

MATTHEW BROWN Bringing Memories in from the Margins: Inclusive Transitional Justice and Creative Memory Processes for Reconciliation in Colombia (MEMPAZ)

Colombia has endured the world's longest running armed conflict and is now entering a period of transition and peacebuilding. The conflict has produced enduring divisions in Colombian society, meaning that the voices of marginalised communities who have been victims of the conflict are often not heard or acknowledged. Therefore, an inclusive reconciliation is essential for Colombia's transition to peace.

Our new project, MEMPAZ, funded by Colciencias and the Newton Fund (2018-2020) will work with local practitioners to use creative memory processes to bring marginalized histories into implementation of the peace accords. The municipalities we will work with are amongst those that have felt the full force of the armed conflict: Municipio Cáceres, Antioquia; Municipio Cartagena del Chaira, Caquetá; Municipio Cauca, Antioquia; Municipio El Carmen de Bolívar, Bolívar; Municipio Florencia, Caquetá; Municipio Patía, Cauca; Municipio Pueblo Bello, Cesar; Municipio San Jacinto, Bolívar; Municipio San Juan Nepomuceno, Bolívar; Municipio San Andrés de Tumaco, Nariño; Municipio Valledupar, Cesar.

Lasting reconciliation depends upon the inclusion of the voices and memories of victims and marginalised groups within the transition to peace as spelled out in Colombia's framework for transitional justice (TJ) and in wider processes of social change in the aftermath of conflict. Listening to victims and making memory *work* for reconciliation is a priority for Colombia's emerging Truth Commission (TC), but international truth commission experience from contexts such as South Africa and Peru, shows that making this priority a reality can be difficult and that victims' narratives risk being excluded, co-opted or diluted. This timely project will support inclusive reconciliation, adopting a participatory methodology to work with victims and marginalised groups across Colombia to identify best practice, and build capacity and space for them to fully participate in Colombia's TC and transition to peace. The lessons from the project and Colombia's transitional justice process will be shared widely to contribute to international best practice around reconciliation and localising transitional justice processes.

The project will enable the creation of six distinctive pieces of memory work that attest to the conflict experiences and hopes for the future of marginalised communities in eleven municipalities. These will be developed according to community needs in partnership with leading memory organisations (Ruta Pacífica de Mujeres, Red Nacional de Lugares de Memoria, Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia, Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica) who use a range of methodologies to produce meaningful ways to communicate the realities, experiences and enduring legacies of conflict, including theatre, sculpture, oral history, community mapping, and installations. The memory work will be accompanied by capacity building, co-production and exchange activities between communities and partners. These activities will ensure that marginalised communities develop the skills to share their memories: 1) formally, with the Colombian TC so that they are acknowledged on the national stage, and 2) more widely with everyday Colombians on whom reconciliation processes depend, including through engagement with teachers and schools and via the production of a digital resource to be hosted by the National Library.

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