



European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation

**Back to School:
Internally displaced and demobilised children's right to quality
education in Colombia**

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For Nóra

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Abstract

This thesis focuses on internally displaced and demobilised children's right to quality education in Colombia. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate that in contempt of the widespread international and national legal framework that guarantee the right to quality education, in Colombia these two groups of children face various difficulties that deprive them from going to school. I chose these children as subjects of this thesis because both of these groups are severely affected by the armed conflict. Internally displaced children are obliged to leave their home and to settle down in a new community. Children who were formally associated with an armed group, on the other hand, need to be reintegrated in the society after serving in the military. Education may play a crucial role in both situations providing protection, survival and cognitive skills, and psychosocial help for children who have lost security and have to find their new place. This paper offers a deep analysis of the related legal background, the problems these children have to face, the national and international response, and educational programmes offered for internally displaced and demobilised children.

Acronyms

- AI** Amnesty International
- ALP** Accelerated Learning Programme
- AUC** Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia)
- CAAF** Children Associated with an Armed Force or Armed Group
- CAE** Centro de Atención Especializada (Centre of Specialised Attention)
- CFAAF** Children Formally Associated with an Armed Force or Armed Group
- CFSC** Child Friendly Schools
- CFSP** Child Friendly Spaces
- CODA** Comité Operativo de Dejeción de las Armas (Operative Committee of Demobilisation)
- CODHES** Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (Advisory Office for Human Rights and Displacement)
- CRC** Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CSMC** Civil Society Monitoring Commission
- DDR** disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration
- ELN** Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army)
- FARC-EP** Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
- GLE** General Law of Education
- HRW** Human Rights Watch
- ICBF** Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (Colombian Welfare Institute)
- ICESCR** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- IDC** Internally Displaced Children
- IDP** Internally Displaced Persons
- JPL** Justice and Peace Law
- MoE** Ministry of Education
- NGO** non-governmental organisation
- OPCRC** Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- PEI** Proyecto Educativo Institucional
- RHP** Return to Happiness Programme
- RSS** Red de Solidaridad Social (Social Solidarity Network)

RUPD Registro Único de la Población Desplazada (Unified Registry of Displaced Population)

SNAIPD Sistema Nacional de Atención Integral a la Población Desplazada por la Violencia (National System for Integrated Attention to the Population Displaced for the Violence)

STC Save the Children

UDHR Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN United Nations

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

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