



# COLOMBIA

## CITIZENS CALL FOR A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD : A ROADMAP FOR ACTION<sup>1</sup>



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### WHAT DO RESPONDENTS IN COLOMBIA THINK ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY?

- ➔ Ninety-two percent of respondents in Colombia declare that gender equality is “important” to them personally, and only two percent say it is “unimportant” to them.
- ➔ Compared to 25 years ago, 49 percent of female respondents and 60 percent of male respondents think gender equality in Colombia is “better” today. Forty percent of female respondents think gender equality is “more or less the same” as 25 years ago, and nine percent think it has gotten “worse.”
- ➔ A large majority (80 percent) of respondents in Colombia think the government “should do more” to promote gender equality in Colombia.
- ➔ In order to advance gender equality in Colombia, 50 percent of respondents think the government should “reform laws to promote equality between women and men and end discrimination against women.” Thirty-eight percent think the government should “focus efforts on marginalized women to leave no one behind.”
- ➔ The most cited reasons as to why women may not be equal to men in Colombia are related to women’s economic empowerment opportunities. Fifty-one percent of respondents believe that a main reason is “because women and men have different employment opportunities.” The second most widely-held explanation (45 percent) is “because unpaid care, domestic work, and parental responsibilities are not shared equally between women and men.” A higher percentage of female respondents support this explanation (52 percent) compared to male respondents (38 percent).

<sup>1</sup> This country data sheet captures findings from a public perception survey on gender equality for Colombia. This work is co-led by Focus 2030 and Women Deliver. The survey was executed through an online poll, conducted by Deltapoll, in 17 countries. Approximately one thousand respondents in each country were surveyed in July/August 2020. Demographic data collected included: gender, age, income level, education level, last vote in national elections (where applicable), ethnicity (where applicable), migrant status, and region of residency. In Colombia, 1,009 respondents were surveyed, including 514 female respondents and 495 male respondents, and zero respondents who identified “in another way.” Of the 1,009 respondents, 190 were aged 18 to 24, 377 were aged 25 to 44, 319 were aged 45 to 59, and 123 were aged 60 and older. Please see [www.focus2030.org](http://www.focus2030.org) and [www.womendeliver.org](http://www.womendeliver.org) for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Text in italics and quotes reflect survey response options presented to respondents.



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- ➔ **Ending gender-based violence is the top priority** in Colombia, as 33 percent of respondents say “ending violence against women” is the first most important area for the government to focus on to improve gender equality. Seventy-five percent rank gender-based violence as a top-three issue.
- ➔ Among a range of proposed measures to eliminate gender-based violence, 69 percent of respondents in Colombia think the government should “increase accountability for [perpetrators of] physical and sexual crimes against women,” and 51 percent think the government should “fund programs to support women who have experienced violence.” Forty-two percent want the government to “combat the economic exploitation of women.”
- ➔ **Ninety-two percent of female respondents feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment in some place or another.** The most common place is “public spaces,” where 73 percent of female respondents feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment. Sixty-eight percent of female respondents feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, “online” and 43 percent do in the “place where they work or study.” **Twenty-eight percent of female respondents in Colombia feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment “at home.”**
- ➔ Nine percent of respondents in Colombia think it is “acceptable” “for women to always obey their partner” (72 percent find it “unacceptable”). Seventeen percent of respondents think it is “unacceptable” for women to “refuse sexual intercourse with their partner” (61 percent find it “acceptable”). Seven percent think it is “acceptable” “to whistle at a woman in the street or to touch a woman without her consent” (86 percent find it “unacceptable”). Eleven percent think it is “acceptable” “to tell or share a sexist joke with friends or on social media” (62 percent find it “unacceptable”). Notably, more male respondents than female respondents find it acceptable for women to not obey their partner, to tell sexist jokes, and more unacceptable for women to refuse intercourse.
- ➔ Sixteen percent of female respondents state that they have had their “freedom of movement restricted against their will” by family members or a partner.



## ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Advancing women’s economic justice and rights is a close second priority** (and first priority among female respondents), as 28 percent of respondents rank “implement access to well paid jobs, equal pay, financial independence, and property rights” as the number one issue that the government should focus on. **Seventy-five percent** of respondents think realizing economic justice and rights is a top-three issue.
- ➔ In order to improve women’s economic opportunities and decision-making powers, the most often cited policy among respondents in Colombia is to “guarantee social protection and decent working conditions for women in low-paying jobs,” with 60 percent of female and 52 percent of male respondents selecting this survey option. The next most popular measures are to “prevent violence and sexual harassment in the workplace” and “achieve equal pay for women and men,” both with 47 percent of support. Only one percent of respondents think the government should not improve women’s economic opportunities.

- ➔ **Twenty percent of female respondents in Colombia say that they are “not paid as much” as their male counterparts** where they work. This rises to 29 percent among female respondents aged 45 to 59. Furthermore, **30 percent of female respondents declare that they “did not have the same access to promotion opportunities” as their male peers.** Fourteen percent have had difficulty accessing education or training compared with their male peers. Seven percent “*have not or will not receive the same inheritance*” as their male relatives.
- ➔ Eighty-six percent of respondents in Colombia think it is “*unacceptable*” that “*women earn less than men for the same work,*” while five percent think it is “*acceptable.*” Additionally, 48 percent of respondents think it is “*unacceptable*” to “*ask a woman in a job interview whether she has, or would like to have, children,*” while 25 percent think this is “*acceptable.*” There is a gendered difference of opinion on the division of care and domestic work, as 79 percent of female respondents think it is “*unacceptable*” to “*let women do the majority of housework, childcare, and elderly care,*” compared to 63 percent of male respondents.
- ➔ **During the Covid-19 pandemic, 65 percent of female respondents in Colombia say that their “time doing household work has increased.”** Twenty-three percent also say their “*time dedicated to the care of others has increased.*” Twenty-six percent of female respondents “*have lost [their] job,*” and 31 percent “*could not do as many hours of paid work as [they] normally would.*”



## FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

- ➔ **Feminist movements and leadership is the third most prioritized issue,** as 11 percent of respondents choose “*improve women’s participation and leadership in politics, and cultural and social movements*” as the first area the government should focus on to improve gender equality in the country. Fifty percent say feminist movements and leadership is a top-three priority.
- ➔ The most popular measure to increase women’s representation in politics and cultural and social movements is to “*support women’s political leadership and participation*” (46 percent). Forty-three percent of respondents think the government should “*achieve equal representation of women in politics,*” and 41 percent want the government to “*support women’s participation in peace processes and as human rights defenders.*”
- ➔ A majority (56 percent) of respondents think that “*imposing gender quotas is a good way to advance gender equality in Colombia,*” while 22 percent think it is not. Respondents aged 25 to 59, both male and female, appear particularly in favor of gender quotas.



## BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights is tied for fourth most cited priority,** with nine percent of respondents saying that the first priority for the government should be to “*provide access to contraception and family planning, good maternal health, and sex education in schools.*” Thirty percent of people see it as a top-three issue.

- ➔ In order to improve women’s sexual and reproductive health, the most popular actions the government should take are to “*increase access to sexual health services*” (59 percent), “*increase access to accurate information including sexual education in schools*” (50 percent), and “*increase access to contraception and family planning options*” (40 percent). Only one percent of respondents think the government should not improve women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ➔ **Sixteen percent of female respondents in Colombia state that they “*have had difficulty accessing [their] chosen method of contraception,*”** and four percent “*have had difficulty accessing abortion and post-abortion care.*”
- ➔ During the Covid-19 pandemic, four percent of women have had “*difficulty accessing contraception and other sexual health services.*”



## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ **Technology and innovation for gender equality is tied for fourth most cited priority**, with nine percent of respondents declaring their government should “*invest in technology to improve women’s access to health services, education, and economic opportunities*” as a first priority. Thirty-six percent of respondents see it as a top-three issue.
- ➔ To promote the use of technology and innovation for gender equality, 59 percent of respondents want their government to “*provide equal opportunities for girls and women to study and work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).*” The second most popular measure in this area is to “*increase the safety of digital spaces for girls and women*” (58 percent). Only one percent of people think the government should not promote the use of technology and innovation for gender equality.



## FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- ➔ **Feminist action for climate justice is the sixth most often cited priority area**, as four percent of respondents think the government should “*promote women’s participation in climate change action*” as the top priority to improve gender equality in the country. Fifteen percent of respondents see it as a top-three issue.
- ➔ To promote women’s efforts to respond to climate change, 65 percent of respondents in Colombia think the government should “*promote the training and hiring of women in jobs related to climate change,*” and 61 percent want the government to “*increase funding for women-led organisations that are working to fight climate change.*” Only three percent of respondents think the government should not promote women’s efforts in response to climate change.



## FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ **Four in five** (81 percent) **respondents in Colombia think their government should “increase its funding for gender equality in Colombia,”** while only five percent disagree.
- ➔ Similarly, 74 percent of respondents think that the Colombian government should “increase its funding for international projects and organizations fighting for gender equality around the world,” while only six percent disagree.
- ➔ Respondents in Colombia see a relation between gender equality and poverty, as 68 percent “agree” that “achieving gender equality is essential to end poverty around the world.” Only nine percent disagree.



## WHAT ACTIONS ARE RESPONDENTS IN COLOMBIA WILLING TO TAKE?

- ➔ To encourage policymakers to tackle gender inequality around the world, 91 percent of respondents in Colombia are willing to take some sort of action. Mostly, 55 percent are willing to “promote gender equality in everyday conversations and interactions.” Additionally, 50 percent would “vote in an election for a candidate supporting gender equality.” Forty-seven percent would “share information about gender equality on social media.”



## IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- ➔ In relation to Covid-19, 39 percent of respondents in Colombia do not think that the government’s response to support people throughout the pandemic has met the needs of women and men equally. Thirty-five percent think inequality between women and men will rise as a consequence of Covid-19.
- ➔ Eighty-eight percent of respondents “agree” that “women should be involved in all aspects of the global health response and recovery efforts to Covid-19” and only two percent “disagree.”

This country data sheet is a supplement to *Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action*, a global report on the findings from a 17-country public perception survey on gender equality. For the full report and all country data sheets, please visit: [www.focus2030.org](http://www.focus2030.org) and <http://womendeliver.org/citizens-call-for-a-gender-equal-world/>.