and 3 homicides**, respectively. It is important to emphasize that there are **limitations in the access to information** in both countries, which could likely be contributing to significant underreporting.

El Salvador shows a 50% decrease compared to 2023. While this could be interpreted as an improvement, it is essential to

²¹ Karen Silva. Transportation companies paralyze services due to extortion. Canal N. 2024. Available at: <https://canaln.pe/actualidad/empresas-transporte-paralizan-servicios-extorsiones-n476765>

²² Jhonatan Sánchez. Nearly 3.000 *bodegas* closed and over 9.000 owners are extorted in Lima: 4 most affected districts. La República. 2024. Available at: <https://larepublica.pe/sociedad/2024/09/23/casi-3000-bodegas-cerradas-y-mas-de-9000-bodegueros-vienen-siendo-extorsionados-en-lima-conoce-los-4-districtos-mas-afectados-evatnpe-398291>

²³ Swissinfo. Schools in Peru pay up to 5.300 dollars a month to extortionists, according to El Comercio. 2024. Available at: <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/colegios-en-peru-pagan-hasta-5.300-d%C3%B3lares-mensuales-a-extorsionadores%2C-seg%C3%BAAn-el-comercio/87765298>



analyze the context in which it took place. Since the implementation of the state of emergency in March 2022, numerous human rights violations have taken place (such as arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and the deaths of persons deprived of liberty) , especially in areas classified as highly dangerous. The lack of transparency in state information makes it impossible to understand the magnitude of the situation. In 2024, at least two cases of disappearances were identified without any information on the victims' whereabouts, suggesting the possibility that these incidents were concealed homicides. Furthermore, the civil population often limits their reports of acts of violence due to fear of retaliation.

In the case of **Nicaragua**, which also presented a **decrease** in their cases (-33%), it is important to note that the fundamen-

tal issue facing this country is the under-reporting of information due to the strict control by government agencies. These agencies exercise increasing control over social networks and media outlets, both the official and the few independent outlets that remain.

These findings highlight the urgency of strengthening protection, registration and justice mechanisms, and demonstrate that violence against LGBTQI+ people continues to be a daily reality in Latin America.

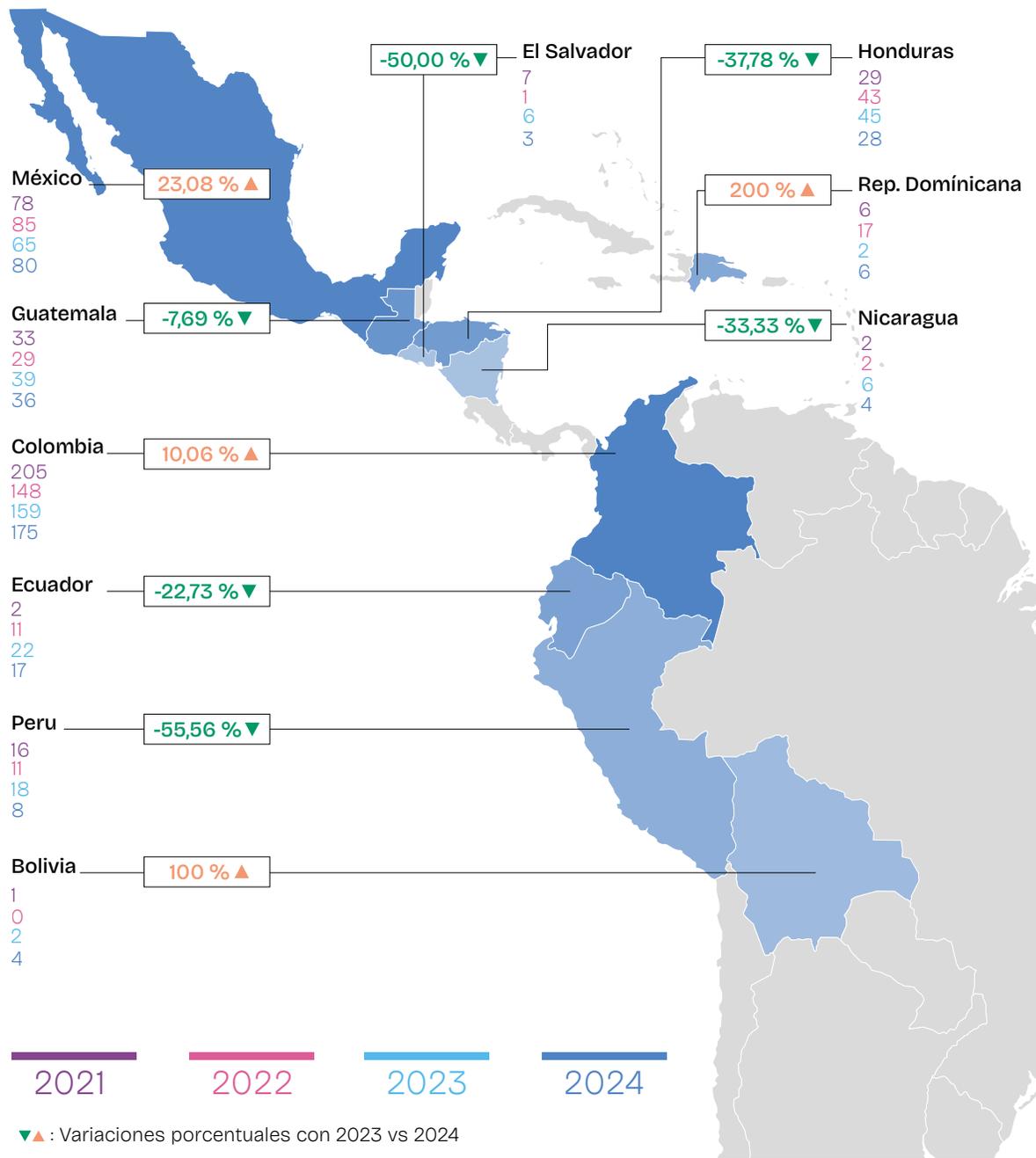
to interpret the data with caution and in dialogue with local contexts. These findings highlight the urgency of **strengthening protection, registration and justice mechanisms**, and demonstrate that violence against LGBTQI+ people continues to be a daily reality in Latin America.

In summary, regional monitoring shows that, although the total number of homicides did not change substantially in comparison with 2023, **worrying increases have been observed in several countries. Moreover, in those nations where cases seem to have decreased, it is essential**

²⁴ See more at: https://www.oas.org/es/iachr/informes/pdfs/2024/informe_estadoexcepcionddhh_elsalvador.pdf



Chart 2: Victims registered by the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQ+ from 2021 to 2024





3.3 Rates by country

Analyzing rates by population is essential to identify the relative level of violence faced by the LGBTQI+ population in each country. However, the lack of census data prevents the calculation of specific rates, limiting studies to global rates that do not accurately reflect the risk faced by the LGBTQI+ population. As in previous years, rates were calculated in relation to the total population of each country, rather than the total number of LGBTQI+ people, due to the lack of information on this subject. For this purpose, the CEPALSTAT database was utilized for extracting the number of total population in each state in 2024.²⁵ However, it is important to note that the lack of specific statistics regarding the LGBTQI+ demographics not only limits analyses but also hinders the development of effective public policies and the allocation of adequate resources for specialized protection against violence.

In 2024, **Colombia recorded the highest rate of homicides, followed by Honduras**, thus subverting the trend in 2023, in

which Honduras had the highest rate. **The countries with the highest rates of homicide against LGBTQI+ people in 2024 are: Colombia with 0.334 homicides per 100,000 population and Honduras**, with a rate of **0.260**. This indicates that, even with the decrease in absolute numbers, the country still ranks among the highest in the region, underscoring a persistently critical situation. By contrast, **Guatemala has a rate of 0.196 and Ecuador of 0.093**.

Mexico ranked among the countries with mid-range rates, with a rate of **0.062**. **Nicaragua and Dominican Republic** have similar rates: **0.056** and **0.052** respectively. **The countries with the lowest rates are: El Salvador, Peru and Bolivia**; however, their evolutions ought to be taken into account. For instance, **El Salvador's** rate dropped from 0.094, in 2023, to **0.047**, in 2024. **Peru** also experienced a dramatic reduction, going from 0.052 to **0.023**. Lastly, although **Bolivia** has one of the lowest rates (**0.032**), it **doubled in relation to the previous year (0.016)**.

²⁵ See more at: https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?indicator_id=1&area_id=1&lang=es



Chart 3: Homicide rate by country

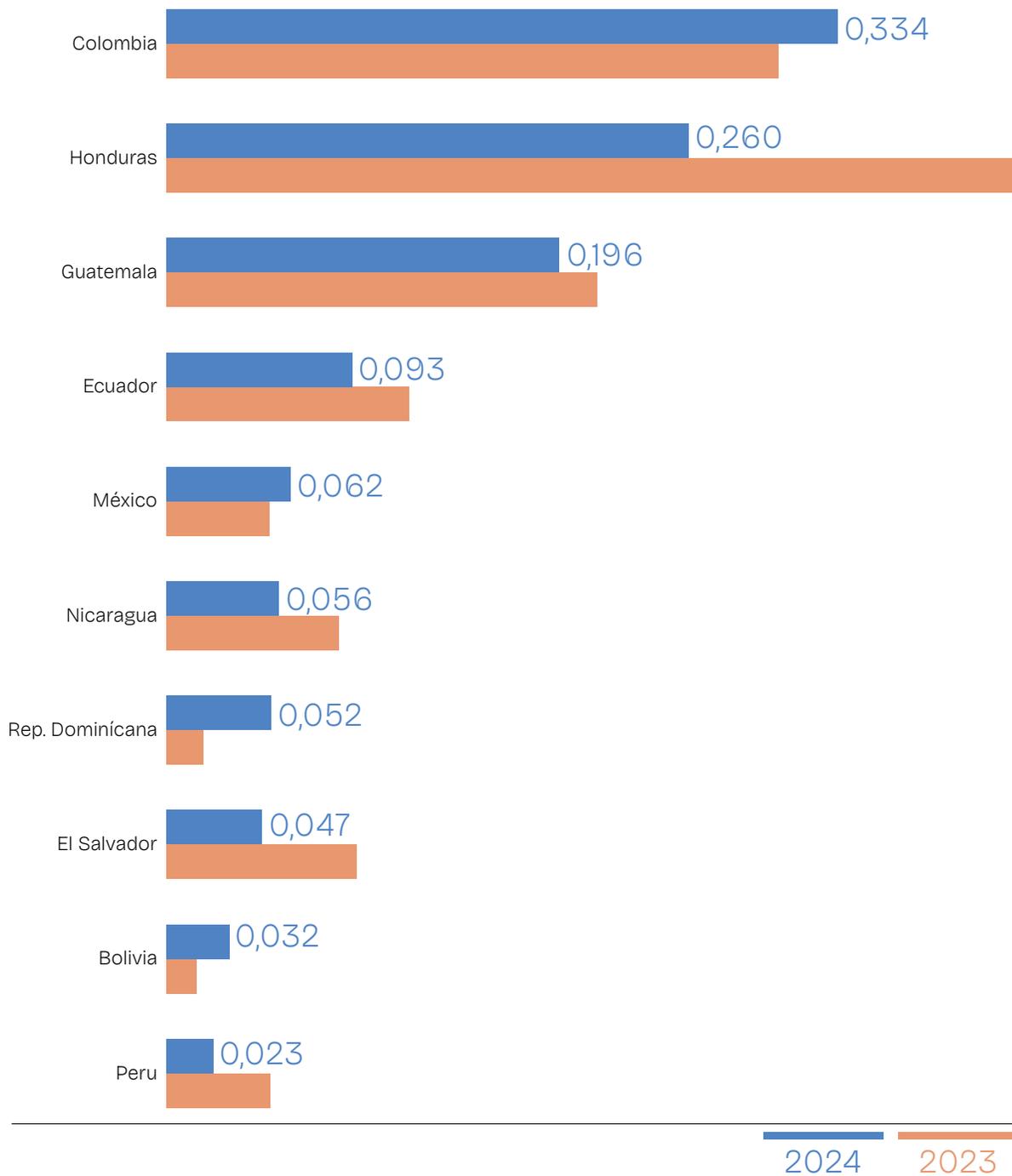




Table 1: Population by country and homicide rate

| Country | 2024 Population ²⁶ | Rate (2024) | Rate (2023) |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bolivia | 12,567,300 | 0.032 | 0.016 |
| Colombia | 52,340,800 | 0.334 | 0.305 |
| Ecuador | 11,434,000 | 0.052 | 0.018 |
| El Salvador | 18,377,400 | 0.093 | 0.120 |
| Guatemala | 6,396,300 | 0.047 | 0.094 |
| Honduras | 18,358,400 | 0.196 | 0.215 |
| México | 10,759,400 | 0.260 | 0.424 |
| Nicaragua | 129,388,500 | 0.062 | 0.050 |
| Peru | 7,142,500 | 0.056 | 0.085 |
| República Dominicana | 34,683,400 | 0.023 | 0.052 |

3.4 Characteristics of the victims at a regional level

3.4.1 Sexual orientation and gender identity

Regarding the gender identity and sexual orientation of victims, the 2024 data show a change in the distribution of violence compared to the previous year. While in 2023, trans women were the most affected demographic, **in 2024, the trend appears**

²⁶ See more at: https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?lang=en&indicator_id=1&area_id=1



to have been reversed and cis gay men are, once again, the group with the highest number of cases, with 130 homicides (36% of the total).

Despite this variation, the 2024 data seem to reflect a return to the pattern, observed in 2021 and 2022, of cis gay men accounting for the highest rates of lethal violence. Nevertheless, **trans women remain a highly targeted group, with 113 victims in 2024 (31% of the total). In tandem, both identities account for 67% of documented cases** in 2024, reflecting a persistence of lethal violence against these groups over the past three years.

Moreover, **35 victims were cis bisexual men and 27 were cis lesbian women.** When considering data from previous years, significant fluctuations are evident. In 2023, 24 cis bisexual men victims were recorded whilst, in 2022, there were 16, indicating a continuous increase in crimes against this group. In regards to cis les-

bian women, the 2024 figure represents a considerable decrease compared to the 31 cases recorded in 2023 and the 46 reported in 2022.

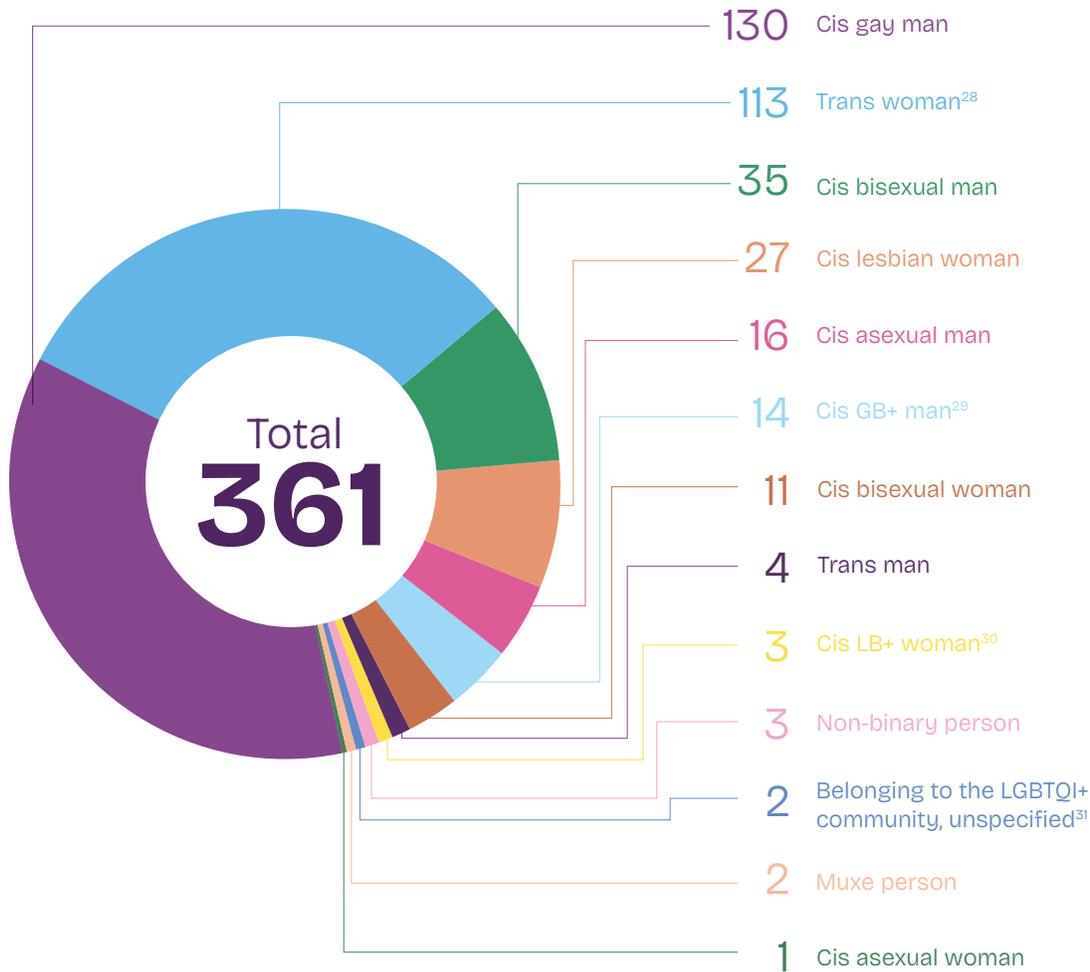
Additionally, there were 16 cases (4%) involving asexual cis men victims; 14 involving cis men victims with diverse sexual orientations (sources were unable to determine whether their orientation was gay, bisexual or another)²⁷; and 11 involving cis bisexual women victims.

There were **4 documented cases of trans men victims**, which represents a reduction in relation to 2023 (where 10 cases were recorded). Similarly, there were **3 non-binary people, 2 muxe people, 3 cis women with diverse sexual orientations** (sources were unable to determine whether their orientation was lesbian, bisexual or another), **2 people whose SOGIE was not identified** but who, according to sources, allegedly belonged to the LGBTIQ+ community, and **1 cis asexual woman.**

²⁷ Most of these cases (10) come from official records from the Colombian Prosecutor's Office. However, due to the source's limitations, the victims' sexual orientation could not be determined. The other four cases were found through media reports. Out of these, two were heterosexual men victims allegedly murdered due to their relationships with trans women who were also murdered (both cases in Mexico), and two were cis men with diverse sexual orientations (one in Colombia and one in Mexico).



Chart 4: Victims according to their SOGIE



²⁸ One of the victims who was identified as a trans woman, was also intersex, according to documented information (Colombia).

²⁹ 2 were heterosexual men allegedly murdered because of their relationships with trans women who were also murdered (Mexico) and 2 cis men with diverse sexual orientation (Colombia 1 and Mexico 1).

³⁰ 3 cis women with diverse sexual orientations (lesbian, bisexual, or other) that could not be determined due to the limited information provided by the source, the Prosecutor's Office (Colombia).

³¹ 2 people whose SOGIE was not identified but who, according to sources, allegedly belonged to the LGBTQI+ community (1 Mexico and 1 Colombia).



As for the distribution by country, **Colombia had the highest number of cis gay men victims of homicide (57)**, followed by Honduras (21). On the other hand, **Mexico was the country with the highest number of murders targeting trans women (55)**, followed by Colombia, with 30 registered victims.

Most homicides of cis bisexual men were registered in Colombia (27) and in Guatemala (7), and **most cases involving cis lesbian women also took place in Colombia (14)** and in Honduras (5).

Chart 5: Cis gay men victims by country

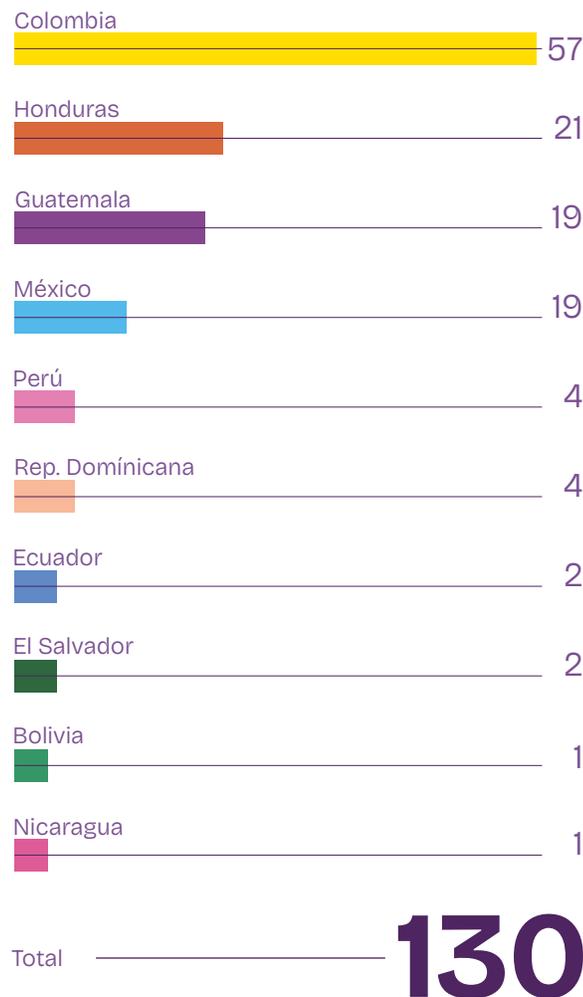


Chart 6: Trans women victims by country





3.4.2 Age range

When considering the victims' ages, it is essential to note that for 162 cases (45%), the age range could not be determined through the sources. Nevertheless, data from the 199 victims whose age was reported reveal that **lethal violence primarily affects LGBTQI+ youth.**

The most targeted age group are 21 to 25-year-olds. These figures indicate that more than half of the reported homicides were committed against LGBTQI+ people between the ages of 21 and 35. Additionally, **20 victims were between 16 and 20 years old and 3 were between 11 and 15 years old**, which demonstrates exposure to violence from a very early age.

3.4.3 Other characteristics

In regards to victim profiles, a significant obstacle is the large number of cases that have scarce information. Part of the data's limitations have to do with the sources used: some records stem from press releases, while others come from reports from official sources,

such as prosecutors' offices, which do not always include comprehensive, up-to-date, or consistent data. This undermines the possibility of constructing detailed victim profiles.

3.4.4 Occupation

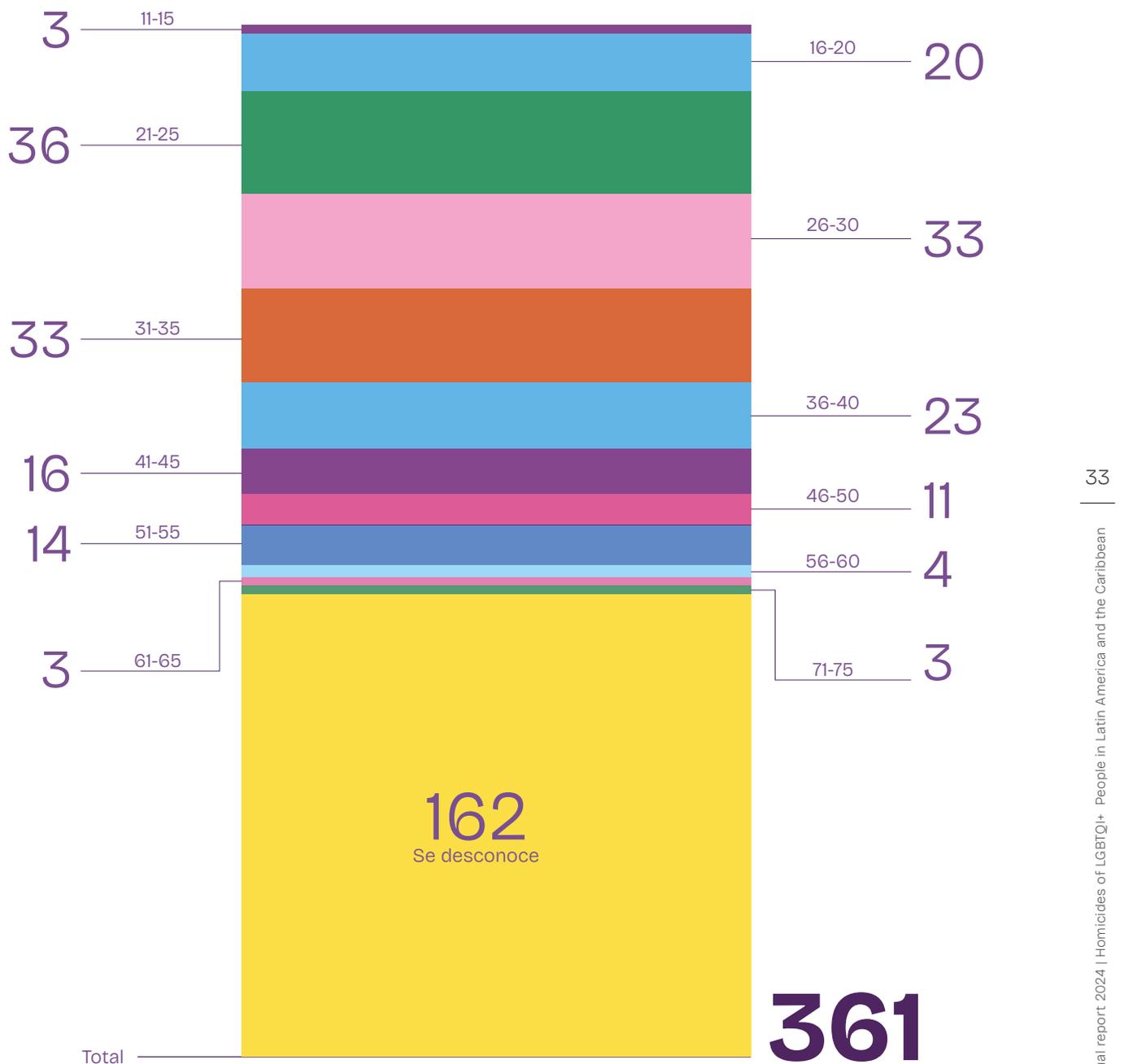
In 62% of cases, it was not possible to determine the victims' occupation. Data from the victims for whom this information is known show that the majority (32) were self-employed workers or traders, 28 were employees, 22 were sex workers, 21 were hair-stylists, 6 were students, 6 were public officials, 1 was unemployed and 22 were registered as having a different occupation.

3.4.5 Ethnic background

Information on **race or ethnicity** was only available for 106 victims, most of whom **(97) were registered as white or mestizo. Seven were registered as indigenous** (2 in Colombia, 2 in Mexico, 1 in Guatemala, 1 in Peru and 1 in Honduras) **and 2 as Afro-descendants** (1 in Guatemala and 1 in the Dominican Republic).



Chart 7: Victims by age group





3.4.6 Schooling

Information on educational level was available for 64 victims. Out of these, the majority (26) completed their secondary education, 11 had upper secondary or technical education, 6 held a postgraduate degree, 6 undertook technical studies; 5 had primary education; and 2 did not receive any formal education.

3.4.7 Differential approach

During 2024, 22 homicide victims were sex workers, 21 of which were trans women and 1 trans man:

- The cases of trans women were distributed geographically as follows: **Mexico** (12), **Bolivia** (2), **Ecuador** (2), **Honduras** (2), **Colombia** (1), **Guatemala** (1) and **Peru** (1).
- The case of the **trans man** took place in **Colombia**.

In comparison to the previous year, a reduction in the total number can be seen, going from 28 victims, in 2023, to 22, in 2024. As for the **crime scenes or locations where bodies were found, the majority of cases (68%) took place in public spaces, includ-**

ing streets, vacant lots, and bodies of water such as rivers or beaches. **Five cases (23%) occurred in private homes and 2 (9%) in hotels or motels.** In one of these latter cases, it was proven that the attacker was a client.

Concerning the weapon or method used, it was determined that **firearms were the most frequently used murder weapon, present in 8 cases (36%).** They were followed by **sharp or pointed objects, used in 5 cases (23%).**

In addition, the following methods were recorded: 6 homicides were committed by unspecified means; 1 case by hanging, strangulation, or suffocation; 1 case by a blunt object; and 1 case by physical force (beatings). These data reflect not only the lethality of the means used, but also the brutality with which this form of violence is carried out. It exemplifies the statement "transphobia kills." For example,

Grecia, a sex worker, was shot several times in the body and head while on Rodolfo Chávez Carrillo Boulevard, outside the Central de los Rojos in the municipality of Colima (Mexico).³²

³² See more at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DB39ho8ut0f/>



In terms of the **relationship between victims and their victimizers**, in **2 separate cases** the homicide was committed by **customers** (who were men), **1 attacker was a current romantic partner**, another was a **known person of the victim's**, in **17 cases the relationship is unknown**, and in **1 there was no relationship**.

Finally, **2 of the crimes (one in Guatemala and one in Peru)** took place in the context of **violence perpetrated by organized crime**, highlighting the additional risks faced by transgender sex workers in contexts of high crime and impunity.

Circumstances such as a lack of legal recognition, job insecurity, migration, and the criminalization of sex work constantly expose sex workers to violence that is often lethal and impunity-ridden.

3.4.7.2 Victims in the context of organized crime or armed groups

Thirty-two cases (26 in Guatemala, 3 in Colombia, 1 in Mexico, 1 in Peru, and 1 in Ecuador) that could be related to organized crime or armed groups were identified. This represents approximately 9% of the total number of homicides against LGBTQI+ people recorded (361 cases), highlighting the severity and impact of structural violence in these territories.

Cis gay men were the most affected, with 16 documented homicides (50%), followed by 9 trans women (28%), 3 cis lesbian women (9%), 3 cis bisexual men (9%) and 1 cis man with an unspecified diverse sexual orientation.

Twenty-one attackers with possible relations to **organized crime** were identified, with the following distribution: **Guatemala** (15), **Colombia** (3), **Mexico** (1), Peru (1) and Ecuador (1). This figure is similar to that of 2023, where 24 perpetrators belonged to criminal structures.

These findings confirm that contexts of organized crime put the lives of LGBTQI+ people at risk directly and indirectly. An example of indirect violence is the case recorded in **Ecuador, where a trans woman was the incidental casualty of a shootout between criminal gangs**.

In Guatemala, direct violence was evidenced by an armed attack in a motorcycle repair shop on the road to El Salvador. Two cis gay men were murdered in an indiscriminate act of violence. Their murder was not only a painful loss for their loved ones, who wondered why it had happened to them, but also reflects the precarious state of security in areas seemingly affected by organized crime.



3.4.7.3. Migrants

It should also be noted that 8 victims were migrants, 4 of them of Venezuelan nationality. This represents a decrease compared to 2023, when 14 migrant victims were recorded, most of them also from Venezuela.

Three of the homicides perpetrated against Venezuelan migrants were in Colombia (a trans woman who was a human rights defender, a trans man and a cis man with a diverse sexual orientation) and **1 occurred in Ecuador.**

The forced migration of LGBTQI+ people is a desperate response to contexts of violence, structural discrimination, and the lack of minimum safeguards for protection.

place in **Colombia**, and in another case, the victim was a **Canadian cis gay man who was murdered in Guatemala.**

The forced migration of LGBTQI+ people is a desperate response to contexts of violence, structural discrimination, and the lack of minimum safeguards for protection. In this context, **Honduras** continues to not only be a country of origin, but also of a migratory transit for LGBTQI+ people who face extremely high levels of risk. This situation is evidenced

Alexandra S., a Venezuelan trans woman, was a victim of lethal violence while engaging in sex work. Another victim was an **American cis gay** man whose murder took

place in **Colombia**, and in another case, the victim was a **Canadian cis gay man who was murdered in Guatemala.** by multiple homicides registered in this country, whose victims were a cis gay man and a trans woman and who were seemingly in **migratory transit.**

3.4.7.4 Human rights defenders

During **2024, 21 murders of LGBTQI+ people working in human rights defense were documented.** This figure, although slightly lower than the 24 cases recorded in 2023, demonstrates the persistence of this violence. Most of the crimes took place **in Colombia**, where 12 cases were reported, followed by Mexico with 7, and Ecuador and Peru with one case each.



“The renowned social leader Aldinebin Ramos³³ was murdered in the municipality of Ortega, Tolima, Colombia. He was one of the founders of the Chaparral Diversa LGBTQ+ Association and was actively involved in the regional development programs committee that emerged following the peace agreement signed in 2016. Armed men broke into a home where a group of people were gathered, and in the attack, Aldinebin and a woman were killed.

“Tosagua³⁴ (Ecuador) has lost a great, generous, and talented leader who fought to promote inclusion and respect for diversity. Ms. Paula Alcívar was president of the organization Corazón Diverso, dedicated to defending the rights of the LGBTQI+ community, and ran the beauty salon where she was murdered.”

As for the identities of the victims, **10 cis gay men, 9 trans women, 1 non-binary person and 1 muxe person were registered.**

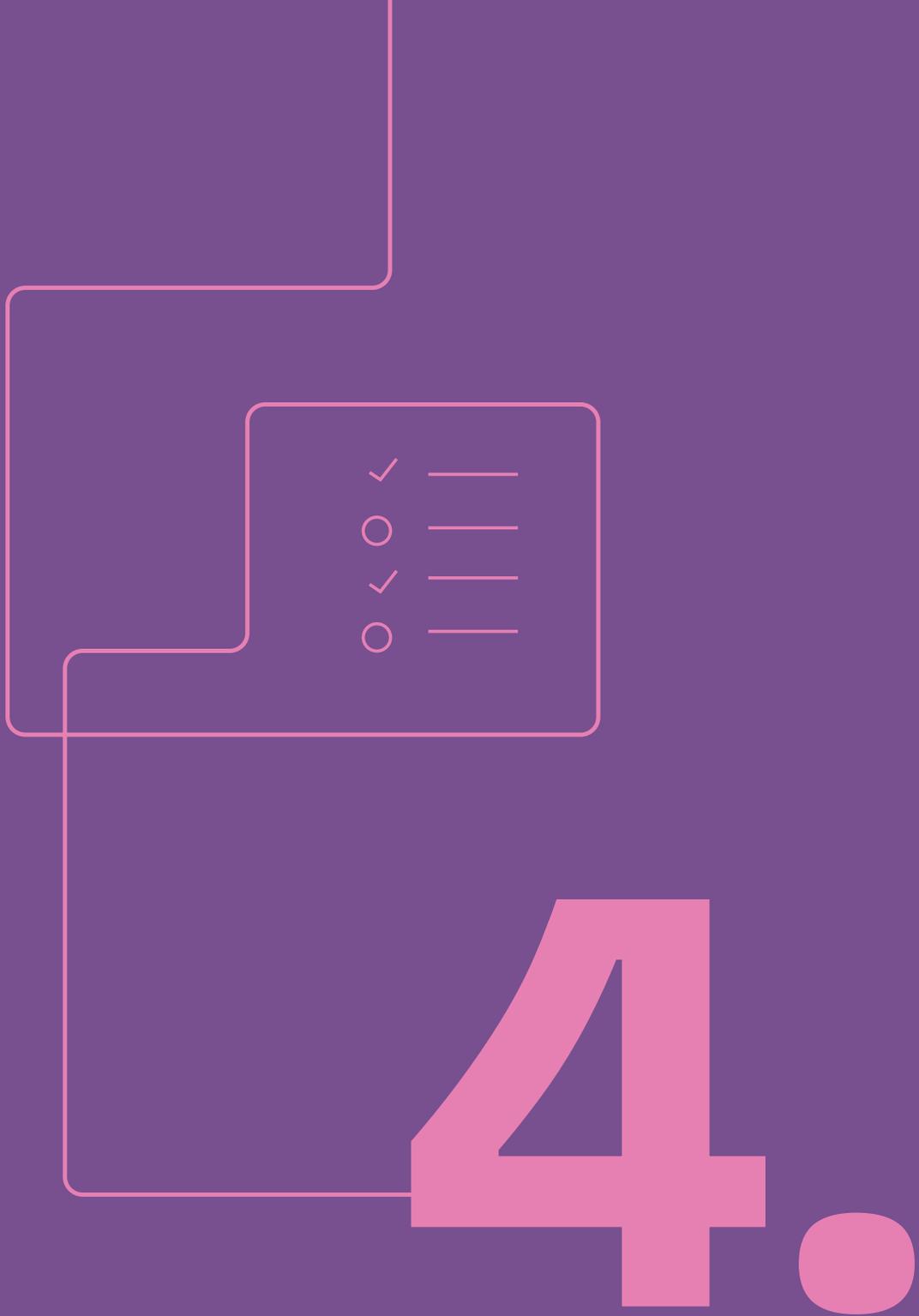
It was noted that three of the murdered people were indigenous and one was a migrant, which highlights how multiple forms of oppression—due to victims’ sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, or immigration status—intersect and amplify their conditions of vulnerability.

Regarding the places where most of these crimes occurred: **7 people were murdered in public spaces, another 7 in private homes,** and 3 (14%) were killed in their workplaces. The remaining cases took place in unspecified locations.

In relation to the most used methods, **10 cases involved the use of firearms,** including 3 murders committed in open spaces and all 3 workplace murders. **In 6 cases, sharp or pointed objects were used,** 4 of which occurred in private homes.

³³ See more at: <https://colombiadiversa.org/blogs/reconocido-lider-social-lgbtqi-fue-asesinado-en-tolima/>

³⁴ See more at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2024/05/13/una-activista-lgbtqi-entre-al-menos-cuatro-asesinados-en-masacre-en-ecuador/>



Characteristics of the events



4.1 Crime scenes or body disposal sites

In relation to the areas where the homicides were committed or the victims' bodies were found, a significant concentration is observed in urban areas: 45% of the total. On the other hand, 14% of murders were recorded in rural areas. For the remaining 40%, there is not enough information to determine geographic locations.

Regarding the **specific location of the crime or disposal of the body, in 123 cases**, the location could not be clearly established. However, among the cases with available data, it is evident that **the vast majority of homicides (104) occurred in open spaces, such as streets, public roads or public transportation**. The second most common location were private homes, with **58 cases**.

Additionally, **21 homicides** took place in **fields or vacant lots**, **15** in workplaces and **14** in **rivers or beaches**. This diversity of scenarios reflects the breadth of the risk context, both in the public and private areas.

When analyzing the crime scene—or where the body was found—in relation to the gender identity and sexual orientation of the victims, the following circumstances become apparent:

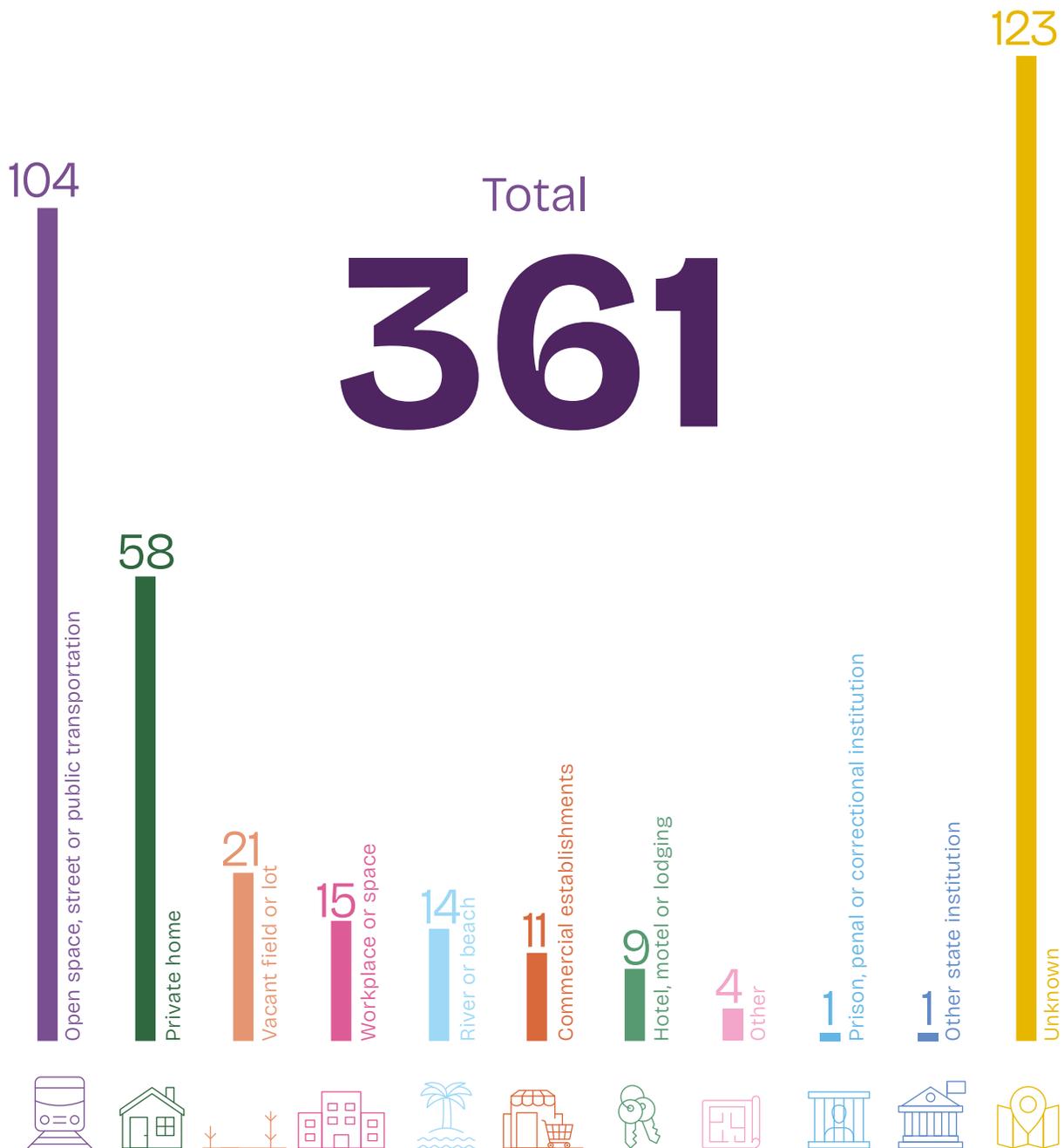
- When **cis gay men** were victimized, in **38 cases** there is no information about the location of the crime; **46 homicides** occurred in **public spaces**; **32** in **private homes**; **7** in **workplaces**; **4** in **hotels or motels**, and the rest took place in **other types of locations**.
- However, among the **victims who were trans women**, **64 cases** occurred in **open spaces**; **18** in **private homes**; **8** in **workspaces**; **7** in **commercial establishments**; and **5** in **hotels or motels**; **the remaining occurred in other locations**.

Although open spaces are the most frequent environment in both victim profiles, there was a higher share of homicides in private homes among cis gay men compared to trans women.

- In addition, **bisexual cis men** were killed in greater proportion in open spaces (7 cases). Likewise, in the case of **cis lesbian women**, **this trend can be observed as well**. Out of 27 recorded cases, 13 occurred in public spaces.
- Regarding **trans men**, all murders occurred in public spaces, including rivers and beaches (4 cases).
- As for **asexual cis men and bisexual cis women**, information on crime scenes is unknown.



Chart 8: Distribution of events according to the location of the crime or body disposal





4.2 Method or weapon used

When analyzing the method used in the recorded homicides, it is clear that the use of **firearms was the most frequent, with 109 cases**, which represents **30% of the total**. They are followed by **assaults by unspecified means**, with **24%**, reflecting the large number of cases where the mechanism of violence could not be clearly identified.

The use of **sharp or pointed objects** ranked in third place, with **14%**; while in **12%** of cases, no information was available on the method used (blank category). Other relevant methods include: **hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (4%)**; **physical force (beating with fists or kicks) (3%)**; **blunt objects (2%)**.

The less frequent methods, though no less serious, include pushing the victim in front of a moving object, drowning or submersion, use of chemical substances, and pushing from a height—each accounting for only **1 or 2 cases**, representing less than **1%** apiece.

This break-down shows that, although **firearms remain the most lethal instrument used**, various methods of violence persist, many of them particularly brutal, highlighting the cruelty with which these crimes are

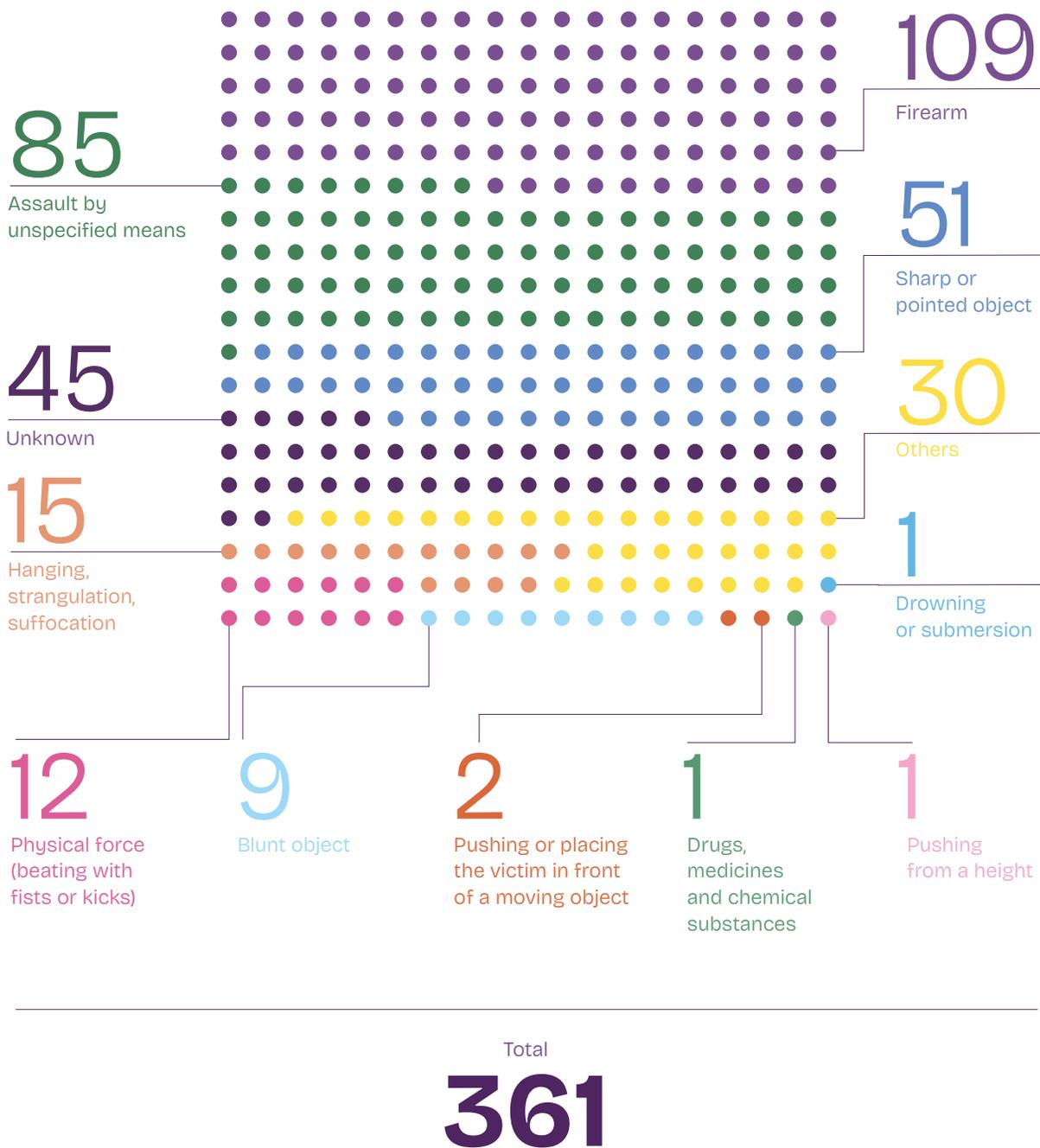
perpetrated. Furthermore, the high percentage of unspecified or unreported methods demonstrates the limitations in the access and quality of the available data.

An analysis of firearm homicides shows that trans women are the group most affected by this method:

- **Out of all firearm cases, 52 correspond to trans women, which represents 47% of homicides committed with this means** and 46% of crimes committed against trans women (out of 113).
- They are followed by cis gay men, with 35 cases (**32%** of the total number of cases in which a firearm was used **and 27% of all cis gay men [out of 130]**), which also indicates a significant vulnerability to this form of lethal violence.
- To a lesser extent, there are 9 cases of cis lesbian women murdered with firearms, 4 of cis bisexual men, 3 of non-binary people, 2 of trans men, and 4 cases of LGBTQI+ people without a specific identity reported.
- At the regional level, the highest rate of firearm use was recorded in Ecuador (65%), Peru (63%), Guatemala and Honduras (50%), and Mexico (41%).



Chart 9: Method or weapon used





The use of sharp or pointed objects as a method of homicide is also concentrated in violence against certain groups.

- **Trans women were the most attacked with these objects**, with 24 victims, which represents **47% of the total number of homicides that used this method** and 21% of the total number of crimes committed against trans women.
- Gay cis men were the second most impacted group, with 20 cases (**39% of the total number of cases committed with sharp-pointed objects and 15% of the total number of cis gay men victims**).
- Additionally, this method was used against **lesbian women in 3 cases (6%)**, cis bisexual men with 2 cases (4%), a trans man (2%) and a muxe person (2%).

4.3 Related forms of violence

In 16% of cases (**59 victims**), **multiple forms of violence** were reportedly carried out simultaneously at the time of the homicide, which demonstrates high levels of viciousness. In addition, **11% (39 people)** were **victims of torture**, an extreme manifestation of violence that reflects a pattern of especially cruel punishment or subjugation. On the other hand, in **4% of cases (16 victims)** the presence of **sexual violence** was identified. These figures show that, beyond the lethal act itself, many victims were subjected to multiple degrading forms of violence.

4.3.1 Background: threats, disappearances and sexual violence

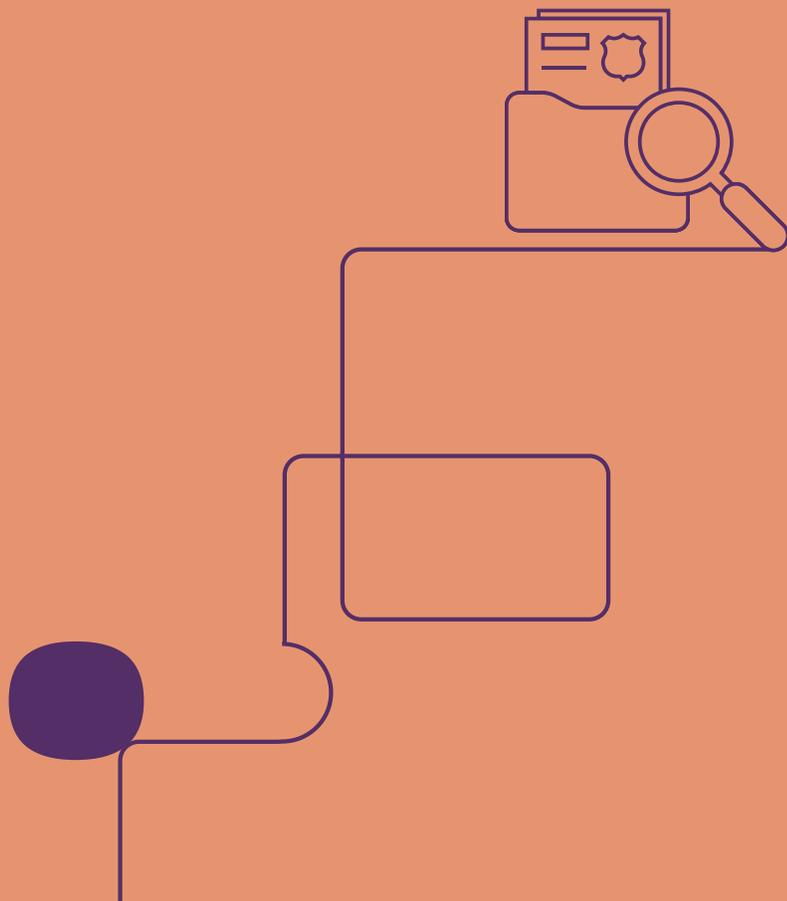
This section considers the information collected regarding the violence suffered by

victims prior to the incident. In this regard, only 15% of victims had a filed history of violence. However, these records provide insight into how lethal violence against LGBTQI+ people is part of a broader *continuum* of violence which could therefore have been prevented.

Seven victims received threats prior to their homicides: two of them were human rights defenders. Four were also victims of extortion (two cases involving armed groups or organized crime), four were victims of attempted murder, and three were victims of sexual violence. Thirteen victims were also reported missing days before the crime.

Characteristics of perpetrators

5.





5.1. Sex of the perpetrators

With regard to data on alleged perpetrators for whom sex information was recorded (**139 cases**): **87% were men and 13% were women.**

5.2. Relationship with the victim

In 85% cases, it was not possible to identify information about the relationship between the victim and their attacker.

Out of the 53 cases for which information is available, the most frequent reports were: acquaintances (14 cases), current romantic partner (15 cases), no apparent relationship (9 cases), friendship (6 cases), client (4 cases), authority or care relationship (3

cases), blood relative (1 case) and other household member (1 case).

These data show that, in the **cases with available information (53), at least 43% (current partner, friend, blood relative and other household member)** of victims had some kind of personal or emotional connection with the person who attacked them.

5.3. Procedural situation of perpetrators

In most cases, this information remains unknown: there are no details on the status of the criminal investigation or judicial action regarding the perpetrator of the crime. Among the cases where information is available, the following is noted: **51 perpetrators** are being held in pretrial detention, **9 were convicted, 7 were arrested in the act, and 9 people are currently fugitives.**

These data reflect a **low percentage of cases with effective judicial resolutions**, which highlights the **high levels of impunity** that persist in the face of lethal prejudice-driven violence in the region.



5.4 Extrajudicial executions by state agents

During the year 2024, **4 extrajudicial executions** of LGBTQI+ people were recorded. One was perpetrated in **Guatemala**³⁵, where **Milton Nelson Santamaría**, a Canadian citizen, was arrested with excessive use of force along with his friend **Edin Leonel Choc Xi** in a local store. Milton was taken to a police station, where he was brutally beaten to death. Edin, a witness to the incident, disappeared that same day. A week later, his corpse was found with signs of torture and in a position suggestive of sexual violence. Another one of these executions happened **in Ecuador. Taz, a young trans man,**

was intercepted by police during an operation, during which he was severely physically assaulted. As a result of the beatings he received and the lack of timely medical attention, Taz passed away.

Also, in the **Dominican Republic**, a 20-year-old **trans woman** was last seen alive on August 8, 2024, after being violently attacked and accused of stealing an e-cigarette by an army lieutenant. Witnesses claim the officer forced her into a vehicle. Six days later, her corpse was found with two gunshot wounds to the chest in an advanced state of decomposition in Hoyo de Nigua, Jarabacoa. The accused are in pretrial detention.

³⁵ See more at: <https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/guatemala-desigual/informacion/el-ultimo-crimen-de-la-sub-estacion-73-15>

LGBTIQ+ Lives: Who are we missing?

361

lives taken in 2024:

at least
1 LGBTIQ+
person
killed per day
in the region.



For cases with
recorded age,
more than half
were between
21–35.
Young people
were the main victims.

Distribution by sexual orientation and gender identity



4 most affected identities

Two groups concentrate the majority of documented cases:
cis gay men and trans women.

| | CIS GAY MEN | TRANS WOMEN | CIS BISEXUAL MEN | CIS LESBIAN WOMEN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 36% of total | 31% of total | 10% of total | 7% of total |
|  | At least 11 killings per month. | At least 9 homicidios per month. | At least 3 homicidios per month. | At least 2 homicidios per month. |
|  Country | Colombia (57) Honduras (21) Guatemala (19) México (19) | México (55) Colombia (30) Ecuador (13) | Colombia (27) Guatemala (7) | Colombia (14) Honduras (5) |
|  Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% public spaces 29% information unknown* 25% in homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% public spaces 16% in homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% information unknown* 20% public spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48% public spaces |
|  Methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37% information unknown* 27% firearms 15% sharp or stabbing objects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% firearms 21% sharp or stabbing objects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 77% information unknown* 11% firearms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33% firearms 11% sharp or stabbing objects |

*Without data on location/method in certain cases:
some sources did not specify this information for this year.

6



**Response of the
justice system**



In 90% of cases (324 of 361) information is available on the status of the criminal proceedings. Of these: 272 cases (84%) are still in the investigation stage, 46 cases (14%) are in trial, and 6 cases (2%) were archived. In addition, 9 convictions were registered, which only represents 3% of the total number of cases with information.

These data reflect a high **impunity rate**, with the majority of crimes remaining without a final judicial ruling. In some cases, offenders use "self-defense" as a strategy to reduce sentences or evade criminal responsibility. In Honduras, the Cattrachas Lesbian Network has identified that perpetrators have attempted to justify their crimes by claiming that the victims allegedly harassed them or attempted to sexually abuse them. This narrative reinforces stigmas and prejudices toward people of sexual and gender diversity.

During 2024, there were also advances and setbacks in regards to access to justice for LGBTQI+ people. Bolivia made

significant progress with the approval of the Guidelines for the Victim's Single Declaration, a document that will be annexed to the Interinstitutional Action Plan (RAI). This initiative, promoted by the Attorney General's Office in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), represents an important step in the recognition and protection of the rights of LGBTQI+ people who are victims of gender-based violence.

Although **Colombia** has judicial resources, such as the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation and a National Working Group for the Investigation of Violence Based on Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identi-



ty, actual responses to this type of violence are far from uniform or effective. Underreporting remains the norm. Thus, civil society organizations such as Colombia Diversa reported that, despite sending more than 100 formal requests for information to different entities in 2024, most responses were partial or nonexistent, making it difficult to keep track of cases and assess the reality of the access to justice. Furthermore, despite progress in this country, challenges persist in relation to the practical application of regulations in territories where institutionality is weak and discrimination continues to be a barrier to an effective access to justice.

In **Ecuador** The sentencing for femicide in the case of Angie Brigitte Muñoz, a 42-year-old trans woman murdered on April 2, 2023, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, stands out. This is the first time that the murder of a trans woman has been investigated and convicted as a femicide in this country.

Honduras documented important advancements in the prosecution of prejudice-based crimes based on sexual orientation. The Cattrachas Lesbian Network **managed to**

obtain the first life sentence against Edwin Janinie Cruz Mejía, for the murder of Wayland Kensey Woods McNab, which took place in 2017.³⁶ This sentence represents a relevant precedent in the recognition of the pattern of violence towards cis gay men, and the use of sexual orientation as a tool to justify a crime. However, the Inter-American Court's ruling in the Vicky Hernández case has not yet been enforced, so there are no specialized investigation protocols or state information system on violence against LGBTQI+ people.

Mexico³⁷ has made significant progress in terms of the access to justice for LGBTQI+ people during 2024. In February, the Supreme Court of Justice recognized, for the first time, that trans women can be considered victims of femicide, ruling on Constitutional Action 129/2022 in Michoacán. This ruling sets a key precedent for the application of femicide protocols at the national and regional levels. Likewise, in March, the state of Nayarit became the first to typify transfemicide as a criminal offense. Additionally, in July, Mexico City approved similar reforms to the local Penal

³⁶ See more at: <https://reportarsinmiedo.org/2024/02/14/con-cadena-perpetua-paga-la-extorsion-y-asesinato-de-su-novio-en-honduras/#:~:text=Wayland%20Kensey%20Woods%20McNab%20illeg%C3%B3,dispararon%20tres%20veces%20contra%20Wayland.>

³⁷ See more at: <https://letraese.org.mx/crimenes-de-odio-archivo/>



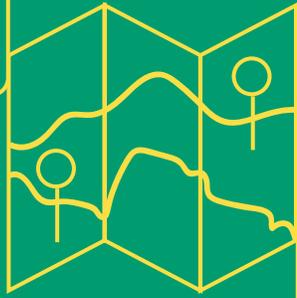
Code through the "Paola Buenrostro Law." Finally, in December, the creation of the Transfeminicide Crime Investigation Unit within the Mexico City Prosecutor's Office was announced. It is a specialized unit that will investigate the violent deaths of trans women. These advances position the country as a regional benchmark in the field.

In **Dominican Republic**,³⁸ progress was made in the judicial clarification of a crime committed against a cis-gay man. On March 15th, 2024, the Second Collegiate Court of the National District sentenced Francisco Javier García Quezada to prison for the murder of Jesús María Cuevas Peña, which occurred in 2022. This conviction represents a positive step toward accountability in cases of prejudice-driven violence. However, access to justice for LGBTQI+ people, particularly trans women, remains limited. For instance, since 2006, only 8 condemnatory sentences have been issued

out of 52 cases of homicide targeting trans women. Regarding cis gay men, between 2016 and 2024, 43 homicides were recorded with only 21 resulting in convictions.

Likewise, some state measures aimed at improving access to justice for LGBTQI+ people were highlighted, such as the adoption of the *Protocol for Dignified Treatment and the Guide to Dignified Treatment for Access to Justice*. These instruments, promoted by the judiciary branch, seek to standardize respectful practices and ensure that judges and support staff recognize the gender identity and sexual orientation of users of the justice system. However, these advances stand in stark contrast with the limited implementation in other critical sectors such as the National Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office, where revictimization practices, a lack of due diligence during investigations, and an absence of protocols to address bias-based violence persist.

³⁸ Information provided by TRANSSA - Trans Siempre Amigas



7

Dynamics of violence by subregion



7.1 North American Subregion



The year 2024 stands out as a period characterized by tensions between unceasing prejudice-driven violence and progress in the legal recognition of rights. In Mexico, the deterioration of public safety, the expansion of criminal dynamics³⁹, and the normalization of stigmatizing rhetoric⁴⁰ coincided with an election year loaded with social polarization. These factors created an environment conducive to the spread of extreme violence and impunity, which disproportionately affects people of sexual and gender diversity.⁴¹

The collusion of local authorities and organized crime structures weakened the State's capacity⁴² to ensure security and reflected a climate of widespread violence in many parts of the country. Trans women, particularly those who engage in sex work in public spaces, faced conditions of heightened visibility and vulnerability.⁴³

Societally, there is still a strong resistance toward LGBTQI+ people. This resistance is evident in the high frequency of cases of

³⁹ The International Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS). *The expansion and diversification of Mexican cartels: new players and dynamic markets*. 2024. Available at: <https://www.iiss.org/publications/armed-conflict-survey/2024/the-expansion-and-diversification-of-mexican-cartels-dynamic-new-actors-and-markets/>

⁴⁰ Council to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination of Mexico City (COPRED). *COPRED insists on the need to eliminate transphobic discourse and create more inclusive societies free of prejudice toward trans people*. 2024. Available at: <https://copred.cdmx.gob.mx/comunicacion/nota/copred-insiste-en-la-necesidad-de-eliminar-los-discursos-transodiantes-y-crear-sociedades-mas-incluyentes-libres-de-prejuicios-hacia-las-personas-trans>

⁴¹ See more at: <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-election-polarized-divided-heat-violence-4d5f620f0f8f-9b7ef6efa8b3083561a8>

⁴² Vania Pérez Morales & Fabiola Olvera Aldana. *The links between public servants and organized crime, a threat to the integrity of the State*. Animal Político. 2023. Available at: <https://animalpolitico.com/analisis/invitades/crimen-organizado-servidores-publicos-vinculos-amenaza>

⁴³ Geo González. *Mexico: What do the more than 50 transfemicides so far in 2024 tell us?* Presentes. 2024. Available at: <https://agenciapresentes.org/2024/09/05/mexico-que-nos-dicen-los-mas-de-50-transfemicidios-en-lo-que-va-de-2024/>



discrimination, physical violence, and practices such as so-called "conversion therapies," which significantly affect LGBTQI+ youth and reflect the persistence of social rejection.⁴⁴ In contrast, Mexico City has taken a significant step forward by reforming its Penal Code to criminalize and punish so-called "Efforts to Correct Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" (ECOSIG), reaffirming the principle that sexual orientation and gender identity do not constitute pathologies and guaranteeing the protection of the free development of personality and human dignity.⁴⁵

Thus, the Mexican sociopolitical context of 2024 shows that prejudice-driven violence is neither an isolated nor an exclusively criminal act. It is the extreme symptom of multiple structural failures: impunity, corruption, economic inequality, deep-rooted systemic discrimination, and weak social protection. Lethal violence thrives on the lack of decent opportunities, invisibility in records, and a lack of political will to enact

a comprehensive response. Despite some legislative and judicial milestones, as long as mechanisms for collaboration between the State and civil society are not consolidated, and without social transformation, regulatory advances will not prevent LGBTQI+ people's realities from continuing to be shaped by their exposure to different forms of violence.



7.1.1 Mexico

During the year 2024, Mexico recorded 80 homicides of LGBTQI+ people. Out of the total number of registered victims, 55 were trans women, 19 cis gay men, 2 muxe people, 2 cis men allegedly murdered due to their relationships with trans women who were also murdered, 1 cis man whose sexual orientation was diverse but unspecified and 1 person whose gender identity was not identified, but who allegedly belonged to the LGBTQI+ community, as mentioned in the case notes.

⁴⁴ The Trevor Project. *2024 Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth in Mexico*. 2024. p. 49. Available at: <https://www.thetrevorproject.mx/encuesta/2024/en/>

⁴⁵ Congress of Mexico City. *The Mexico City Congress approves reforms to the Penal Code that criminalize "conversion therapies."* 2025. Available at: <https://www.congresocdmx.gob.mx/comsoc-congreso-cdmx-aprueba-reformas-al-codigo-penal-que-tipifican-como-delito-las-terapias-conversion-1619-1.html>

⁴⁶ The case notes indicate that he is a cis LGBTQ+ man, but his sexual orientation could not be determined.



Among the victims, at least 7 people —5 trans women, 1 muxe person and 1 cis gay man—**were human rights defenders**, which demonstrates how violence targets visible leaders with the clear intention of silencing their voices and dismantling their communities.

Additionally, **12 of the trans women were sex workers**, a group that is particularly exposed to contexts of criminalization, police brutality and criminal networks. **There were also a number of hairstylists, 3 cis gay men and 7 trans women.** Moreover, **2 indigenous victims** were identified: 1 muxe person and 1 cis gay man, highlighting the intersection with structural racism.

As for the geographical areas, **47 homicides took place in urban areas, 7 in rural areas** (all of them targeting trans women) and, in **26 cases, no precise information is available.** The following is an analysis on the specific location of the events, which reveals differentiated patterns by gender identity:

- **Private homes:** 23 cases (10 cis gay men, 11 trans women and 2 cis heterosexual men). This environment is most common in homicides of **cis gay men**, with more than 53% of the cases taking place in this type of location.
- **Open spaces:** 28 cases (21 trans women, 4 cis gay men, 2 muxe people and 1

LGBTQI+ person). These are the most frequent **locations of crimes against trans women** (accounting for **38%** of the total number of their homicides).

- **Fields or vacant lots: 10 homicides** were registered in this type of location, **9 of which were against trans women.** This data adds to the broader trend of **trans women mainly being murdered in public or exposed spaces.**
- **Hotels or temporary lodging:** 4 cases (2 trans women, 2 cis gay men).
- **Workplaces:** 9 cases (7 trans women, 2 cis gay men).
- **Other spaces:** 6 cases.

Out of the 80 cases recorded, **41% were committed with a firearm.** This trend affects both trans women and cis gay men: 45% of trans women and 32% of cis gay men were killed by this type of weapon. The second most often used method are **sharp objects**, with a total of **14 cases:** 10 trans women, 3 cis gay men, and 1 muxe person. Six homicides also reportedly used physical force, and two cases involved blunt objects. Finally, the use of other lethal means was identified in 22 cases, although the details were not specified.

The distribution of the type of weapon used indicates that, although both trans women and cis gay men were attacked primarily with firearms, **trans women have a higher**



relative percentage of murders with this type of weapon, which is associated with their heightened visibility in public spaces or in contexts of sex work. **In 9 cases, signs of torture were identified**, and in **11, it was noted that the victims were subjected to multiple related forms of violence.**

For 29 homicides, there is information about possible attackers: **28 were men. One case was directly attributed to an organized crime group.** It was the murder of **Miriam Ríos Ríos**, commissioner of a local political party and LGBTQI+ activist in Jacona, Michoacán.

Miriam had publicly expressed her intention to run for councilor and was executed by armed men who broke into her business. This case exemplifies political violence and attempts to silence the participation of visible and active trans women.

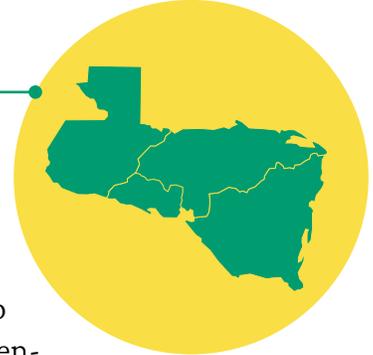
Regarding the **relationships with victims: 6 perpetrators were romantic partners** (4 in the case of trans women and 2 in the case of cis gay men), **2 were mutuals on social networks** (in 1 case, an underage trans woman went on a date with someone she met through Facebook and, in another, a cis gay man went on a Tinder date), and 4 were

close friends. The latter are related to the brutal murder of **Ricardo Tirado López**, a 24-year-old cis gay man. In September 2024, the Nayarit State Attorney General's Office arrested Alexis N., Esteban N., and Norma N. as alleged perpetrators in the case. Carlos N. was also arrested on charges of concealing an aggravated homicide.

According to the Prosecutor's Office's investigation, Ricardo died as a result of the numerous beatings these young men inflicted on him with a baseball bat. Ricardo's corpse was found in the yard of the property where he lived, bearing signs of profound violence and torture. His genitals had been mutilated, and his ears were torn off and later placed on a plastic chair next to his body, which had been wrapped in plastic.

Regarding judicial proceedings: **25 attackers are in pretrial detention and 3 are fugitives.** Out of the total number of cases, **21 are in the trial stage**, while **59 are still under investigation.** That means that **over 70% of crimes still have not led to criminal convictions for perpetrators**, which reaffirms a pattern of structural impunity for the violence committed against LGBTQI+ people.

7.2 Central American Subregion



The year 2024 confirmed the persistence of structural patterns of exclusion, violence, and institutional precariousness that define the daily experience of LGBTQI+ people in the Central American subregion. Despite historical and current differences between countries, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua shared factors that directly impact the reproduction of prejudice-driven violence and the impossibility of effectively guaranteeing the rights of LGBTQI+ people.

One of the common denominators was democratic fragility and the use of restrictive legal frameworks to consolidate conservative and authoritarian political projects. In 2024, arguments of morality and the defense of traditional family values were instrumentalized to justify legislative setbacks, the censorship of educational content, and the weakening of institutions. The narrative of "protecting values" served as a

pretext to limit the visibility of sexual diversity in the public sphere⁴⁷ and to restrict access to information and fundamental rights, especially in education and health.

This context has resulted in the direct or indirect criminalization of LGBTQI+ people. For instance, in Guatemala, legislative attempts to criminalize the dissemination of content about diversity and to restrict the rights of trans people intensified⁴⁸. Likewise, in El Salvador, the removal of educational and health materials that included references to sexual and gender diversity was consolidated.⁴⁹ At the same time, Honduras experienced a strong revival of fundamentalist religious movements, such as the "For Our Children" movement, which promoted legislative initiatives to strengthen a conservative family model and block

⁴⁷ Kate Orellana. *Gender ideology will destroy our country*. Reportar Sin Miedo. 2023. Available at: <https://reportar-sinmiedo.org/2023/06/10/la-ideologia-de-genero-destruira-a-nuestro-pais/>

⁴⁸ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). *Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV. A: Development of Human Rights in the Region*. 2025. par. 481. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF

⁴⁹ Claudia Espinoza, Maryelos Cea & Verónica Martínez. *MINSAL removes content on sexual diversity from health units and HIV clinics*. La Prensa Gráfica. 2024. Available at: <https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/MINSAL-retira-material-sobre-diversidad-sexual-de-unidades-de-salud-y-clinicas-VIH-20240228-0058.html>



reforms that would allow legal recognition of gender identity.⁵⁰ In Nicaragua, the arbitrary stripping of nationality from 317 people was documented. Among them were 222 political prisoners who were exiled to the United States and another 94 who were declared "traitors to the country." This practice, supported by Law No. 1145, flagrantly violates the right to due process and sends a direct message of intimidation intended to silence critical voices.⁵¹

The lack of official data disaggregated by sexual orientation and gender identity exacerbates this situation, perpetuating statistical invisibility and hindering the development of effective prevention strategies.

A second shared pattern was the pervasive lack of comprehensive policies to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and sanction lethal violence motivated by prejudice against gender expression or identity and sexual orientation. Although the

magnitude and visibility of homicides vary across countries, impunity remains the rule.

The lack of official data disaggregated by sexual orientation and gender identity exacerbates this situation, perpetuating statistical invisibility and hindering the development of effective prevention strategies. In this context, in El Salvador, the lack of clear mechanisms for citizen participation and the restrictions on access to public information during the state of

emergency deepen institutional opacity.⁵² This reduces the possibility of designing inclusive and evidence-based citizen security policies, which disproportionately affects LGBTQI+ people.

⁵⁰ Hondudiario. *The "For Our Children" Movement Presents a Bill Against "Gender Ideology."* 2024. Available at: <https://www.hondudiario.com/2024/09/19/movimiento-por-nuestros-hijos-presenta-iniciativa-de-ley-contra-la-ideologia-de-genero/>

⁵¹ Wilfredo Miranda. *Ortega and Murillo Impose New Law that Strips Nicaraguan Nationality from Citizens who Acquire Another.* El País. 2025. Available at: <https://elpais.com/america/2025-05-17/ortega-y-murillo-imponen-una-ley-que-despoja-de-la-nacionalidad-nicaraguense-a-los-ciudadanos-que-obtengan-otra.html>

⁵² Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). *Report: State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador.* 2024. par. 115. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe_estadoexcepcionddhh_el-salvador.pdf



Structural violence is reinforced by a disproportionate exposure to contexts of widespread insecurity. In rural communities and areas under the control of gangs, armed groups, or criminal networks, LGBTQI+ people are perceived as targets for social discipline, extortion, or territorial control. This reality is exacerbated by the criminalization of poverty, which leads trans women sex workers, young gay men from peripheral neighborhoods, and LGBTQI+ migrants to face arbitrary detentions, human trafficking networks, police harassment, and institutional violence, without effective guarantees of access to justice.⁵³

Another ubiquitous element in 2024 was the fragility of judicial independence and the seizing of key institutions.⁵⁴ In Guatemala and Honduras, prosecutors faced accusa-

tions of unwillingness to investigate crimes against LGBTQI+ people⁵⁵, while in El Salvador and Nicaragua, restrictions on freedom of expression and political persecution of civil society organizations further reduced their ability to document and report human rights violations.

In terms of public policy, 2024 saw no substantial progress. Although, in Guatemala, the possibility of developing a national protocol for criminal investigation into violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people was discussed, a lack of political will and resources left the project unfinished.

In this context, a subregional movement of community resistance and resilience is being consolidated. In the light of the absence of effective responses from the State, local

⁵³ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). *Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV. A: Development of Human Rights in the Region*. 2025. par. 395. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF and Comisión Inter-Americana Comisión on Human Rights (CIDH). *Report: State of Human Rights in Honduras*. 2024. par. 403. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf>

⁵⁴ Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). *Judicial independence in Central America: A still distant dream*. 2025. Available at: https://cejil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/informe_independencia_judicial_centroamerica_v193.pdf

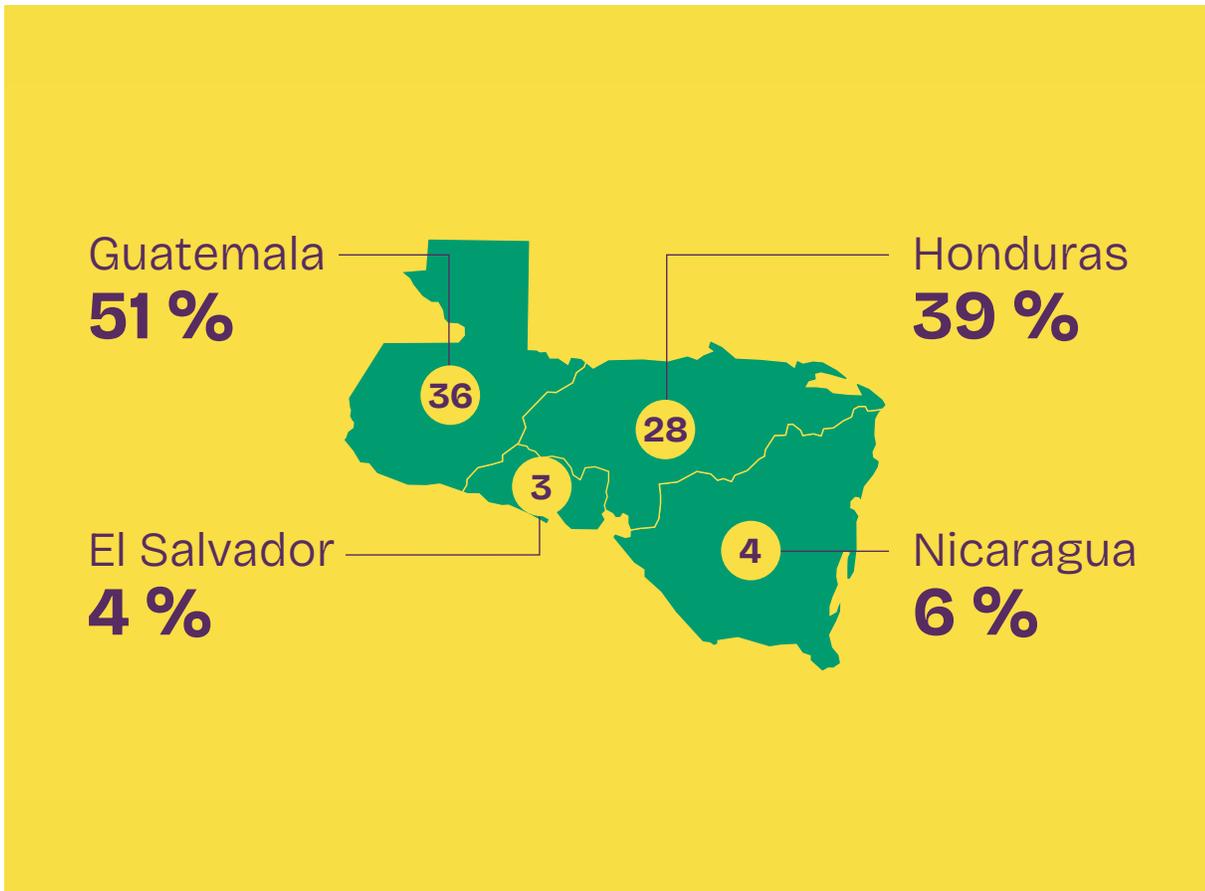
⁵⁵ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). *Report: Human Rights Situation in Honduras*. 2024. par. 401. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf> and Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA). *Preliminary observations: on-site visit to Guatemala*. 2024. par. 70. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/observaciones_preliminares_guatemala.pdf



organizations are maintaining case documentation, providing psychosocial and legal support, and advocating before international institutions. However, this vital work is being carried out under constant threats, surveillance, and criminalization of human rights defenders and community leaders. This increases the risk of withdrawal of these visible leaders and reduces their capacity to demand structural transformations.

The year 2024 made it clear that, in Central America, prejudice-driven violence and the exclusion of LGBTQI+ people are extreme manifestations of political systems that reproduce gender and sexuality hierarchies as tools of social control. The perpetuation of these patterns not only implies direct violence, but also impunity, censorship, and the political instrumentalization of conservative morality as a strategy for accumulating power.

Chart 10: Distribution of LGBTQI+ homicides in the Central American Subregion





During the year 2024, **at least 71 LGBTQI+ people were victims of lethal violence in the Central American subregion**, that is, 20% of total homicides recorded by the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+, in 2024.

Most of the victims were cis gay men, with 43 cases registered, which represents more than 60% of total cases in this subregion. They were followed by the homicides of 11 cis lesbian women, 8 cis bisexual men, 8 trans women, and 1 non-binary person.

The homicides **occurred mainly in public spaces**: 35 cases occurred on streets or in open spaces, 9 in rivers or beaches, and 6 in vacant lots, totaling 50 homicides in public spaces, which represents 70% of the total. On the other hand, 11 cases occurred in private homes.

The use of **firearms was the most common murder weapon, utilized in 32 cases**, while sharp or pointed objects were used in 10 cases, and other unspecified means in 9.

7.2.1 Guatemala



During the year 2024, **36 LGBTQI+ people** were murdered in Guatemala. Most cases occurred in the **department of Guatemala (8 cases)**, followed by Izabal, San Marcos, and Santa Rosa, with 5 cases each, demonstrating a territorial dispersion that en-

compasses both urban and rural areas. Regarding locations, 18 homicides occurred in urban areas, 14 in rural areas, and in 4 cases, it could not be determined.

- **19 of the victims were cis gay men, 7 were cis bisexual men, 5 were trans women, 4 were cis lesbian women, and 1 was non-binary.**
- **The crimes predominantly took place in the public sphere: 24 cases** occurred in public spaces, which represents 67% of the total. Additionally, 4 occurred in commercial establishments, 3 in private homes, and the rest in other locations.
- **The use of a firearm was the most common method, present in 18 cases (50%).** By contrast, 8 homicides were perpetrated through unspecified means, 3 with physical force, 3 with sharp or piercing objects, 2 with blunt objects, 1 by hanging, suffocation or strangulation and, in 1 case, the means could not be determined. **The use of firearms and public spaces were predominant in all gender identities and sexual orientations of the victims:** 42% of cis gay men, 43% of cis bisexual men, 40% of trans women, and 50% of cis lesbian women were murdered under these conditions.

It was also noted that at least **one of the trans women who were murdered was a**



sex worker, and it appears that her murder might have been linked to organized crime. The victim engaged in sex work in addition to her job in a maquila factory, which reinforces the hypothesis that she may have been exposed to the patterns of extortion and territorial control by organized crime.

Out of the **reported cases, 24 occurred in contexts associated with organized crime or armed conflict**, which represents approximately **67% of the total**. The victims of these cases were mostly **cis gay men (14 cases)** but there were also 3 cis bisexual men, **4 trans women** and **3 cis lesbian women**.

A case that exemplifies the interrelation between lethal violence against LGBTQI+ people and organized crime was the murder of **Natalia González Marroquín**,

A 16-year-old lesbian teenager. She was reported missing in 2023, but her corpse was found in 2024, wrapped in sheets and showing signs of torture, demonstrating an extreme level of violence. The presumption is that Natalia was taken by armed groups to be exploited for criminal purposes, although there is no official confirmation of this.

This case should not be seen as an isolated incident, but rather as pertaining to a pattern of structural violence that **prominently affects LGBTQI+ children and teenagers**, especially in contexts influenced by criminal economies, impunity and territorial control.

In regards to the alleged perpetrators: in 2 cases they were **agents of the State security forces**, both involving **extrajudicial executions**. In addition, **15 alleged murderers** were **linked to armed groups or organized crime**, which reinforces the systematic and structural nature of violence against LGBTQI+ people in the country. Another case was an episode of **intimate partner violence**.

In terms of access to justice, **20 cases remain under investigation**, which reflects the common **structural delays in criminal proceedings**. Only **two attackers have been convicted**. Pervasive impunity, coupled with the inefficiency of judicial proceedings, not only perpetuates violence against LGBTQI+ people but also sends an alarming message of institutional tolerance toward prejudice-driven crimes.

7.2.2 Honduras



During the year 2024, **Honduras registered 28 homicides of LGBTI+ people**. The cas-



es are geographically concentrated in the departments of **Francisco Morazán** (6 cases), **Atlántida and Choluteca** (4 cases each) and **Cortés** (3 cases). Overall, 57% of the crimes occurred in urban areas and 43% occurred in rural areas, indicating that this violence is perpetrated in different contexts.

In terms of the victims and their occupations, cis gay men were the most affected group, with 21 cases (75%). Within this group, 9 were employees, 2 were students, and 2 were merchants or self-employed. Five cis lesbian women were victimized, 2 of which were employees and 1 of which was a merchant or independent. Additionally, two trans women were victims of lethal violence, both of whom were sex workers.

- **The main method of murder was firearms**, with 14 cases (50%). Meanwhile, sharp or piercing objects were used in 4 cases, and suffocation or hanging in 2. In addition, other means such as physical force, blunt objects, or unspecified methods were used in 5 cases.
- **When cis gay men were victimized, 48% of murders were committed with firearms.** The most frequent places where these crimes occurred were private homes (6 cases), public spaces or transportation (6 cases), and rivers or beaches (5 cases). In total, 52% of cases were perpetrated in public spaces.

- Cis lesbian women were also mainly attacked in public spaces, with 5 cases, 3 of which involved the use of firearms.
- **The methods used for the homicides of trans women were firearms and physical force.** The crimes occurred in a private home and in a natural area (a river or a beach).

A pattern, which was observed in 7 cases (25%), is the prominence of rivers or beaches as murder locations. This was the case for the homicides of five cis gay men, one cis lesbian woman, and one trans woman. Firearms were used in four of these crimes, and the relationship between victim and perpetrator is unknown in all cases.

An incident exemplifying this trend occurred on the banks of the Choluteca River in Comayagüela (Central District Municipality), where the bodies of two people who were assigned male at birth were found. Both were completely nude and had multiple gunshot and machete wounds; and one of them had their face completely disfigured. It is presumed that one of the victims was trans or gender nonconforming, as she was initially identified as a woman, but it was later determined that both victims were assigned male at birth.



The brutality of the crime and the way the bodies were disposed of in a public space demonstrate an intention of exposing and dehumanizing the victims. Moreover, it is suspected that the victims may have been **foreign migrants in transit** because neither of them were carrying identification documents and no matching records were found in the national system. This case reflects a worrying pattern in the country: rivers, beaches, and other open spaces being used as murder locations or body disposal sites.

The **relationship between victims and their alleged perpetrators is only known in 3 cases**. In all three, the victims were cis gay men whose alleged killers were part of their close circle: two acquaintances and one roommate. **In 23 crimes (82%), the perpetrator has not yet been identified**. So far, alleged attackers have been found in only five cases; all of them men. Across these five cases, six attackers were identified: two were arrested in the act, two remain in pretrial detention, and two have already been sentenced.

7.2.3 El Salvador



In 2024, 3 cases were recorded, all involving cis men victims: 2 gay and 1 bisexual. In two of the cases, the perpetrators were seemingly the victims' romantic partners,

demonstrating the presence of intimate partner violence. As for the case of the cis bisexual man victim, although his relationship with the attacker was not confirmed, the media alluded to a possible friendship.

All the murders took place in urban areas. **In all three cases, the alleged perpetrators were identified and are currently in pretrial detention and under investigation.**

One case that illustrates a relatively swift response from the justice system was that of a gay man whose partner, Josué Eduardo Platero, was arrested by the National Civil Police after being accused of committing a premeditated homicide. The Attorney General's Office reported his provisional detention on January 23, 2024. According to witnesses, the victim, José Antonio, was taken to the site where his body was later found. At that location, he was allegedly beaten and then stabbed. Josué Eduardo subsequently threw the body into a ravine near the Cuesta Los Conacastes stream in the El Matazano canton.

In relation to the methods employed, two of the victims were attacked with sharp or pointed objects, and one was killed by hanging, strangulation or suffocation.



7.2.4 Nicaragua



During 2024, 4 homicides were recorded. The victims were 2 cis lesbian women (50%), 1 trans woman (25%) and 1 cis gay man (25%). All of them were relatively young. Regarding territorial distribution, **two of the cases took place in the Department of Managua and two in Chinandega;** furthermore, they were equally distributed between urban areas (50%) and rural areas (50%). Regarding the crime scenes: two victims were found in fields or vacant lots (a cis lesbian woman and a cis gay man), one in a private home (a cis lesbian woman), and one by a river or beach (a trans woman).

Two of the victims (50%) were subjected to multiple forms of violence before being murdered. In three of the homicides (75%), the alleged perpetrators were identified.

One of the cases involved a cis lesbian teenager who was between the ages of 11 and 15. The investigation found that the attacker was her own uncle. He murdered her with extreme violence: dismembering her, burning her remains, and burying them at the

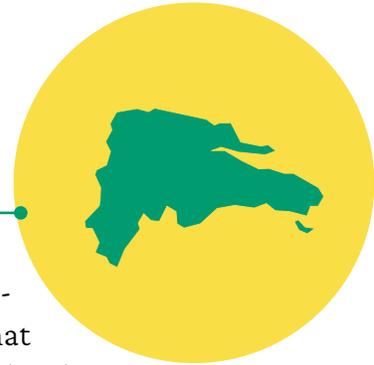
farm where they both worked, all in an effort to avoid leaving any traces. The victim's mother, noticing her absence, reported her missing, which led to an intense search.

Although the perpetrator was captured, this case reflects the level of violence that LGBTQI+ people can be exposed to, even within their families. The Prosecutor's Office requested a life sentence with the possibility of parole for the accused, on the charges of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated rape.

In the case of the other cis lesbian woman, the perpetrator was the victim's romantic partner. As for the murder of the cis gay man, contact with the attacker occurred in the context of a business transaction. The murder methods varied, including drowning or submersion; hanging, strangulation or suffocation; the use of a sharp or piercing object; and the use of a blunt object, all of which reflect the brutality of the cases.

In regards to the access to justice, **two of the cases (50%) resulted in convictions, one was dismissed (25%), and one remains pending judgment (25%).**

7.3 Spanish-speaking Caribbean subregion



The political context of the Dominican Republic during 2024 was shaped by the reelection of President Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona. He has been in power since August 2020 and was reelected in May 2024 with the support of 58% of the electorate. He governs under the umbrella of the Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM), which, despite defining itself as center-left, combines economic liberalism policies with highly conservative positions on security, migration, and moral values. This ideological approach has led to an ambiguous official stance in regards to the rights of LGBTQI+ people, with some limited progress in terms of the development of protocols and guidelines to guarantee dignified treatment within the judicial system,⁵⁶ but without a substantial political

will to promote substantive changes that would strengthen legal protections for the LGBTQI+ population⁵⁷.

Additionally, 2024 saw the reconfiguration of Congress, which is now also dominated by the Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM). This political shift has created a latent risk of legislative setbacks. The exclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories in the new Penal Code draft constitutes a worrying sign of a lack of commitment to the comprehensive protection of the LGBTQI+ population.⁵⁸ In this context, civil society monitoring and international pressure prove essential to curb initiatives that undermine fundamental safeguards.

⁵⁶ Judicial Branch of the Dominican Republic. *Guide and Protocol for Dignified Treatment promote inclusion in the Judiciary*. 2024. Available at: <https://poderjudicial.gob.do/guia-y-protocolo-de-trato-digno-favorecen-la-inclusion-en-el-poder-judicial/>

⁵⁷ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). *Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV. A: Development of Human Rights in the Region*. 2025. par. 768. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF

⁵⁸ TRANSSA. *Social organizations hold Abinader and the PRM responsible if the Penal Code is approved with setbacks*. 2024. Available at: <https://transsa.org/2024/07/18/organizaciones-sociales-responsabilizan-a-abinader-y-al-prm-si-el-codigo-penal-se-aprueba-con-retrocesos/> and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). *Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV. A: Development of Human Rights in the Region*. 2025. par. 768. Available at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF



At a societal level, structural discrimination is reproduced in religious and moral narratives that criminalize the very existence of sexual and gender diversity.⁵⁹ These narratives legitimize everyday violence, making it difficult to report and fueling the perception that the murders of LGBTQI+ people are irrelevant or undeserving of justice. The lack of social recognition of trans identities, coupled with the informal employment situation that many trans women are forced into (particularly in sex work contexts), increases their exposure to the risk of lethal violence and limits their access to institutional protection.

The disappearances of LGBTQI+ people in the Dominican Republic are a growing problem that remains largely unreported in official records. Although exact figures are non-existent, civil society organizations such as TRANSSA have detected multiple unsolved cases over the past six years. These missing persons cases have implicated a lack

of adequate search protocols or effective coordination between the National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and human rights organizations.⁶⁰ This lack of an effective response perpetuates the secondary victimization of families and fuels impunity, which highlights the urgency of establishing alert and search systems with a gender and diversity-based perspective, as well as rigorous investigations and mechanisms for institutional accountability.

The intersectionality present in this violence adds a layer of complexity. Factors such as poverty, migration, racialization, and participation in informal economies exacerbate the vulnerability of specific segments of the LGBTQI+ population. Even where protocols and guidelines exist, the lack of intersectoral public policies and national coverage limits their effectiveness, leaving those living in conditions of greater marginalization and exposure to violence without comprehensive responses.

⁵⁹ Human Rights Watch. *Dominican Republic: Court Reviews Laws Against Gay Sex*. 2024. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/30/dominican-republic-court-reviews-laws-against-gay-sex>

⁶⁰ TRANSSA. *Urgent Call from the Human Rights Observatory to Investigate Crimes in Higüey*. 2024. Available at: <https://transsa.org/2024/06/07/llamado-urgente-del-observatorio-de-derechos-humanos-para-investigar-crimenes-en-higuey/>



7.3.1. Dominican Republic



During the year 2024, **at least 6 homicides** were recorded: **4 of the victims were cis gay men, 1 was a cis lesbian woman, and 1 was a trans woman.** These numbers show that cis gay men continue to be the group most affected by prejudice-driven violence, although other sectors also face high levels of vulnerability.

Out of the 6 cases, 5 occurred in urban areas and 1 in a rural area. Moreover, **4 victims** (all cis gay men) **were murdered in their homes (67%) and 2 in open spaces (33%)** (the cis lesbian woman and the trans woman). In all cases, the victims were subjected to multiple forms of violence and, in five of them, signs of torture were identified, demonstrating high levels of cruelty. **In 4 cases (67%), a sharp or piercing object was used;** whereas one case implicated the use of a firearm and, in another, it was hanging or suffocation.

One of the cases also involved a forced disappearance. Additionally, in three cases, the alleged perpetrators have been identified. Their relationships to the victim are known in two of the cases: for instance, the cis lesbian woman's attacker was her part-

ner, and in one of the murders that targeted a cis gay man, they were a client.

The patterns identified in the cases of lethal violence recorded in the Dominican Republic during 2024 reveal significant differences based on gender identity and sexual orientation:

- Four cis-gay men victims were murdered in their homes, three of them with sharp or piercing weapons, and one by hanging, demonstrating the cruelty of the violence.
- On the other hand, the murders of the cis lesbian woman and the trans woman occurred in public spaces. In the case of the trans woman, a firearm was used, while the cis lesbian woman was attacked with a sharp weapon.

These victimization dynamics reflect how the location of the crime and the lethal method are intertwined with specific prejudices toward the victims' identities, reinforcing the need for differentiated and intersectional approaches. A case that demonstrates the brutality with which violence is exercised against LGBTQI+ people, especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination, is that of '*Chimbala*'.



A 37-year-old gay man of African descent. He was found dead in La Ceiba del Salado, in the Higüey municipality and the La Altagracia province. His corpse was found nude, with obvious signs of torture, and he was hanging by the neck with a blue bedsheet tied to the roof of his home.

The forensic report confirmed that Chimbala died from homicidal hanging-induced asphyxiation. He also had a stab wound in the pubic area with rectal exposure, a human bite

on the abdomen, and multiple lacerations to the face and chest. The presence of feces on the buttocks and anus was also documented, suggesting an intent to cause extreme degradation and symbolic corporal punishment based on his gender identity or sexual orientation.

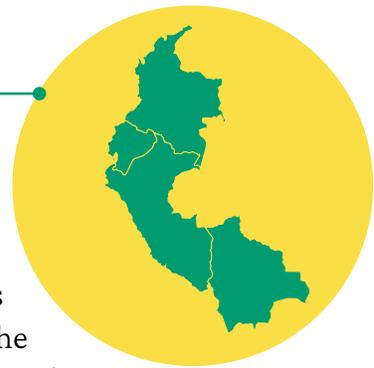
Este crimen pone en evidencia un patrón de violencia letal que está cargado de significados profundamente estigmatizantes, racistas y homofóbicos, con un fuerte componente de crueldad y exposición del cuerpo como mensaje.

7.4 Andean Subregion

In 2024, the human rights situation in the Andean Subregion—Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia—was shaped by multiple political, social, and security crises. Despite each country’s specificities, patterns of common challenges can be identified in relation to human rights.

One of the key aspects is the institutional fragility that permeates the four countries,

severely limiting the capacity of States to guarantee and protect people's rights. In Bolivia, the clashes within the ruling party, the failed coup attempt,⁶¹ and a highly questionable justice system reflect a profound crisis in terms of institutional legitimacy. This context further exposes



⁶¹ See more at: <https://www.france24.com/es/am%C3%A9rica-latina/20241218-bolivia-despide-un-2024-con-una-crisis-m%C3%BAltiple-y-avizora-un-2025-de-alta-tensi%C3%B3n>



LGBTQI+ people to a lack of access to effective protection mechanisms.

In Peru, the proliferation of conservative agents in key institutions, such as the Ombudsman's Office and the Congress of the Republic, has weakened the human rights approach. Furthermore, initiatives such as the attempted merger of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations with other ministries in efforts to eliminate all gender-focused policies from the executive branch, suggest a significant setback in the specific protection of women and LGBTQI+ people. Likewise, the Peruvian Congress made progress in approving legislative initiatives to dismantle democratic checks and balances mechanisms: Law No. 32153 limited constitutional controls over parliamentary decisions, eliminating oversight and scrutiny of potential legislative abuses that violate human rights, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as LGBTQI+ people.

In contrast, a significant incongruence can be observed in Ecuador, between its fairly

progressive legal framework and a reality characterized by the deinstitutionalization of the State and a lack of effective rights safeguards. Lastly, in Colombia, a resurgence of openly anti-rights narratives and legislative proposals was observed in 2024 in political and social spheres. A multitude of local leaders, councilors, and mayors have spread transphobic and homophobic messages, reinforcing prejudices and stereotypes that legitimize violence.⁶² The narrative linking the LGBTQI+ agenda to an "ideological imposition" by the left or the national government has fueled a climate of polarization that directly impacts the safety of activists and creates skepticism surrounding the legitimacy of inclusive policies. This phenomenon was amplified by social media and digital outlets, where hate speech proliferated without effective regulation or exemplary sanctions for those responsible.

In addition to this institutional crisis, there was an escalation of widespread violence and the expansion of organized crime in this subregion, phenomena that directly increase

⁶² Two clear examples: in March, Cali councilman Andrés Escobar published transphobic messages against an official from the Ministry of Equality, which generated rejection from state entities such as the Ombudsman's Office and the Ministry of Labor. In June, the mayor of Sabaneta (Antioquia), Santiago Montoya, endorsed a post that promoted "hetero pride" and referred to same-sex couples using derogatory terms, which prompted strong criticism from human rights organizations. INFOBAE. *The national government responded to Andrés Escobar's transphobic tweet: the controversial message was deleted by the councilman.* [online]. Bogotá: Infobae, March 20th 2024. See more at: <https://www.infobae.com/colombia/2024/03/20/gobierno-nacional-respondio-al-trino-transfobico-de-andres-escobar-el-polemico-mensaje-fue-borrado-por-el-concejal/>



the vulnerability of LGBTQI+ people. The year 2024 was the second most violent in Ecuador's history, with an intentional homicide every 75 minutes.^{63,64} In Peru, the growth of criminal economies and armed violence have also led to an increase in crime⁶⁵ and extortions.⁶⁶ While Bolivia has lower homicide rates, political violence and the absence of public policies with a specific approach continue to undermine the protection of LGBTQI+ people. In Colombia, on the other hand, systematic violence against LGBTQI+ social leaders and human rights defenders persists, highlighting a context in which prejudice-driven violence is normalized. At the same time, the presence of armed groups has increased the risks and vulnerability of these individuals. These groups oppose the recognition of LGBTQI+ people, promote discriminatory policies, and support conservative narratives, which has led to the defunding and exclusion of LGBTQI+, feminist, and women's organizations.⁶⁷

In legal terms, while some countries have frameworks that recognize the rights of LGBTQI+ people, their implementation remains insufficient, and in some cases, worrying setbacks have been observed. In Peru, the dismantlement of public policies and the abandonment of approaches focused on gender and sexual diversity, by local and national authorities, have significantly weakened institutional protection. Furthermore, in 2024, the country experienced a significant setback with the issuance of Supreme Decree No. 009-2024-SA, which updated the Essential Health Insurance Plan (PEAS). This was strongly criticized by human rights organizations, given that it promoted the pathologization of LGBTQI+ identities and reinforced medical stigma. In Ecuador, the lack of implementation of measures to support existing regulations leaves LGBTQI+ people in legal limbo. Meanwhile, in Bolivia, the demands of the LGBTQI+ population

⁶³ See more at: <https://www.primicias.ec/seguridad/ecuador-2024-tasa-muertes-violencias-segunda-peor-historia-87118/>

⁶⁴ See more at: <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/balance-insight-crime-homicidios-2024/#h-ecuador-12-8>

⁶⁵ See more at: <https://insightcrime.org/es/noticias/balance-insight-crime-homicidios-2024/#h-peru-35-9>

⁶⁶ See more at: <https://www.comexperu.org.pe/articulo/crimen-organizado-y-violencia-en-aumento-un-desafio-urgente-para-el-pais>

⁶⁷ ONU Mujeres. *LGBTIQ+ communities and the setback of the rights agenda: 5 things you need to know. Articles from Latin America and the Caribbean*. 2024. Available at: <https://lac.unwomen.org/es/stories/articulo-explicativo/2024/06/las-comunidades-lgbtqi-y-el-retroceso-de-la-agenda-de-derechos-5-cosas-que-hay-que-saber>



have been excluded from public debate, overshadowed by economic and political instability. And although important legal recognitions do exist in Colombia,^{68 69} LGBTQI+ people continue to experience discrimination and violence, as well as a lack of effective access to rights, especially in rural or peripheral contexts.

Likewise, a cross-cutting issue across the entire subregion is the lack of official, disaggregated data on the situation of LGBTQI+ people. This invisibility obstructs the development of effective public policies and perpetuates institutional inaction in the face of the violence these populations endure.

In Peru, official records of crimes against LGBTQI+ people are incomplete. While some important progress has been made, such as improved records under the Aurora Program of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, these remain in-

sufficient. Through Executive Directorate Resolution No. 230-2023-MIMP-AURO-RA-DE, new categories were incorporated in the records of Women's Emergency Centers, disaggregating sexual orientation with options such as "lesbian," "bisexual," or "pansexual," as well as gender identity with categories such as "trans woman," "transsexual," and "trans man." This measure is still facing challenges for its correct and effective implementation. Furthermore, official records of complaints filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office remain incomplete. Although the Ministry's computer systems (the SIATF and the SGF) have incorporated the LGBTI variable to record complaints since 2017, many prosecutors do not input this information, which has been identified as one of the main causes of the lack of official data on these cases. Thus, both the limitations and the poor use of registration tools perpetuate the institutional invisibility of violence against LGBTQI+ people in Peru.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ See more at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/lgbt/20250530-ie-sogi-stm-colombia-es.pdf>

⁶⁹ Colombia remains a country of stark contrasts. Although its legal and public policy frameworks on the rights of LGBTQI+ people are among the most advanced in the region, the daily reality for many continues to be shaped by exclusion, marginalization, and, in the most severe cases, violence. These patterns are not isolated incidents but are instead rooted in deeply entrenched and structured discrimination, exacerbated during the armed conflict and still present in a post-conflict context, especially in historically marginalized regions.

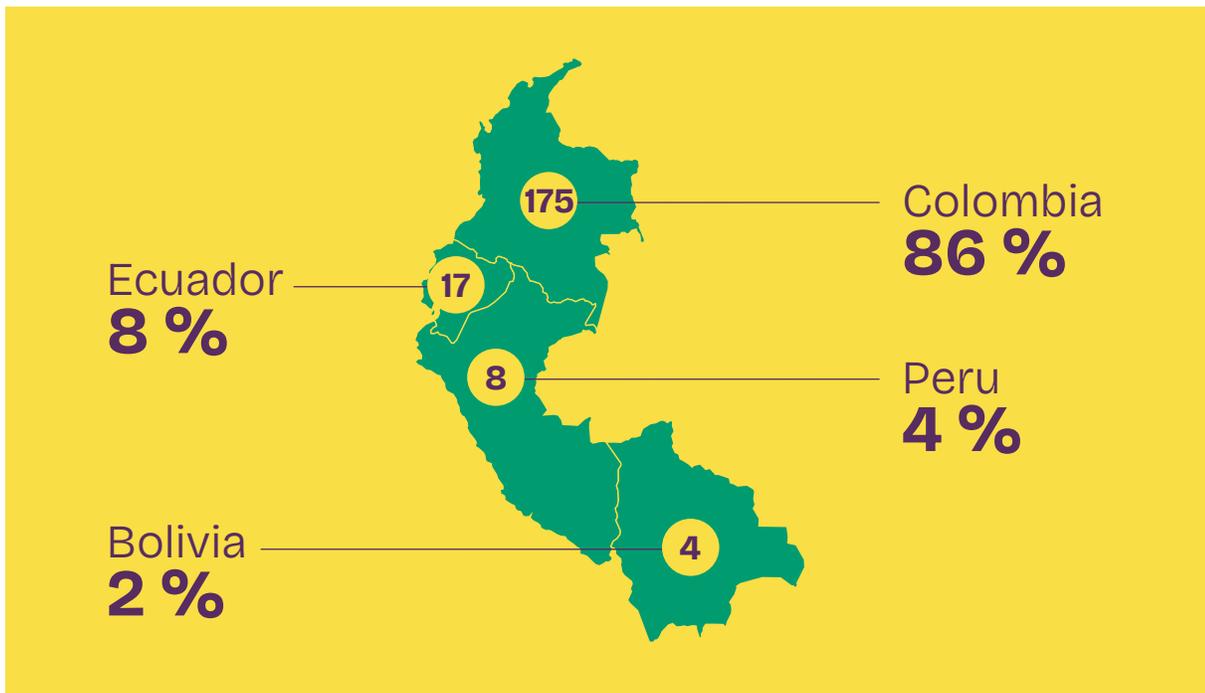
⁷⁰ See more at: <https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/2925786/Caracter%C3%ADsticas%20criminal%C3%B3gicas%20de%20las%20muertes%20dolosas%20de%20personas%20LGTB%20en%20el%20Per%C3%BA%202012%20E2%80%93%202021.pdf?v=1647879133>



In Bolivia, distrust in the justice system limits reporting. In Ecuador, existing data comes mostly from civil society organizations, due to the lack of systematic record-keeping by the state. In the case of Colombia, difficulties are identified when it comes to obtaining and registering quality information from the Attorney General's Office.

Although national situations present nuances, regional similarities allow us to identify a common trend: the growing risk of regression in acquired rights and the urgent need for comprehensive, coordinated, and human rights-based responses that prioritize the differentiated risks to the lives and dignity of LGBTQI+ people.

Chart 11: Distribution of LGBTQI+ homicides in the Andean Subregion



⁷¹ See more at: <https://colombiadiversa.org/publicaciones/>

⁷² In several cases, there were inconsistencies regarding the victim's sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly in the murders of trans women and trans men. Data regarding the exact crime date and the exact municipality where it occurred, were not included in the database. COLOMBIA DIVERSA. *Homicides of LGBTQI+ people in Colombia* [online]. Bogotá: Colombia Diversa, 2023. See more at: <https://colombiadiversa.org/publicaciones/homicidios-personas-lgbtqi/>



During the year 2024, 204 homicides were recorded in the Andean subregion. This subregion represents 57% of the total number of crimes in the region.

Out of the 204 victims, **cis gay men** were the most affected group, with **64 cases**, representing **30%** of the total. In turn, **49 trans women (24%)** were murdered. Other victims were 27 cis bisexual men, 16 cis asexual men, 11 cis men with diverse sexual orientations, 15 cis lesbian women, 11 cis bisexual women, 1 cis asexual woman, 3 cis women with diverse sexual orientations, 4 trans men, 2 non-binary people, and 1 person described as LGBTQI+ by sources.

Regarding the crime scene locations, in the majority of cases, specifically **112 cases (55%)**, that information is unknown. However, when the information is available, it is clear that **public spaces were most frequent, accounting for 51% of known cases. Private homes followed, at 22%, and commercial establishments, at 7%.**

As for the **method or weapon** used, it should be noted that, in **44 cases**, no information is available; in another 76 cases, the means was **unspecified**. Nevertheless, among the **84 cases where the method is detailed**, the use of firearms was most com-

mon, representing 51% of cases. This is followed by sharp or pointed objects, 27%; and hanging, strangulation or suffocation, with 6 cases (7%).

7.4.1 Colombia



During 2024, at least 175 homicides were recorded. cis gay men were the most affected group, with 57 cases (33%). Moreover, 30 cases of trans women (17%) were also recorded,⁷³ 27 cis bisexual men (15%), 16 cis asexual men (9%) and 11 cis men with diverse sexual orientations that could not be exactly determined through the source (6%).

As for the homicides that targeted cis women, **14 of the victims were lesbian (8%), 11 bisexual (6%),** 1 asexual and 3 with diverse sexual orientations that could not be exactly determined through the source. In addition, lethal violence was also used against **3 trans men (2%),** 1 non-binary person and 1 unspecified LGBTQI+ person.

The departments with the highest number of cases were **Valle del Cauca (28 cases), Antioquia (27), Risaralda (15) and Bogotá (14).** Antioquia, specifically, was the scene of the brutal crime against **Karis Saldarriaga.**

⁷³ One of the victims, identified as a trans woman, was also intersex, according to documented information.



*On October 20th, 2024, Karis, a renowned 61-year-old trans activist known for her tireless defense of human rights and her fight against the stigma and discrimination faced by LGBTQI+ people, especially in rural and departmental contexts, was murdered. Her corpse was found inside her apartment in the La Mansión neighborhood. According to the preliminary report, her body had multiple stab wounds to the neck and chest, demonstrating the cruelty with which the crime was committed. In January 2025, authorities captured the alleged perpetrator, **Diego Alexander Becerra Rave**, who allegedly had an altercation with Karis at her home before attacking her with a knife.*

El asesinato de Karis no solo representa Karis's murder constitutes not only an **ir-reparable loss for her family and for the Colombian LGBTQI+ movement**, but also **reflects the disproportionate risks faced by human rights defenders**. Her story, her legacy and her voice were captured in works such as *Locas de pueblo. Maricas mayores en los municipios de Antioquia* [Small-Town Queens: Older Queer Men in the Municipalities of Antioquia] by the writer Guillermo Antonio Correa, where

Karis appears as a testimony of resistance and community leadership.

Regarding geographic location, information on the general areas (urban/rural) was unknown for 116 cases. However, **51 cases were recorded in urban areas** and 8 in rural areas. As for the specific crime scenes, **it was not possible to clearly determine where 121 of the cases took place or where the victims' bodies were found**. Despite this, the following was noted for the cases with available information:

- **24 cases took place on streets or public transportation** (6 cis gay men, 2 trans men, 3 cis lesbian women and 13 trans women).
- **16 in private homes** (8 gay cis men, 1 bisexual cis man, 1 lesbian cis woman, 1 asexual cis woman, 4 trans women and 1 non-binary person).
- **4 in rivers or beaches.**
- **3 in hotels or lodging.**
- **3 in fields or vacant lots.**

In relation to the murder weapon or method, the most common attacks used unspecified means (75 cases) or firearms (27 cases), followed by sharp or pointed objects (17 cases). There were also four cases of hanging or strangulation, and other less common methods such as physical force or pushing from high places.



When analyzing the location of the crimes in relation to the gender identity and sexual orientation of the victims, several patterns are observed:

- For instance, **50% of trans women** were murdered in **public spaces**. Out of these 15 cases, **7 were committed with a firearm**, indicating that this demographic tends to be exposed to situations of lethal violence in open spaces. In addition, **4 cases occurred in private homes**, which represents 13% of the total cases registered for this population.
- Furthermore, for **cis gay men**, the location of the incident is unknown in **35 cases (61%)**. However, considering the **22 cases where this information is available, 9 occurred in public spaces (41%)**. Among these, **5 cases involved the use of a firearm**. On the other hand, **8 cases occurred in private homes**, where other methods of lethal violence predominated, such as **hanging, strangulation or suffocation (3 cases)**, and the use of **sharp or pointed objects (3 cases)**.

This analysis not only shows a greater concentration of violence against trans women in public spaces, but also the risk that the private sphere continues to pose for cis gay men.

As for the victims' profiles, 3 were migrants; 12 were human rights defenders; 4 were houseless; 3 were linked to organized crime; 2 were sex workers; 2 were public officials; 6 were hairstylists; and 15 were merchants or independent workers.

In 9 cases, a prior connection with the victim (friendship, acquaintance, or business relationship) was identified. In addition, the following was reported: 3 offenders were arrested in the act; 13 are in pretrial detention; 1 was convicted; and 5 are fugitives. Despite this, out of the 175 cases, the vast majority (146) are still under investigation, while 13 are currently on trial and 1 was dismissed.

7.4.2 Bolivia



During the year 2024, 4 homicides were recorded. The victims were mostly trans women (3 cases) and 1 cis gay man.

Two of the trans women who were murdered were sex workers. In one of these cases, the crime was committed by an underage guest in a temporary accommodation; the other homicide occurred in a public space. Both situations reflect a combination of structural violence, prejudice, and vulnerability to dynamics of criminal activity. **In both cases, the alleged attackers are in prison.**



One of the most representative cases of the brutality faced by trans women who are sex workers, even in situations where they manage to survive, occurred in the city of La Paz. It was an **attempted transfeminicide**.

L., a transgender sex worker, was brutally attacked inside her own home. The attacker, identified as J., was a client with whom she had a "friendship." That night, after a phone invitation, the two shared alcoholic drinks and had sex. When the victim eventually asked him to leave, the attacker responded with extreme violence, attacking her with a sharp weapon and causing multiple wounds to her neck, chest, shoulders, and hands. Despite the severity of the attack, the victim managed to defend herself, struggled with the attacker, and eventually snatched the weapon, thus preventing her murder.

This case not only demonstrates the level of brutality with which violence is carried out against trans women, but also the **structural vulnerability** faced by those who are forced into sex work in contexts of exclusion. It is worth noting that, at the time of the attack, **L. had not yet changed the information in her documentation under**

the Gender Identity Law 807, which may influence the way the case is investigated and whether the identity of the victim is recognized by State institutions. This fact also highlights the **institutional barriers** and the lack of guarantees of access to justice with gender and identity perspectives.

This type of attack is part of a persistent pattern of violence against trans women who engage in sex work in Bolivia, where attempted transfeminicides are often minimized or made invisible in official records, despite their frequency and severity.

The case of the cis gay man occurred inside a penitentiary center, where he was mechanically suffocated (hanging, strangulation, suffocation) by his alleged partner, who has already been convicted. This case highlights the serious conditions of violence and lack of protection that LGBTQI+ people who are deprived of their liberty are exposed to.

The murder methods in the three cases of trans women were similar: all were attacked with sharp or piercing objects, and their bodies showed wounds that displayed extreme brutality. Regarding the geographical location, three of the events occurred in **urban areas (75%) and one in rural areas (25%)**. Two homicides occurred in Santa Cruz, one in Oruro and one in Cochabamba.



7.4.3 Perú



During the year 2024, 8 homicides were recorded. Out of the total number of victims in 2024: 4 were cis gay men, 3 were trans women, and 1 was a cis lesbian woman.

From an intersectional perspective, some profiles with exacerbated situations of vulnerability stand out. One of the cis gay men was a young, Indigenous human rights defender, estimated to be between 16 and 20 years old. One of the trans women was a sex worker. Three cis gay men participated in the dance industry, suggesting a particular pattern of hypervisibility in cultural and artistic activities.

In relation to the locations and spaces where the events occurred, **5 took place in Lima.** Overall, 6 homicides occurred in urban areas and 2 in rural areas. **The specific locations of the crime scenes or body disposal sites were diverse:**

- 2 cases took place in private homes (1 trans woman and 1 cis gay man).
- 3 on the street or public transportation (1 trans woman and 2 cis gay men).
- 1 in a workplace or workspace (cis gay man).
- 1 in a commercial establishment (the victim was a cis lesbian woman who was the owner of said establishment).
- 1 in a field or vacant lot (trans woman).

The firearm was the most frequent method, present in 5 cases (62.5%). The other methods recorded were the following: 1 case of assault by unspecified means, 1 case that involved a sharp or pointed object and another with an undisclosed method.

In four cases, the alleged perpetrators were identified. For instance, the murder of the cis lesbian woman was committed by her romantic partner who was arrested in the act. Another of the crimes, against a **trans woman, also involved intimate partner violence;** the attacker is currently in pretrial detention. The third case concerned a **cis gay man** who was allegedly attacked by his **romantic partner, who was arrested in flagrante.** The fourth homicide is one of the most representative cases of violence perpetrated by organized crime networks against trans women sex workers: it is the murder of **Jasmine,** also known as La Charapa.

Jazmín, 32, had been systematically harassed by members of the Los Cafichos de Megaplaza criminal gang, who extorted sex workers in the area, many of them trans women. Jazmín had resisted paying the 100 soles per day "quota" demanded by this organization. In the early hours of February 15, while she was talking with



others outside a hotel, she was intercepted by a hitman who, along with his accomplice, quietly got off a motorcycle and shot her at point-blank range before fleeing the scene. The case was directly linked to Miguel Alcides de la Cruz Sayán, alias "Azul" or "Padre," identified as the leader of the Los Cafichos de Megaplaza gang, who was subsequently arrested. The First Office of the First Corporate Provincial Criminal Prosecutor's Office of Lima Norte obtained 12 months of preventive detention against him for the crimes of aggravated homicide and belonging to a criminal gang.

This fact reveals the dynamics of control and systematic violence that organized crime exerts on LGBTQI+ people. Extortion, impunity, and the lack of effective state responses are intertwined with structural violence, deepening the vulnerability of trans women sex workers.

7.4.4. Ecuador



During the year 2024, 17 homicides were recorded: 13 of which were trans women (76%), 2 cis gay men (12%), 1 trans man (6%) and 1 non-binary person (6%).

Trans women continue to be the group most vulnerable to lethal violence. Among the documented cases, at least two of trans women were sex workers, one of them being a migrant from Venezuela. Another trans woman was a human rights defender.

Regarding the geographical distribution of homicides, **the departments with the highest number of cases were Guayas with 6 cases (5 in Guayaquil and 1 in Daule), Manabí with 3, and Los Ríos with 2. Overall, 76% of crimes occurred in urban areas, and 24% in rural areas. Most of the incidents took place in:**

- Open spaces, streets or public transportation (11 cases).
- Commercial establishments (3 cases).
- Private homes (2 cases).
- Fields or vacant lots (1 case).

This information shows a **predominance of crimes in public places**, which not only exposes victims to visible and brutal violence, but also highlights a lack of state protection in such spaces.

- **The use of firearms was the most common method, present in 11 cases (65%).**
- Sharp or pointed object (1 case).
- Blunt object (2 cases).
- Suffocation, strangulation or hanging (1 case).



- Use of drugs or chemical substances (1 case).
- Other methods (1 case).

Among the cases of the 13 trans women who were murdered, 9 involved the use of a firearm; 8 of which took place in public spaces.

*The murder of a **trans woman in Esmeraldas** is an example of the extreme violence suffered by trans women, the most affected demographic in the country. She was 20 years old and a well-known hairstylist within her community. She was brutally shot to death on April 16, 2024. The incident occurred on a public street, after she received a suspicious phone call while at her sister's house. The person on the other end of the line invited her to come downtown to provide her with important information in person. Following that instruction, she left her home and was attacked by hitmen on motorcycles. The attackers shot her repeatedly, leaving her body lying face down in the middle of the street.*

In at least four cases, the victims were subjected to multiple forms of violence, and three of them were tortured, which underscores the level of viciousness.

In 16 cases, the alleged perpetrator has not been identified, reflecting an alarming level of impunity. Only one case has been solved, that of a trans woman who was fatally wounded during an apparent mugging.

As pertaining to the relationships with the perpetrators:

- One of the attackers was a client of a transgender sex worker.
- Another case involved police brutality. Taz, a young trans man, was assaulted by police officers, who beat him and caused his death.

A clear pattern was identified: lethal gun violence in public spaces disproportionately affects trans women (in at least 5 cases) and also plays an important role in the deaths of cis gay men, trans men, and non-binary people, in similar contexts.

Prejudice knows no borders

Four subregions where territory matters: diverse methods, locations, and identities most exposed.

204

Andean south



4 people killed every week, 17 per month



Who are most affected?

Cis gay men: 64 (30%)

Trans women: 49 (24%)



Where and how?

Location: public spaces and homes are most common.

Methods: firearms and sharp or stabbing objects predominate.



Context keys

- Sociopolitical crises, citizen insecurity and institutional fragility.
- Weak official records limit prevention and investigation.
- Rising criminality and anti-rights rhetoric.

71

Central america



6 people killed per month, 1 every 5 days



Who are most affected?

Cis gay men: 43 (61% of total)

Lesbian women: 11 (15%)



Where and how?

Location: 70% in public spaces.

Methods: Firearms and sharp or stabbing objects predominate.



Context keys

- Opacity and institutional capture → impunity.
- Instrumentalized conservative morality: setbacks and censorship.
- States of exception and authoritarianism restrict information; civil society works under pressure.

North America

80



**7 people
killed
per month**



**Who are
most affected?**

Trans women:
55 (69%)

Cis gay men:
19 (24%)



**Where
and how?**

Location:
Homes:
most common
setting for cis gay men.

Public spaces and
sex work contexts:
greater exposure
for trans women.

Methods:
Firearms predominate;
torture and multiple
connected forms
of violence are documented.



**Context
keys**

- Criminal expansion and local complicity weaken protection.
- Polarization and stigma worsen impunity and the hostile environment.
- Legal advances vs. implementation gap.



Spanish-Speaking Caribbean

6



**1 person
killed every
2 months**



**Who are
most affected?**

Cis gay men:
4 (67%)



**Where
and how?**

Location:
Homes:
most common
setting for
cis gay men.

Public spaces:
greater exposure
for trans women
in sex work contexts.

Methods:
sharp or stabbing
objects predominate.

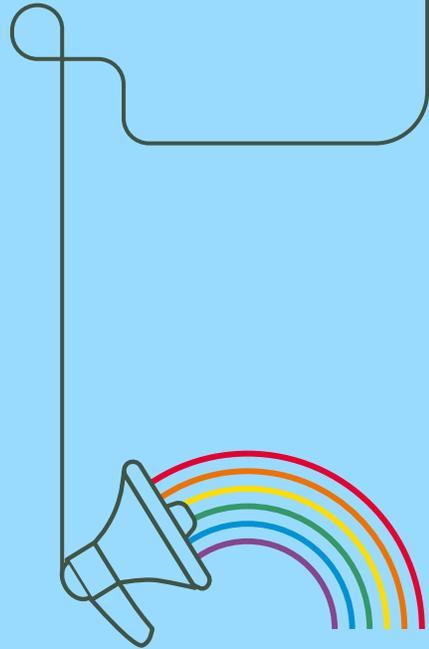


**Context
keys**

- New Criminal Code without expressly including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories.
- Disappearances and insufficient state response.
- Dignified treatment protocols in justice system, with unequal application in Police and Public Prosecutor's Office.



8.



Conclusions



In a global context characterized by the resurgence of authoritarian narratives, regressive policies, and rhetoric that openly attacks the principles of equality and social justice, the Latin American and Caribbean region is facing serious setbacks for the human rights of LGBTQI+ people.

In this state of affairs, the work of the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+ has enabled the documentation of at least **361 homicides against LGBTQI+ people in 2024**. More than half of the victims for whom there is available information were between the ages of **21 and 35 years old**, which shows a substantial concentration **of homicides that target young people**.

Among the countries with the highest number of recorded homicides are **Colombia (175), Mexico (80) and Guatemala (36)**. There have also been apparent and **worrying escalations** in countries like the **Dominican Republic (200%)**. **Despite the total figure not reaching the levels of 2022 (17 cases)**, it does evidence a worrying resurgence of violence. **Bolivia's 100%**

increase in cases reflects an aggravation of structural violence, whereas **Mexico's 23% increase** may be related to a social rejection of the augmented public visibility of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. We can conclude that crimes against LGBTQI+ people thrived amid the lack of oversight, response, and political will.

In turn, the report shows that **cis gay men** are once again the group with the most records, with **130 victims (36%)**, especially in **Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala**. **Trans women** are the second most targeted demographic, with **113 murders (31%)**, and they continue to face alarming levels of violence, mostly in **Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador**. Other demographics also suffer



from lethal violence, such as **cis bisexual men**, who have mainly been attacked in **Colombia (27 cases)**, and **cis lesbian women**, especially in **Colombia** and **Honduras**.

At a subregional level, the data reveal differentiated patterns: in **Mexico (North America)**, 69% of the victims were trans women; in **Central America**, homicides against cis gay men predominate (more than 60%); in the Dominican Republic (**Spanish-speaking Caribbean**), 67% of the victims were also cis gay men; and in the **Andean Region**, though the distribution of cases is balanced, cis gay men (30%) and trans women (24%) remain the most affected groups.

Among the victims, **22 sex workers** were identified, mostly trans women. Moreover, **21 victims were human rights defenders**. Their murders not only silenced powerful individual voices, but also profoundly affected the communities they represent and support, potentially weakening their organizational processes. Furthermore, **32 homicides were committed in contexts likely linked to organized crime or armed groups**, especially in **Guatemala**, demonstrating how the dynamics of structural violence and impunity are intertwined with other forms of criminality.

Most of the homicides took place in **public spaces (104 cases)** and 57% were perpetrated with a firearm, exemplifying how brutal

forms of violence operate as public spectacles, sending a message of intimidation and control. On the other hand, **58 crimes occurred in private homes**. In these cases, the most common weapon was sharp or pointed objects (34%) and the majority of victims were cis gay men (55%). This pattern highlights additional risk factors such as the profiling of victims through dating apps or attackers approaching them and gaining their trust in order to access the private spaces where these crimes are committed.

Regarding the murder methods used, **firearms were the most frequent (109 cases, 30% of total)**. However, **forms of violence that display extreme cruelty**, such as signs of torture, mutilation and viciousness, **were identified in a significant proportion of homicides**, demonstrating not only the intention to eliminate, but also to degrade and punish identities rejected by an extremely cisheteronormative and binary society.

In terms of those recorded as **alleged perpetrators**, out of the **139 identified, 87% are men and 13% women**. Only **9 people have been convicted**, while **51 remain in pretrial detention and 9 are fugitives**. This reflects an alarming level of **structural impunity** and state negligence, which fuels the perpetuation of these crimes.

Despite the adverse context described above, significant progress has been documented in



terms of access to justice for LGBTQI+ people in the region. **In Ecuador, a historic ruling was issued** when the murder of a trans woman was investigated and convicted under the charge of femicide for the first time. Similarly, for the first time in **Mexico**, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation recognized that trans women can be considered victims of femicide. Additionally, progress was made in Colombia with the creation of the National Working Group for the Investigation of Violence Based on the Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity of Victims, **establishing an institutional response** that can be replicated across the region.

Despite these significant advances, a serious structural limitation remains: the **absence of disaggregated official data**. This invisibility prevents the effective design of **prevention and citizen safety strategies that are well-contextualized and tailored** to the specific realities and risks that LGBTQI+ people are exposed to in the face of violence.

The combination of poor or non-existent official records, along with high levels of impunity—with 98% of cases going unsentenced—as well as regressions or threats to the rights of LGBTQI+ people in several countries in the region, demonstrates a systematic failure to fulfill **the States' duties of guarantee and protection**. This neglect not only perpetuates violence, but also reproduces a cycle of invisibility and lack of

institutional protection, that is a form of discrimination against LGBTQI+ people.

Within this framework, the sustained monitoring and analysis carried out by the Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+ has revealed that prejudice-driven violence is not an isolated phenomenon, but is instead embedded in patterns that are shaped by multiple inequalities. Approaching these data from an intersectional and comprehensive perspective has been key to understanding how factors such as limited access to rights, job insecurity, housing conditions, police harassment, the presence of organized crime, ineffective gun control, and other forms of discrimination intersect with each other and amplify the risks faced by LGBTQI+ people in the region.

For all the aforementioned reasons, the existence and continued efforts of the **Red Sin Violencia LGBTQI+** is a political commitment, because recording cases is not just for keeping track: **it acts to defend lives, demand justice and construct collective memory** so that these acts of violence are never repeated. Each number represents a life taken, a story that must not be forgotten. **Memory is also written through data** and documenting is a form of resistance. When faced with a present that insists on denying and erasing our existence, we insist on naming things for what they are and denouncing them. **No homicide should remain silenced.**

General and country recommendations

Based on the findings and analysis of this report, the Red Sin Violencia LGBTIQ+ recommends that the States of the region:

9





Ensure the production, collection, and publication of statistical data disaggregated by gender identity, sexual orientation, and other relevant variables, at all levels of government. This information is key for making patterns of violence visible, shaping inclusive and comprehensive public policies, and monitoring the state of human rights of LGBTQI+ people.



Urge States to include homicidal violence against LGBTQI+ people—or those perceived as such—in their citizen safety plans, on the agendas of their security councils, and in all public policies related to coexistence. In order to achieve this, it is essential to address the specific risks faced by LGBTQI+ people according to specific social and territorial dynamics, in order to build comprehensive prevention and protection strategies with a differential and intersectional approach.



Implement mandatory training and awareness programs for key stakeholders such as law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other officials in the justice field. These trainings should emphasize

human rights and gender and sexual diversity perspectives, promoting the incorporation of the analytical category of prejudice-driven violence in criminal investigations, with the aim of helping to identify legal argumentation and relevant evidence for the criminal process.



Promote and strengthen mechanisms to coordinate and cooperate with civil society organizations that work with LGBTQI+ people. This coordination should occur in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies or other measures aimed at preventing and investigating violence to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTQI+ people.



Design and implement public awareness campaigns that contribute to deconstructing stigmas, stereotypes, and hate speech toward LGBTQI+ people. These campaigns should promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

Bolivia



Design and implement public policies, programs, and action plans aimed at preventing violence against LGBTQI+ people, structurally addressing hate speech, stigmatization, and discrimination motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.



Adapt existing legal instruments and protection mechanisms to **explicitly include trans women in protection frameworks against gender-based violence**, ensuring their access to preventive, protective, and reparation measures on equal terms. Furthermore, guarantee that their cases are investigated as feminicides, regardless of whether or not they have been able to change their identification to reflect their gender identity.



Establish periodic processes for training and raising awareness about the rights of LGBTQI+ people for justice officials, as well as making this content mandatory in the training programs of key institutions such as the National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Judiciary.



Implement sustained public policies for the systematic collection and **analysis of disaggregated statistical data on violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ people**. This information must be public, accessible, regularly updated, and considered for oversight or public policymaking.

Colombia



Characterize the specific risks faced by LGBTQI+ people from an intersectional perspective based on the social and territorial dynamics that structure their vulnerability to lethal violence, particularly in contexts where armed groups are present or where territorial control is disputed. Coordinate care and protection plans for LGBTQI+ people at risk, based on an analysis of the specific territorial context.



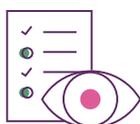
Establish inter- and intra-institutional coordination to develop strategic plans for the care and protection of LGBTQI+ people at risk, based on analyses of the territorial context and differential risks. This is especially relevant in territories where homicides have occurred despite prior warnings.



Urge the Ministry of the Interior to implement technical advisory services for human rights defenders and LGBTQI+ leaders, as provided for in Decree No. 0714 of 2024, and to advance the transformation of the National Protection Unit model toward comprehensive and collective schemes, with a differential and territorial approach, in coordination with municipal governorships and mayoralties.



Urge the Attorney General's Office's National Working Group for the Investigation of Violence Based on SOGI to publish periodic reports on their progress in the investigations of homicides against LGBTQI+ persons, with their appropriate classification as prejudice-driven crimes, identification of patterns, and recording of related forms of violence.



Create a state observatory on violence against LGBTQI+ people that coordinates information between public entities and social organizations, with national and regional reach.



Design collective reparation and memory-building strategies that address the social impact of homicides against LGBTQI+ people, including psychosocial care for surviving victims and support for community organizing initiatives.

Ecuador



Exhort the Attorney General's Office to establish mandatory protocols for the **proper classification of crimes committed due to prejudice against the sexual orientation, gender expression,** and identity of victims of violent deaths, as well as for the identification of patterns, the collection of disaggregated statistical data, and the development of public and periodic reports on these crimes and their procedural status.



Ensure the implementation of the "National Protocol for Investigating Femicides and other Violent Deaths of Women and Girls" in cases involving trans women and implement training for prosecutors, investigators, police officers, and court personnel on investigations with a differentiated approach for cases involving LGBTQI+ victims of violence.



Urge the National Council for Gender Equality to exercise its role of enforcement and oversight over the entities responsible for investigating and punishing prejudice-driven crimes, promoting appropriate measures to eradicate impunity.



Prompt the Secretariat of Diversity to report on the implementation of the LGBTI+ Diversity Action Plan (2022–2025), territorialize the Gender and Diversity Roundtables, and coordinate Comprehensive Protection Services. It should also promote awareness-raising workshops in sanctioning and research institutions, as well as develop public reports on violence against LGBTQI+ people and regulate the Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, including specific protections for trans, lesbian, bisexual, and intersex women.



Request the Ombudsman's Office to follow up on reports of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people, whether made by civil society or according to official records, as well as to present a draft reform to the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code. to expand the special and expedited procedure for discrimination and hate crimes. Likewise, promote the development of an Intervention Protocol for these types of cases within the prison system and activate the National Mechanism against Torture in the event of acts of prejudice-driven violence within prisons and also in a context of extreme national insecurity.

El Salvador



Reactivate institutional spaces for participation and dialogue between the State and LGBTQI+ organizations, such as intersectoral roundtables or advisory councils, to strengthen the development of public policies on the prevention and response to bias-based violence and ensure sustained dialogue with civil society actors specialized in human rights and sexual and gender diversity.



Urge the State to systematically and mandatorily train personnel from the Attorney General's Office, the National Civil Police, and the Institute of Forensic Medicine in the human rights of LGBTQI+ people and in the prevention and investigation of crimes against LGBTQI+ people, with the technical support of civil society organizations, in order to ensure the proper identification of prejudice-based motives in violent deaths and reduce revictimizing practices.



Implement effective institutional oversight and accountability mechanisms for the actions of judicial officials and prosecutors, especially in cases where LGBTQI+ people's access to justice has been compromised.



Urge the State to prepare periodic reports on violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ people, ensuring their public discussion in national and international accountability bodies. These reports should integrate disaggregated data and qualitative analysis to assess the magnitude of the phenomenon and support evidence-based policymaking.

Guatemala



Develop a national public policy for LGBTQI+ people that guarantees the effective participation of social and community actors with territorial representation and that has the technical support of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency, the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights, and a ministry of the executive branch. This process must ensure an intersectional and human rights-based approach, with the capacity for real implementation throughout the country.



Urge the Ministry of the Interior to design and implement specific public policies to prevent violence against LGBTQI+ people. These policies should include community strategies for prevention, institutional strengthening, and training for security forces with a focus on sexual diversity and human rights.



Recommend the Public Prosecutor's Office and the National Institute of Forensic Sciences to create and implement a specialized protocol for the criminal investigation of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people. This protocol should guarantee the proper collection of evidence, respect for the identity of the victims, the incorporation of prejudice-driven motives into investigative hypotheses, and the application of forensic technical criteria with a gender and sexual diversity focus.



Honduras



Implement permanent training systems on sexual and gender diversity in public institutions, especially those responsible for criminal investigations and judicial proceedings, as part of a verifiable commitment to access to justice for LGBTQI+ people.



Design and implement differentiated protocols to guide the actions of public officials in cases of prejudice-driven violence, integrating contextual analyses and including investigative lines that consider the victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression as possible motivators for the crime. These protocols should establish clear standards to ensure due diligence and respect for victims' rights from the initial stage of the criminal process.



Coordinate the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Police Investigation Directorate, and the Judiciary with civil society organizations to adapt judicial processes to the needs of LGBTQI+ people and ensure context-sensitive responses to the specific risks they face, all with a human rights perspective.

México



Develop systems for collecting and analyzing information on prejudice-driven violence against LGBTQI+ people, generating disaggregated and differentiated statistics that recognize the specificities of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics, as well as applying an intersectional approach to guide evidence-based public policies.



Advance the criminal typification of transfeminicide in all States, in order to guarantee its legal recognition as a specific form of lethal violence based on prejudice and ensure adequate mechanisms for its prevention, investigation, prosecution, punishment, and reparations.



Guarantee ongoing training and capacity building for ministerial officials to ensure actions free from bias and discrimination, and to guarantee effective access to justice for LGBTQI+ victims and their families, both blood-related and social.



Investigate the murders of LGBTQI+ people as hate crimes, including classifying them as homicides aggravated by underlying prejudiced motivations and, where applicable, as transfemicides, ensuring compliance with enhanced due diligence standards.



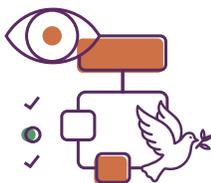
Exhort the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to fully recognize and exercise its leading role in promoting and defending the rights of women and LGBTQI+ people, in order to guarantee comprehensive legal defense and psychological support services that are appropriate and accessible in situations of violence, as well as promoting public policies and other appropriate measures for the prevention, prosecution, and reparation of this violence.



Urge the Peruvian National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Judiciary to establish mandatory training and protocols for the proper classification, recording, investigation, and prosecution of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people, as well as the identification of patterns through the collection of disaggregated statistical data and the development of periodic public reports on these cases.



Repeal Law No. 32301, enacted in 2025, which modifies the law establishing the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation, as it poses a serious risk to access to justice for victims of human rights violations and represents a direct threat to the work of social organizations, especially those that defend the rights of LGBTQI+ people through strategic litigation and political advocacy.



Urge the Ombudsman's Office to resume its constitutional mandate to protect human rights, including filing constitutional challenges against laws passed without democratic oversight that violate national and international standards on equality and non-discrimination in relation to LGBTQI+ people. It is also recommended to follow up on reports of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people, whether filed by civil society or officially recorded.



Urge the Public Prosecutor's Office to create and implement a specialized protocol for the criminal investigation of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ people, ensuring adequate evidence collection, respect for the identity of the victims, inclusion of prejudicial motives in investigative hypotheses, and the application of forensic technical criteria with a gender and sexual diversity focus.



Recommend that the Public Prosecutor's Office, the National Police, and the Judiciary work with civil society organizations to adapt judicial processes to the needs of LGBTQI+ people and ensure context-sensitive responses to the specific risks they face, all with a human rights perspective.



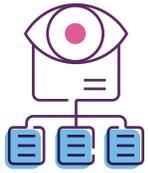
Urge the State to prepare periodic reports on violence and **discrimination against LGBTQI+ people**, ensuring their public discussion in national and international accountability forces. These reports should include disaggregated data and qualitative analyses that provide an understanding of the magnitude of the phenomenon and support the development of evidence-based public policies.



República Dominicana



Amend the Criminal Code to introduce aggravating factors applicable to crimes motivated by prejudice against sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, and approve a comprehensive anti-discrimination law prohibiting violent or discriminatory practices against LGBTQI+ people in areas such as education, health, employment, justice, and security.



Urge the National Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office to implement specific guidelines for addressing crimes against LGBTQI+ people with a focus on human rights and gender perspective, and to create a specialized prosecutorial unit for the investigation of these crimes, equipped with trained personnel and sufficient resources to carry out its work.



Establish a national alert system for missing LGBTQI+ persons, with differentiated protocols that guarantee a swift and contextualized response to these types of incidents.



Urge the Ministry of Education and state agencies to integrate content on sexual and gender diversity into the national education curriculum and promote mass awareness campaigns that eradicate stigma and foster respect for LGBTQI+ people.

Nicaragua



Reestablish the specialized protocols of the National Penitentiary System and the National Police to guarantee the rights of LGBTQI+ people, and ensure their effective application in contexts of detention and incarceration. Likewise, urge the enforcement of the legal framework that penalizes violence against LGBTQI+ people, ensuring that these measures are applied in accordance with international standards and with guarantees of non-discrimination during criminal investigations and the judicial phase.



Urge the State to fully implement the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Group of Experts on Human Rights on Nicaragua, especially those aimed at guaranteeing the safety of LGBTQI+ human rights defenders, including those in forced exile.



Urge the Ministry of Health and related government agencies to adopt immediate and coordinated measures to prevent gender-based violence, while ensuring that there are no discriminatory barriers based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression in such services. Likewise, develop policies and programs that address the needs of vulnerable groups, including LGBTQI+ people, to guarantee their access and retention in the education system.



Protect and respect, without reservation, the rights of all persons to freedom of expression and association, and ensure that activists, journalists, and opposition groups can operate peacefully and safely within Nicaragua, without fear of reprisals. In this regard, guarantee the protection of the right to a nationality and restore the status of all those who were arbitrarily deprived of their citizenship, in violation of Nicaragua's commitments under the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



These are not just numbers;
they are interrupted stories –
and we demand
justice.