



Amman-Al Quds Model United Nations

نسخة الأمم المتحدة لعمان والقدس

UN Women TOPIC 1

Examining Post-Conflict Economic Reintegration of Female Ex-Combatants in Colombia.

Colombia's 2016 peace accord with the FARC brought an official end to five decades of internal armed conflict, yet it left unresolved one of the most complex social questions of the post-conflict period: what becomes of the women who fought?

Over 13,000 FARC fighters demobilized under the peace process; nearly one-quarter were women. Unlike male combatants, however, female ex-fighters have returned to civilian life facing a double burden while being stigmatized as insurgents and marginalized as women. Their reintegration has been uneven, fragmented, and in many cases, symbolic. While disarmament was formalized, economic reintegration for female ex-combatants remains precarious, with many cut off from basic human necessities whether it's stable income and land access or even formal employment.

The Colombian government and UN agencies have introduced reintegration programs with gender-sensitive components, including

support for cooperative businesses led by former combatants or vocational training, and psychosocial services. Yet implementation has lagged. In practice, most initiatives have been urban-centered, poorly funded, or one-size-fits-all—failing to account for the specific constraints that women face in rural zones, where ex-combatants are often resettled. Land ownership remains out of reach for most demobilized women, especially in regions with contested control by armed groups. Many female ex-combatants also carry invisible burdens: trauma from sexual violence, lost access to education, disrupted maternal care, and social rejection by host communities.

Female ex-combatants occupy a legal and political blind spot: they are neither fully recognized as victims nor treated as full agents in peacebuilding. Addressing their economic reintegration requires confronting longstanding power imbalances, from rural land tenure laws to the gender gaps in Colombia's labor market. It demands a move away from short-term rehabilitation to long-term structural support, through access to credit, education, cooperative ownership, and political inclusion.

Delegates are here to consider the meaning of reintegration along with who it is designed for, and whether the systems in place affect the realities of those expected to rejoin them.