

WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIETY OF PEACE

Project co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DGCS

Colombia has been the scene of a civil war for more than half a century and has experienced the confrontation of guerrillas of different ideologies, the government, the paramilitary and the narcos armies. The Colombian civil society has repeatedly seen the violation of human rights up to physical elimination, arrest or forced *desaparicion*. At this time, Colombia is facing a crucial time in its recent history: while in La Habana (Cuba) is being negotiated the end of the armed conflict and a peace agreement between the Colombian government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejercito del Pueblo (FARC-EP)*, hostilities have not ceased on the Colombian territory and the Civil War is still being fought.

The project leader is the NGO ARCS - Arci Culture and Development, the NGO of Arci system working in Colombia since 2003.

In addition to the City of Florence, the partners of the project are: the Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, Program Derechos Humanos y Derecho de Presidencia Internacional humanitario, la Corporación Viva Ciudadanía and the Department of Cauca.

The activities of the project, which has a term of three years, are concentrated in the departments of Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Sucre. The approach of the intervention is to consolidate the peace process through an increased female participation in the government of the territories and is spread across two lines of action, an educational, with activities addressed to the representatives of the civil local society and the other participatory, ensuring the women involved the access to making decision process, to the enjoyment and exercise of rights and equal opportunities thanks to the possibility of interacting with the local authorities. Therefore the objective is to strengthen the leading role of women in the peace-building process through the development of dialogue between the state and women's organizations in the Departments involved.

The contribution of the City of Florence will be concretized in the organization of an exchange of best practices among the beneficiaries of the project and the Italian civil society to be held in Florence: an international seminar on peace negotiations and post-conflict management and in the support and promotion of a photographic exhibition on the project to be set up on the territory of Florence.

<http://www.arciculturaesviluppo.it/colombia/>

<http://www.arcifirenze.it/internaz/internaz.asp?id=27>