



Ambassador María del Rosario MINA-ROJAS

Born in Cali, Colombia. With more than thirty-five years of experience working for the promotion of collective rights of the Black/Afro-descendant people and women, the defence of ancestral territories, the right to self-determination and against racism. Experienced facilitator with critical knowledge of the impacts and damages of violence and racism on Black/Afro-descendant people and women. Extensive experience on grantmaking and partnership with grassroots organizations and NGO partners. Spokesperson at the High-Level Body with Ethnic Peoples, the mechanism to follow-up the implementation of the Peace Accord 2016 between the Colombian Government and FARC-Ep. Promoter of ancestral practices of care and the dialogue between knowledges. Extensive experience of work at national and international level with agencies, governmental institutions and social organizations linked to the promotion and defence of human, economic, social and cultural rights. Perseverant, reliable, committed and passionate with everything that means construction of justice and Good Living. Bilingual (Spanish and English).

In her work and organizational circles, she is affectionately called and is better known as *Charo*. His mother and father transcended to ancestry several years ago. She is the eldest of two sisters and a brother, and mother of a wonderful young human being.

Academic background

Social Worker - Universidad del Valle, Colombia. (1990)
Master in Education in Diversity – University of Manizales (2021).

Professional experience

Government of Colombia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia. April 2023 - Present

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Colombia to South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia & Zimbabwe.

PCN-Corporación Agencia Afrocolombiana Hileros (Hileros Corporation). October-December 2005- April 2023

Political advisor on collective land rights and gender. October 2022 – April 2023
International Coordinator of the project "Afro-Colombian Initiative for Gender Justice and Peace". MADRE-PCN (Black Communities' Process) partnership. (December 2020 – December 2021).

Technical coordination for the development of the community adaptability component of Pacific Task Force Initiative. PCN-University Icesi partnership (April 2020-March 2021).
Coordination of the project "Advocacy strategy to monitor de effective implementation of the peace agreement laws to ensure respect for territorial and ethnic rights of Afro descendant communities". MADRE-PCN partnership. (April 2017-October 2018).

Coordination of the strategy to build the Integral Sustainable Security and Self-Protection System with an ethnic-racial gender focus, in territories and with organizations that are part



of the PCN in Tumaco, Buenaventura, Norte del Cauca and the Caribe. Open Society Foundation-PCN Agreement. (Oct 2017-October 2019).

Coordination of the participation and advocacy strategy in the process of implementing the Peace Agreement between the FARC and the Colombian government, ensuring an ethnic and gender approach. (March 2017-December 2018).

Project coordination: "Advocacy strategy to monitor the effective implementation of the peace agreement laws to ensure respect for territorial and ethnic rights of Afro descendant communities". PCN-RRI (Rights and Resources Initiative) Agreement. (April 2017-October 2017).

Coordination of a project for development of technical capacity building with the Association for the Advancement of Sciences –AAAS. AAAS-PCN Agreement. (March 2015-October 2016).

Coordination of international lobbying and networking in the United States, D.C. (2005 – 2019).

Main Accomplishments:

- State Visit to the Republic of South Africa of Her Excellency the Vice-President of Colombia, Francia Elena Marquez Mina, in May 2023, in which it were signed nine agreements in the fields of Multilateralism, Trade & Investment, Higher Education, Culture, and Collective Memory and History.
- Structuring of the PCN's Security, Protection and Care System with gender perspective, with a system's sustainability team made up of 12 afrocolombian women. A protocol to resolve GBV situations within the organization with black feminist approach and black autonomous justice mechanisms, soon to be disseminated. Training and capacity building of women documenters of human rights and GVB, and human rights teams in four regions. Development of the Observatory of Human Rights and VBG, "VigiaAfro".
- Forty Afrocolombian community leaders (26 of them women) from the Pacific region certified by the Universidad Icesi, trained to design innovative community adaptability initiatives in the face of crises such as the Covid 19 pandemic, with twelve initiatives formulated and a toolbox for the leaders replicated with their communities. Development of a certified training for leaders in innovation and adaptability initiatives in the face of crises such as the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Positioning of critical analysis on the structural roots of the violence perpetrated against black/Afro-descendant women in a capitalist, patriarchal, racist and misogynistic context. Four analysis reports published.
- Strengthening the recognition of the PCN in its leadership and as a reference at the national and international level in the issues of the Afro-Colombian people and women.
- Establishment of regional and international reciprocal solidarity networks, including the co-creation of the Afro-Colombian Solidarity Network (ACSN).
- Greater recognition and appreciation of the existence, history and struggle of the Afro-descendant black people of Colombia, their importance and their contributions to the struggles of the diaspora.
- Greater recognition at the level of organizations such as CEDAW, CERD, UPR and the United Nations Security Council, achieving specific recommendations to the Colombian State to guarantee the rights of the Afro-Colombian people and women. Strengthening of regional human rights teams with the capacity to make critical context analysis, formulate and implement security and self-protection protocols, document situations of violation of rights and produce re-reports.
- Presentation of legislative proposals with an ethnic and gender anti-racist approach in the fast-track process for the implementation of the Peace Agreement. A Framework



Plan for the Implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement. Two reports produced on the implementation of the Peace Agreement and Ethnic Chapter.

- Strong PCN's expert voice at different international venues and grassroots movements.

Fondo de Mujeres del Sur. South to South, 2020 2021

Consultancy to review previously selected grant applications and provide a concept for their final decision.

Afro-Colombian National Council of Peace. 2020 – 2021

Consultancy to design guidelines for the construction of the gender approach in ethnic perspective and the women's agenda of CONPA, as part of the CONPA's organizational and programmatic strengthening program, ensuring full participation of women. (March-November, 2021)

Senior researcher to analyze the situation of Afro-descendant women in the framework of the armed conflict, with a focus on ethnic gender, women, family and generation. (October-December, 2020).

International Organization for Migration. April-October, 2019

Consultancy for the design of the a ethnic preventive policy to be implemented by the Colombian Attorney's General Office.

Legal Option, Colombia. August-October 2013

Consultancy for the compilation and edition of all the documents and materials produced before and after the First Congress of the Afro-descendant People, held in Quibdó, Chocó in August 2013, on the regulation and protocol for the prior consultation and consent (ILO 169), on the issue of mining in Afro-descendant territories.

Global Humanitarian Foundation, Colombia. September-October, 2013

Facilitation to the Municipal Board of Women of Tumaco in their process to formulating an Agenda for the political advocacy of the women in Tumaco.

Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, North Carolina University. Chapel Hill, NC. September 2010 – June, 2011

Consultant for the development of the International Conference of Young People of African Descent, organized by the Center.

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. Charlottesville, VA, United States. 2001-2008

Legal assistant and facilitator of educational processes for immigrant agricultural workers throughout the State of Virginia. Coordinator of the Pro-bono Project (legal volunteering) of the Office.

US Department of Commerce, VA - Census Bureau. Virginia, United States, 2000

Trainer of Spanish-speaking individuals aspiring to be hired in the 2000 Census throughout the State of Virginia.

National Ministry of Education, Colombia. 1995-1998

Regional Coordinator of the Program for the Strengthening of Education in the Pacific Coast Region, in inter-institutional liaison with the Pacific Development Project "Plan Pacífico".



Universidad del Valle.1994-1995

Coordinator of the Regional Project for the improvement of education in Buenaventura, in inter-institutional liaison with the Project for the Development of the Pacific "Plan Pacifico" and National Planning.

Habla/Scribe Foundation. 1990-1992

Consultant. Co-designer, with a group of experts of the organizational strategy for the empowerment of community radios in the Pacific region. Trainer and facilitator of organizational processes around community strategies of popular communication in Buenaventura and Tumaco. Participant in the inter-institutional consultation process for the design of the proposal for the formation of the Universidad del Pacifico in Buenaventura.

EMCODES (Development Cooperation Enterprise). 1984-1988

Community Facilitator and Educator.

Coordinator of the educational project on Afro-descendant cultural identity for the region of the Cauca River Geographical Valley (Municipalities of Caloto, Puerto Tejada, Suárez, Buenos Aires and communities of Quinamayo in the municipality of Jamundi).

Readings, seminars and other participations

- Co-organizer. Community Hearing, *Development and Racism: Realities and Impacts of Violence against Black/Afro-descendant Women from Our Diverse Identities*. April 19, 2021. Tumaco.
- Co-organizer. *Fight for life. Afro-Colombian voices on the National Strike*. May 2021. <https://blackallianceforpeace.com/movement-news/struggleforlifereview>
- Co-organizer. *Feminisms in Latin America. Conversations from intersectionality*. Observatory for Women's Equity, ICESI University and Pacific Task Force. July 25, 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/OEMCOLOMBIA/videos/307237183780957>
- Panelist. Conversation, *Rights of peoples, social struggles and Good Living. Perspectives before, during and after Covid 19*. Intercultural University of the Peoples, Nomadesc. July 24, 2020
- Organizer. Forum-series, *Black/Afro-descendant women, thought, word and action*. July-August, 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/PCNcolombia/videos/760135604827904>
- Organizer. Conversation, *Ancestry and spirituality: traditional and diaspora teaching to make behavior viable. And openness about earthly and ancestral life*. June 1, 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/PCNcolombia/videos/1344186029305226>
- Panelist. *VI International Forum on Non-Violence, Resistance to Patriarchy, Peace and Economies for Life*. University of Quindío. Pereira. February 25-27, 2020
- Invited Professor. *Communal feminisms: Kurdistan and Latin America*. Anibal Quijano Chair, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. Madrid, Spain, 22-23 October 2019. <https://www.museoreinasofia.es/actividades/feminismos-comunales-kurdistan-amefrica-latina>
- Panelist. *Ethnodevelopment from an ethnic-racial gender perspective*. Vision Afro Conference 2025. Recognition, Justice and Development. ICESI, FORD Foundation, DeJusticia, Afro-Latin American Research Institute. Cali, October 12, 2018.
- Panelist. *No borders on gender justice*. Side event at the UN CSW. New York. March, 2018.
- Class Speaker. *Land Rights Struggles in Colombia –Indigenous and Afrocolombian Ethnic Commission for Peace and the Defense of Territorial Rights*. Algoma University. Canada. June 13, 2017; January 2018.
- Speaker. *UN Security Council debate on children born on rape*. New York. November, 2018



- Speaker. *UN Security Council open debate on women, peace and security*. NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. New York. October 27, 2017
- Guest lecturer. Series: *Race, Gender and Peace in Colombia*. CUNY School of Law. October 26, 2017.
- Panelist. *Territory, Autonomy, Conflict and Peace, Reconciliation and Reparations*. Seminar. Algoma University. Canada. June 15, 2017.
- Panelist. *A global feminist resistance: the evolution and revolution—adapting to survive thrive!*. Noble Women Initiative. Mönchengladbach, Germany. May 13-16, 2017.
- Panelist. *A conversation session on strategies for confronting the global surge to the right*. MADRE. New York. March 2017.
- Speaker. Panel, *Indigenous and Afrocolombian women, alternatives to development and conflict*. Algoma University, Department of Community Economic and Social Development. Canada. March, 2017.
- Co-organizer and participant. *Black Feminisms Forum*. Salvador Bahia, Brazil. September 8-11, 2016.
- Panelist. *Mujeres Afrodescendientes en Movimiento. Desde una perspectiva afrofeminista, decolonial y antirracista*. Afro-Colombian Corporation for Social and Cultural Development CARABANTU. August. 2015
- Lecturer. *Producción de conocimiento y acción de las mujeres del PCN*. Catedra "Hernán Henao Delgado". University of Medellin. October, 2014.
- Workshop. *Race and Human Rights*. Roots and Remedies National Conference. Organized by Praxis Project. Detroit. July 2014.
- Panelist. *Afro-Colombians and human Rights in the 21st century*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS). University of Detroit, Michigan. July 2014.
- Class speaker. *The right to prior consultation in Afro-Colombian communities*. Department of Political Science. University of Chicago. April, 2014.
- Facilitator. Tonga, *Crisis and decadence of the Capitalist economy and its impact on the Own Option of the Future of the communities*. International Forum "Another possible economy for other possible worlds". Buga, June 2013.
- Participant. *Environment, Conflict and Culture in the Pacific Region-Territory. Workshop. Territory, Life, and Freedom in the Pacific Rainforest Region of Colombia and Ecuador*. Political Imaginaries in Latin America Program (LAPI). University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill. March 2011.
- Seminar. *Human Rights: Afro-Colombian Struggle for Land, Rights and Recognition*. Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (PLACA). Syracuse University. October 2011.
- Panelist. *International politics and human rights in Colombia*. Department of Political Science. American University. October 2010.
- Panelist. *Afrocolombian experience with the national Plan of Buen Vivir*. Symposium, Audacity, an utmost challenge for a new Africa. Cotonou, Benin. November 2010.

Publications and other written productions

Racismo y Justicia Ambiental. Un eje de atención en la Declaración de Derechos Afrodescendientes (Racism and Environmental Justice. An axis of attention in the Declaration of Afro-descendant Rights). In "Contributions to the Declaration on the Human Rights of people of African descent". Working Groups Collection, Series: Gender, race and human rights. CLACSO. 2023



Francia Márquez Mina: el triunfo de una pedagogía del oprimido en movimiento (*Francia Marquez Mina: the success of a pedagogy of the oppress in movemet*). Diaspora. March 28, 2022. <https://diaspora.com.co/el-crecimiento-y-madurez-electoral-de-la-gente-del-pueblo-afrodescendiente/>

De guerra y paz en las elecciones 2022: contra el terror la humanización (*Of war and peace in the 2022 elections: against terror, humanization*). La Silla Vacía. Red Étnica. March 25, 2022. <https://www.lasillavacia.com/historias/historias-silla-llena/de-guerra-y-de-paz-en-las-elecciones-2022-contra-el-terror-la-humanizacion/>

Protegernos del Estado?. Reconicendo al Estado como organizador central de la violencia que oprime a las mujeres negras en Colombia (*Protect ourselves from the State?. Recognizing the state as the central organizer of the violence that oppresses black women in Colombia*). Production coordinator. IV PCN report. November, 2021. <https://vigiaafro.org/iv-informe-protegernos-del-estado-reconociendo-al-estado-colombiano-como-organizador-central-de-la-violencia-que-oprime-la-vida-de-las-mujeres-y-ninas-negras/>. Editorial coordination.

"Me quitó el caminao": Qualitative analysis of the impact of the armed conflict on black/Afro-descendant women, from an ethnic and gender perspective. (Spanish). Dissertation to apply for Master's degree in Education on Diversity. Universidad de Manizales. December, 2020. https://ridum.umanizales.edu.co/bitstream/handle/20.500.12746/5560/Mina_Rojas_Maria_Del_Rosario_2020.pdf?sequence=1.

Afro-descendants in Colombia: success and challenges of multiculturalism and anti racist struggles. Chapter in the book "Black and indigenous resistance in the Americas. From multiculturalism to racist backlash". Co-author of the chapter and participant in the production of the book. Lexington books, 2020.

Black and Indigenous Territorial Movements. Women striving for peace in Colombia. Co-author. Researchgate. 33: 1-2. 211-221. 2018-2019

Fighting the black women as if they were a war enemy. Gender violence in Black Women of Northern Cauca, Tumaco, Buenaventura, Atlántico, Bolívar and Guajira. Co-editor and coordinator. Third PCN report. 2019.

Cultural violence: dispossession of practices and cultural values of black women in northern Cauca and Buenaventura within the framework of the dynamics of capitalist patriarchal development model. Co-editor and coordinator. Second analytical PCN report, 2018.

Des/DIBUJANDO EL PAIS/aje: Contribuciones a la paz con los pueblos afrodescendientes e indígenas: territorio, autonomía y Buen Vivir. Co-editora. 2016.

Ethnic Chapter. Safeguards of the rights of ethnic peoples in the Final Peace Agreement 2016 in Colombia. Co-author. Co-compiler and co-editor. August, 2016.

Black Colombian activists continue our Struggle for rights. IPS. May, 2016.



<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/05/black-colombian-activists-continue-our-struggle-for-rights/> -
<https://www.awid.org/es/noticias-y-an%C3%A1lisis/activistas-negrxs-colombianxs-seguimos-luchando-por-nuestros-derechos>

Mujeres Afrodescendientes en Movimiento. Desde una perspectiva afrofeminista, decolonial y antirracista. En, “Debates sobre conflictos raciales y construcciones afrolibertarias. Poder Negro Ediciones. Colección Decenio Afro. pp. 357-370. 2015.

Luchas por el territorio y el buen vivir en Colombia: mujeres negras en resistencia (*Struggles for Territory and Good Living in Colombia: Black Women in Resistance*). Co-author with Patricia Botero, Marilyn Machado and Arturo Escobar. Magazine El Año Afrodescendiente. ALAI. February 2015. Years 39, 2nd epoch. Quito Ecuador.

Black Colombian Power, in struggle and creating Black consciousness. The Black Activist. Fourth Edition. Fall 2014. Pp. 47-59.

Shadow Report on the situation of Afro-descendant women in Colombia. Submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW. September 2013 – 2017.

Shadow report for the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination -Submitted to CERD for the 87th period of sessions. August, 2015

Módulo de formación en género en perspectiva diferencial étnica, cultural y generacional. PCN. December, 2012.

Defeating Invisibility, a challenge for Afro-descendant women in Colombia. First analytical PCN report. Production and Editorial Coordination in English and Spanish. PCN and the Global Programme for Human Rights. April, 2012

Victims Law Decree Fails Afro-Colombian Communities. NACLA. February 13, 2012.

The US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement; A partnership in Black land dispossession. The Black Commentator. September 8, 2011. Number 440.

The negative impact of U.S. foreign policy on human rights in Colombia. Chapter on the US shadow report for UPR. US Human Rights Network. August 8, 2010.

Terrorist attack points to ongoing violence in Key City for US-Colombia FTA. Co-author. Upside Down World. April 6, 2010



Other activities and Memberships

- Process of Black Communities in Colombia – PCN. Activist, organizer. 1993–present.
- High-Level Instance with Ethnic Peoples – spokesperson of the Ethnic Commission for Peace and the Defense of Territorial Rights. 2017-2021
- National Afro-Colombian Peace Council CONPA – participant for the Process of Black Communities -PCN. 2015-present.
- Pacific Task Force – Member of the Advisory Committee. April 2020-present.
- Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean -FAU-LA - Chair of the Board of Directors. 2019-present.
- Black Alliance for Peace -BAP - Affiliate. Member of the international work team. 2020.
- Social and political movement of black, Afro-Colombian, Raizales and Palenquera women in their diverse identities. Activist. 2018-present.
- Anti-racist Research and Action Network – RAIAR. Member. 2016-present.
- Afro-Colombian Solidarity Network – ACSN. 2008-2021