

Prayer Diary: Colombia

16-22 February 2025



Pastor Jairo*

'I didn't know I had trauma and needed help. I just felt pain and was directionless – but listening to this workshop, I realize I can heal. I feel hope.'

Pastor Jairo* was one of 23 people who took part in a five-day psychosocial workshop in Colombia last year. Like many of the participants, Pastor Jairo is living and working while surrounded by violence and fear, due to the complex internal conflict in Colombia.

Leaders and members of faith communities are direct victims of the conflict. They are not simply caught in the crossfire of illegal armed and criminal groups fighting for influence and territorial control, but are targeted because of their religious work and for supporting other victims.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/colombia

Sunday 16 February

Pastor Jairo has served his community for the past five years, without ever taking a vacation. Praise God that, through CSW's training, he could recognise the trauma he was carrying. Pray that he'll be able to incorporate rest and self-care into his ministry, and have increased capacity to support others.

Monday 17 February

Our workshop was for both human rights defenders and those who have survived severe human rights violations. One person said: 'Those of us who defend the rights of others also carry wounds due to the violence we endure in this region. We have helped others and forgotten ourselves.' Ask God to restore them and enable them to continue their vital work.

Tuesday 18 February

Another participant said: 'I am thankful because I have learned many things that feel like tools I can use for my life and to help others.' Give thanks and pray that every participant would be able to put these tools into practice.

Wednesday 19 February

Pray urgently for a just, peaceful resolution to Colombia's internal conflict. It involves multiple far-left and far-right illegal armed groups, criminal groups and government forces. All actors in the armed conflict are responsible for serious human rights violations.

Thursday 20 February

Human rights violations (including violations of freedom of religion or belief) are especially common in conflict zones or where there is a significant presence of illegal armed groups. Lift up both the victims and perpetrators today, praying for transformation and justice.

Friday 21 February

The National Liberation Army (ELN) has no qualms about targeting pastors and priests. This is primarily because those who join these faith communities will renounce violent ideologies and begin sharing their faith. Praise God for all who have turned away from violence and all who preach peace. Pray for their safety.

Saturday 22 February

'When the workshop began, everything changed. It turned my life around, and I leave here restored by God's grace.' Lord, thank you that you are turning lives around in Colombia. Please continue bringing restoration, healing, divine protection and peace. Amen.

* Name changed for security reasons