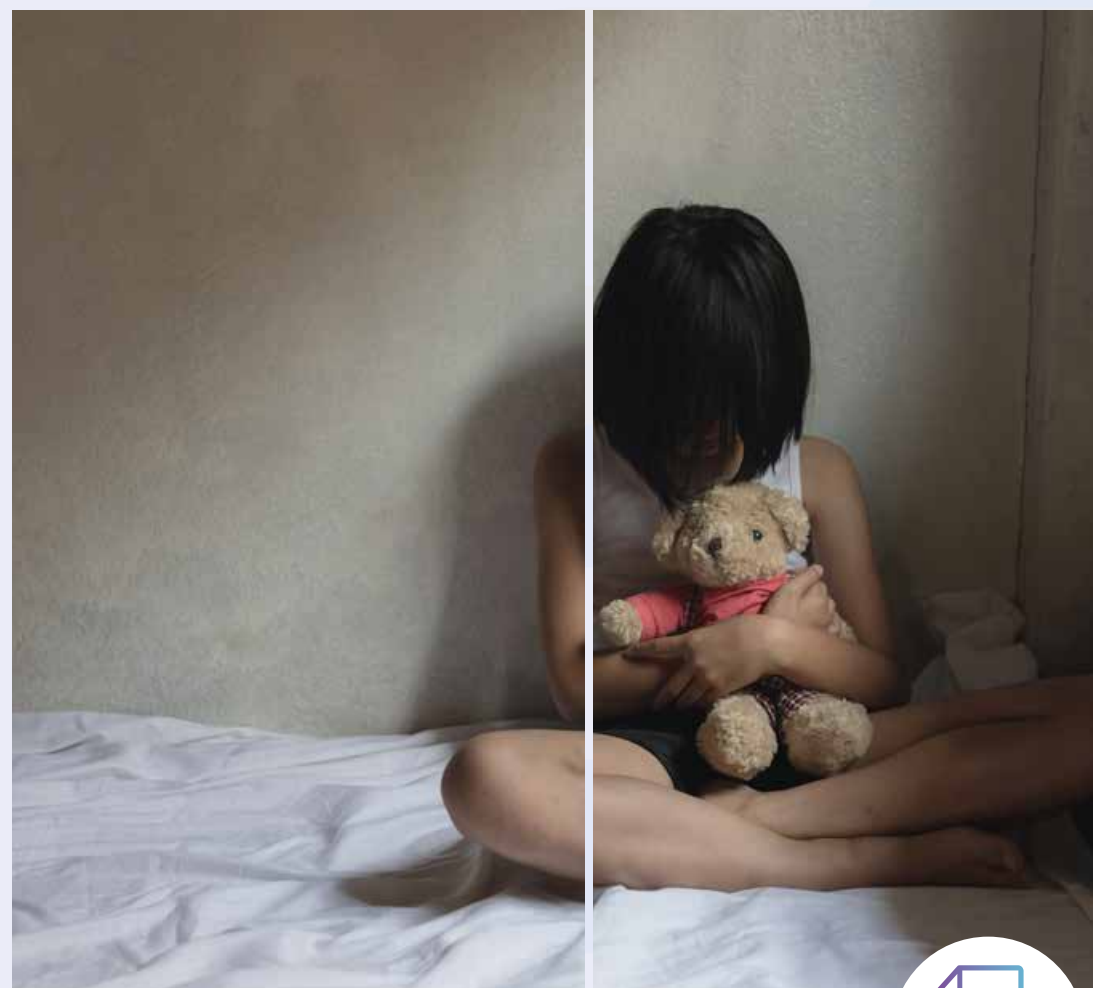


## Violence and poverty in Mexico, the most unwanted combination

Violence in Mexico is linked to poverty so it is a true fact that peace is produced by welfare and improvements made on the quality of life of all the people.



Unfortunately, violence and poverty are problems that have constantly affected people in Mexico for many years. The lack of effective actions on public policies to fight that multifactorial phenomenon leads to an increase in the different gaps related to inequality issues.

development, which mentions that vulnerable conditions and poverty may trigger violent behaviors; while economic rewards may turn into livelihoods for families. Based on that report, we have an example in Burundi, Africa; a country that has been through many unfortunate conditions since the president was killed in 1993. People faced not only a severe economic depression, but also a massive increase on violence rates.

Many experts have talked about that, and several texts have been written about the relationship between violence and poverty, but none of them shows a final conclusion. However, after analyzing the studies developed by the National Council for Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), we were able to find that violence takes place in the municipalities with the highest poverty rates.

After the information that WB referred to, we may ask: Why are young people joining criminal gangs and rebel groups? The answers were clear in the 12 countries where the study took place so we were able to find out that 40% of young people do it because they are unemployed, and only 10% of them were really convinced and conscious of joining those groups.

Opinions of people in charge of the World Bank (WB) agreed with the Report on De-

### SUMMARY

Several experts and many texts analyze the relationship among violence and poverty, but they were unable to come to final conclusions. However, after analyzing some other studies, like the ones developed by the National Council for Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), it was demonstrated that violence is found in the municipalities with the highest poverty rates.

### Facts to consider on the relationship between violence and poverty

#### Violence and inequality



#### Violence and lack of institutions



#### Abrupt changes on social positions



### The situation in Mexico... What happened first, violence or poverty?

Although some popular people like Francisco Rivas, the current General Director of the organization called "Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano (ONC)", mentioned that the relationship between violence and poverty is not a fact, the real matter is that according

to the last report delivered by CONEVAL, it is noticeable that the communities with the highest number of people in poverty are also ranked in the first positions in the list of areas with the highest rates in intentional homicides.

### Municipalities with high population density of people in poverty and their position on the national ranking of intentional homicides

State	Municipality	Number of people in poverty	Position on the national ranking of intentional homicides
Guanajuato	León	816,934	3
State of Mexico	Ecatepec de Morelos	786,391	18
Mexico City	Iztapalapa	772,584	25
Puebla	Puebla	680,945	29
State of Mexico	Nezahualcóyotl	523,289	44

The failure on fighting poverty and inequality are caused by ineffective attempts to combat violence, which allows the preservation of the problem. Inequality and the lack of public policy to fight efficiently the different gaps, contribute to the permanency of violence and crime as one of the biggest problems in the country.

If the current context does not change and the inequalities in incomes, healthcare services, education, and housing continue, the deterioration of social fabric will continue too. In the long term, there will be damage to social cohesion too, which is one of the most important features detected in countries with highly developed economies and societies.

### What is left to do?

Millions of people in the country need to get attention after the different gaps in inequality issues so it is necessary to make collective efforts to guarantee an effective performance. For that reason, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria works hard to encourage the improvement of the well-being indexes through the CMT Welfare Ecosystem Model. This model is based on integral perspectives and a model of co-responsibility, which must

be shared by citizens to attend to the basic needs of the people who need assistance. The activities take place through 11 welfare networks to create sets of integral solutions and public policies to collaborate with authorities in different locations in order to develop welfare to combat insecurity and violence.

Jesús Pérez Caballero, a teacher in charge of making research for the Department of Cultural Studies in the institution called "Colegio de la Frontera Norte", mentions that despite we are unable to find a direct relationship between those matters, we can

notice 3 different facts to consider on the relationship between violence and poverty:

- Violence and inequality
- Violence and lack of institutions
- Abrupt changes on social positions