



Making Refugee Rights a Reality in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

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Asylum Access and USCRI Release a Report on Refugee Status Determination in Latin America

SAN FRANCISCO, USA AND QUITO, ECUADOR – Asylum Access is pleased to announce the release of a joint report with USCRI on “*Refugee Status Determination in Latin America: Regional Challenges and Opportunities. The national systems in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico.*” With an analysis of national systems for refugees to secure legal status, seek protection and avoid deportation, the report aims to strengthen due process and improve refugee status determination (RSD) standards across the region.

The report serves as a tool to promote dialogue to strengthen due process in RSD systems, both between governments, within national systems and among civil society groups and government actors.

“Our goal is to foster regional dialogue on refugee protection, to create opportunities for civil society groups and governments to bring national laws and practices in line with regional refugee and human rights commitments, such as the Cartagena Declaration and the 1951 Refugee Convention,” says Karina Sarmiento, Ecuador Country Director.

The study of experiences and national legislations in these five countries discusses trends, best practices and challenges, with a particular focus on issues of due process, access to information, the appeals mechanism and abbreviated RSD procedures.

The report also makes several recommendations to improve refugee protection, such as improved due process in appeal procedures, introducing laws that recognize refugee rights, increasing the protection space with civil society groups and multilateral collaboration to harmonize regional refugee protection policies.

The report was produced with the collaboration of the following organizations: the *Asociación de Consultores y Asesores Internacionales (ACAI)* from Costa Rica, the *Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos (IMDH)* from Brazil, *Sin Fronteras IAP* from Mexico, and *la Facultad de Derecho y el Consultorio Jurídico de la Universidad de los Andes* from Colombia.

The full report is available in English and Spanish at <http://asylumaccess.org/AsylumAccess/who-we-are/ecuador>.

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About Asylum Access

Asylum Access is an international human rights nonprofit founded to make refugee rights a reality in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our innovative model gives refugees the tools to rebuild their lives with dignity through four integrated tools: individualized legal counsel and/or representation, community legal empowerment, policy advocacy and strategic litigation. Please visit www.asylumaccess.org for more information.

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