

PROJECT FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AND INTERNSHIP

INTEGRAL DEFENCE AGAINST SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

➤ Introduction

The CMDPDH is a civil, autonomous and independent organization founded in 1989. We have extensive experience in the promotion and effective defence of human rights. Our mission is to comprehensively accompany victims of serious human rights violations and contribute to the eradication of the causes that produce them, through the design and execution of legal, psychosocial, research, advocacy and dissemination strategies. The Commission is nationally and internationally recognized, has consultative status with the Organization of American States and the United Nations, is a member of the International Federation of Human Rights and is part of several networks such as the International Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights in the Americas.

Vision- Mexico, where the human rights of all people are respected and guaranteed in a reconciled, egalitarian, just and participatory society, in which different memories and realities are recognized.

As a human rights organization, and since its founding in 1989, the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) has worked for the respect of human rights, through strategic litigation and awareness campaigns for public attention, the government and the authorities. Our local and international activities have the purpose of generating an impact on the governmental policies to achieve the adequate normative framework for the protection of human rights and social justice.

The Commission consists of eight areas: Research, Advocacy, Defence, Displacement, Psychosocial Care, Communication, Institutional Development and Administration. We are committed to the defence of human rights and we firmly believe in the value that students, future professionals, bring to the organisation. Therefore, we ensure that our interns, Mexican and foreign, engage in professional tasks consistent with their degree, and within an inclusive work environment. Each student will be part of a team and has a direct supervisor in charge of leading the activities and providing feedback.

➤ General objective

The main objective of the project is to involve students in activities of accompaniment and integral representation in cases of serious human rights violations that the CMDPDH represents in Mexico.

The CMDPDH aims to impact national and international public opinion and, as a consequence, initiate processes that establish structural modifications beneficial to human rights. The project actions include strategic litigation, applied research, communication campaigns that highlight serious human rights violations, and legal and psychosocial accompaniment to victims of serious human rights violations.

➤ Specific objectives

The project "Integral Defence Against Serious Human Rights Violations" has the following objectives:

1. Increase the scope of possible defence actions for victims and social organisations.
2. To diminish the structural causes that produce serious violations to human rights and crimes against humanity.
3. Increase the human rights victims' effective access to justice, truth and reparation.
4. To improve the Commission's effectiveness as an organisation that works in the defence and promotion of human rights.

➤ Types of activities by objective

Objective 1:

- To support the establishment of alliances and networks with victims, social movements and organisations at the national and international levels.
- To strengthen the victims' and social movements' autonomous capacity to demand human rights in Mexico.

Objective 2:

- Assist in campaigns that expose the structural causes of serious human rights violations at the national and international levels.

Objective 3:

- Cooperate in the integral accompaniment of victims of serious human rights violations.
- Assist in the adequate interpretation of the national normative framework and its compliance related to access to justice, truth and integral reparation for victims of serious human rights violations.
- To support tasks focused on recovering the memories of the victims of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

Objective 4:

- Contribute to actions that strengthen institutional and team capacities.

➤ Summary of the project's achievements and progress to date

The project "Integral Defence Against Serious Human Rights Violations" has been in place for 8 years. Throughout this period, and thanks to the work of national and international volunteers and students, we have:

- Advocated human rights through the media (press, forums, and social networks).
- Produced quantitative and qualitative information on the phenomena (databases, reports and web articles).
- Provided legal assistance to victims and relatives of human rights violations in their respective cases.
- Ensured the proper implementation of criminal justice system reform.
- Provided psychosocial and coercive accompaniment to victims and relatives of serious human rights violations.
- Influenced the legislative sphere to promote laws, public policies and programmes for the care and protection of victims of internal displacement in the country.
- Documented several cases of human rights violations caused by the drug trade in different regions of the country.
- Worked on a proposal that prevents the militarization of public security, and suggested a citizen security scheme that denounces arbitrary measures contrary to the international standards.
- Promoted the implementation of a justice system that respects and guarantees effective access to justice for all citizens.
- Monitored and documented cases of femicide in Mexico.
- Requested the declaration of Gender Alert for the State of Mexico.

➤ Description of the student activities per area:

Institutional Development Area:

- Creation, planning, implementation, management and supervision of all aspects related to fundraising for the organisation.
- Elaboration of financing proposals.
- Identifying donor opportunities, developing the donor database, responding to donor offers and calls for proposals.
- Ensure adequate continuation of the internship programme.
- Read quarterly reports of the different areas in order to build a general report.
- Elaboration of reports to donors.

Communication Area:

Development of contents

- Develop content for the different publications of the organisation such as monthly newsletters, publications and new projects.
- Follow up with the national and international media to develop a daily publication on human rights news.
- Manage the agenda of web publications.
- Collaboration in the strategic development of campaigns or projects.
- Implementation and maintenance in campaigns or area projects.

Video Editing

- Selection of audiovisual material.
- Video editing.
- General support in media.
- Assist in productions.

Graphic Design

- Create designs for the digital platforms: social networks, infographics and web.
- Proposals, development and implementation in the creation of materials for the organisation, cases and current projects.
- Collaboration in the strategic development of campaigns or projects.
- Implementation and maintenance of campaigns or area projects.

Forced Internal Displacement Area:

- Help to make the situation of vulnerability of the internally displaced persons in the country more visible.
- Contribute to the creation of a protection scheme for internally displaced persons.
- Contribute to the investigation of the phenomenon of forced internal displacement, contrasting the Mexican case with others of similar characteristics worldwide, with special emphasis on the Colombian case.
- Contribute to the evaluation of the government's response to the situation.
- Promote the issue within the national public agenda so that it is adopted by the relevant public institutions and competent bodies so that they create a legal framework and public policies for its attention, protection and prevention.
- Support analysis through the preparation of fortnightly progress reports.

Advocacy Area:

- Engage in dialogue with actors of the legislative power.
- Draft communications and carry out follow-up activities.
- Organise advocacy events.
- Monitor the agenda of national and international networks of human rights organisations.
- Monitor the international agenda of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Follow-up the agenda of the United Nations, the Inter-American System and the European Parliament and Commission.
- Prepare documents addressed to organisations of the Inter-American System, the United Nations and the European Parliament.
- Generate inputs for the national and international advocacy on the CMDPDH's different topics of work.
- Prepare reports in English/Spanish for the different international bodies.
- Develop research on human rights and drug policy.

Research Area:

- Systematize and analyse data on serious human rights violations.
- Draft and review documents of human rights issues and international criminal law.
- Follow-up requests to access public information through the National Transparency Platform.
- Organise forums, workshops and academic events.

Psychosocial Area:

- Support psychosocial workshops.
- Co-therapist functions in individual and/or family sessions.
- Elaborate diagnoses based on both clinical and psychosocial perspectives.
- Accompaniment in events, actions and/or meetings.
- Elaborate writings, reports and support in investigations linked to the cases and the topics of the CMDPDH.

Administrative Area:

- Support in accounting.
- Preparation of employment contracts.
- Complete social security procedures.
- Complete procedures before the Institute of Migration.
- Offer support in the reception.



Defence Area:

- Promote cases before different national and international bodies (National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions, Inter-American System for the Protection of Rights and the UN System).
- Provide legal assistance to the victims of the Commission's different cases.
- Provide legal advice to victims of human rights violations.

➤ Monitoring of hours and attendance

The administration area is in charge of monitoring the attendance of students who present their social service/internship. The monitoring is done through a registration log, which contains the hours that the student worked each day. The deliverables differ according to each area.

The CMDPDH is willing to issue the student evaluation forms provided by the university.

➤ Application process:

1. The student is asked to send an updated CV and motivational letter in PDF format to voluntariado@cmdpdh.org, preferably in Spanish.
2. The student should indicate an **area of interest** within the CMDPDH (Institutional Development, Advocacy, Administration etc.) based on the area descriptions above. Students are accepted on a rolling basis depending on the needs of each area, so there is not a set deadline. Normally students work only in one area during the whole internship. The Commission does not have a preference as to the educational level but undergraduate students should be at least third-year students.
3. The area coordinator contacts the student, organising an interview and possible language or writing tests.
4. If the application is successful, the student is notified by the area coordinator.

Please notice that the students need to have at least basic knowledge of Spanish. The internship is unpaid.