**Country:** Republic of Colombia

**Committee:** Commission on the

Status of Women (CSW)

**Agenda item:** Promoting gender equality

and empowerment of women

Colombia is a country in South America. The country covers 1,141,748 square kilometers, is surrounded by other South American countries and the Pasific Ocean, has a tropical climate. The capital city is Bogota and the country uses Colombian peso. Colombia’s education system ranks 23rd best in the World, the economy is the 4th largest in Latin America with most of the sector being social services (15%). It has a population around 52 million, most of the people being white and speaking Spanish (99,2%) and it’s one of the most biodiverse countries.

Gender inequality is an important problem in our world. It affects women’s behaviour, education, health, relationships and more in negative ways. Women have been facing difficulity in Colombia, too. They have been experiencing physical violence (40%), non-equal payment (77%), domestic abuse (16%), lack of employment (86%), support for pregnancy (96%), general harrassment and poverty. According to a report, most Colombian women (60-70%) have suffered from physical and psychological violence during the 50 Armed Men Conflict in Colombia. Stereotypes, gender roles and discrimination have affected women’s employment, education and relationships, leading to poverty. Lack of healthcare for women have affected mothers and female children.

All this inequality had led Colombia to commit to strengthen gender equality, respect to women, protection of the rights of all women and victims of conflicts and equality in education and health. Colombia has been succeding in its goal of achieving a system of laws for women’s rights and empowerment since it has adopted the national roadmap towards gender equality in 2013, although there are still important issues. The Public Policy Guidelines for Women’s Gender Equality and the Comprehensive Plan for women to live a violence-free life in 2012, Law 1257 where violence against women results in a punishment in 2008 and Law 1719 which guarantees justice to victims of a certain type of violence, especially in a conflict in 2014 have been accepted. Since then, the average life expentancy of women have increased, women have started to get proper healthcare, education and employment. We believe if other countries also commit goals like these, we can decrease gender inequality in our world and empower women.