

Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV)

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<http://www.iacpv.org/>

The IACPV, hosted by the Organization of American States (OAS), is the result of common concerns of its partner institutions about the impact of crime and violence on the development of societies in the Americas. The IACPV views violence as a threat to democracy, health and citizen security. By joining efforts and sharing information, partner institutions aim to proactively address violence and crime and promote a better balance between law enforcement and prevention approaches.

Violence is a violation of human rights and is preventable. The Coalition was established on the firm belief that a multi-sectoral approach is required to respond to the many risk factors for violence. Given the complex and multifaceted nature of violence, a socio-ecologic conceptualization of risk and protective factors is required, which takes into account the levels of the individual, family, community, and wider culture and society. The strength of the Coalition lies in the sum of its parts, as each partner institution brings different perspectives on violence prevention and unique resources and strategies.

The Coalition aims to promote a new paradigm for the reduction of violence and crime in the hemisphere— one that emphasizes preventive strategies. It seeks to stimulate serious analysis, dialogue, joint planning and to promote the national implementation—across the hemisphere—of comprehensive strategies against violence and crime based on research, prevention, education and social capital building. It aims to integrate efforts and talents from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, in an attempt to ensure open and wide participation and successful outcomes.

In addition to the OAS, the Members of the Coalition include the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank (WB).

VPA focal person



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Mariella Cruzado is a Gender Specialist for the OAS Department of Public Security where she is responsible for violence prevention initiatives relating to youth, women and migrants. Prior to joining the OAS, she worked at the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and undertook volunteer work with Amnesty International in Peru.