

## **COLLECTIVE MEMORY**

## EL META CON MIRADA DE MUJER - COLOMBIA

El Meta con Mirada de Mujer is a women's organisation from region of Meta, Colombia. The roots of the network date back to 1987, group of women came when a together to work provide to adequate educational facilities for young children in their region. Since then, El Meta con Mirada de Mujer has grown into a leading voice for women's rights in Meta. The mission of Meta con Mirada de Mujer is to ensure a dignified life for women, with sexual and gender-based violence being one of the three main areas of their work.





As part of this mission, Meta con Mirada de Mujer organises various activities that promote the collective memory of women's experiences in the Colombian conflict including those of survivors of sexual violence - in the Meta region and beyond.

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For one of their collective memory activities, Meta con Mirada de Mujer provided white sheets to women all over the Meta region and asked them to use paint to transmit their pain and experiences. The painted sheets were then used during a big march to call attention to women's sufferings during the Colombian conflict. Afterwards, the sheets were taken back to the villages they originated from and hung in public spaces like town halls and churches. Not only did this activity promote the healing and expressions of survivors, but it also made the experiences of the women in the Meta region visible to their communities.



The women of Meta con Mirada de Mujer have furthermore participated in many interviews and have been featured in articles and videos that document the violence that women faced in the conflict. Currently, Meta con Mirada de Mujer is collaborating with the Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica (the National Centre for Historical Memory) to create a physical and virtual memorial that includes the portraits and stories of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Colombia. Through this project, the stories of Colombian survivors will be passed on to the whole world.