

# Glossary

**Actor:** a person who participates in an event and assumes a particular role in the face of it.

**Agent:** a person or group who acts and whose actions triggered events and decisions by others.

**Chronology:** a sequence of relevant events that are ordered in time.

**Citizen:** the political identity that we assume when we belong to a democratic community that is founded on principles of equality, freedom and solidarity. Today citizenship is understood as a political identity that is expressed both in the public and private sphere, and which is founded on principles of mutual respect, reciprocity, and adhesion to dialogue as the way to handle conflicts, either through promoting consensus or clearly but non violently stating oppositions. The condition of citizenship requires respectful treatment of differences and conflicts.

**Discrimination:** different and unfair treatment of a certain group of people or of an individual based on prejudices such as class, religion, race, gender, age, physical ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

**Dissent:** ways of acting that express disagreement with a way of seeing the world or conceiving of order.

**Epic:** a tale of people, places and events that tells the story as one of heroes and winning or losing deeds.

**Exclusion:** the political act by which the rules of the game are defined such that the access of certain individuals and groups to political economic or symbolic resources is impeded.

**Heterogeneous:** made up of parts or members that are each different.

**Human rights:** the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 in recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. Human rights are a common ideal whose recognition and universal and effective application should be promoted to peoples as well as nations and Member States in the territories under their jurisdiction. Colombia for example contemplates human rights in the National Constitution, and obliges the State to guarantee them. Title II, Chapter 1, "Fundamental rights" includes the right to life, freedom, equality, privacy, free development of personality, freedom of religion and conscience, honour, labour, academic freedom, due process, public expression, freedom of association, and political participation, among others.

**Imprint:** the mark or trace that one person leaves on another person or event.

**Impunity:** a situation where the State does not apply due process and other procedures as set forth in the law for the exercise of justice, be this due to incapacity, omission or complicity.

**Individual:** the liberal thought that was triumphant in the democratic revolutions of the nineteenth century associated the concept of an individual to one gender, social status and race and transformed this category, not into a universal and inclusive formula, but rather into a mechanism of exclusion and subordination. From this perspective 'individual' was not synonymous with 'human being', but with a particular sort of person: male, legal, tax payer, property owner and married. Its use then served to exclude women, Afro-descendent and indigenous people, LGBT people, and the dispossessed of the rights associated with full citizenship.

**Institution:** a social or state organization that responds to formal and informal rules of the game.

**International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** a set of rules that, for humanitarian reasons, tries to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects people who are not, or are no longer, involved in the fighting, and limits the means and methods of warfare. IHL applies in cases of armed conflict and is required of all actors.

**Interpretive frameworks:** mental templates with which we understand, interpret and classify social and political reality and construct notions of justice and duty. Interpretive frameworks are products of political, social and symbolic relations, and lead to disputes among actors.

**Legitimacy:** attribute of justice or truth that we assign to certain behaviours that we are willing to accept and replicate. In politics legitimacy is understood as a concept designed to assess the quality and type of relationship established between rulers and ruled.

**Mediators:** individuals or groups that mediate and establish bridges between social and political networks so as to influence versions of the past or certain events.

**Narratives:** stories and ways of telling a story that connect and give meaning to a sequence of events, places and people.

**Polarization:** a social process by which group members confront members of another group as enemies, to the point that they end all possibility of reaching agreements and negotiations.

**Residential schools:** “For over a century, generations of Aboriginal children were separated from their parents and raised in overcrowded, underfunded, and often unhealthy residential schools across Canada. They were commonly denied the right to speak their language and told their cultural beliefs were sinful. Some students did not see their parents for years. Others - the victims of scandalously high death rates - never made it back home” (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2012).

**Rights-bearing subject:** social entity or person who can claim and use the rights they are entitled to as citizens and as human beings.

**Social Order:** patterns or regularities in which the relations between individuals and groups are inscribed at a given time, and from which a certain distribution of the economic political and symbolic resources of a society is established. These patterns in the distribution of resources produce hierarchies, inequalities, inclusions and exclusions. These distribution patterns affect public and private spheres (family, domestic, personal).

**Stigmatize:** to define a person or group by a negative characteristic. This characteristic is seen as inherent to their identity. For example, women are sometimes imputed to be emotional and intuitive, characteristics that become stigmatizing when, because they are considered emotional and intuitive they are denied the ability to be rational and able to participate in public debate and in politics.

**Symbolic representations:** figures, images or ideas that individuals and groups build to communicate to others and make sense of their experience and emotions in the face of a set of events.

**Victim:** In Colombia the term victim is legally defined as “a person who individually or collectively has suffered direct damage such as temporary or permanent injury resulting in physical disabilities, mental and/or sensory impairment (visual and/or hearing), emotional suffering, economic loss or impairment of their fundamental rights” as “a result of actions that have violated the criminal code”, as well as such suffered by their immediate family (law 975). The March 14, 2001 Judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights considers that “victims includes both direct victims and their families, without distinction between them or as to the degree of relationship or kinship, at least in regards to the acknowledgement of their status as victims of crime”.

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