



NO MEANS NO: Colombian and Venezuelan women promote the right to a life free of violence at the Carnival of Barranquilla 2023

From February 11 to 21, the streets of Barranquilla were the stage where the women who are part of the project "Beyond the flags we are women" raised their voices to say no to violence against women.

"Feeling safe and respected regardless of my nationality is a lot of fun", "Enjoying the carnival free and safe" and "Being drunk does not give you the right to harass me" are some of the messages with which Venezuelan and Colombian women worked together to raise awareness about the importance of environments free of violence in the midst of one of the most important festivals in the country, the Carnival of Barranquilla, declared a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

With the support of the Universidad del Norte, in coordination with the Mayor's Office of Barranquilla and the commitment of the Women's Office, these messages were part of milestone moments of the Carnival such as the Guacherna, the Southwest Carnival and the Battle of Flowers. In addition, the work of the Police present and in charge of the security of the city was promoted, where more than 668,000 visitors attended.

'Beyond the flags we are women' is committed to transforming social behaviors that promote xenophobia and violence against Colombian and Venezuelan women on the Caribbean coast.

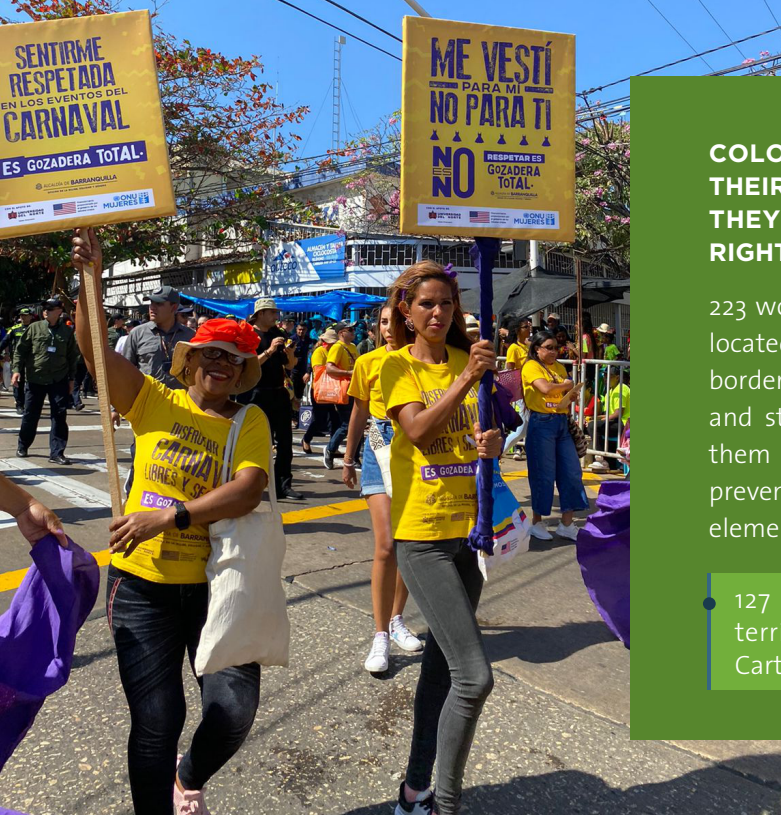
IN THE VOICE OF...

"Being the bearer of these messages in such an important event made me feel as if I were a heroine who is fighting to end the abuse in all its expressions towards us," said **Lilian Travieso, a Venezuelan leader who was at the Carnival of Barranquilla.**

IN FIGURES

- In 2022, more than 600,000 visitors attended the Carnival of Barranquilla, declared a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
- More than 3,000 people were sensitized by seeing the messages of the #NoEsNo campaign
- 26 Colombian and Venezuelan women leaders became the spokespersons for this campaign.





COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN WOMEN STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES SO THAT FROM THEIR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP THEY CAN GENERATE ADVOCACY IN FAVOR OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL WOMEN IN THE TERRITORIES

223 women began the Community Dialogues in the project cities located in the strategic corridor of the Caribbean coast and the border with Ecuador, sharing their experiences of community work and strengthening their capacities to build strategies that help them advance in the achievement of their rights. Undoubtedly, prevention and protection against gender violence is a fundamental element that unites the fight against xenophobia.

- 127 women started the political advocacy skills course in territories such as Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Soledad and Cartagena.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[Verónica Alcocer, first lady of Colombia, joins the “No es No” campaign of the Barranquilla Carnival](#)

[Migrant and host community women to be certified in political advocacy skills](#)

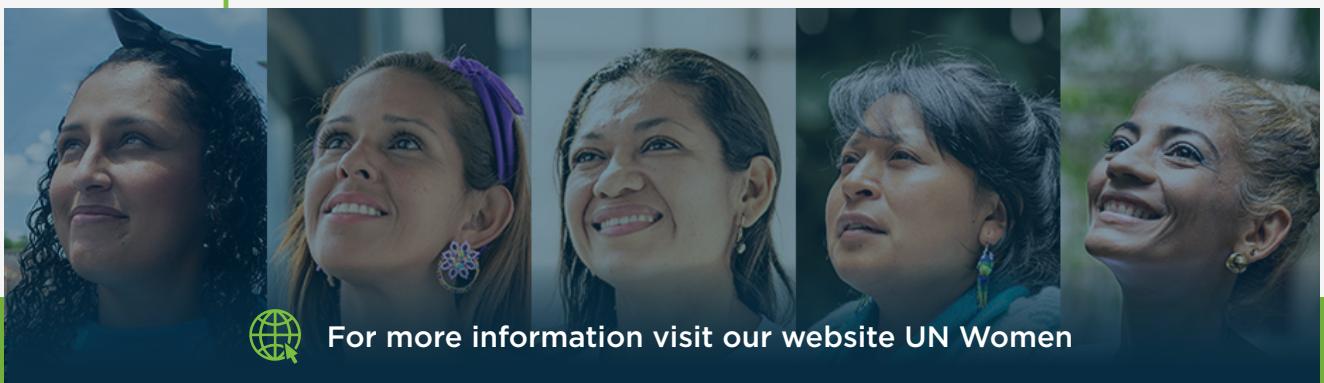
IN THE VOICE OF

“I found the course excellent, why do I consider it important? Because I have learned more about the functioning of the government and its entities, and the rights and duties we have as citizens, that we have mechanisms for citizen and political participation of the country and that we can have the possibility of overseeing all the national and local government programs carried out in the territory” - **Alfa Benítez, Santa Marta community leader.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

In each of the cities we will have Community Support Spaces with a gender focus to provide information and guidance to migrant women and from host communities. These will also be spaces for the promotion of social transformations and where we will work with men to build co-responsible and non-violent masculinities, as well as spaces to raise awareness about the care economy and unpaid work.

Beyond the flags we are... empowered women, who promote cultural transformation to eradicate xenophobia and violence against women.



For more information visit our website [UN Women](#)