The Research Centre for the Violence Prevention in Central America (CIPREVICA)

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CIPREVICA is a non-governmental organization that, based on scientific research, seeks to promote a comprehensive and inter-sectorial approach to violence from the prevention perspective, through training and technical assistance to civil society and State entities, as well as enabling its articulation in Central America.

CIPREVICA has identified that specific issues to face the reactive approach to violence are because of: the lack of empirical evidence and theoretical reflection in the region; the lack of capacity for collective resilience; the social network of the countries in the region is torn, mainly due to structural and political violence; the lack of spaces for inter-sectorial dialogue in municipal territories and/or the incapacity of diverse social sectors to dialogue; the State’s weakness and incapacity, as well as of other stakeholders with a certain agency capacity in the municipalities, to address urban violence in a comprehensive manner from the prevention perspective.

In face of this issues, CIPREVICA proposes the final goal of the convergence of resilient political subjects in citizenship that is active, articulated and proposes alternatives to address the issue of urban violence in a comprehensive manner, aimed at building municipalities with improved conditions for a dignified life, lower violence rates and sustainable development.

CIPREVICA’s strategic action lines to address the problem of violence at a municipal level, a national level and a regional level are:

- A strategic research line that contributes to the characterization of urban violence and the strategies that have been effective to ensure violence is addressed in a comprehensive manner, from the prevention perspective.
- Implementation of virtual and blended learning evidence-based training processes, to build capacities for collective resilience and the promotion of citizenship that is respectful of human rights, between civil society actors and State actors.
- The generation and development of communities of practice, resulting from training processes. This strategy will translate into the creation and regular actions of sectorial communities of practice, generating proposals and actions for the prevention of violence at local level, from a comprehensive approach.
- To enable coordination between communities of practice of the civil society and the State, with an aim to promote inter-sectorial participation as a privileged space for the collective formulation of public policies, programmes, projects and/or actions for the comprehensive prevention of violence at municipal level and at inter-municipal level.
- CIPREVICA plans to provide technical assistance on urban violence to public officers and actors of other sectors working in municipalities. This strategy will be aimed at building and/or strengthening knowledge and skills for addressing urban violence in a comprehensive manner, from the prevention perspective, and at building capacities for transforming leadership and conflict-solving.
VPA focal person

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Regional Programs Coordinator of CIPREVICA. He is an educator, human rights activist and university academic, dedicated to these activities for more than 30 years. He has been dedicated to the educational, investigative and advocacy effort in favor of human rights in indigenous populations, women and youth. He has published books and researches on human rights, pedagogy and popular education. He has a PhD in Education from the Universidad La Salle in Costa Rica, a Master’s degree in Pedagogy from the Autonomous University of Mexico and a degree in Pedagogy from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala. In this university he is a full professor and he teaches in the Faculty of Humanities and the History School.