



Returning to Columbia

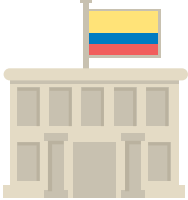


Returning to Colombia

This document provides information and details of organisations which may be useful if you are facing removal or deportation to Colombia.

While every care is taken to ensure that the information is correct this does not constitute a guarantee that the organisations will provide the services listed.

Your Embassy in the UK



Embassy of Colombia

3 Hans Crescent, London SW1X 0LN

Tel: 020 7589 9177/5037 **Fax:** 020 7581 1829

Email: elondres@cancilleria.gov.co

www.colombianembassy.co.uk

Consulate General

3rd Floor 35 Portland Place, London W1B 1AE

Tel: 020 7637 9893 or 020 7927 7121 **Fax:** 020 7637 5604

Email: clondres@cancilleria.gov.co

www.consuladocolombia.net

Travel documents



A valid Colombian passport can be used to remove you from the UK to Colombia. If you do not have a valid passport then an application for an Emergency Travel Document will be made. Any evidence you can gather as proof of Colombian nationality such as expired passport, national identity card or a copy of any other government document bearing a photo will be useful in supporting an application for a Travel Document. If the Colombian consulate cannot confirm your identity they may need to conduct an interview. This can be facilitated by the Home Office.

Return

If you are willing to return and want to ensure that you are returned to Colombia as soon as possible you can:

- Contact your caseworker at the Home Office to say that you are willing to return;
- Make every effort to find supporting documentation for issuing of travel documents;
- Make contact with the Colombian Embassy to begin the process of obtaining a travel document.



You may find it useful to read the information below to begin preparing for your return:

Documentation in Colombia

In order to vote or to carry out many everyday transactions in Colombia you will need a Colombian national identity card, known as 'Cedula de Ciudadania'. Identity cards are issued by local registrars offices. You may need to make an appointment to apply for a card in advance through an online booking system. To get a card you will need to pay a fee, to bring 3 passport size photographs taken on a white background, preferably wearing dark clothes, know your blood group and ideally also know the number of any prior identity card owned by you. More information about the application process and the online booking system is available from the Administrative Department of Public Service:



Departamento Administrativo de la Función Pública

Cra 6 # 12-62 Cra 6 # 12 - 62, Bogota, Colombia

Tel: 018000917770 (from within Colombia, free)

Email: webmaster@funcionpublica.gov.co

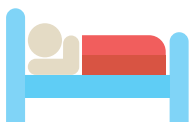
www.registraduria.gov.co/-Cedula-de-ciudadania-.html

Military card

Military service is mandatory for Colombian men, although the system is not universal; conscripts are picked in a lottery system and there are a number of possible exemptions. However, for some purposes such as getting a job in a public body, it is necessary to have proof of your military status, either that you assessed for and/or have carried out military service or have been exempted, in the form of a military card (libreta military). To get the card, the person needs the following:

- Birth certificate
- Photocopy of the Colombian ID card
- Tax certificate
- Two photographs
- Medical examination

For more information see **www.libretamilitar.mil.co**



Accommodation

Colombia has some housing for displaced people or victims of violence and the Local Authorities have a duty to provide temporary accommodation for people who have been displaced from the countryside to the cities. In addition to this provision, there are NGOs, churches and charities providing temporary accommodation to disadvantaged people. The Colombian government is implementing a programme to provide free housing for the displaced and the poor but the number of properties is very small in relation to the people in need. There are other programmes like the ABC that provides affordable housing for savers and for people on minimum wages. The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs and the Red Cross are developing a programme to provide temporary accommodation to deportees.

Most accommodation is private rented accommodation. While private landlords require less documentation than letting agents the property rented may be unregulated and in poor condition. Properties are advertised in local newspapers, magazines, notice boards and in shops. There are also classified sites which advertise vacancies such as Vivavisos: **www.allanuncios.com.co**

it is recommended that before your return, you make contact with any relatives or friends that may be able to assist you.

If you arrive in Colombia without a place to stay, some of the organisations listed in the directory may be able to offer you short-term accommodation, either free of charge or for a small fee. If they are unable to provide accommodation directly, they may also be able to offer support in finding alternative accommodation.



Health

Colombia has two parallel healthcare systems: one for those who can afford to pay for health care (the régimen contributivo) through deductions from wages or voluntary contributions, and one for those who cannot (the régimen subsidiado). Because the subsidized health care system does not have the capacity to meet demand, a third system has developed for those who are “linked” (vinculados) to the subsidized health care system but are not part of it. Vinculados receive a document attesting to their status and can receive emergency care. They pay 30 percent of the cost of medical services. For advice on accessing health contact the Ministry of Health and Social Protection:

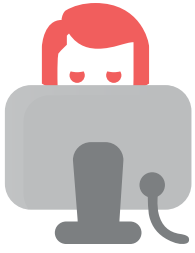
Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social

Carrera 13 No. 32- 76 Bogotá,

Tel: +57 1 595 35 25 **Free hotline (in Colombia):** 018000 91 00 97 **Fax:** +57 1 330 50 50

www.minsalud.gov.co





Employment, education and training

The Colombian government provides free compulsory primary and secondary education. There are two ways to enrol a child in a primary school or secondary school. Parents could apply directly at the school or they can approach the Local Education Authorities where they will inform where there are places available in the local region. The following documents are required to enrol a child in a school:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parents' Colombian ID
- Proof of address
- Letter from previous school or studies certificates

While higher education can be expensive in Colombia, the government runs a programme supported by the World Bank which seeks to provide loans to potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds to take up higher education. For more information about this contact:

Instituto Colombiano de Credito Educativo y Estudios en el Exterior (ICETEX)

Tel: +57 1 417 3535

www.icetex.gov.co/dnnpro5/inicio

Colombian employers may not recognise UK qualifications. If this is the case qualifications may be accredited through the British Council who have offices in Bogota and Medellin. You will need to provide the original certificate.

British Council Colombia

Bogota **Tel:** +57 1 325 9090 **Fax:** +57 1 325 9091

Medillin **Tel:** +57 4 448 0028

Email: servicioalcliente@britishcouncil.org.co

www.britishcouncil.co

There are a number of websites advertising employment opportunities in Colombia. They include:

www.elempleo.com/colombia/trabajo/ofertas.aspx

www.computrabajo.com.co

www.allanuncios.com.co (a general 'classified adverts' site which also includes job vacancies)

www.clasificados.eltiempo.com

Two governmental agencies can provide assistance to returnees in finding work, accessing vocational training or setting up their own business:

Ministerio de Trabajo

Carrera 7 N° 32-63, Primer Piso, Bogota, Colombia

Tel: +5714893900

www.mintrabajo.gov.co

Government ministry working in partnerships with SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA)) to support returnees in employment preparation and finding job vacancies:

Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA) National Service for Training

Calle 57 N° 8-69, Bogota, Colombia

Tel: +57 15925555

Email: servicioalciudadano@sena.edu.co

www.sena.edu.co

Government agency providing training and preparation for employment. Support on business start-up.





Directory

Alcaldía de Pereira Secretaría de Desarrollo Social Subprograma de Migrante

Carrera 7 N°18-55, Pereira, Risaralda, Colombia

Tel: +57 63208090

Email: contactenos@pereira.gov.co

Municipal service in Pereira providing assistance for migrants and returnees. Provide information about job opportunities, links returnees with SENA (National Service of Learning) for training, qualifications and entrepreneurship. Help with GP registration.

Caritas Colombia

Cra 58 # 80-87, Bogota, Colombia

Tel: +57 1 4377150 **Fax:** +57 1 4377171

www.new.pastoralsocial.org/

Catholic organisation which offers advice and assistance to ex-offenders.

Cruz Roja Colombiana

Av Cra 68 # 68 -31 Bogota B , Colombia

Tel: (in Colombia): 4376300

www.cruzrojacolombiana.org

Non-governmental organisation providing assistance to find family members, access to health care

Emmaus Buga

Calle 5 Sur N°7A-30, Barrio El Albergue, Valle del Cauca, Guadalajara de Buga, Colombia

Tel: +57 3117 79 08 94

Email: emausbuga@hotmail.com

www.emmaus-international.org/en/who-are-we/emmaus-around-the-world/the-americas/colombia/buga.html

Part of the Emmaus network, members of the small Emmaus community in Buga take part in income generation activities and learn vocational skills.

Emmaus Pereira

Barrio Berlín Carrera 9 N°6-41, Pereira (Risaralda), Colombia

Tel: +57 63 23 35 26

Email: emauspereira@gmail.com

www.emmaus-international.org/en/who-are-we/emmaus-around-the-world/the-americas/colombia/pereira.html

Part of the Emmaus network, members of the small Emmaus community in Buga take part in income generation activities and learn vocational skills.

Fundación Caminos de Libertad, Pastoral Penitenciaria Católica

Carrera 6 N° 6A -93, Bogota, Colombia

Tel: +57 12803391; +57 12803422

Email: libertad3@etb.net.co

Catholic organisation who can provide a greeting service at the airport in Colombia, emergency accommodation, assistance to contact family in Colombia, help to get ID documents, help with transport to city of origin.

Jesuit Refugee Service Colombia

BARRANCABERMEJA

Cra 15 # 50-30 Barrio Colombia

Tel: +57 76 11 49 41 or 09 76 22 27 14 **Fax:** +57 76 22 85 24

BOGOTÁ

Bogotá: Cra 25 # 39-79 Barrio La Soledad

Tel: +57 13 68 14 66 **Fax:** +57 12 69 92 29



BUENAVENTURA

Cra 16 # 3-26 Barrio El Firme

Tel: +57 22 40 19 60

CÚCUTA

Avenida 1 No. 27-131 Barrio San Rafael - Curia Diocesana

Tel: +57 75 72 73 93, ext.117

SAN PABLO

Cra 7 # 17-35 Parroquia San Pablo

Tel: +57 76 23 60 21

SOACHA

Soacha: Calle 10 # 8-88

Tel: +57 17 75 15 23

Email: direcor.colombia@gmail.com

www.jrs.net ; sjrcol.com/site (Spanish)

Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (JRS Colombia) is a Catholic organisation offering services in Magdalena, Valle del Cauca, Soacha and Cucuta. SJR works to assist displaced persons through education, advocacy and psychosocial projects.

Liga Colombiana de Lucha Contra el SIDA

Cl 32 carrera 15, Bogotá

Tel: +57 1 2454757 Free advice line (in Colombia): 018000117432 **Fax:** +57 1 2454757

Email: jpacheco@ligasida.org.co

www.ligasida.org.co

Non governmental organisation providing advice and assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Colombia

Carrera 9 N° 81A - 26, Piso 9, Bogotá

Tel: +57 1 31 71 481 **Fax:** +57 1 31 71 504

Email: nrc@nrc.org.co

www.nrc.org.co

NRC is a non-governmental organisation providing orientation information, counselling and education programmes for displaced people. NRC provides assistance, usually through individual casework.

Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas

Getsemaní, Calle Del Espíritu Santo N° 29 - 158, Cartagena de Indias

Tel: +57 5 660 0125 / 2302 **Fax:** +57 5 660 2302

Email: patricia.guerrero@ligademujeres.org

www.ligademujeresdesplazadas.org

The LMD is a non-governmental organisation working with displaced women. They work to ensure justice, reparation and effective compensation, secure return to those displaced women deciding to do so, as well as resettlement of displaced women when relocated.

Salvation Army

Carrera 51 N.96-68 Aranjuez, Medellin, Colombia

Tel: +57 4 2368316

Email: fundancionejercitosalvacion@hotmail.com;

Lan_Leadership@lan.salvationarmy.org

www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/latinamericanorth

Christian organisation which runs a range of services for people in need.



This resource was produced by Praxis Community Projects
in partnership with Hibiscus Initiatives.

Hibiscus Initiatives

Hibiscus Initiatives works with men and women in the UK who are in prison, immigration detention, requiring support in the community after leaving prison or detention to those who have been victims of trafficking. Their work includes welfare and advocacy in prisons, international resettlement, combating trafficking and volunteering and community resettlement. If you would like to know more about Hibiscus Initiatives you can contact them on the details below:

Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA
Tel:+ 44 (0) 20 7697 4120 **Fax:**+ 44 (0) 20 7697 4272
Email: info@hibiscusinitiatives.org.uk
www.hibiscusinitiatives.org.uk

Praxis Community Projects

Praxis Community Projects works with vulnerable migrants including foreign national offenders providing advice, advocacy and casework on immigration, housing, welfare benefits. If you would like to know more about Praxis Community Projects you can contact them on the details below:

Pott Street, London E2 0EF
Tel: +44 (0)20 7729 7985 **Fax:** +44 (0)20 7729 0134
Email: advice@praxis.org.uk
www.praxis.org.uk
