

## Weaving Inter-Institutional Relationships For A Society Free Of Violence Against Women In Ecuador: A Global Look At The Local Phenomenon

Lourdes Mendieta Lucas, Mgs<sup>1</sup>, Ana Alcázar Campos<sup>2</sup>, Paola Ximena Mejía Ospina<sup>3</sup>, Jenniffer Daniela Aguilar Silva, Mgs<sup>4</sup>

Professor at the Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil, PhD student at the University of Granada – Instituto Universitario de Investigación de Estudios de las Mujeres y de Género, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4692-6979>

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Director of the Instituto Universitario de Investigación de Estudios de las Mujeres y de Género, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6835-3927>

<sup>3</sup>Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Universidad de Caldas – Colombia, Master's Degree in Education and Human Development, CINDE- Universidad de Manizales-Colombia, Doctor Honoris Causa in Social Sciences, Universidad de Granada – Spain, Undergraduate and Graduate Professor, Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Ecuador, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0662-0820>

<sup>4</sup>Professor at the Universidad Estatal de Milagro, <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2559-8318>

### Abstract

This article is part of the doctoral thesis attached to the Doctorate in "Women's Studies, Discourses and Gender Practices" at the University of Granada. The study is predicated on the interest in analyzing the inter-institutional network in the city of Guayaquil, the most populous city in Ecuador. To that end, a hermeneutic reading of institutional documents, including protocols and manuals, was conducted, complemented by the narratives elucidated in in-depth interviews with 21 key actors from the institutions comprising the Network. The study employed a qualitative, descriptive approach to address the question. A central question of this study is how institutions are organized in order to fulfill their functions and obligations with regard to cases of violence. The central aim is to understand how these institutions deal with violence and how they prevent it. The study was grounded in theories of gender and networks, a methodological framework that facilitated the identification of the categories that guided the analysis of the relational dynamics between institutions and their impact on the care of victims. The findings indicated that, despite institutional endeavors, the implemented strategies have not yielded a substantial social impact, as evidenced by the high incidence of violence cases. Despite the existence of policies, the classification of violence as a crime, and the presence of a ministry or interdisciplinary teams, this political, regulatory, and governmental capital has been unsuccessful in reducing the phenomenon.

**Keywords:** violence against women; protection system; inter-institutional network; inter-institutional cooperation

### INTRODUCTION

This article employs a critical and proactive lens to examine institutions and their inter-institutional relationships. A qualitative methodology, informed by documentary analysis, has yielded notable advancements in extant regulations. These advancements

include the integration of human rights and gender approaches, along with persistent challenges concerning institutional articulation and the mainstreaming of normative principles.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence against women is defined as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" (2025). This phenomenon has been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pressing global public health concern, given that one in three women experiences some form of violence during their lifetimes (WHO, 2021). Specifically, women between the ages of 15 and 49 report having suffered physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner (WHO, 2021). This problem, which has become pervasive in many societies, has been shown to have severe consequences for the physical and mental health of its victims, as recent data from UN Women (2023) indicates. Ecuador is experiencing a comparable situation. Despite the implementation of measures such as the establishment of Specialized Judicial Units, impunity and revictimization continue to persist (Cortez, 2019). According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC, 2019) and the Aldea Foundation (2022), there has been a distressing escalation in the number of femicides. This phenomenon underscores the pressing need to address this pressing social issue with utmost urgency.

According to the theoretical framework of gender theory (Lagarde, 1996; Lamas, 2012), gender is conceptualized as a social construct that gives rise to inequalities and discrimination, superseding the notion of inherent biological differences. Conversely, the theory of social networks (Lozares, 1996; Prada, 2005; Gil, 2010) provides a conceptual framework for analyzing how relationships between individuals and groups influence social structure, emphasizing the significance of institutional networks in knowledge production and social development. These theories provide a solid basis for understanding gender-based violence and the inter-institutional articulation necessary for its prevention and eradication.

In this context, the present article examines the role of the 21 institutions that comprise the Inter-Institutional Network to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women in Guayaquil (hereinafter, the Inter-Institutional Network of Guayaquil), analyzing their strategies, programs, and competencies to reconstruct the route of attention, protection, and restitution of rights in cases of violence against women. The present study employs a network theory-based approach to demonstrate the manner in which inter-institutional cooperation is articulated and its impact on the eradication of the aforementioned problem.

### ***Gender-based violence in Guayaquil***

The prevalence of violence against women in Guayaquil is a grave and intricate problem, as substantiated by the data amassed by the ECU 911 and affiliated entities. This data has been meticulously analyzed to generate a comprehensive map that enables the measurement of the levels of alert and the intricacy of each call that enters the telephone exchange. According to the "Inter-institutional Protocol for the Reception of Emergency Alerts related to Violence against Women and Domestic Violence," priority should be given to addressing three types of alerts: when the affected person calls 9-1-1 while the act of violence is taking place; when a third person makes the report during the course of the emergency; or when the alert is made once the emergency has already occurred (ECU911).

This system enabled the management of 3,630,978 emergencies nationwide in 2022, activating technological and logistical teams, healthcare units, and trained personnel. A comparison of the 2022 figures with those from 2021 reveals a 6.8% decrease in the number of reported emergencies, indicating that there were 266,013 fewer reports in 2022 compared to the previous year. In relation to domestic violence, as typified in ECU 911, there were 111,285 calls. Conversely, from January 1 to October 31, 2024, a total of 76,417 cases of domestic violence were addressed. Of the total number of reports, 66,467 (87%) pertain to cases of aggression against women. On average, the ECU 911 coordinates the response to 218 emergencies related to violence against women on a daily basis.

Reports pertaining to intimate partner violence situations are designated as Red Code alerts, signifying an imminent threat to individuals' lives. In such cases, the ECU 911 promptly initiates the coordination of care with the rescue units in proximity to the emergency location, thereby ensuring a swift and effective response.

This situation demonstrates the magnitude and diversity of gender violence in the city, and the need to implement strategies to prevent and address this problem. In Ecuador, these strategies are reinforced by a variety of legal and political frameworks. At the national level, the normative and strategic framework encompasses the Constitution of the Republic (2008), international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (UN, 1979) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (OAS, 1994), as well as national laws including the Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women (LOIPEVM) (National Assembly, 2018) and the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (COIP) (National Assembly, 2021). At the planning level, the National Plan "New Ecuador" 2024-2025 (National Planning Council, 2024) and the National Agenda for Gender Equality 2021-2025 (National Council for Gender Equality, 2022) establish concrete actions for the eradication of violence, access to justice, and the protection of victims.

At the local level, initiatives such as the Substitute Ordinance for Gender Equality, Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women in the canton of Guayaquil aim to promote equality and the prevention and eradication of violence against women. These initiatives do so by incorporating policies and actions that seek to transform existing inequalities. These efforts are indicative of a multisectoral and inter-institutional strategy for the prevention and eradication of violence against women in the canton of Guayaquil in particular and in Ecuador in general. The following section will provide a detailed analysis of this strategy.

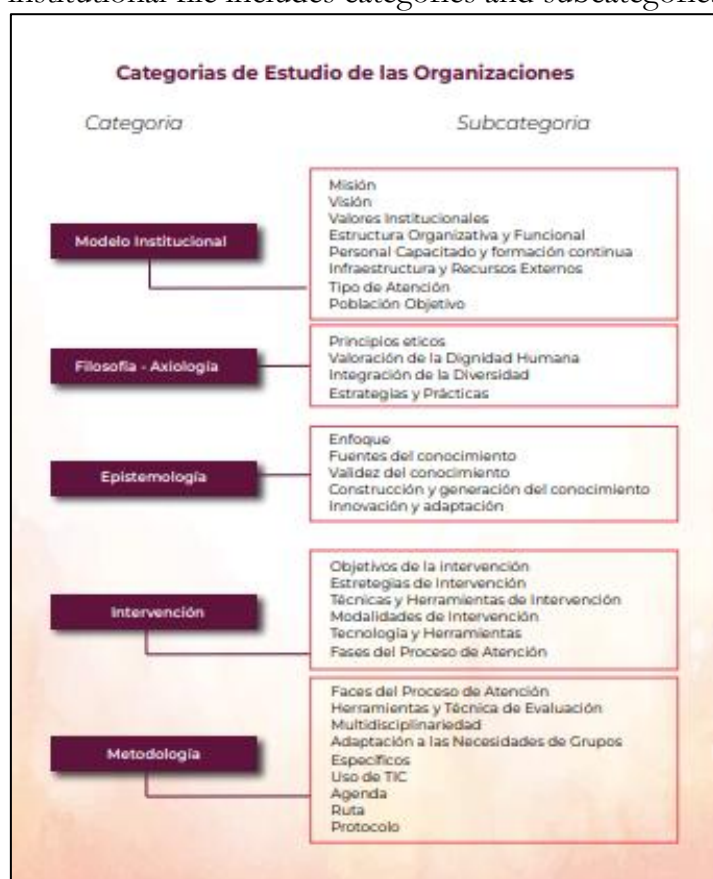
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research methodology employed is founded upon a qualitative approach, thereby enabling the discovery, comprehension, and interpretation of the issue of violence against women (Hernández et al., 2014). The nature of the research is applied, with the objective being the systematic and comprehensive generation of knowledge regarding contemporary issues (Vargas, 2009). The study employs a descriptive research approach, with a focus on the analysis of institutions and their relationships within the interinstitutional network. It also explores the role of institutions, their strategic initiatives, programs, and competencies (Hernández et al., 2014). The hermeneutical method was selected for its ability to facilitate the interpretation and analysis of written narratives. The Documentary Review technique was employed to

this end, and focus groups were used to validate, expand, and test in practice how the standards and protocols are applied (Vigo, 2002; Arráz et al., 2006).

The study universe encompasses institutions of national scope that constitute the inter-institutional network. The sample consists of 21 institutions located in Guayaquil, Guayas province, that are engaged in the prevention and eradication of violence against women. Of these, 16 are from the public sector and 5 are from the private sector. These institutions were selected based on their role and relevant competence within the system (Hernández et al., 2014).

Data collection techniques include document review with its respective institutional file (Gómez et al., 2017) and the focus group, seeking to triangulate the information obtained through the different techniques used (Hernández et al., 2014). The institutional file includes categories and subcategories of study, as shown in Table 1.



**Table 1. Categories and subcategories of the study.**

Source: Own elaboration. 2025

The primary source of information regarding institutions was institutional records. In instances where direct access to the highest representatives was challenging, the official websites of these institutions were consulted. These websites, by regulatory mandate, are obligated to disseminate public documentary information as part of their transparency and accountability processes. Moreover, the minutes of the inter-institutional tables were examined, and an exhaustive analysis of the legal and political frameworks pertinent to the study was conducted.

The data were analyzed from a thematic approach, which entailed the identification and categorization of salient issues related to the roles, strategies, and challenges of the inter-institutional network. The findings were triangulated with data from the documentary analysis to ensure validity and reliability.

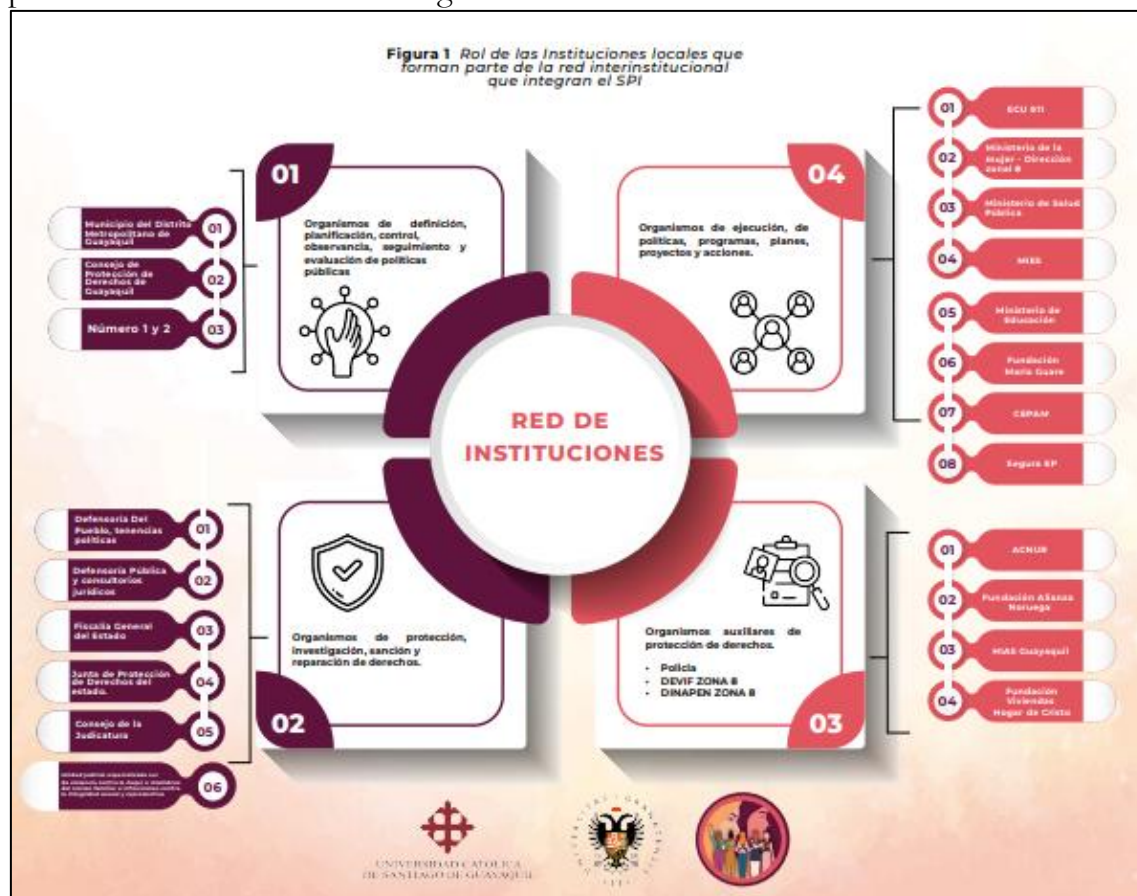
Conversely, the focus groups comprised representatives from each institution, including directors and members of the technical teams, such as psychologists, social workers, and legal advisors. Participants of the inter-institutional table, organized by

the Cantonal Council for the Integral Protection of Rights of Guayaquil, focused on the implementation of the LOIPEVM.

As a fundamental ethical and legal requirement of the research, the informed consent of the participants was requested to ensure that the members fully understand the purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits of their participation, and that they agree to participate voluntarily and consciously.

## RESULTS

The documentary review facilitated the identification of the nature of each institution and its relationships. At the local level, these relationships are articulated in an inter-institutional network structured into four levels, with each level represented by a role (Figure 1). Each level possesses strategies, programs, and competencies designed to prevent and eradicate violence against women.



Source: Own elaboration based on information from the organizations.2025

### ***The role of the institutions that are part of the institutional network that works against violence against women***

The network of institutions in Guayaquil is structured into four levels, each of which fulfills a distinct role in addressing violence against women. The primary level, responsible for defining, planning, and evaluating public policies, prioritizes the protection of rights and the promotion of equality, in accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution (National Constituent Assembly, 2008). This level functions in collaboration with institutions such as the Municipality of Guayaquil, employing a model grounded in network theory to facilitate a comprehensive and multidisciplinary intervention.

The second level is concerned with the protection, investigation, punishment, and restitution of rights. It encompasses institutions such as the Ombudsman's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Council of the Judiciary, and the Guayaquil Board for the Protection of Rights. The latter plays a pivotal role in the administrative management of cases of gender violence. These institutions are responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of violence against women or members of the nuclear family and infractions against sexual and reproductive integrity.

The third level, as delineated in Article 45 of the LOIPEVM (National Assembly, 2018), involves the implementation of policies and programs aimed at the prevention and eradication of gender violence. In this context, various actors—including public and private institutions, third sector organizations, and international cooperation—have emerged to intervene in the prevention and restitution of rights through programs and projects.

The fourth level is where auxiliary agencies such as the National Police Department, the Department of Domestic Violence (DEVIF), and the National Directorate of Specialized Police for Children and Adolescents of the National Police of Ecuador (DINAPEN) are located.

***Strategies, programs and competencies of the institutions that make up the inter-institutional network.***

The eradication of violence against women necessitates a coordinated and articulated effort among the various actors that comprise the network of institutions. In this regard, it is imperative to scrutinize the strategies, programs, and competencies of the local network to prevent and eradicate this problem. The subsequent discussion analyzes the manner in which these institutions, categorized according to their role within the network (i.e., public or private), collaborate with civil society to formulate initiatives that address the multifaceted nature of violence against women.

***Level 1. Bodies for the definition, planning, control, observance, monitoring and evaluation of public policies***

At this echelon, the Decentralized Government (GAD) of the Guayaquil canton is identified. This government entity is responsible for the administration and management of public services. According to the documentary review, the mission of the organization is "to satisfy people's right to the city and always act with social, economic, and environmental responsibility." One of its primary functions is to promote welfare policies for its citizens.

The GAD of Guayaquil, in accordance with its competencies, promulgated a substitute ordinance for gender equality, prevention, and eradication of violence against women in the canton of Guayaquil. This ordinance was published in May 2024 and encompasses three salient points. In accordance with Article 12, the Cantonal Table for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic and Gender Violence in the canton of Guayaquil is hereby constituted.

As the implementation mechanism of the National Comprehensive System to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women, in which through cantonal interaction and coordination, actions are promoted that promote the institutionalization of processes, protocols and public policies in the local framework; which are in accordance with the National Public Policies, which will be established in the Cantonal Plan to prevent and eradicate Domestic and Gender Violence.

On the other hand, Article 19 creates the Cantonal Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Domestic and Gender Violence, considering it as

...an instrument that defines cantonal public policies, goals, indicators to prevent and eradicate Domestic and Gender Violence, which will be prepared in a participatory manner by the Women's Directorate of the Municipality of Guayaquil and will be known and approved by the Cantonal Table, before it is sent to the Municipal Decentralized Autonomous Government of Guayaquil for knowledge and resolution of its building body.

Article 20 creates the Cantonal Network for Attention to Domestic and Gender Violence, considered

An instance of inter-institutional coordination and attention which must provide mechanisms, strategies in continuous care, protocols, routes, procedures that guarantee and make viable: accessibility, sensitivity, quality, warmth, confidentiality, in the exercise of the articulated actions that are deployed in favor of the families of the canton, for the treatment of intra-family and gender violence; All this must be consistent with the guidelines issued by the governing body.

The same ordinance establishes that the Cantonal Network for Attention to Domestic and Gender Violence will have a coordination body, which will be the Public Company for Risk Management and Security Control of Guayaquil SEGURA EP formerly the "Amiga No esta Sola" program.

Additionally, at this level, the Cantonal Council for the Integral Protection of Rights of Guayaquil (2016) is identified. This autonomous entity is responsible for guaranteeing and protecting the rights of priority groups. It implements strategies and programs for their empowerment. The "Inter-institutional Roundtable" serves as a coordinating body for public policies concerning women's rights, fostering collaborative relationships with other institutions. The organization's competencies encompass the formulation, supervision, and monitoring of policies aimed at safeguarding rights, in conjunction with the National Councils for Equality. Additionally, it engages in the evaluation of public policies that are directed towards the promotion of equality. The organization's services include health fairs and mobile clinics, and its programs such as "Renóvate Mujer" offer complimentary training in various domains. The "Inter-Institutional Roundtable" is a body that plays a pivotal role in ensuring compliance with public policies that are oriented towards the empowerment of women.

A thorough review of the competencies and an analysis of the actions of the agencies that comprise the first level of the Inter-Institutional Network reveal evidence of inter-institutional coordination in the fight against violence against women. However, it should be noted that both institutions are at the level of definition, planning, and control of public policies. The GAD of Guayaquil and the Cantonal Council for the Comprehensive Protection of Rights of Guayaquil have been developing strategies, programs, and competencies in accordance with national and international regulations on violence against women. However, a notable challenge pertains to the articulation of an effective response, particularly in contexts where planning processes tend to become bureaucratic or excessively protracted.

Conversely, given the presence of both institutions within a domain conducive to the implementation of control exercises, the periodic evaluation of the efficacy of public policies concerning violence against women can be advocated. Consequently, intervention strategies can be adapted, or novel practices can be integrated to enhance outcomes, with the acknowledgment of challenges and areas for enhancement.

It is imperative to acknowledge the pivotal role of articulation between the Decentralized Autonomous Government of Guayaquil and the Council for the Integral Protection of Rights. This collaboration is instrumental in ensuring that



public policies are aligned with principles of inclusion, equity, and social justice, with a steadfast emphasis on human rights. Conversely, from a permanent coordination perspective, both actors endeavor to enhance the conditions of the Guayaquil population, promoting and safeguarding their fundamental rights.

***Level 2. Organizations for the protection, defense and restitution of rights***

A review of the documentary produced by the second-level local institutions reveals an approach to addressing violence against women that is multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of perspectives and actions, as well as public policies. The Cantonal Board for the Integral Protection of Rights of Guayaquil, as an operational body with administrative and functional autonomy, has been entrusted with the mission of guaranteeing, protecting, and defending the rights of children and adolescents. The strategies employed by these entities are rooted in the notion of participation, as articulated by Barrientos (2005). In 2018, the Comprehensive Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women in Ecuador was enacted, marking a significant expansion of the authority of Protection Boards in cases of violence against women. This legislation empowers the Boards to implement immediate protection measures, defined as "administrative measures of an immediate and provisional nature, which are granted when there is any threat or violation of the right of women to live a life free of violence" (art. 47 LOIPEVCM).

Similarly, the Rights Protection Board possesses the authority to address cases of violence against women and to implement the necessary measures, thereby promoting a comprehensive perspective. In the focus group, which comprised managerial and technical representatives of the institutions that constitute the inter-institutional network, it was revealed that the effectiveness of this articulation faces challenges. It was determined that for the institutions to be effective, they must not only collaborate, but they must do so in a strategic, complementary, and efficient manner. In order to maximize their impact in the fight against violence, the institutions must ensure comprehensive and timely attention to victims.

The Council of the Judiciary, as an organ of the Judicial Function, has the responsibility to guarantee access to justice and reduce violence, in compliance with Article 1 of the Organic Code of the Judicial Function (2008). In accordance with the National Plan for the Eradication of Violence (Benalcázar & Vanegas, 2015), violence against women is recognized as a systemic problem that is deeply entrenched in unequal social roles and power dynamics. In order to address the issue of violence, the program implements strategies and programs that strengthen the investigation, punishment, protection, and restitution of rights to women who have experienced violence, and modernize judicial services.

These include the following: the punishment and prevention of new acts of violence in all areas, the comprehensive protection of victims and their families, and the guarantee of access to justice without discrimination. The automation of judicial processes is promoted for greater speed and effective protection, thereby avoiding the occurrence of revictimization. Interdisciplinary teams are strengthened with professionals in health, psychology, social work, and law, who fulfill the role of experts. Furthermore, it is responsible for the oversight of case management, with the aim of identifying potential obstacles and enhancing the institutional response. Despite the progress that has been made, challenges persist, including the economic dependence of victims, the time lag between the filing of a complaint and the commencement of a trial, and failures in notifications. These challenges underscore the necessity to fortify support and follow-up mechanisms to ensure the effective administration of justice and to avert the occurrence of further victimization.



The Attorney General's Office has implemented comprehensive programs to address crimes in cases of violence against women. These programs include the creation of a documentary archive that preserves information about victims and a line of physical and psychological rehabilitation. The institution provides a range of services, including the Gesell Chamber, DNA laboratories, Flagrancy Units, and the Online Complaints system, with the aim of facilitating the administration of criminal justice. Furthermore, the program offers a comprehensive range of services, including psychosocial care, legal counsel, education on human rights, and symbolic gestures of redress. The Office of the Prosecutor is committed to incorporating a gender perspective into legal management practices and has implemented initiatives to raise awareness and provide training in human rights. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated to fortify multidisciplinary teams comprising professionals from the fields of medicine, psychology, and social work, thereby facilitating specialized care for women who have been victims of violence.

Conversely, the implementation of programs such as the Women's Advisory Councils and Community Ombudsmen's Offices has led to the establishment of avenues for citizen engagement and the monitoring of rights. These initiatives promote inter-institutional coordination through collaborative working groups and local networks. The powers of the aforementioned entity include the ability to hear cases of threats, to order administrative protection measures, to monitor their execution, and to report crimes to the competent authorities. Furthermore, they engage in national forums and collaborate in technical commissions.

However, during the focus group session, one of the participants made the following observation: "It is imperative to possess comprehensive information regarding the victim and the perpetrator. However, this information is frequently found to be inaccurate. The complainant is often unaware of the accused's address. Consequently, the initial reception team is tasked with collecting as much information as possible. This is due to the fact that, upon analysis, it is often revealed that this information is not known, and this is reflected in the statistics. This, in turn, hinders the procedural effectiveness."

It was determined that there were difficulties that arose in conjunction with the Council of the Judiciary, particularly in instances where the familial relationship between the complainant and the victim was not sufficiently elucidated. While the majority of administrative measures are formally endorsed by judicial authorities, there are instances where due process norms are not observed. This is particularly evident in the oversight of compliance processes, including in the context of psychological treatments. This underscores the necessity to enhance monitoring and inter-institutional coordination to ensure the efficacy of the implemented measures. The Public Defender's Office of Ecuador (2021) functions as an autonomous body of the Judicial Function, ensuring access to legal representation for vulnerable individuals, including women subjected to violence who lack the financial means to secure legal counsel. The organization provides legal counsel and representation at no cost, with a focus on safeguarding the rights of women and their family environment. During the course of the pandemic, mobile units were implemented with the objective of expanding coverage in vulnerable areas and in response to the increase in gender-based violence. The organization's strategic initiatives encompass the provision of complimentary legal services and the "Strengthening the Management of the Public Defender's Office through Mobile Defenders" initiative, which ensures the delivery of prompt legal assistance. The organization's competencies encompass specialized legal services, management tools, and the promotion of comprehensive reparation

measures with effective follow-up. These measures ensure fair and expeditious judicial processes.

The Ombudsman's Office (2025) has implemented programs to address gender-based violence, human rights education, and physical and psychosocial rehabilitation in order to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect rights. This initiative is founded on the principles of inter-institutional collaboration and networking, with the overarching objective of empowering individuals who have been subjected to violence. This initiative is in alignment with Article 3 of the Constitution (2008).

The organization's strategic approach encompasses the provision of counsel to decentralized units, the formulation of guidelines for the management of cases, and the oversight of situations necessitating the protection or restoration of rights. Within the domain of programmatic initiatives, the organization provides a comprehensive range of services, including physical rehabilitation, psychosocial care, legal counsel, human rights education, and the safeguarding of documentary memory. Its competencies include training in human rights with a gender perspective, promotion of specialized interdisciplinary teams, and strengthening of inter-institutional coordination for effective communication.

It is imperative to acknowledge the significance of the collaborative efforts of the institutions classified in level II, as they play a pivotal role in ensuring the comprehensive protection of individuals' rights, particularly those who are confronted with circumstances of vulnerability. From this vantage point, it is imperative to underscore the indispensability of collaboration among these entities in fostering fair and transparent processes that are in alignment with the constitutional principles of equality, dignity, and non-discrimination.

### ***Level 3. Auxiliary Agencies***

Auxiliary agencies, including the National Police, the Specialized Directorate of Domestic Violence (DEVIF), and the National Directorate of the Specialized Police for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAPEM), play a pivotal role in the protection of people's rights. These entities are regarded as specialized bodies that provide immediate attention to risk situations, crime prevention, and the guarantee of a safe environment for victims.

The National Police, in accordance with Article 2 of the Organic Law of the National Police (National Assembly, 2008), implements strategies and programs to address violence against women, thereby ensuring internal order and individual and social security. The organization's powers encompass the maintenance of peace, the prevention of crime, the investigation of violations, and the protection of rights, particularly those of minors, women, and families.

It facilitates inter-institutional efforts for a comprehensive response to gender-based violence, with initiatives such as "Police and Family: A Fair Life" and "Educating Families without Violence," which promote awareness and reporting. However, the focus group identified challenges, including the absence of complete information in complaints (e.g., addresses of victims and aggressors) and the necessity to standardize procedures and enhance notifications to the Judicial Units. This finding indicates that, despite the institution's comprehensive approach, it is imperative to enhance its internal processes to ensure a more efficient and effective response.

Additionally, the police have the Department of Domestic Violence (DEVIF), which is a unit of the National Police of Ecuador. The primary objective of the DEVIF is to guarantee and prevent crimes and contraventions related to violence against women. In the case of Guayaquil, a Zonal Coordination has been established, with its territorial jurisdiction spanning the northern and southern zones. The most significant

impediment confronting women in this process pertains to the delivery time of measures by judicial units and the paucity of information provided in the correspondence from the judicial unit. This results in delays in attending to individuals requiring the service. Conversely, they lack the necessary resources to effectively monitor and execute campaigns. The study's findings reveal a critical limitation: the absence of sufficient prevention actions.

The National Directorate of Specialized Police for Children and Adolescents of the National Police of Ecuador (DINAPEN) is a specialized law enforcement agency that focuses on the protection and well-being of children and adolescents. The objective of the Convention is to defend the rights of minors and to prevent violations of these rights. In instances of child or adolescent mistreatment or violation, these entities collaborate with the judicial units.

***Level 4. International organizations and public, private and community entities for the execution of policies, plans and programs that operate in Guayaquil***

In the city of Guayaquil, the responsibility for implementing policies, plans, and programs aimed at the protection of rights and, therefore, of social conditions articulates a wide network of national and international actors. It is important to acknowledge the pivotal role that international organizations play in collaborating with public, private, and community entities to implement, monitor, and evaluate a diverse array of initiatives. These institutions have been developed to address the complex problem of violence against women, who are often confronted with additional vulnerabilities, such as poverty or limited educational attainment.

In this context, cooperation among the various actors is essential for generating innovative and sustainable solutions that respond to the needs of women in general, particularly those in situations of greater vulnerability. This is necessary to ensure equitable access to justice and resources.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) engages in collaborative efforts with Ecuadorian institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH), the Ministry of the Interior (MDG), the Public Defender's Office, the Ombudsman's Office, and the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (Giménez, 2022). This cooperative endeavor aims to formulate public policies that ensure access to and protection of the rights of migrants, particularly in contexts of vulnerability. The UNHCR functions as a central node in an inter-agency network (Lozares, 1996), addressing gender-based violence in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, with an emphasis on migrant protection and risk mitigation (UNHCR, 2025).

During the course of the pandemic, this articulation assumed particular significance in light of the surge in domestic and gender-based violence (Grandi, 2021). The organization's strategic initiatives encompass provisions of emergency assistance for women and the LGBTI population, in addition to the implementation of programs such as "A Ganar" and "Reactivate." These programs are designed to promote the social, educational, and economic inclusion of women, with a particular focus on populations experiencing heightened levels of human mobility. The organization's responsibilities encompass the formulation of strategies and initiatives for the integration of migrants into society and the labor force. Additionally, it is tasked with facilitating inter-institutional coordination to ensure comprehensive care for migrants and the prevention of trafficking and smuggling activities.

HIAS Ecuador Refugee Support (2025) is a global Jewish organization dedicated to the protection of refugees. It provides a range of services, including psychological,

social, employment, and legal support, to vulnerable populations, including victims of gender-based violence. The program's primary objective is the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and enhancing their capacities to promote their social inclusion and overcome exclusion gaps. This initiative is in alignment with Article 3 of the Constitution of Ecuador (2008), which guarantees a culture of peace and inclusion. The organization's strategic initiatives encompass the provision of humanitarian assistance, the facilitation of psychosocial support through individual or group therapy sessions, and the provision of legal assistance in civil, criminal, and family matters. Its programmatic initiatives encompass the "Walking Project," which fosters women's self-esteem and labor inclusion, and the "Model Graduation Program," which is oriented towards empowering and enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable families. The organization's competencies encompass the defense of the human rights of refugees and vulnerable individuals, ensuring their dignified and respectful treatment.

The Norwegian Alliance Mission in Ecuador (2025) is an interdenominational diaconal mission organization that prioritizes the well-being of vulnerable populations and the promotion of social justice. The organization has developed initiatives aimed at addressing gender-based violence. These initiatives include educational programs, inclusive awareness campaigns, and legal assistance and psychological support services. Notably, the organization's support extends to children affected by violence. The organization's areas of expertise encompass the reduction of physical, psychological, and sexual violence directed towards women and children. Additionally, it is involved in the promotion of healthy family and community environments. Its strategic initiatives encompass the execution of campaigns and the facilitation of dialogues, with the objective of fostering a culture that is both preventative and equitable. Its programmatic initiatives encompass "Resilient, Strengthened, and Peace-Promoting Communities," which furnishes psychological and legal assistance in cases of domestic violence, gender-based violence, and child sexual abuse, and the "Amos Project," which establishes violence-free training environments. Furthermore, it fosters the development of artisanal technical skills among women and young people, promoting entrepreneurship as a means of enhancing family income in vulnerable sectors of the northwest of Guayaquil.

The Ministry of Public Health (2022) acknowledges violence against women as a public health concern and collaborates with other institutions to ensure the restoration of victims' rights. The referral and linkage process with direct care organizations is an integral component of the intervention. The governance of the referral process is further supported by components such as immediate care until physical and psychological stabilization, sampling, and the preparation of professional reports. The organization's strategic initiatives encompass provisions such as access to First Reception Rooms, advisory services in legal matters, and the administration of comprehensive health care services. The institution has implemented programs such as "No to Violence Against Women" and "Comprehensive Care in Gender Violence." Its areas of expertise encompass public policies with a gender perspective, immediate reception services, and free physical and mental healthcare.

However, the focus group reveals gaps in implementation, such as 3-5 month waiting times for psychological care, which hinders the recovery of victims. This finding indicates that, despite the MSP's comprehensive approach, its operational and coordination capacity is constrained, thereby impacting the efficiency and timeliness of the response. One of the participants in the focus group noted, "They are afraid to leave the aggressor, because of this economic dependence that responds to this

macho culture. In the context of motherhood, it is imperative for women to prioritize their roles as spouses and partners. This decision is primarily driven by the need to maintain a stable family environment for their children.

The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES, 2021) operates within the framework of the National Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence (PNEVG), implementing strategies such as the provision of economic assistance to women and priority groups, and the establishment of economic inclusion centers to refer individuals in vulnerable situations. The organization's programs prioritize the training and awareness-raising initiatives concerning the prevention of gender-based violence. These initiatives encompass a range of issues, including gender roles, inequality, and the development and implementation of prevention strategies. The MIES collaborates with other institutions to provide comprehensive care to women victims, particularly those experiencing double vulnerability as individuals with functional diversity. The strategies employed by the government include the establishment of family support units, the creation of economic inclusion centers, and the implementation of the Human Development Bonus for entrepreneurship. The latter is specifically designed for individuals who have reached the final stage of violence, which is femicide. The organization's program offerings encompass "Learning as a Family," "Capacity Building," and "Violet Impulse." Its competencies include the design of public policies with a gender approach, protocols for detecting and referring cases of violence, and systems for collecting information on violence against women.

The Ministry of Education, MINEDUC (2017), through its Manual of Protocol for Attention to Situations of Violence, offers a theoretical perspective on violence, guiding teachers and professionals from the Student Counseling Departments (DECE) in the detection of risks. The document under review addresses various forms of violence, including physical, psychological, and sexual negligence. The latter is accorded particular emphasis due to its profound and deleterious impacts. The organization's purview encompasses the resolution of cases that contravene the rights of children and adolescents (NNA), in addition to the monitoring of compliance with educational policies. The organization's initiatives encompass a range of social welfare projects, pedagogical improvement efforts, and family and sexual education programs, with a particular focus on reducing teenage pregnancy.

The Ministry of Education collaborates with other institutions to address violence against women in a comprehensive manner, promoting monitoring and control programs. Their strategies encompass user service, emotional support, and teacher training in violence prevention and reception of complaints. Programs such as "Social Welfare Camps" and "Educating in the Family" aim to prevent violence, in conjunction with early warning mechanisms, multidisciplinary investigations, and referrals. Furthermore, the institution is involved in the formulation of public policies with a gender focus and the development of educational programs aimed at the prevention of sexual violence in primary education.

The ECU911 Integrated Security Service plays a pivotal role as the primary responder in cases of domestic and gender-based violence in Ecuador. The Government of Ecuador (2021) has articulated a strategy for coordinating emergency responses through an inter-institutional network, leveraging a comprehensive array of resources to ensure rapid and effective responses to crisis situations. The implementation of programs such as the Emergency Response and Repowering System Modernization Project has led to improvements in the quality of services provided. The protocol stipulates the collection of critical information and the activation of alerts that

mobilize the National Police. Inter-institutional coordination is reflected in coordination with specialized community and judicial surveillance units, where a multidisciplinary team (consisting of doctors, social workers, and psychologists) intervenes following a seven-step procedure. This approach is consistent with the provisions outlined in the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (COIP), specifically Articles 155, 156, and 157, which address the punishment of physical, psychological, and sexual violence (National Assembly, 2021). The company's strategic approach encompasses technological renewal, the enhancement of staff competencies, and the optimization of service efficiency. The responsibilities of the aforementioned institution include the timely articulation of emergency services for women at risk and coordination with the National Comprehensive System for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women.

Since 1990, the María Guare Foundation (2025) has been at the forefront of promoting the human rights of women and families. The foundation offers a comprehensive range of services, including free legal, psychological, and social assistance to victims of violence, along with prevention campaigns aimed at addressing the root causes of violence. A multidisciplinary team of professionals, including psychologists, social workers, therapists, and lawyers, is available to provide comprehensive care to women who have been victims of gender violence. The organization's strategic approach encompasses the provision of legal counsel on complaints pertaining to domestic violence and sexual crimes, the facilitation of psychological support through therapeutic interventions and emergency care services, and the delivery of social counseling services that include interviews and the generation of reports. Its programmatic initiatives encompass "Women in Construction," "Comprehensive Care for Women and Families Victims of Domestic Violence," and "2022, a year to move forward: together against gender violence." The organization's responsibilities encompass the promotion of human rights, the provision of free legal, psychological, and social assistance, and the implementation of prevention campaigns within educational institutions, corporate entities, and institutions.

The present "Amiga, Ya No Estás Sola" program SEGURA EP, implemented by the Municipality of Guayaquil within the framework of the local comprehensive protection system, reflects an inter-institutional articulation against gender violence. In accordance with the LOIPEVM (2018), a multifaceted approach is employed, encompassing strategies such as communication campaigns, telephone support lines, legal counsel, shelters, and training for health personnel. Despite its comprehensive approach, which involves the participation of public and private institutions and NGOs, the initiative exhibits both strengths and weaknesses.

Among the advances are coordination with NGOs, legal clinics, and the health sector, along with educational campaigns. The organization's strategic initiatives encompass the implementation of communication campaigns, the establishment of support lines, the provision of psychological care, the dissemination of legal counsel, the operation of shelters, the deployment of mobile clinics, and the maintenance of a Municipal Statistical Registry of Cases of Violence. The responsibilities of the aforementioned institution include the coordination of actions to prevent and eradicate violence, the reception of cases, and a computerized system for statistical registration. Notwithstanding its representation of progress, the initiative is confronted with a number of challenges. These include the absence of clearly defined coordination mechanisms among the 21 participating institutions, the dearth of specific and clear

protocols for collaborative responses, inadequate resources, and the lack of a comprehensive monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation system.

The Center for the Promotion and Action of Women (CEPAM, Guayaquil, 2022) is a constituent element of a network of civil society organizations that seek to exert a positive influence on vulnerable groups. It coordinates actions between communities, government institutions, and the private sector. The organization's primary objective is the prevention of gender-based violence, with a secondary focus on the promotion of a culture of peace and equity. This mission is pursued through the implementation of projects that integrate direct care services and community participation. CEPAM's multidisciplinary team, comprising psychologists, social workers, and lawyers, offers comprehensive care to women who have experienced violence and their affected children. The program is characterized by its comprehensive approach to gender violence, community participation, training, feminist legal clinic, the Paola Guzmán Albarracín Observatory, and the Legal Response Center. The strategies employed by these entities encompass a range of interventions, including the provision of legal counsel, psychological support, social services, and the facilitation of preventive workshops. Her competencies include the promotion of equality policies, research, advice, strengthening of alliances, and execution of projects to improve the quality of life of women.

The Hogar de Cristo organization (2025) operates the Casa de Acogida Hogar de Nazareth program, which aims to address the issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse against women, children, and adolescents in Ecuador. The comprehensive strategies encompass emotional support, psychosocial counseling, and legal assistance, aligning with the LOIPEVM (Art. 45), which ensures the protection and safety of women. The organization's "Educating on the Way" initiative aims to prevent violence, strengthen family bonds, and restore the rights of victims. The organization's activities, grounded in volunteerism, encompass a wide range of sectors, including culture, health, education, and charitable initiatives. This comprehensive approach reflects a holistic vision, as evidenced by its multifaceted activities (Paolini & Odriozola, 2019). The organization's strategic approach encompasses the provision of emotional support, psychological and social counseling, and the dissemination of information regarding legal rights and judicial processes. The organization's mandate encompasses the provision of protection, care, sustenance, shelter, medical care, and security to women and children who have been subjected to acts of extreme violence.

## DISCUSSION

The findings from the documentary review and the focus groups have revealed that the inter-institutional network in Guayaquil exhibits both strengths and weaknesses in its implementation. Among the most significant advances is the existence of a robust regulatory framework, which includes the LOIPEVCM and reforms to the Penal Code. These reforms have typified various forms of violence and established sanctions for aggressors. Moreover, the backing of international organizations, including UN Women and the Organization of American States (OAS), has fortified national and local public policies, facilitating the training of justice operators to more effectively address cases of gender-based violence.

Comprehensive care mechanisms have also been implemented, including legal, psychological, medical assistance, and temporary shelters. These mechanisms have



helped to improve the system's response to the needs of women in situations of violence.

Nevertheless, substantial challenges persist that impede the system's efficacy. A significant challenge pertains to the dearth of human and material resources, particularly in the outlying regions of Guayaquil. In these areas, women encounter geographical and cultural impediments that impede their access to protection services. For instance, consider the case of Monica, a 32-year-old woman residing in a peripheral area northwest of Guayaquil, in the Monte Sinai sector. It is evident that the neighborhood in which he resides lacks public transportation, the streets are unpaved, and during winter months, they become impassable. To reach the nearest care facility, she is obliged to take a minimum of three buses and walk for approximately 15 minutes. This commute is both costly and hazardous, particularly given that her partner exercises a high degree of control over her daily life and schedule.

Conversely, the prevailing cultural norms in her community exhibit a strong inclination to underestimate the severity of intimate partner violence. Furthermore, her social and familial environment has counseled her to "endure for the sake of her children and not destroy her home." María's perspective on violence is characterized by a unique viewpoint, one that involves the active engagement with violence for the purpose of denouncing it. She experiences a sense of apprehension regarding the potential judgment and skepticism she might face from her community, particularly concerning the authenticity of her experiences and the validity of her perspective. These geographic and cultural barriers impede her ability to seek assistance from protective services, potentially leading to delays or even cessation of support.

This dearth of resources exerts a direct and substantial influence on the effectiveness and efficiency of the institutions entrusted with the administration of justice, resulting in protracted and re-traumatizing judicial proceedings. Moreover, numerous women elect not to report due to fear, economic dependence, and mistrust in the judicial system, thereby exacerbating their preexisting state of vulnerability.

Another critical aspect is the inter-institutional disarticulation, which hinders coordination between the different actors involved in the care route. This dearth of articulation is further exacerbated by the substantial workload faced by technical teams, who are compelled to manage a high volume of cases without the requisite resources to provide adequate care. Furthermore, the dearth of adequate spaces for emotional support for professionals who work with this problem has a deleterious effect on their well-being and, consequently, the quality of the care they provide.

With regard to judicial processes, several weaknesses have been identified, such as the bureaucratization of the system, the lack of follow-up mechanisms to guarantee compliance with protection measures and sentences, and the absence of specialized treatment for aggressors. Furthermore, the paucity of available information regarding the judicial process engenders significant challenges for victims in making informed decisions. In certain instances, the compliance with the sentences issued by judges remains uncertain, impeding the assurance of effective redress for victims.

A number of specific details were identified in the focus group that elucidate the aforementioned weaknesses. Initially, it was determined that there are no mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with protection measures related to the treatment of aggressors. From this vantage point, one of the participants noted that the majority of complainants do not persist in the course of legal action due to various circumstances, including the existence of a relationship of dependence with the accused party, the lack of knowledge regarding the accused's address, or the failure to

receive the summons. Moreover, the professionals responsible for initial reception are not equipped with the requisite technical elements, methodological, or theoretical measures that would enable them to ensure an adequate identification and filtration of the type of response required by users. This phenomenon can result in a lack of alignment between the care provided and the unique needs of each individual case.

In the subsequent follow-up process, it became apparent that, in numerous instances, there was a lack of clarity regarding the adherence to the directives issued by the judges. This ambiguity hinders the ability to ensure the implementation of reparation in certain procedures. This situation suggests a deficiency in the oversight and supervision of the implementation of judicial decisions, which has a direct impact on the victims' confidence in the system. In relation to this point, another participant in the focus group made the following observation: "There are different levels of monitoring. Some of these levels are overseen by the Cantonal Board, while others are overseen by other actors, such as the Public Defender's Office or the organizations that provide or comply with the measures that have been arranged. These include the Ministry of Health and the Municipal Psychological Unit. I believe that there is still a considerable amount of work to be done in the follow-up."

A review of the professional practice of the technical team reveals several factors that directly impact the quality of care. Among these factors, the following have been identified as particularly salient:

- Work overload: Technical teams face a high volume of cases on a daily basis, which makes it difficult to provide personalized and quality care.
- Emotional load: The constant work with cases of gender violence generates significant emotional exhaustion, aggravated by the lack of spaces of containment for professionals.
- Lack of discrimination between cases: Cases that require a higher level of attention due to their level of risk are not prioritized, which can leave women unprotected in more serious situations.

In order to surmount these limitations, the focus group recommended the establishment of three types of specialized teams: a foster care team, an expert team, and a follow-up team. The implementation of this division would facilitate the delivery of more efficient and personalized care, tailored to the distinct requirements of each case. Furthermore, a proposal was made to enhance inter-institutional coordination, thereby promoting enhanced collaboration among the entities involved in the care route. This includes the allocation of adequate budgets that allow for the hiring of more specialized personnel and the provision of material resources necessary to provide quality care. Furthermore, the establishment of emotional containment spaces is imperative for technical teams grappling with substantial workloads and emotional burdens stemming from the inherent nature of their profession.

In this context, social network theory provides an appropriate approach to analyze the inter-institutional network in Guayaquil, allowing the identification of its potentialities, as well as its limitations. Furthermore, it emphasizes the relationships and dynamics between key actors, including government institutions, non-governmental organizations, health services, and security forces, among others. Despite the laudable intentions of the implemented policies, the coordination is ineffective, the absence of follow-up mechanisms persists, and cultural stereotypes continue to be significant barriers to ensuring comprehensive and effective care for women experiencing violence.

Consequently, as Lozares (1996) observes, the theory enables us to comprehend how the relationships among the various actors influence the collective capacity to address complex problems, such as violence against women. Conversely, network theory underscores the significance of connections among institutional actors.

In principle, the establishment of an effective collaborative network among justice services, health services, security forces, and social support entities can facilitate rapid and efficient responses, thereby ensuring the protection of women in situations of violence. However, as Gil (2010) notes, the inadequate inter-institutional coordination in Guayaquil curtails the optimization of these resources. The response to victims of violence is fragmented, reducing the effectiveness of protection measures and rehabilitation of victims.

Consequently, strategic coordination is a foundational element in the theoretical framework of social networks. Guayaquil's practical experience demonstrates that there is not invariably a complementary collaboration between institutions. Lozares (1996) posits that inter-institutional networks ought to function in an integrated manner; however, in the case of Guayaquil, the inadequate fluid communication and the deficient coordinated framework of action impede comprehensive attention to victims. This phenomenon manifests in the form of deficiencies in attention and the inefficacy of available resources. For instance, there is an absence of explicit protocols for the dissemination of information among institutions, and the implementation of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of protection measures is deficient.

In another line of thinking, it is crucial to acknowledge that the presence of monitoring mechanisms is indispensable in any inter-institutional network, as these mechanisms serve to evaluate the efficacy of the implemented policies and measures. However, in Guayaquil, the absence of explicit mechanisms for monitoring and impact assessment hinders the determination of whether policies are effectively safeguarding women. Prada (2005) posits that the institutional network ought to be predicated on the generation of collective knowledge and continuous evaluation to adapt strategies to the evolving needs of victims. The absence of this practice has the effect of limiting the process of continuous improvement.

As previously stated by Martínez (2024) and Lamas (2012), cultural stereotypes and the absence of familial and societal support significantly contribute to the challenges women encounter when attempting to report violence. In practice, women who experience violence in their relationships may feel unprotected not only by institutions but also by their communities. Civil society plays a fundamental role in this regard; however, its involvement in the institutional network remains limited. The absence of an intersectional approach in public policies has also been identified as a contributing factor to the exclusion of women in specific situations of vulnerability, including those with disabilities, migrants, and members of indigenous communities.

Social network theory underscores the significance of addressing various forms of inequality and discrimination within institutional networks. As Lamas (2012) observes, the gender approach in public policies must consider the multifaceted nature of violence experienced by women, encompassing not only physical or psychological violence but also structural violence, labor discrimination, and educational barriers, among others. Despite the efforts of certain programs to address these issues, a comprehensive approach that considers the intersection of various forms of discrimination remains a significant challenge in Guayaquil's institutional network.

## CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the network in Guayaquil reveals a complex interaction that generates challenges and opportunities in inter-institutional articulation. Despite noteworthy advancements in comprehension and intervention, the implemented strategies have yet to attain substantial societal impact, as substantiated by the persistent and distressing prevalence of violence cases. The most salient weaknesses include inadequate resources, particularly in peripheral regions, delays in judicial proceedings, and a paucity of inter-institutional coordination. These factors impede the effective monitoring of cases and the implementation of timely protective measures. However, the system also exhibits strengths, including a systemic approach to victim care and a robust regulatory framework.

In order to surmount these limitations, it is imperative to enhance inter-institutional coordination, broaden the range of available services, optimize judicial processes, and adopt an intersectional approach in public policies that takes into account the manifold dimensions of violence experienced by vulnerable groups. In addition to the establishment of emotional containment spaces for technical teams, who encounter substantial workloads and emotional burdens as a result of the nature of their work. It is imperative to recognize that the guarantee of effective protection and the advancement towards the eradication of violence against women in Guayaquil can only be achieved through the implementation of these actions. Furthermore, the implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is imperative to ensure compliance with protective measures and sentences, as well as to guarantee comprehensive reparation for victims.

Finally, it is imperative to emphasize that institutional articulation is indispensable for generating effective responses to violence against women. Studies have demonstrated that positive outcomes are attained when institutions collaborate in a manner that is joint, coordinated, and complementary. Therefore, effective fulfillment of their role is facilitated by the presence of a shared vision of the problem and rights, as well as by the establishment of joint protocols, inter-institutional working groups, and integrated case monitoring systems. The implementation of these measures results in comprehensive care, ranging from prevention to the restitution of the rights of affected women.

## References

1. ACNUR. (2025). *Qué hacemos* | UNHCR ACNUR. La agencia de la Onu para los refugiados. <https://www.acnur.org/que-hacemos>
2. Arráez, M., Calles, J., & Moreno, L. (2006). La Hermenéutica: una actividad interpretativa. *Sapiens. Revista Universitaria de Investigación*, VII(2), 171–181. <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/410/41070212.pdf>
3. Asamblea Nacional. (2008). *LEY ORGANICA DE LA POLICIA NACIONAL*.
4. Asamblea Nacional. (2018). *Ley Orgánica Integral Para La Prevención y Erradicación de la Violencia de Género Contra la Mujeres*. Quito. [https://www.igualdad.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/05/ley\\_prevenir\\_y\\_erradicar\\_violencia\\_mujeres%0A.pdf%0A](https://www.igualdad.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/05/ley_prevenir_y_erradicar_violencia_mujeres%0A.pdf%0A)
5. Asamblea Nacional. (2021). *CÓDIGO ORGÁNICO INTEGRAL PENAL, COIP.Registro Oficial Suplemento 180 de 10-feb.-2014*. [www.lexis.com.ec](http://www.lexis.com.ec)
6. Asamblea Nacional Constituyente. (2008). *Constitución de la República del Ecuador. Registro Oficial 449*. [https://www.oas.org/juridico/pdfs/mesicic4\\_ecu\\_const.pdf](https://www.oas.org/juridico/pdfs/mesicic4_ecu_const.pdf)
7. Asamblea Nacional Constituyente de Ecuador. (2008). *CONSTITUCION DE LA*

REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR.

<https://www.cosedec.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CONSTITUCION-DE-LA-REPUBLICA-DEL-ECUADOR.pdf>

8. Barrientos, M. (2005). *LA PARTICIPACIÓN. Algunas precisiones conceptuales*. <http://agro.unc.edu.ar/~extrural/LaPARTICIPACION.pdf>

9. Benalcázar, L., & Vanegas, G. (2015). *DIRECCIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE LA UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA DE COTOPAXI*. Micromachismo: Manifestación de Violencia Simbólica.

<http://investigacion.utc.edu.ec/revistasutc/index.php/utciencia/article/view/34/35>

10. CEPAM Guayaquil. (2022, August 2). *Somos parte de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil de la Red del Noreste - CEPAMGYE*. <https://cepamgye.org/somos-parte-de-las-organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-de-la-red-del-noreste/>

11. Comisión Legislativa y de Fiscalización. (2008). *CODIGO ORGANICO DE LA FUNCION JUDICIAL*. Registro Oficial Suplemento 544 de 09-mar.-2009.

[www.lexis.com.ec](http://www.lexis.com.ec)

12. Consejo Cantonal de Protección Integral de Derechos de la Ciudad de Guayaquil. (2016). *Junta Cantonal De Protección Integral De Derechos De Guayaquil (Jcpidg)*. <http://www.ccpidguayaquil.gob.ec/>

13. Consejo Nacional para la igualdad de género. (2018). *AGENDA NACIONAL PARA LA IGUALDAD DE LAS MUJERES Y PERSONAS LGBTI(2018-2021)*. [https://www.igualdadgenero.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Agenda\\_ANI\\_Ejecutiva.pdf](https://www.igualdadgenero.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Agenda_ANI_Ejecutiva.pdf)

14. Cortez, M. (2019). *Manejo de denuncias de violencia doméstica luego de la eliminación de las comisarias de la mujer en el Ecuador*.

15. Defensoría del pueblo. (2025). *¿Qué hacemos? - Defensoría del Pueblo*. <https://www.dpe.gob.ec/que-hacemos/>

16. Defensoría Pública del Ecuador. (2021). *Plan Estratégico Institucional (2022-2025)*. [https://www.defensoria.gob.ec/wpcontent/uploads/2021/08/Actualizacion\\_pei\\_2020\\_2025-1.pdf](https://www.defensoria.gob.ec/wpcontent/uploads/2021/08/Actualizacion_pei_2020_2025-1.pdf)

17. El Universo. (2022). Monte Sinaí encabeza zonas con más emergencias por la violencia de género en 2021.(30 de Enero de 2022). *Diario El Universo*. <https://www.eluniverso.com/guayaquil/comunidad/monte-sinai-encabeza-zonas-con-mas-emergencias-por-la-violencia-de-genero-en-2021-nota/?outputType=amp>

18. Fundación ALDEA. (2022). *2021, el año más letal para las mujeres: cada 44 horas se cometió un feminicidio en Ecuador*.

19. Fundación Maria Guare. (2025). *Fundación Maria Guare*. <https://fundacionmariaguare.com/>

20. Gil, A. (2010). *REDES SOCIALES EN EL TRABAJO SOCIAL. APUNTES PARA LA PRAXIS PROFESIONAL*. Elenthera.

21. Gimenez, J. (2022). *Quiénes Somos*.

<https://www.acnur.org/ecuador.html#:~:text=ACNUR%2C la Agencia de la,a huir de sus países.>

22. Gobierno del Ecuador. (2021). *Servicio Integrado de Seguridad 911*.

23. Gómez, D., Carranza, Y., & Ramos, C. (2017). Revisión documental, una herramienta para el mejoramiento de las competencias de lectura y escritura en estudiantes universitarios. *Revista Chakiñan de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades*, I, 46–56. [http://scielo.senescyt.gob.ec/scielo.php?pid=S2550-67222017000300046&script=sci\\_arttext](http://scielo.senescyt.gob.ec/scielo.php?pid=S2550-67222017000300046&script=sci_arttext)

24. Grandi, F. (2021, November 25). *ACNUR insta a abordar el impacto de la violencia de*

- género en mujeres y niñas refugiadas, desplazadas y apátridas* | ACNUR.  
<https://www.acnur.org/noticias/news-releases/acnur-insta-abordar-el-impacto-de-la-violencia-de-genero-en-mujeres-y-ninas>
25. Hernández-Sampieri, R., Fernández-Collado, C., & Baptista-Lucio, P. (2014). *Metodología de la Investigación*(6a. ed.--). McGraw-Hill Interamericana Editores SA México.
26. HIAS Ecuador. (2025). *HLAS Ecuador | Support For Refugees In Ecuador | HIAS*.  
<https://www.hiasfoundation.org/where/ecuador/>
27. INEC. (2019). *Encuesta de violencia contra las mujeres*.  
<https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec//violencia-de-genero/>
28. Lagarde, M. (1996). *Género y Feminismo.Desarrollo humano y democracia*. Horas y HORAS.
29. Lamas, M. (2012). *El enfoque de género en las políticas públicas.Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*. <https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r23192.pdf>
30. Lozares, C. (1996). La teoría de redes sociales. *Papers: Revista de Sociología*, 103–126.
31. Martínez, S. M. D. (2024). ¿Por qué callan las mujeres? Factores socioculturales e institucionales que influyen en la problemática de la violencia de género en el Paraguay, año 2021. *Revista Científica UCOM Scientia* , 2(2), 99–123.  
<https://doi.org/10.62544/UCOMSCIENTIA.V2I2.33>
32. MIES. (2021). *MIES continúa con sensibilizaciones sobre prevención y erradicación de violencia de género*.
33. Ministerio de Educación del Ecuador. (2017). *Protocolo de Atención frente a situaciones de violencia detectadas o cometidas en el sistema educativo*. [https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/03/Protocolos\\_violencia\\_web.pdf](https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/03/Protocolos_violencia_web.pdf)
34. Ministerio de Salud Pública. (2022). *Acciones del Ministerio de Salud*.  
<https://www.salud.gob.ec/acciones-del-ministerio-de-salud/#:~:text=El MSP tiene como responsabilidad,Primera Acogi da” en diez provincias.>
35. Mision Alianza Noruega. (2025). *Misión Alianza*. <https://misionalianza.org/es/>
36. Montero, J. (2006). *Feminismo: un movimiento crítico*. *Psychosocial Intervention*.
37. Municipalidad de Guayaquil. (2017). *Ordenanza de prevención y acción para combatir la violencia contra las mujeres en el cantón Guayaquil.(15 de Diciembre de 2017)*.  
<http://www.ccpidguayaquil.gob.ec/uploads/Ordenanzas/310118ordenanzaviolenciacontralamujer.pdf>
38. OMS. (2021, March 21). *Violencia contra la mujer*. <https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>
39. OMS. (2025). *Violencia contra las mujeres*. [https://www.who.int/es/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/es/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab_1)
40. ONU Mujeres. (2023, November 23). *Hechos y cifras poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres* | ONU Mujeres – América Latina y el Caribe.  
<https://lac.unwomen.org/es/stories/noticia/2023/11/hechos-y-cifras-poner-fin-a-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>
41. ONU Mujeres. (2024). *Cada diez minutos, una mujer o niña muere a manos de su pareja u otro miembro de la familia* | ONU Mujeres.  
<https://www.unwomen.org/es/noticias/comunicado-de-prensa/2024/11/cada-diez-minutos-una-mujer-o-nina-muere-a-manos-de-su-pareja-u-otro-miembro-de-la-familia>
42. Paolini, N., & Odriozola, J. (2019). *Diferentes tipos de organizaciones.¿ Por qué no todas son iguales? Series: Libros de Cátedra*.
43. Prada, E. (2005). Las redes de conocimiento y las organizaciones. *Revista Bibliotecas*

y *Tecnologías de La Información*, II(4), 16–25.

[http://eprints.rclis.org/9127/1/redes\\_de\\_conocimiento.pdf](http://eprints.rclis.org/9127/1/redes_de_conocimiento.pdf)

44. Secretaría Nacional de Planificación. (2021). *Plan de Creación de Oportunidades 2021-2025 – Secretaría Nacional de Planificación*. <https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/plan-de-creacion-de-oportunidades-2021-2025/>

45. Vargas, Z. (2009). La investigación aplicada :Una forma de conocer las realidades con evidencia científica. *Educación*, 3.

46. Vigo, A. (2002). Hans-Georg Gadamer y la filosofía hermenéutica: la comprensión como ideal y tarea. *Estudios Públicos*, 235–249.