

COLOMBIA

International Instrument	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a), Succession (d)	Entry Into Force
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	26 Jan 1990	28 Jan 1991	
UN Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child prostitution and Child Pornography	6 Sep 2000	11 Nov 2003	
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons	12 Dec 2000	4 Aug 2004	
UN Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	6 Sep 2000	25 May 2005	
UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	27 Sep 2007	11 Jul 2012	
Hague Convention on International Child Abduction		13 Dec 1995 a	1 Mar 1996

In Colombia, there are seventeen laws that refer directly or indirectly to missing children:

1. Decree 2737 of 1989 (Code of the Minor);
2. Decree 2150 of 1995 (re: nationality and citizenship);
3. Law 387 of 1997 (re: internal displacement);
4. Resolution 1399 of 1998 (re: Implementation of the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction);
5. Law 589 of 2000 (re: enforced disappearance);
6. Law 599 of 2000 (Penal Code) (re: trafficking and enforced disappearance);
7. Law 679 of 2001 (re: exploitation, pornography, and sex tourism of minors);
8. Law 782 of 2002 (re: minors who participate in conflict);
9. Law 971 of 2005 (re: enforced disappearance and search mechanism);
10. Decree 4218 of 2005 (re: National Register of Missing Persons);
11. Law 1098 of 2006 (Code of Infancy and Adolescence);
12. Decree 929 of 2007 (re: structure of search commission);
13. Law 1336 of 2009 (re: commercial sexual exploitation of children);
14. Law 1408 of 2010 (re: victims of enforced disappearance);
15. Law 1453 of 2011 (Civil Code amendment);
16. Law 1531 of 2012 (re: missing persons and enforced disappearance); and
17. Decree 1069 of 2014 (re: human trafficking).

General Child Protection

Colombia has a population of 48,653,000 including just over 14 million children under the age of 18 (approx. 16% of the population).¹ For more than 50 years, Colombia has experienced one of the worst internal displacement situations caused by conflict and violence in the world.² In 2016, the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace agreement bringing the conflict to an end.³ However, the far-reaching effects are still felt today as the government seeks solutions for those people who were displaced by and victims of the conflict.⁴ Internal displacement continues to be an issue as other illegal armed groups are still active in the country – in 2017, 139,000 new displacements were recorded.⁵ People have fled for a multitude of reasons including conflict, extortion, forced recruitment of children by armed groups, sexual and gender-based violence and other gross violations of human rights including extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, and torture.⁶ According to a 2018 report by the National Center for Historical Memory, 82,998 people were forcibly disappeared from 1958 through 2015.⁷

In October 2016, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance considered Colombia's first country report concerning implementation of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.⁸ Colombia reported that "a total of 29,618 disappeared minors had been registered in the National Register: 527 under the age of four, 1,050 aged five to nine, 11,988 aged 10 to 14, and 16,053 aged 15 to 17. Of those, 2,250 had been classified as enforced disappearances. Some of the cases of disappeared children involved forced recruitment, and some were victims of organized crimes – those children usually suffered physical and sexual abuse."⁹

The Observatory of Memory and Conflict team of the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) reported in February 2018 that 82,998 Colombian families suffer the absence of a loved one and lack of news or evidence to account for what happened to them.¹⁰

In addition to the instability and insecurity caused by internal conflict, nearly 28% of the country (an estimated one in three children) lives in poverty and many lack access to medical and educational services.¹¹ According to the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, two children are killed, and three children abandoned every day.¹²

¹ UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2017*, at <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SOWC-2017-statistical-tables.pdf> (last visited Jul. 18, 2018)

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Country Information*, at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/colombia> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018)

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Frances Jenner, *More than 80,000 disappearances in Colombia, according to new research released by the National Center for Historical Memory*, BOGOTÁ POST, Mar. 5, 2018, at <https://thebogotapost.com/2018/03/05/80000-disappearances-colombia-according-new-research-released-national-center-historical-memory/> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁸ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner, *Committee on Enforced Disappearances considers report of Colombia*, Oct. 6, 2016, at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20651&LangID=E> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).

⁹ UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Eleventh session, Oct. 6, 2016, *Summary record of the 184th meeting, Consideration of reports of States parties to the Convention – Initial Report of Colombia*, at <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsuJQw%2fwk24kMYpBTForjZzu6wAA2GCkRI5CiWDzs6n597dUr9LnXg8QXKvX1qjfayPs7%2bfA6zORPhIRYnTNO0iKZw%2bQdp00Kn80aQDI8Or2m> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁰ *In Colombia 82,998 people were forcibly disappeared*, National Center for Historical Memory, Feb. 23, 2018, at <http://www.centrodehistoriahistorica.gov.co/en/noticias/noticias-cmh/en-colombia-82-998-personas-fueron-desaparecidas-forzadamente> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹¹ SOS Children's Villages in Colombia, at <https://www.sos-usa.org/where-we-are/americas/colombia> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).

¹² *Id.*

Colombia has developed substantial legislation to address many of the country's issues including numerous child-specific laws. The Code of Infancy and Adolescence of 2006, which replaced Decree 2737 of 1989 (Minor's Code), serves as the nation's most comprehensive child-specific law with 217 articles.¹³ The Code of Infancy and Adolescence represents an important shift towards a comprehensive system of protection for children.¹⁴ The Code introduced provisions regarding child labor, operation of adoption agencies, penalties for crimes against children, the restoration of rights, and government support for health and education services for children and adolescents under 18 years old.¹⁵ In addition, the Penal Code of 2000 legislates children's issues, including missing children issues, such as abandonment, forced disappearances, trafficking, and family violence.¹⁶

Colombia's annual allocated budget for child protection, both for prevention and assistance, ranges from \$172 million to \$431 million.¹⁷

General Missing Child Issues

According to the 2013 International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) report on Colombia, missing children form a part of the nation's larger missing person issues and history, chief of which is forced disappearance of civilians.¹⁸ The ICMP notes that the causes of disappearances of adults and children alike are "more diverse than in other transitional societies."¹⁹ The primary cause of missing children in Colombia was forced disappearance, which is also the government's principle focus in preventative legislation regarding missing children.²⁰ Between 1985 and 2016, there were 8,000 missing children due to forced disappearances.²¹ Law 599 of 2000 expressly prohibits and allows for criminal prosecutions of forced disappearances in Colombia.²²

While the total number of unidentified remains varies from source to source, ICMP reported that the remains of 4,210 unidentified children were found in Colombia.²³ The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) and the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences lead efforts to identify the remains of these child victims.²⁴ In 2017, the National Institute for Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences reported 6,828 cases of missing persons in Colombia. Of those cases, 2,744 were missing children between the ages of 0 and 17 years old.²⁵ From January to November 2018, the

¹³ Law 1098 of 2006, at https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Codigo_de_la_Infancia_y_la_Adolescencia_Colombia.pdf (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Challenges for Implementation of CRC in Colombia: "Broader Perspective,"* Child Rights in Classroom and School Management in Colombia Blog, Jan. 14, 2009, at <http://crcimplementationincolombia.blogspot.com/2009/01/challenges-for-implementation-of-crc-in.html> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁶ Law 599 of 2000, at <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=7305> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁷ UNICEF, *Building Comprehensive Child Protection System in Colombia: The Architecture, Cost and Gaps*, 1, 20, Nov. 2015, at https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Colombia_CP_system_case_study.pdf (last visited Jul. 16, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁸ International Commission for Missing Persons, *Colombia*, at <http://www.icmp.int/where-we-work/the-americas/latin-america-and-the-caribbean/colombia/> (last visited Jun. 4, 2018).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *Searching for Colombia's Disappeared*, at <http://lawg.org/storage/documents/Colombia/BreakingTheSilence.pdf> (last visited Jun. 27, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

²¹ UNICEF Child Alert, *Childhood in the Time of War: Will the Children of Colombia Know Peace at Last?*, 1, 4, Mar. 2016, at [https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/UNICEF_Colombia_Child_Alert2\(2\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/UNICEF_Colombia_Child_Alert2(2).pdf) (last visited Jul. 16, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

²² Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *supra* note 20.

²³ International Commission for Missing Persons, *Colombia*, *supra* note 18.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, *Disappeared Nationals in Colombia and Abroad, January to November 2018*, at <http://www.medicinalegal.gov.co/documents/20143/130741/4.+Informaci%C3%B3n+preliminar+sobre+desaparecidos+en+Colombia+y+en+el+Extranjero.+Enero+a+noviembre+de+2018.xlsx/d3cf81be-dd3e-388d-a785-06c86d144b2c?version=1.0> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

National Institute reported 5,953 cases of missing persons in Colombia of which 2, 234 were children under age 18 (the majority of whom were ages 10-17).²⁶

Years of internal conflict as well as natural disasters, poverty, and abuse have left many children orphaned or without parents to care for them forcing many onto the streets.²⁷ In 2010, some 577,000 of these street children, known as “gamins”, were recorded. Around 37% of the country’s street children were reportedly living in Bogota city.²⁸

Bogota based non-profit organization, Fundación Colombia Chiquita, works to provide care and protection for children in situations of danger, abandonment, or other risk including children with disabilities, children in forced displacement, and street children.²⁹

Definition of “Missing Child”

While national legislation does not explicitly define “missing child,” it does provide a partial definition of a missing child within the context of Law 599 of the Penal Code that addresses forced disappearances of individuals.³⁰ Article 165 specifies that a forced disappearance occurs when an individual from a group marginal to national law precludes or inhibits the freedom of another individual in any form and proceeds to hide that individual, refusing to acknowledge the disappearance or give information on the victim’s whereabouts, thereby stripping the victim of legal protection.³¹ Article 66 of the same law specifies that when forced disappearance is conducted against a person under 18 years of age it is considered an aggravating circumstances and the penalty is increased.³² Through this definition of a victim of forced disappearance, Colombian law provides a wide definition of one type of missing person, which includes both adults and children.

Decree 4218 of 2005 provides a more detailed definition of a disappeared person, but it only applies to the National Registry of Disappeared Persons.³³ Decree 4218 does not define “missing child,” but defines “missing” as a victim of enforced disappearance as defined under Article 165 of Law 599 of 2000, or a person of any age reported as lost in circumstances that indicate the disappearance was involuntary, intentionally caused by a third party, and the person’s physical and mental security is at risk.³⁴

Abandonment

According to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, there were 1,235 reported cases of child abandonment in 2017.³⁵ The Penal Code of 2000 defines and criminalizes child abandonment in Article 127 that states that any person who abandons a child under the age of 12 who is in their

²⁶ National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, *Disappeared Nationals in Colombia and Abroad, January to May 2018, preliminary*, at <http://www.medicinalegal.gov.co/observatorio-de-violencia> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).

²⁷ Tahira Yaqoob, *A Glimmer of Hope for Colombia’s Desperate Street Children*, THE NATIONAL, Sep. 29, 2012, at <https://www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/a-glimmer-of-hope-for-colombia-s-desperate-street-children-1.391120> (last visited on Oct. 11, 2017) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

²⁸ Rachael Pells, *Photographing Colombia’s Children of Hope*, INDEPENDENT, Aug. 9, 2016, at <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/photography/photography-colombia-bogota-orphans-nyla-sammons-poverty-children-charity-a7174226.html> (last visited Oct. 19, 2017) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

²⁹ Fundación Colombia Chiquita, at <https://fundacioncolombiachiquita.com.co/> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).

³⁰ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 165 – Forced disappearance.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 166 – Aggravating circumstances,

International Commission for Missing Persons, Colombia, *supra* note 18.

³⁴ Decree 4218 of 2005, at <https://vlex.com.co/tags/decreto-4218-2005-216736> (last visited Jun. 6, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

³⁵ Nicolás Morales, 2018: 92 Cases of Child Abandonment in Colombia Have Been Registered, LATIN AMERICAN POST, Apr. 7, 2018, at <https://latinamericanpost.com/index.php/es/derechos-humanos-latinoamerica/20485-2018-se-han-registrado-92-casos-de-abandono-infantil-en-colombia> (last visited Jun. 6, 2018).

custody is subject to imprisonment.³⁶ The penalty is aggravated if the abandonment occurred in an isolated or remote location.³⁷

Article 20 of Law 1098 of 2006 further states that children and teenagers have a right to be protected against physical and emotional abandonment by their parents, legal representatives, and institutions or authorities who are responsible for their care.³⁸

Kidnapping and Abduction

The Penal Code of 2000 defines and criminalizes two types of kidnapping, both of which apply to both adult and child victims. Article 168 defines simple kidnapping as a scenario in which one who has distinct intentions of snatching, kidnapping, retaining, or hiding a person. Such a crime will result in 12 to 20 years imprisonment.³⁹ Alternatively, Article 169 defines extortive kidnapping as a scenario in which one who kidnaps a person with the purpose of demanding an act or service of the victim, or with the purpose of publicized extortion of the victim. Such a crime will result in 20 to 28 years imprisonment.⁴⁰ Article 20 of Law 1098 of 2006 also specifically states that children and teenagers have the right to be protected against kidnapping.

Between 2007 and 2011, 212 children were kidnapped.⁴¹ During that period, 131 cases were simple kidnappings, while 81 cases were kidnappings for extortion.⁴² 59 children were between 11 and 15 years old, while 44 victims were between 6 and 10 years old.⁴³

The Free Country Foundation (*La Fundación País Libre*) was created in 1991 to raise awareness about kidnapping, push for legislation to punish kidnapping, provide psychological assistance to victims and families, and to promote the release of kidnapped victims and the capture of their abductors.⁴⁴ The Foundation closed in 2016, however, because its board of directors considered that their mission was completed due to the peace accord with the FARC peace process and there was a legal framework to fight against kidnapping.⁴⁵ In 1991, there were nearly 10,000 cases of abduction registered, while about 205 cases were registered in 2016.⁴⁶

Under Law 782 of 2002, children “taking part of hostilities” were to be considered “victims of political violence,”⁴⁷ which includes children abducted or forcibly recruited by the FARC, ELN, or other armed groups involved in the internal conflict. Law 782 further required the ICBF to implement a special protection program to benefit all minors who had taken part in the conflict or had been victims of political violence.⁴⁸ Through ICBF’s program, children were to be placed in transition homes, and then transferred to specialized institutional care centres in preparation for reintegration.⁴⁹

³⁶ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 127 – Abandonment.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Law 1098 of 2006, *supra* note 13.

³⁹ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 168 – Kidnapping.

⁴⁰ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 169 – Kidnapping for ransom.

⁴¹ *In Colombia, the Simple Kidnapping of Minors Over Extortion*, EL MUNDO, Oct. 26, 2011, at <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2011/10/26/solidaridad/1319616451.html> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018).

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ Colprensa, *Free Country Foundation Ceases to Exist*, EL COLOMBIANO, at <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/fundacion-pais-libre-deja-de-existir-BI6138636> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018).

⁴⁵ *Id.*, See also, *After Fighting 25 Years Against Kidnapping, the Free Country Foundation Closes its Doors*, EL ESPECTADOR, Mar. 8, 2018, at <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/tras-luchar-25-anos-contra-el-secuestro-la-fundacion-pais-libre-cierra-sus-puertas-articulo-683671> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018).

⁴⁶ Colprensa, *supra* note 44.

⁴⁷ Law 782 of 2002, at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/46d59c582.html> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ Child Soldiers International, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 – Colombia*, at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/486cb0f4c.html> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

Additionally, Developing Minds Foundation supports a rehabilitation and reintegration program for former child soldiers,⁵⁰ which may include children who were forcibly recruited or abducted.

Parental Abduction

Colombia is party to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, which is an international treaty that establishes a civil mechanism to return children who have been removed from or retained outside of their country of habitual residence in violation of custodial rights.⁵¹ Resolution 1399 of 1998 establishes the internal procedure for the implementation and application of the Hague Abduction Convention.⁵² In 2017, the Colombian government stated that new legislation was being drafted to expedite administrative and judicial processing of Convention cases.⁵³

International parental abduction is additionally covered by Article 168 of the Penal Code under simple kidnapping.⁵⁴ Simple kidnapping describes a scenario where a person has distinct intentions of snatching, kidnapping, retaining, or hiding a person, which includes children abducted by their parent(s).⁵⁵

Colombia has stringent requirements for children exiting the country. According to Decree 2150 of 1995, a minor may exit the country with a passport, but must be in the company of both parents.⁵⁶ The passport must contain the names and identity documents of the parents.⁵⁷ When one parent is deceased, the child must have a passport and a copy of the death certificate of the parent.⁵⁸ When a child leaves the country with only one parent, the other parent must provide written authorization signed before a notary.⁵⁹ The permit for the minor leaving the country must state the date of departure, the purpose of the trip, date of return, and with whom the minor is traveling.⁶⁰ If a child is leaving the country without both parents or without a legal guardian, the person traveling with the child must present written authorization from the absent parent(s) or legal guardian that explicitly grants permission for the child to travel alone or with a third party.⁶¹ The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) may grant permission for a minor to leave the country when the whereabouts of the parents are unknown, or the minor lacks legal representation.⁶²

Reporting Mechanism

There does not appear to be a clear reporting mechanism or phone line to report missing children cases generally. Law 1531 of 2012, however, provides the procedure for declaring a person missing

⁵⁰ Developing Minds Foundation, *Colombian Child Soldiers*, at <http://www.developingmindsfoundation.org/portfolio/colombian-child-soldiers/> (last visited Jun. 11, 2018).

⁵¹ 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Oct. 25, 1980, T.I.A.S. No. 11670, 1343 U.N.T.S. 98 (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, *Annual Report on International Child Abduction* (2018), at

<https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/NEWIPCAAssets/pdfs/AnnualReports/2018%20Annual%20Report%20on%20International%20Child%20Abduction%20FINAL1.pdf> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁵² Resolution 1399 of 1998, at https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Resolucion_1399_de_1998_Colombia.pdf (last visited Jun. 20, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁵³ U.S. Department of State, *Annual Report on International Child Abduction* (2018), at <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/NEWIPCAAssets/pdfs/AnnualReports/2018%20Annual%20Report%20on%20International%20Child%20Abduction%20FINAL1.pdf> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁵⁴ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16, Article 168 – Kidnapping.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ Decree 2150 of 1995, at http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text.jsp?file_id=198769 (last visited Jun. 20, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ *Id.*; See also, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, *Children and Adolescents: Recommendations for Leaving the Country*, at <http://www.migracioncolombia.gov.co/index.php/es/recomendaciones-salida-de-ninos> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, *supra* note 58.

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² *Id.*

due to enforced disappearance or other forms of involuntary disappearance.⁶³ The law further covers the legal rights of a disappeared person due to a Declaration of Absence.⁶⁴ Spouses, partners, relatives, and the Public Ministry may exercise an action for a Declaration of Absence.⁶⁵ The demand for a Declaration of Absence must include (1) the designation of the judge to whom it is addressed; (2) the name, age, and domicile of the plaintiff and the plaintiff's relationship to the disappeared person; (3) the facts that serve as the basis of the claim; and (4) request for evidence that the claimant intends to enforce.⁶⁶ Once a Declaration of Absence is received and verified, a judge will order the complaint to be registered in the Information System Network of Disappeared and Corpses (SIRDEC).⁶⁷

While there is not a hotline dedicated exclusively for reporting missing children, *Se Busca*, which means "searching," is a smartphone application that was launched in 2017 to help locate missing people.⁶⁸ The application works with government data to register missing people, and families do not have to wait the usual 72 hours to report a missing person to the police.⁶⁹ People can send clues and tips, such as videos or letters, to the social media application to help the search for all missing persons.⁷⁰ The application benefits victims of forced disappearances, as well as involuntary, accidental, or intentional victims.⁷¹ Reported victims can include missing children.

There are several hotlines that are specific to reporting child sexual abuse such as the 24/7 telephone line, *Línea 106*, offers assistance and intervention methods for children in an array of vulnerable situations.⁷² *Línea 106* operates in Bogotá, Cali, Palmira, Medellín, Popayán, and Cartagena.⁷³ At this time, it is unclear if the telephone line and its services are available in other cities. In addition to *Línea 106*, the ICBF operates a separate 24/7 hotline, line 018000 918080, for the assistance of child sexual abuse and exploitation victims and their families.⁷⁴ The ICBF hotline receives requests, suggestions, complaints, and claims, provides information about ICBF services and other issues that do not necessarily include emergencies.⁷⁵ This line, however, does not provide services for missing children and their families. In 2016, the ICBF implemented a Protection Line for Children and Adolescents (*Línea de Protección a Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes 141*), a 24-hour free national line for reporting an emergency, or asking for guidance on cases of child abuse, sexual violence, school harassment, child labor, consumption of psychoactive substances, and other situations that threaten or affect the life of a child or adolescent.⁷⁶ Calls to the hotline could include reports of missing children.

⁶³ Law 1531 of 2012, at <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl-nat.nsf/xsp/.ibmmodres/domino/OpenAttachment/applic/ihl/ihl-nat.nsf/A05A34BEA65ACDEEC1257COD00307FD8/TEXT/Colombia%20-%20Law%20on%20the%20Declaration%20of%20Absence.pdf> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); International Commission for Missing Persons, *Colombia*, at <http://www.icmp.int/where-we-work/the-americas/latin-america-and-the-caribbean/colombia/> (last visited Jul. 20, 2018).

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ Michelle Begue, *Smartphone App Traces the Thousands of Missing Persons in Colombia*, CGTN AMERICA, Dec. 26, 2017, at <https://america.cgtv.com/2017/12/26/smartphone-app-traces-the-thousands-of-missing-persons-in-colombia> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ Agencia EFE, *'Se busca,' the Social Network Created in Colombia to Find Missing Persons*, EL PAÍS, Aug. 30, 2017, at <http://www.elpais.com.co/colombia/se-buscan-la-red-social-creada-en-para-encontrar-desaparecidos.html> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² Corpolatin, *History: We Were Born to Change Tears for Smiles*, at <http://www.teescuchamos.org/paginas/historial> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018); Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, *Line 106, New Friend of Children and Adolescents of Bogotá*, at <http://www.bogota.gov.co/articulo/!%C3%ADnea-106-nueva-amiga-de-ni%C3%B1os-ni%C3%B1as-y-adolescentes-de-bogota%C3%A1> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Line to Report Cases of Child Abuse, Will Work 24 Hours*, EL TIEMPO, Jun. 18, 2010, at <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/CMS-7762238> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁷⁵ Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, *Linea 141*, at <https://www.icbf.gov.co/noticias/linea-141> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

⁷⁶ Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, *ICBF Presents a Line of Attention 141 for the Protection and Guarantee of Children's Rights*, at <https://www.icbf.gov.co/noticias/icbf-presenta-linea-de-atencion-141-para-la-proteccion-y-garantia-de-derechos-de-la-ninez> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018).

Similarly, Te Protejo, coordinated by non-governmental organization Red PaPaz, manages a cybertipline and a mobile app for the reporting of child sexual abuse material, inappropriate content online, cyberbullying, child abuse and neglect, and other situations effecting children under the age of 18.⁷⁷

Crime in general can be reported to the Office of the Prosecutor in person, in writing, by telephone at 122 or on the [online reporting website](#) and can be reported by the victim or a third party.⁷⁸ Reports can also be made to National Police stations.

While the services listed above provide valuable protective services for children, none to date provides a specific reporting mechanism for missing children.

Investigation of Missing Child Cases

Article 8 of Law 589 established the National Commission for the Search of Disappeared Persons (Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda) to locate all missing persons, including children, who are missing due to forced disappearance.⁷⁹ The Commission has authority to support and promote searches for the disappeared, design search strategies, support and promote investigations, provide recommendations to prevent disappearances, and recommend measures to protect witnesses and family members.⁸⁰ Law 589 only focuses on forced disappearance and does not provide any guidance on missing children in general or when to start an investigation into a missing child case.

The relevant governmental agencies must carry out the majority of the Commission's activities rather than the Commission's small staff.⁸¹ Decree 929 of 2007 further defines the structure and scope of work of the Commission.⁸² However, the Commission and the laws are only focused on forced disappearance and do not include information concerning a response to cases of missing children in general.

Article 13 of Law 589 created an Urgent Search Mechanism (MBU), *Mecanismo de Búsqueda Urgente*, is a tool to locate all missing persons and to prevent forced disappearances of all persons.⁸³ If the whereabouts of a person are unknown, a request may be made for an urgent search to any judicial authority to carry out all necessary procedures to find the person's whereabouts.⁸⁴ The Colombian government must set in motion the search mechanism within 24 hours after being contacted.⁸⁵

National Database

Under Law 679 of 2001, the National Police are obligated to keep a record of missing children.⁸⁶ Children who are missing for more than three months must be included in the international communications on missing persons of Interpol's headquarters.⁸⁷

⁷⁷ INHOPE Foundation, *Report Illegal Content*, at <http://www.inhope.org/gns/our-members/Colombia.aspx> (last visited Jun. 20, 2018). *Te Protejo* also receives reports of child exploitation, bullying, cyberbullying, inappropriate content in media, sale of alcohol and psychoactive substances, neglect, abuse, and child labor.

⁷⁸ Office of the Attorney General, *Where and How to Report*, at <https://www.fiscalia.gov.co/colombia/donde-y-como-denunciar/> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).

⁷⁹ Law 589 of 2000, Article 8 – Search Committee for Missing Persons, at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3dbd1f354.html> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁸⁰ *Id.*; See also, Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *supra* note 20.

⁸¹ Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *supra* note 20.

⁸² Decree 929 of 2007, at <http://www.suin-juriscol.gov.co/viewDocument.asp?id=1730066> (last visited Jun. 6, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁸³ Law 589 of 2000, *supra* note 79, Article 13 – Urgent Search Mechanism.

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *supra* note 20.

⁸⁶ Law 679 of 2001, at https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/LEY_679_DE_2001_Colombia.pdf (last visited Jul. 11, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁸⁷ *Id.*

Article 9 of Law 589 established the National Registry of Missing Persons (*Registro Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas*), which includes both adults and children, and is coordinated by the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences.⁸⁸ The Registry's data includes the identity of missing persons and the place and date of when the person became missing.⁸⁹ The Registry also contains data of corpses or remains that are unidentified.⁹⁰ Decree 4218 of 2005 designs, implements, regulates, and puts into operation the National Registry of Missing Persons.⁹¹

Law 1408 of 2010 established mechanisms for the location and identification of missing persons, including missing children.⁹² Specifically, Law 1408 created a national DNA database, the Bank of Genetic Profiles of the Disappeared (*el Banco de Perfiles Genéticos de Desaparecidos*), to document and track reported cases of forced disappearances, including missing children cases.⁹³ The database, which is under the authority of the Attorney General's Office, contains profiles of DNA samples from recovered human remains and DNA samples of family members of missing persons to serve as a cross-reference mechanism in the identification process.⁹⁴ Additionally, Law 1408 created provisions and assistance for the families of missing persons, specifically during the recovery of bodies and the investigation of human remains.⁹⁵

The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) donated a DNA database, which compares samples from families with samples from unidentified bodies, to help locate remains.⁹⁶ The CODIS software supplied by the FBI has been in use in Colombia since 2015.⁹⁷ Extended family members can contribute samples to increase the chance of finding a match.⁹⁸ While the database does not assist in finding missing children, it provides an avenue for family members to recover the bodies of children that were missing due to conflict in the country.

Case Management System

There does not appear to be a case management system specific to missing children cases.

Alert Mechanism

The Urgent Search Mechanism (MBU), created by Law 589 of 2000 and regulated by Law 971 of 2005, provides judicial authorities with the mechanism needed to immediately order all necessary proceedings to locate a person missing due to forced disappearance.⁹⁹ It is a free tool for the public and anyone can request the activation of the MBU before a judge or prosecutor, and there is no need to wait for a specific time to request the activation.¹⁰⁰

⁸⁸ Law 589 of 2000, *supra* note 79, Article 9 – National Registry of Missing Persons.

⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁹¹ Decree 4218 of 2005, *supra* note 34.

⁹² Law 1408 of 2010, at <https://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/sites/default/files/documentosbiblioteca/ley-1408-de-2010.pdf> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁹⁵ *Id.*

⁹⁶ Julia Symmes Cob, *Glimmers of Hope for Families of Colombia's Missing*, REUTERS, Feb. 9, 2018, at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-missing/glimmers-of-hope-for-families-of-colombias-missing-idUSKBN1FT1GL> (last visited Jun. 27, 2018).

⁹⁷ *Id.*

⁹⁸ *Id.*

⁹⁹ Law 971 of 2005, at http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley_0971_2005.html (last visited Jul. 12, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); Law 589 of 2000, *supra* note 79; See also, Fiscalía General de la Nación, *Mecanismo de Búsqueda Urgente (MBU)*, at <https://www.fiscalia.gov.co/colombia/wp-content/uploads/Mecanismo-de-Bu%CC%81squeda-Urgente-MBU.pdf> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

There is no alert mechanism, either in the form of a rapid emergency alert system or a photographic distribution system, specifically in place to notify the public of missing children cases. While there is no official state-sponsored photo distribution system to publicize missing children cases, various Colombian newspapers, including *El Tiempo* and *El Espectador* share photographs, details, and background information regarding recent missing children cases.¹⁰¹ The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare also airs a long-standing public television program that broadcasts photos and basic information of children who have been found but not yet reunited with their families.¹⁰² The slogan of the television campaign is “¿Me conoces?” or “Do you know me?”¹⁰³ While this program aims to reunite families with missing children, it does not specifically locate missing children.¹⁰⁴ Additionally, under Law 1336 of 2009, the Comisión Nacional de Televisión (CNTV) reserves weekly time for the disclosure of cases of missing or abducted children.¹⁰⁵

Awareness-Raising Initiatives

Several organizations, both national and international, sponsor awareness-raising initiatives regarding missing persons and missing children issues in Colombia.

Specifically, in 2010, the Latin America Working Group Education Fund and the United States Office on Colombia published a comprehensive report regarding missing persons in general, entitled “Breaking the Silence: In Search of Colombia’s Disappeared.” While the report does not primarily focus on raising awareness of missing children, it does shed light on the often-silenced disappearances of adults in Colombia. Further, the report suggests policy improvements regarding missing person investigations that would benefit adult and child victims alike.¹⁰⁶ Such suggestions include strengthening the Virtual Identification Center that identifies human remains in missing person cases, fortifying the National Search Commission through improved coordination with the Attorney and Inspector Generals and better training of government officials, and offering support to family members of forced disappearance victims through open communication with government officials and case investigators.¹⁰⁷ Finally, the report suggests the stronger implementation of Law 1408, which created the National DNA Database, through coordination with NGOs, victims’ groups, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.¹⁰⁸

The ANAR Foundation, *Fundación de Ayuda a Niños y Adolescentes en Riesgo*, is a Latin American NGO that advocates for various children issues throughout Latin American and Spain.¹⁰⁹ The organization has a Colombian branch that offers educational resources for both missing children in search of their families and families in search of missing children.¹¹⁰ In a similar mission, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) sponsors the unidentified child and family reunification initiative “¿Me conoces?”¹¹¹ This program partners with Colombian television news outlets to publicize photographs of unidentified children seeking their family.¹¹²

¹⁰¹ Alexander Marin Correa, *Hasta con videntes buscan a Brayan, el niño desaparecido hace 15 días*, EL ESPECTADOR, Dec. 13, 2013, at <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/hasta-videntes-buscan-brayan-el-nino-desaparecido-hace-articulo-463840> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁰² Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, *You Know Me*, at <https://www.icbf.gov.co/me-conoces> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018).

¹⁰³ *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*

¹⁰⁵ Law 1336 of 2009, Article 26, at https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/LEY_1336_DE_2009_Colombia.pdf (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁰⁶ Lisa Haugaard and Kelly Nichols, *supra* note 20.

¹⁰⁷ *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*

¹⁰⁹ *Institutional Information*, Fundación Anar, at <http://www.anar.org/informacion-institucional/> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018).

¹¹⁰ ANAR Colombia, FUNDACIÓN ANAR, at <http://www.anar.org/anar-colombia/> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018).

¹¹¹ Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, *You Know Me*, at <https://www.icbf.gov.co/me-conoces> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018).

¹¹² *ICBF Renews Its Format on Television*, HSBONITICIAS.COM, 25 Apr. 2013, at <http://hsbnoticias.com/icbf-renueva-su-formato-en-la-televisi%C3%B3n-38575> (last visited Jul. 12, 2018).

Additionally, SOS Children's Villages is an international organization working in Colombia to protect and care for children who are at risk of losing their families, or who have lost parental care, including abandoned children.¹¹³ There are seven villages in Colombia which provide quality alternative care in a family environment and stability to children who lost or cannot live with their parents.¹¹⁴ The Villages also provide support to displaced children and families due to conflict.¹¹⁵ If parents or single mothers are empowered to secure their own livelihoods, their children are less likely to be abandoned.¹¹⁶

Trafficking

According to the U.S. State Department 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, Colombia is a Tier 1 country, which means that the Colombian government meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.¹¹⁷

Colombian authorities reported high rates of children exploited in sex trafficking in areas with tourism and large extractive industries.¹¹⁸ Children working in the informal sector, such as street vendors, are vulnerable to labor trafficking and forced begging.¹¹⁹ Illegal armed groups forcibly recruit children to serve as combatants and informants, and exploit them in sex trafficking.¹²⁰ Children and adolescents who leave the ranks of illegal armed groups are especially vulnerable to trafficking.¹²¹ Colombian law prohibits forced child recruitment and forced criminal activity by illegal armed groups.¹²² In 2017, the Office of the Attorney General investigated 428 cases of forcible use of children in criminal activities and 344 cases of forcible recruitment.¹²³ Government officials, however, do not consider forced child recruitment or forced criminal activity by illegal armed groups or organized criminal groups to be trafficking in persons; those cases are investigated as a different type of crime.¹²⁴ Colombian authorities partnered with foreign governments and international organizations and provided training to more than 414 prosecutors, investigators, labor inspectors, and family advocates.¹²⁵

Law 985 of 2005 states that Article 188A of the Penal Code prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes punishments of 13 to 23 years imprisonment plus fines up to 1,500 times the monthly minimum salary.¹²⁶ Article 188B of the Penal Code lays out aggravating factors, which if present, increase the punishment under Article 188A from one-third to one-half, including if the victim is younger than 18 years of age.¹²⁷ Article 141 of the Penal Code prohibits prostitution during armed conflict and prescribes punishment of 160 to 324 months of imprisonment and a fine.¹²⁸ Traffickers are sometimes charged with lesser crimes, such as induction into prostitution or pimping.¹²⁹

¹¹³ SOS Children's Villages International, *Frequently Asked Questions*, at <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/who-we-are/transparency/faqs> (last visited Jun. 7, 2018).

¹¹⁴ *Id.*

¹¹⁵ SOS Children's Villages USA, *SOS Children's Village Floridablanca-Bucaramanga*, at <https://www.sos-usa.org/where-we-are/americas/colombia/bucaramanga> (last visited Jun. 7, 2018).

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ U.S. Department of State, *2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 142*, Jun. 2018, at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282800.pdf> (last visited Jul. 3, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹¹⁸ *Id.*

¹¹⁹ *Id.*

¹²⁰ *Id.*

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² *Id.*

¹²³ *Id.*

¹²⁴ *Id.*

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ Law 985 of 2005, at http://www.oas.org/dil/esp/ley_985_de_2005_colombia.pdf (last visited Jun. 13, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); See also, U.S. Department of State, *2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 142*, *supra* note 117.

¹²⁷ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16.

¹²⁸ *Id.*

¹²⁹ U.S. Department of State, *2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*, *supra* note 117.

Law 985 further obligates the government to adopt a National Strategy Against Trafficking in Persons.¹³⁰ The National Strategy's main objectives are to: (1) gather and develop information; (2) prevent trafficking in persons and protect victims of human trafficking; (3) strengthen law enforcement; and (4) promote international cooperation to fight human trafficking.¹³¹ Law 985 designates the Interagency Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (ICFTP) to design policies and guidelines, analyze results, and recommend actions.¹³² ICFTP created formal instructions for agencies on the committee to standardize reporting, identification of victims, and provision of rapid assistance.¹³³

Under Article 20 of Law 1098 of 2006, children and teenagers have the right of protection against trafficking, and the right to be protected from any other contemporary form of slavery or servitude.¹³⁴

Law 1453 of 2011 adds Article 188C to the Penal Code and specifically covers the penalty for trafficking of children and adolescents.¹³⁵ Article 188C declares that any person involved in any act or transaction where a child or adolescent is sold, delivered, trafficked, or priced in cash or any other compensation to another person or group persons shall be imprisoned for 30 to 60 years and fined.¹³⁶ Consent by the victim, the victim's parents, or representatives or caregivers do not constitute an excuse.¹³⁷ Article 188C further lists aggravating factors, which if present, increase the penalty from one-third to one-half.¹³⁸

In 2016, the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) reported that authorities identified 96 trafficking victims (68 in 2016 and 67 in 2015).¹³⁹ The ICBF identified 46 cases of child trafficking in 2016.¹⁴⁰ Additionally, the Ministry of Labor (MOL) and an international organization began drafting a protocol for the identification of trafficking victims to be included in the training manual for all labor inspectors.¹⁴¹ In 2016, the MOL provided anti-trafficking training on developing an identification protocol for labor trafficking victims to 10 officials from the inspection and surveillance unit.¹⁴²

Decree 1069 of 2014, the national anti-trafficking law, clarified the implementation of Law 985 and mandated the government to provide emergency trafficking victim protection and assistance.¹⁴³ The law consists of several provisions such as medical and psychological assessments, clothing and hygiene kits, housing, transportation, legal advice, issuance of travel and identity documents, and repatriation, job training and job search assistance, and educational services.¹⁴⁴ Local governments are responsible for providing services beyond emergency care; however, most had no funding to

¹³⁰ Law 985 of 2005, *supra* note 126.

¹³¹ *Id.*

¹³² *Id.*; See also, *86% of Trafficking Victims in Colombia Are Women*, TELESUR, Jul. 31, 2017, at <https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/86-of-Trafficking-Victims-in-Colombia-Are-Women-20170731-0002.html> (last visited Jun. 18, 2018).

¹³³ U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117.

¹³⁴ Law 1098 of 2006, *supra* note 13, Article 20 – Protection of Rights.

¹³⁵ Law 1453 of 2011, at <http://wsp.presidencia.gov.co/Normativa/Leyes/Documents/ley145324062011.pdf> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16.

¹³⁶ Law 599 of 2000, *supra* note 16.

¹³⁷ *Id.*

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117.

¹⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 129, 130, at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf> (last visited Jul. 3, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁴¹ *Id.*

¹⁴² *Id.*

¹⁴³ Decree 1069 of 2014, at <http://www.suin-juriscol.gov.co/viewDocument.asp?id=1218296> (last visited Jul. 24, 2018) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*; U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117, at 142, 142-43.

provide specialized services.¹⁴⁵ Additionally, Decree 1069 states that children trafficking victims can participate in a program administered by the ICBF to re-establish their rights.¹⁴⁶

In 2016, the constitutional court eliminated the requirement under Article 7 of Law 985 of the Penal Code that required victims of human trafficking to file an official complaint against their traffickers before they can receive assistance.¹⁴⁷

In 2017, the Colombian government appropriated 2.3 billion pesos (\$771,350) to implement the 2016-2018 national anti-trafficking strategy.¹⁴⁸ The money will assist internal trafficking victims through the Ministry of the Interior and the Interagency Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (ICFTP).¹⁴⁹ The government, however, lacked sufficient funding to provide specialized services to trafficking victims.¹⁵⁰ Colombia also lacks a national trafficking information system, which hinders the monitoring, research, and evaluation of the impact of trafficking in persons in Colombia.¹⁵¹ The government, however, piloted an information system with various agencies in 2017.¹⁵²

The Ministry of Interior, with the cooperation of the International Organization of Migration (IOM), established a toll-free anti-trafficking hotline, 01 8000 52 2020, that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be used by any citizen to consult about an offer of work that may seem too attractive, seek assistance as a victim of trafficking, or report possible cases of trafficking.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117 at 142-43.

¹⁴⁶ Decree 1069 of 2014, *supra* note 143.

¹⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117 at 142-43.

¹⁴⁸ *Id.*

¹⁴⁹ *Id.*

¹⁵⁰ *Id.* The ICFTP additionally conducted 45 technical advisory meetings with departmental, municipal, and district committees to improve coordination between the ICFTP and regional committees, review functions, and make recommendations.

¹⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 117 at 142-43.

¹⁵² U.S. Department of State, 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, *supra* note 140.

¹⁵³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at <http://www.redescolumbia.org/ejes/mor/prevencion/ctnht/> (last visited Jul. 19, 2018).