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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Republic of Colombia**  
**Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

and

**The Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota**  
Human Rights Research Project on Implementation of  
Colombia's Laws on Violence Against Women

for the 30th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

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Founded in 1983, **The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States.

**The Humphrey School of Public Affairs** at the **University of Minnesota** is one of the United States’ top ranked professional public policy and planning schools widely recognized for its success in advancing the common good. Since 2015, Humphrey School Associate Professor Greta Friedemann-Sánchez, Ph.D. and researcher Margaret M. Grieve, J.D., M.A., have undertaken research in Colombia, funded in part by a Human Rights Grant from the University of Minnesota, to evaluate the implementation of Colombia’s laws on violence against women from the perspective of judicial service providers who are at the frontline, charged with protecting the fundamental human right of women to live a life free from domestic violence. The project evaluates barriers, facilitators, innovations and needs from the perspective of Family Commissioners, the institution charged with issuing provisional and permanent civil protective orders that include protective measures as well as orders for provision of shelter and special psychological and medical services, and the other institutions charged with administering those laws on a daily basis including judges, prosecutors, and police. A report summarizing findings and recommendations of the project will be published in 2018.

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