

Comic book: English translation



PAGE 1: Hi, I am Sol, lawyer of the organisation SISMA Mujer and I would like to show you the most significant legal changes and new jurisprudence that feminist organisations have achieved in Colombia between 2011 and 2023, regarding access to justice for gender-based violence.

PAGE 2: We achieved the recognition of the voice of minors who have been victim-survivors of sexual violence, thanks to the judgments T843-2011, T351-2021 and T595-2013, obtained by us at SISMA Mujer through our litigation.

[In pink box] The first and second judgments established the right for children to be protected from sexual violence.

The third, besides recognising the rights of an Afro-Colombian girl who was a victim to sexual violence, it emphasises the importance of applying an intersectional approach (in the case of the girl, to acknowledge disability and forced displacement) to provide a holistic response to victim-survivors of GBV.

PAGE 3: And that is not all! At SISMA Mujer, we also emphasised the prevalence of GBV in the country's armed conflict. For example, with judgment T418-2015, we succeeded in having the court recognise the harm perpetrated against all the women who suffered sexual violence during the massacre of El Salado – one of the most atrocious and remembered massacres in the country.

PAGE 4: In 2021, Women's Link Worldwide achieved judgment T236, the first to recognise the rights of migrant women who have been victims of human trafficking. To this day, this is a crucial judgment in support of the rights of migrants, and migrant women more specifically – especially in the context of the displacement and migration of Venezuelan people.

PAGE 5: Our colleagues from the collective Justicia Mujer also work for the protection of the rights of migrant women through their campaign 'Migrating is a Right!'. They select emblematic cases to take to court and support with advocacy and communication strategies, as well as trainings for public officials (see judgment T344-2002).



PAGE 6: We have also achieved important judgments relating to sexual harassment. Typifying this form of GBV shows that this is not a minor offense and that its denouncement deserves to be addressed within our judicial system.

Through Law 1257(2008), feminist organisations successfully classified sexual harassment as a sexual crime. This legal victory has led to a notable increase in reports of this form of violence. At SISMA, moreover, we have achieved two other judgments (426-2021 and SP 459-2023) which recognise sexual harassment as a form of GBV – that is, as a form of violence that needs to be addressed through a gender lens in order to avoid the revictimization of women and girls.

PAGE 7: Through strategic litigation, we have secured protective measures for victims of intrafamily violence, as exemplified by the court order in judgement 001(2021). By achieving these measures, we challenged the tendency of judicial operators to downplay intrafamily violence as a less serious form of violence and as a personal injury, often prioritising the traditional roles of women as mothers and wives over their well-being.

PAGE 8: At the national level, we secured the first judgment regarding the femicide of a sex worker. This landmark decision challenged the discrimination of women and individuals of other genders who engage in professions deemed socially unacceptable (and thus are considered less virtuous) or who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.

Page 9: Thanks to the litigation that we carried out at SISMA Mujer and the three judgments that we achieved (T735-2017, T015-2018 and T462-2018) it has been possible to advance the recognition of institutional GBV when perpetrated by Family Commissions, Prosecutors' Offices, police and judges. By doing so, we have shown that institutions are part of the cycle of violence.

Page 10: Feminist and LGBTQI+ organisations have been instrumental in advancing the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals in Colombia. Colombia Diversa's advocacy, culminating in judgments T276-2012 and T478-2015, led to significant legal victories. The Constitutional Court recognised the rights of a minor, and those of her mother, to form a family and acknowledged the role of institutional violence in the suicide of a young LGBTQI+ person. In response, the court mandated reparations for the family as well as structural changes within the Ministry of Education and other educational institutions.

Together, we can continue to contribute to these victories. How would you like to participate in building a more just and equitable country for women and girls in Colombia?

