



Costa Rica's  
violence  
against trans,  
nonbinary  
and gender  
diverse  
people.

[costarica.polivoxia.com](http://costarica.polivoxia.com)

# Introduction

This document is a compilation of news, articles, interviews and reports concerning violence against trans, nonbinary and gender diverse people specifically in Costa Rica. It is maintained by a transperson who left the country looking for a life with dignity for them and their family.

There's the widespread idea that Costa Rica is a welcoming country in terms of trans rights, but real life is far from that. Having to deal with the local culture of machismo, strict gender roles and religion; struggling to access jobs and education and failing to get the respect we deserve is daily life for hundreds of trans people in the country.

Our objective is to make that very clear and keep the memory alive. From systemic violence in the health system, to direct attacks in public spaces, let it be known how the country fails our population.

Please sign up and subscribe at <https://costarica.polivoxia.com> if you want to keep updated when new information is added. You can also use the contact form there, if you want to reach out.

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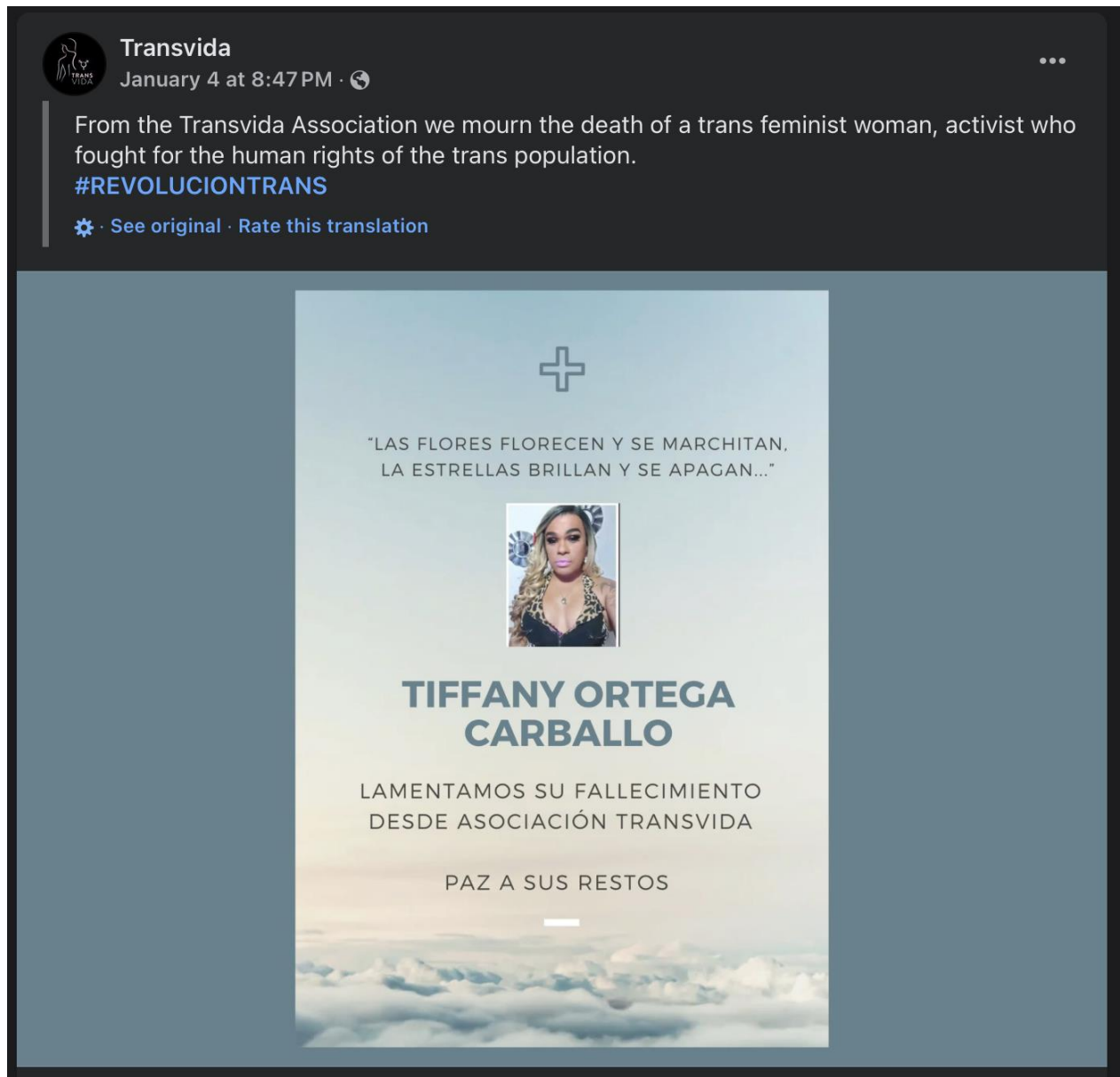
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# 2025 January 6



**Tiffany Ortega Carballo dies, age 42.**

Activist for trans population human rights.

No news coverage.

## Link in Spanish:

- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1033538565466816&id=100064320476993&rdid=V4gRa59W1Tx2GrPv](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1033538565466816&id=100064320476993&rdid=V4gRa59W1Tx2GrPv)

## News article from 2016 where she talks about her experience being a sex worker:

- <https://www.nacion.com/sucesos/crimenes/que-sienten-al-danarnos-satisfaccion-en-serio/WSKR2FA2QVH7HE33I5ABSY3LRU/story/>

## 2024 October 27

Sucesos

### Salvaje muerte de persona aparentemente transgénero crea mucha indignación

Las autoridades atendieron el homicidio la madrugada de este domingo en Cartago

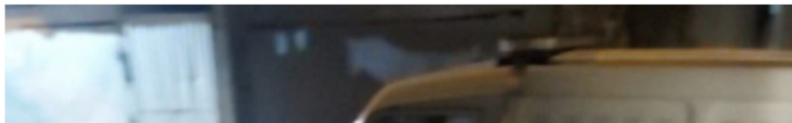
Escuchar

Por Alejandra Morales

27 de octubre 2024, 10:32 a. m.

De múltiples puñaladas le quitaron la vida a una persona, aparentemente transgénero, la madrugada de este domingo en barrio Fecosa en El Carmen de Cartago.

Las autoridades judiciales recibieron la alerta a la 1 a.m. no obstante la Cruz Roja recibió el llamado de atención desde las 12:30 a.m.



Publicidad



## **Murder of Laisa Camacho, age 56.**

Laisa died after being stabbed multiple times early on the morning of Sunday 27th October. The identity of her killer(s) and motive for the attack are not known.

### **Link in English:**

- [https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2024/10/27/laisa-camacho\\_el-carmen-de-car-tago-costa-rica\\_531eb9c8](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2024/10/27/laisa-camacho_el-carmen-de-car-tago-costa-rica_531eb9c8)

### **News coverage in Spanish:**

- <https://www.lateja.cr/sucesos/salvaje-muerte-de-persona-aparentemente/EIAX-UIP3VFESLMTD5M5TPKOOYI/story/>



# 2024 July 1



## Remembering Our Dead

[TDoR 2024](#) / [2024](#) / [July](#) / [01](#) / **Dayana Hernández González**

### Dayana Hernández González

Age 40 (born 15 Jul 1983)

1 Jul 2024

San José (Costa Rica)

Cosmetic filler complications



### **Dayana Hernandez dies, age 40.**

Dayana Hernandez, one of Costa Rica's most important trans-rights activists, dies at age 40.

Dayana died from long-term complications caused by biopolymer injections. She was an activist, and the first trans woman to stand as a deputy to the Legislative Assembly in 2018.

Lacking support for gender affirming care in Costa Rica's health system, trans people look for alternatives that are, most of the time, unsafe. They fall victim to systemic violence.

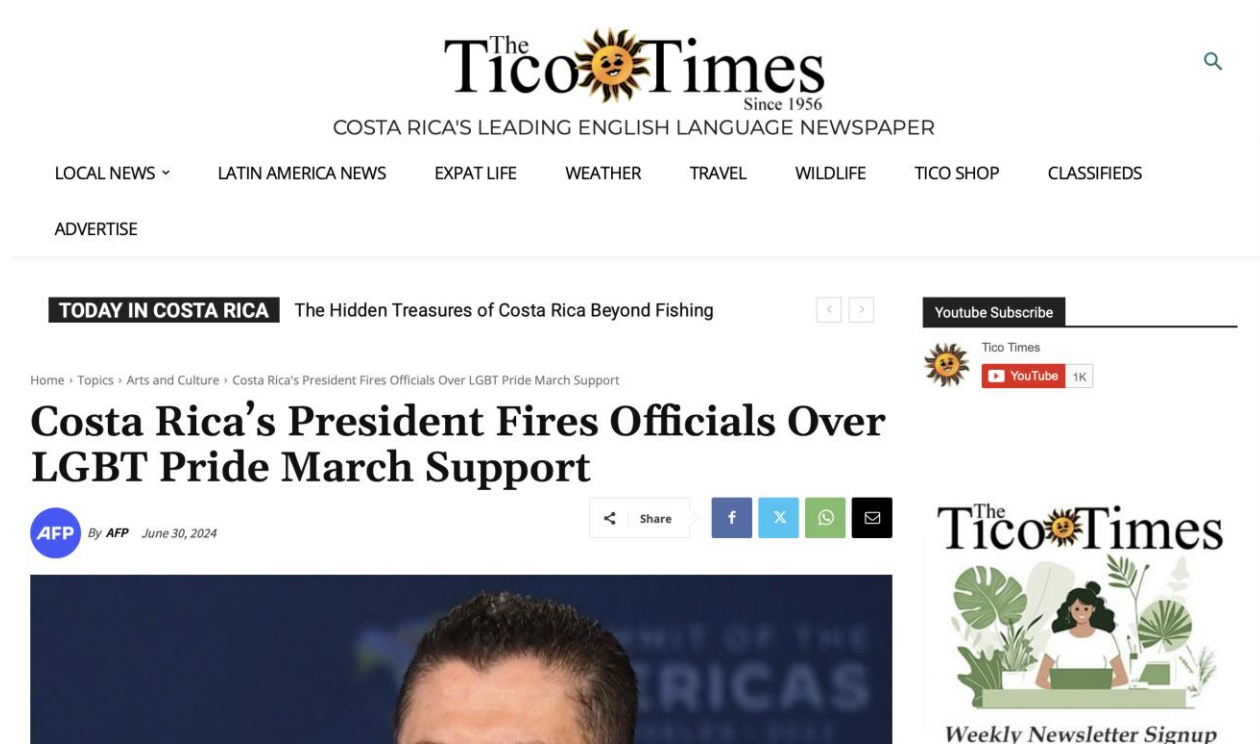
**Link in English:**

- [https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2024/07/01/dayana-hernandez-gonzalez\\_san-jose-costa-rica\\_c40eba36](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2024/07/01/dayana-hernandez-gonzalez_san-jose-costa-rica_c40eba36)

**Link in Spanish:**

- <https://delfino.cr/2024/07/fallecio-dayana-hernandez-activista-y-primer-mujer-trans-en-ser-candidata-a-diputada-en-costa-rica>

# 2024 June 30



## Costa Rica's President Fires Officials Over LGBT Pride March Support.

In June 2024, the government of Costa Rica fired two officials after they signed a declaration of cultural interest for the country's LGBT Pride March. The government claimed the march did not have the necessary permits, but the event organizers denied it. The Pride March organizers called the government's actions an illegal act and a populist move.



### **Link in English:**

- <https://ticotimes.net/2024/06/30/costa-ricas-president-fires-officials-over-lgbt-pride-march-support#:~:text=“The%20decision%20was%20made%20because,government%20said%20in%20a%20statement.>

### **Links in Spanish:**

- <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/presidente-de-costa-rica-destituye-a-ministra-por-apoyar-marcha-lgbt/82232728>
- <https://www.elpais.cr/2024/06/29/chaves-destituye-a-ministra-de-cultura-antes-de-marcha-lgtbi/>

## **2024 May 17**

### **Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT.**

Government doesn't commemorate day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the third year in a row.

**2023 December 31**



**Mar Fournier Pereira**

about a year ago



Descansá en poder, Gata querida. Maestra y amiga, contadora de historias, transguerrera incansable, abuela de nuestras generaciones trans que hoy invaden las aulas, los barrios, las oficinas.

Un femicida te robó los sueños, los planes y la vida. Pero no nos robarán la historia y las ganas rabiosas de vivir y re-existir abrazadxs por tu memoria.

#NiUnaMenos

#VivasNosQueremos



👍 12

💬 11

➦ 2



## **Murder of Juliana Elizondo.**

Trans woman and activist Juliana “Gata” Elizondo was murdered. No news coverage.

### **Links in Spanish:**

- [https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Fpfbid0eRrTR8LALBmsmUWbhdBJcTq9udHA3MwMeD-npktScUfUk9CcH4zadESnpiLPFB6H8l&show\\_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Fpfbid0eRrTR8LALBmsmUWbhdBJcTq9udHA3MwMeD-npktScUfUk9CcH4zadESnpiLPFB6H8l&show_text=true&width=500)
- [https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Fpfbid0Kxq6FZePoxYhXMehVXR4kY1oxav85DGgi-jxPWonqwp79Tw4TV4U62Mi8aoLyt2gAl&show\\_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Fpfbid0Kxq6FZePoxYhXMehVXR4kY1oxav85DGgi-jxPWonqwp79Tw4TV4U62Mi8aoLyt2gAl&show_text=true&width=500)
- [https://www.instagram.com/mujeresalertacr/p/C1ipyHmNwmU/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/mujeresalertacr/p/C1ipyHmNwmU/?img_index=1)

# 2023 September 9



## Police abuse activists at demonstration

Trans rights activists physically attacked by police in Costa Rica while at a public demonstration.

### Links in Spanish:

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/activistas-de-protesta-contraatacan-y-ahora-son-ellos-los-que-denuncian-violencia-policial/>
- [https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0MST4wDibp7ZxuuJr6skH3t6jv9WKpfdCz222S1LyKi4ehZuSUzAuLXdXohjiBjWsl&show\\_text=true&width=500](https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsol.fp%2Fposts%2Ffbid0MST4wDibp7ZxuuJr6skH3t6jv9WKpfdCz222S1LyKi4ehZuSUzAuLXdXohjiBjWsl&show_text=true&width=500)

- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRqm6ZsTAQ5WFZX1OJfvl1U6DxxNEDOiBX4yyzMhLxZ-xWaw/viewform?pli=1>

**2023 July 6**



## **President declares he will veto trans rights law.**

Law proposal 23.809, colloquially called “trans rights law” proposed by one minority political party. Its goal is to recognize the identity, rights to education, family, health services, and work for trans, nonbinary, intersex and gender-diverse people, both adults and minors.

Costa Rica’s president declared that if the law gets to his desk, he will veto it. With comments such as “a 6-year-old wakes up saying I feel like a fish, I identify as a fish put scales on me and cut

me up, those are very weird things” and “analysts say it foments pedophilia, I will not sign that law. There is no discussion about that.”

### **News articles in Spanish:**

- <https://elmundo.cr/costa-rica/rodrigo-chaves-advierte-que-vetara-ley-trans-si-es-aprobada-por-el-congreso/>

### **Video in Spanish:**

- <https://www1.cbn.com/mundocristiano/latinoamerica/2023/july/Idquo-no-voy-a-firmar-una-ley-que-atente-contra-nuestra-ninez-rdquo-el-presidente-de-costa-rica-muestra-su-rechazo-a-ley-trans>

2023 June 28

**crhoy.com**  
NOTICIAS 24/7

Nacionales Deportes Entretenimiento Economía Tecnología Mundo Opinión Secciones Programas

**NACIONALES ▶ POLÍTICA**

INICIATIVA DEL FRENTE AMPLIO GENERA SEÑALAMIENTOS DE DIPUTADOS DEL PUSC Y NUEVA REPÚBLICA

## (VIDEOS) Llenan de críticas proyecto que permite a niños de 12 años cambiar su género

Bharley Quiros   
Junio 28, 2023 2:29 pm





  
**Costa Rica Vacation Packages**  
Costa Rica Travel Deals

**Últimas** Más Leídas

11:17 am - Con Maduro juramentado y fronteras cerradas, Edmundo González promete regresar a Venezuela

11:09 am - Clasificar a las semifinales: El objetivo de Luis Marín en Sporting

11:03 am - Apelarán resolución de jueces que dejan sin medidas cautelares a directora de Montecarlo

**Legislators talking against trans rights law.**

“We won’t let it go even one step forward.”

**News article in Spanish with video:**

- <https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/videos-llenan-de-criticas-proyecto-que-permite-a-ninos-de-12-anos-cambiar-su-genero/>

2023 May 17

## Government doesn't commemorate IDAHOBIT.

Government doesn't commemorate day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the second year in a row.

2023 March 9

**LA REPÚBLICA**  
PARA DECISIONES INFORMADAS  
Viernes, 10 de enero de 2025

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [in](#) [y](#)

[INICIO](#) [ÚLTIMA HORA](#) [PÁGINA 2](#) [NACIONALES](#) [LO MÁS LEÍDO](#) [ACCIÓN](#) [MAGAZINE](#) [NOTA DE TANO](#) [OPINIÓN](#) [MÁS](#) [v](#)

**NACIONALES**

Reglas de paridad absoluta no toman en cuenta diversidad femenina, según grupos transgénero

## Candidatos trans para elecciones municipales serán ubicados por sexo al nacer y no género autopercibido

Género fluido, intersexo y "queers" generan un vacío legal que corresponde a diputados solventar, según TSE

[Esteban Arrieta](#) earrieta@larepublica.net | Jueves 09 marzo, 2023



**ÚLTIMA HORA**



10:42 ¿Quién sería el próximo presidente de Costa Rica si las elecciones fueran hoy? Esto reveló encuesta de CID Gallup



10:30 (Video) Mel Gibson no descarta vivir en Costa Rica, confiesa en podcast



09:23 Aficionados y mujeres del Mallorca sufren acoso en Arabia Saudita



07:00 Usar lentes oscuros no garantiza protección UV: Esto debe saber para cuidar sus ojos



18:55 Diputados apoyan a Edmundo González

## **Ballots will list candidates by their sex at birth, not gender identity.**

In Costa Rica ballots must alternate between men and women candidates. Transgender people will be listed using their sex at birth. So a transgender woman must fill a man's place.

### **News article in Spanish:**

- <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/candidatos-trans-para-elecciones-municipales-seran-ubicados-por-sexo-al-nacer-y-no-genero-autopercibido>

### **Reference:**

- [https://www.tse.go.cr/revista/art/30/vargas\\_alvarado.htm](https://www.tse.go.cr/revista/art/30/vargas_alvarado.htm)



2023 March 8



## Legislator commemorates biological women, “real women”, on International Women’s Day.

Saying “Today I want to celebrate biological women, those that science clearly identifies since they are born, those that for me and the majority of costaricans are real women.”

### News article in Spanish:

- <https://elmundo.cr/costa-rica/david-segura-hoy-quiero-conmemorar-a-las-mujeres-biologicas-las-mujeres-de-verdad/>

2023 March 1



The screenshot shows the top of the El Mundo website. The header is dark blue with the logo 'elmundo.cr' and the tagline 'PRIMEROS EN INFORMACIÓN POLÍTICA'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Nacionales, Municipales, Deportes, Mundo, Cultura, Tendencias, Negocios, Tecnología, and Opinión. A search icon is on the right. Below the navigation bar is a white box with a placeholder image and the text 'SnowPea-VH Bring your content to life' and an 'OPEN' button. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Portada » Costa Rica » Decir que los hombres menstrúan es una ofensa a las mujeres, le señala David Segura a Rocío Alfaro'. The main headline is 'Decir que los hombres menstrúan es una ofensa a las mujeres, le señala David Segura a Rocío Alfaro'. Below the headline is a photo of a man in a suit and glasses. To the right of the photo is a blue widget titled 'Tipo de cambio del dólar' showing 'Compra' and the value '502.21'.

**Legislator declares saying that some men menstruate is disrespectful to real women.**

Speaking against a law project that intends to recognize trans men's gender identity.

**News article in Spanish:**

- <https://elmundo.cr/costa-rica/decir-que-los-hombres-menstruan-es-una-ofensa-a-las-mujeres-le-senala-david-segura-a-rocio-alfaro/>

# 2023 February 28



**Legislator asks president to derogate executive orders regarding inclusive language in schools.**

**News article in Spanish:**

- <https://elmundo.cr/costa-rica/alvarado-solicita-a-chaves-derogar-decretos-sobre-lenguaje-inclusivo-para-eliminar-ideologia-de-genero-en-escuelas/>

# 2023 February 17

LA NACIÓN  
INDEPENDIENTE DESDE 1849

Suscriptores Boletines Últimas noticias El País Política

Adri

Suscríbete

Seguridad

## Parque de Diversiones niega discriminación a personas trans: 'Solo seguimos el reglamento'

Empresa reconoció que en dos ocasiones sus trabajadores usaron pronombres incorrectos para hablarle a una de las clientes, ya que se refirieron a ella como 'él'

Por José Andrés Céspedes

17 de febrero 2023, 12:37 p. m.



Publicidad



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Anuncios Google

Enviar comentarios

¿Por qué este anuncio? ▸

Lo más l

Ingadores

## Amusement park denies entrance to transwomen.

Six transwomen denounced being subjected to discrimination when the PARque de Diversiones amusement park denied them entry.

The park responded they were seen using drugs and alcohol before entering.

They reply they weren't, and the amusement park has no proof.

The park declared they are not apologizing and asserted they did nothing wrong.

Costa Rica has laws against "indecentcy" that are often used as tools to discriminate.

## News articles in Spanish:

- <https://www.nacion.com/sucesos/seguridad/parque-diversiones-niega-discriminacion-a-personas/YTRWIUC4QNHHCZFPHAOQMO3AIYM/story/>

## 2023 February 13



The screenshot shows the header of the United Nations Human Rights Office website. It includes the United Nations logo, the text "United Nations", and the "UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER" logo. There is a "Donate" button and a search icon. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "What are human rights?", "Topics", "Countries", "Instruments & mechanisms", "Latest", "About us", and "Get Involved". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Latest / Media Center" and the category "NEWS | TREATY BODIES". The article title is "Non-governmental Organizations Brief the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Situation of Women's Rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica".

United Nations

UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Donate

What are human rights? Topics Countries Instruments & mechanisms Latest About us Get Involved

Latest / Media Center

NEWS | TREATY BODIES

# Non-governmental Organizations Brief the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Situation of Women's Rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica

**UN report on the situation of women's rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica.**

Non-governmental Organizations Brief the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Situation of Women's Rights in Bahrain, Mauritania and Costa Rica.

Report by the United Nation's Human Rights Office.

Quotes from the report:

*“Not only was there no guarantee of access to justice, but the Costa Rican justice system reproduced discriminatory practices against victims of violence, including State violence. Special State protection actions for minority groups, including indigenous women, rural women, and women with disabilities, among others, was also requested.”*

*“Costa Rica should prohibit and penalise any action that sought to modify the sexual orientation or gender identity of lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer people. Costa Rica should also generate State policies aimed at promoting the employment of the transgender population. The Ministry of Labour was urged to carry out studies on complaints and administrative processes in workplaces on acts of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It should also be guaranteed that intersex people were not subjected to surgeries without their consent.”*

## **Report in English:**

- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/02/non-governmental-organizations-brief-committee-elimination-discrimination-against>

# 2023 February 7

## CEDAW informe alternativo Costa Rica FINAL 2023

By Larissa Arroyo

613 Views 20 Pages 1 File

2023, CEDAW informe alternativo Costa Rica FINAL 2023

Costa Rica, Género, CEDAW, Derechos Humanos De Las Mujeres, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) [Show more](#)

[Show more](#)

El informe alternativo fue elaborado por el Grupo de Trabajo de Agenda CEDAW, integrado por organizaciones, colectivas y grupos de sociedad civil de mujeres, feministas, lideresas y activistas, quienes hemos asumido un rol de vigilancia e incidencia sobre el cumplimiento de los compromisos en materia de derechos humanos de las mujeres, asumidos por el Estado costarricense en el marco Costa Rica será evaluada internacionalmente en materia de derechos de ... [Read more](#)

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Translate

:

Original PDF

Related

## Organizations denounce Costa Rica's failure to support gender identity.

Academic report describing deficiencies in access to justice, data recollection, gender violence and health services. It applies to all women in general, but specifies trans women cases as well.

### News article in Spanish:

- <https://delfino.cr/2023/02/organizaciones-denuncian-incumplimiento-de-costa-rica-en-igualdad-de-genero>



## Report in Spanish:

- [https://www.academia.edu/96488140/CEDAW\\_informe\\_alternativo\\_Costa\\_Rica\\_FI-NAL\\_2023](https://www.academia.edu/96488140/CEDAW_informe_alternativo_Costa_Rica_FI-NAL_2023)

2023 February 6



**President promises education system “far from weird ideologies”.**

Following up his commitment to remove “gender ideology” from government and education.



## News article in Spanish:

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/presidente-promete-sistema-educativo-lejos-de-ideologias-extranas/>

**2023 January 18**

## Demandan a Costa Rica por negarse a modificar el sexo de personas trans en el registro civil

**Neyssa Calvo** [neyssacalvo.asesora@larepublica.net](mailto:neyssacalvo.asesora@larepublica.net) | Miércoles 18 enero, 2023 02:30 p. m.



Archivo/La República



Costa Rica enfrenta una demanda ante la [Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos](#) (CIDH) por negarse a alterar el sexo en el registro civil de personas transgénero.

## Costa Rica sued for denying sex change in civil record.

### News article in Spanish:

- <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/demandan-a-costa-rica-por-negarse-a-modificar-el-sexo-de-personas-trans-en-el-registro-civil>

## 2022 November 4

LA NACIÓN  
INDEPENDIENTE DESDE 1944

Suscriptores Boletines Últimas noticias El País Política

Adri

Suscríbete

Política

### Gobierno congela plan contra terapias de conversión sexual

Ministra de Presidencia argumenta razones de 'conveniencia y oportunidad'

Por Aarón Sequeira

04 de noviembre 2022, 06:08 p. m.



## Government freezes plan against conversion therapy.

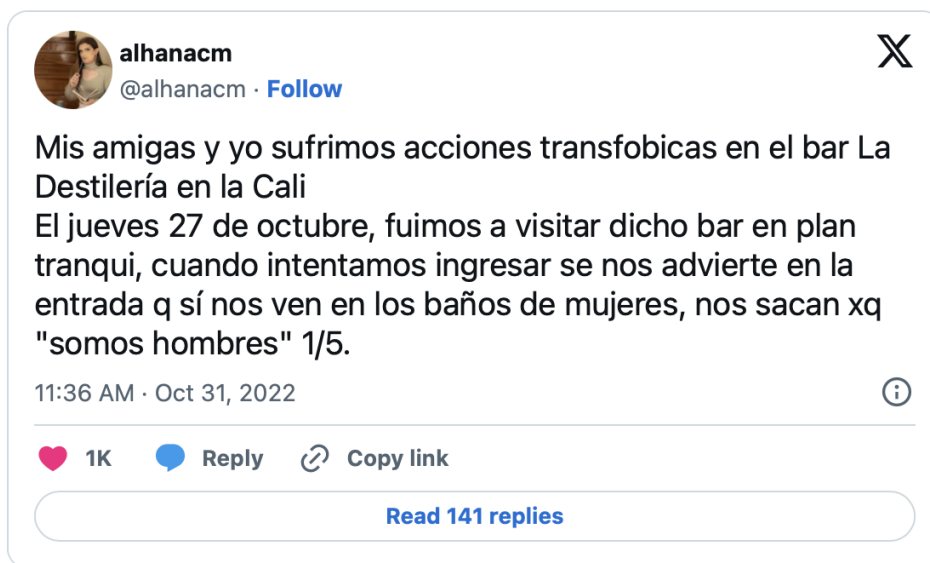
Ministra de Presidencia (equivalent Secretary of State), argues reasons of 'convenience and opportunity'.

Project is left outside of the official schedule for legislative discussion.

## News article in Spanish:

- <https://www.nacion.com/el-pais/politica/gobierno-congela-plan-contra-terapias-de/ERPVIRAWUBASVIZYXAT3JVVQJA/story/>

## 2022 October 31



## Transwoman attacked at a restaurant in San José.

On October 27, security personnel verbally and physically attacked Alhana Chavarria when she was going to use the washroom. They misgendered her and grabbed her by the neck. Arguing it was a man trying to enter a women's washroom.

Comments to the article say, for example "He could at least shave!", "the nerve on those lazy s.o.b.s".

## News article in Spanish:

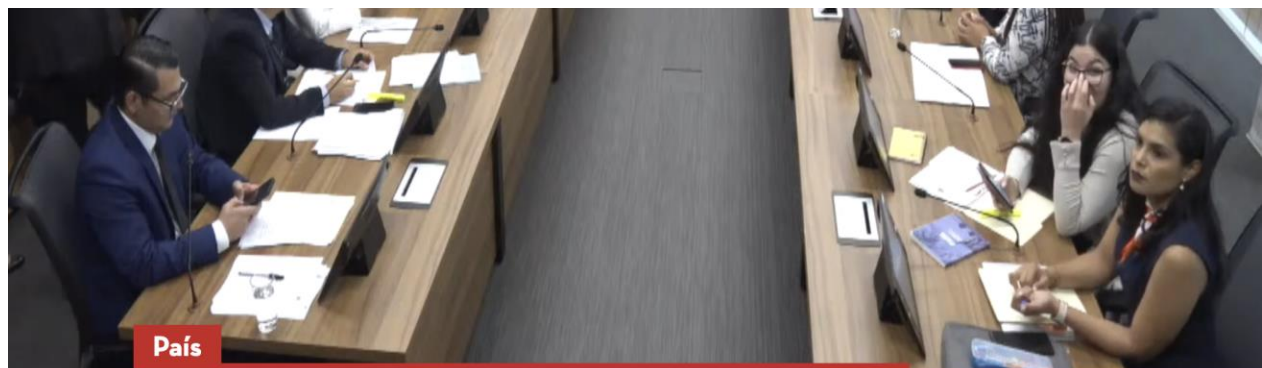
- <https://elmundo.cr/costa-rica/alhana-chavarria-denuncia-que-sufrio-violencia-trans-fobica-en-bar-de-la-cali/>

## Alhana's tweet about the incident in Spanish:

- <https://twitter.com/alhanacm/status/1587151624715247618>

There are many homophobic replies on the thread, like “stay at your places” or “you deserve to be brutalized”.

## 2022 October 20



### Nueva República bloquea proyecto para prohibir “terapias” de conversión con mociones y argumentos sin relación

Por Daniela Muñoz Solano | [danielavms@gmail.com](mailto:danielavms@gmail.com)  
20 octubre, 2022



Con el evidente fin de atrasar el debate, los conservadores diputados mocionaron por los horarios de la comisión, compararon la homosexualidad con drogadicción, sugirieron una equivalencia entre ser una persona trans y prostituirse, y hasta leyeron normas sobre violencia animal.

## **Lawmakers block law project intending to criminalize conversion therapy.**

They compared homosexuality with drug addiction, homologated being transgender with prostitution, and read norms regarding animal violence.

### **News article in Spanish:**

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/nueva-republica-bloquea-proyecto-para-prohibir-terapias-de-conversion-con-mociones-y-argumentos-sin-relacion/>

**2022 September 1**

## **Sexual Violence in Costa Rica: A Progressive Country with Regressive Gender Policies**

**Fabiola Gretzinger\***

Gender-based violence, although not a novel issue in international law, continues to affect nearly one in three women in the world.<sup>1</sup> While countries have signed treaties, passed domestic legislation, and pledged to protect women against gender-based violence, sexual violence has been blurred in national laws, lacking a comprehensive, universal definition.<sup>2</sup> Recent efforts to address sexual violence have been tailored to violations of international humanitarian law during war and armed conflict occurrences, overshadowing the day-to-day sexual attacks on women.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, most countries suffer a legal “gap between the laws on the books and their implementation in practice.”<sup>4</sup> Many countries have passed legislation to enforce their international responsibilities but have failed to provide mechanisms to ensure women are actually protected.<sup>5</sup> Whether it be due to a lack of financial resources,

## **Sexual Violence in Costa Rica: A Progressive Country with Regressive Gender Policies**

Article regarding gender violence in Costa Rica. It concerns mostly biological women, but mentions issues like 8th place for countries with the highest rape rate, and sexual violence happening every 80 minutes.

## **Quotes:**

“In theory, Costa Rica currently has the laws in place to protect women against sexual violence and femicide. Nonetheless, as a culture heavily influenced by machismo, sexual violence and femicide continues to prevail in Costa Rican society. Specifically, the way machista ideologies are interwoven into the laws protects abusers rather than survivors, making prosecutions and convictions less likely”.

“In 2016, 88% of the cases filed for violence against women were not prosecuted. In 2018, there were a total of 27 femicides, but only 10 convictions under the femicide law. Regarding sexual violence, there was a clear lack of prosecution and accountability. In 2019, there were 12,348 reports of sexual violence including rape, sexual relationships with minors, pornography distribution, and sexual abuse of women over eighteen. Nonetheless, there were only 1,669 sentences, setting a conviction rate of 14%”.

## **Article in English:**

- [https://minnijil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Gretzinger\\_v31\\_i2\\_157\\_185.pdf](https://minnijil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Gretzinger_v31_i2_157_185.pdf)



# 2022 August 8

GÉNEROS Y SEXUALIDADES

## Derecha religiosa realiza “terapias de conversión” en Costa Rica

En el país se ha dado una importante discusión sobre las llamadas “terapias de conversión”, donde se lesionan los derechos de las personas LGBTI.



Gustavo Javier Molina Matute

Lunes 8 de agosto de 2022 |  
Edición del día

Me gusta 53

Compartir



1



Más leídas de *Géneros y Sexualidades*

## Religious right performs “conversion therapy” in Costa Rica.

Conversion therapy still legal in Costa Rica. This article describes how they have been performed on the population.

### News article in Spanish:

- <https://www.laizquierdadiario.cr/Derecha-religiosa-realiza-terapias-de-conversion-en-Costa-Rica>

2022 July 22

# Costa Rica's Gentrified LGBTQ Beach Town Isn't Very Welcoming to Queer Locals

ELIZABETH LANG

LAST UPDATED JULY 22, 2022, 6:22 AM



Costa Rica's Manuel Antonio is a queer paradise. Located on the pacific coast in the province of Puntarenas, which is internationally renowned for its national park, diverse flora and fauna, stunning beaches, and the world's top-rated hotel, it's a prime queer tourist destination. It's a locale where LGBTQ tourists find freedom, acceptance, and joy — privileges that aren't always shared by Costa Rica's queer locals.

Throughout the Central American country, a combination of mass tourism and lifestyle

## Costa Rica's gentrified LGBTQ beach town isn't welcoming to queer locals

Article describing how tourists live in a bubble, and local residents' reality is very different. Being subjected to violence and abuse.

“The biggest fear any trans woman has is going out and not coming back” says one of the interviewees.

### **Article in English:**

- <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2022/07/11016862/costa-rica-queer-beach-town-puntarenas>

2022 July 17

ÚLTIMA HORA

## Discursos de odio crecen 71% en Costa Rica durante el último año

Brenda Camarillo [bcamarillo@larepublica.net](mailto:bcamarillo@larepublica.net) | Domingo 17 julio, 2022 08:53 a. m.



Elaboración propia/La República



Durante el último año, los [discursos de odio](#) crecieron un 71% en Costa Rica de acuerdo con el [análisis de redes sociales](#) elaborado por Coes, empresa dedicada al monitoreo de información.

## **Hate speech increases 71% in Costa Rica over a year.**

Analysis of social networks by Coes, organization dedicated to information monitoring.

Politics and elections (it was an election year), sexual orientation and gender identity were the main subjects. Majority is men in the capital.

### **News article in Spanish:**

- <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/discursos-de-odio-crecen-71-en-costa-rica-durante-el-ultimo-ano>

### **Related article (hate speech predominant in costa ricans' social networks according to the UN:**

- <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/mensajes-de-odio-predominan-en-redes-sociales-de-ticos-afirma-la-onu>

### **Article in English.**

- <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/new-un-study-finds-hate-speech-costa-rica-grew-71>

2022 July 14



## Government institution takes away building from trans rights organization.

The National Insurance Institute ends agreement where they lent a building to Transvida (pro trans rights organization).

Transvida labels it as a transphobic move.

### Article in Spanish:

- <https://delfino.cr/2022/07/ins-quita-edificio-a-transvida-organizacion-califica-maniobra-de-transfobia-y-ataque-directo>



**2022 June 22**

## **INTERFERENCIA**



**Gobierno descarta nombrar a persona  
comisionada LGBTIQ+ y creará  
comisionado de ‘integración social’**

### **President removes figure of LGBTIQ+ commissioner.**

Rodrigo Chavez removes the figure of LGBTIQ+ commissioner established by the previous government. He replaces it with a general commissioner in charge of “various areas”.

The figure was created in 2018 by Executive Order. It was in charge of establishing specific dialogue and follow-up on non discriminatory public policy. The current government removes it.



## News article in Spanish:

- <https://radios.ucr.ac.cr/2022/06/interferencia/gobierno-descarta-nombrar-comisionado-lgbtq/>

## Press conference video in Spanish:

- [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=386592336784060](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=386592336784060)

# 2022 May 18



El 16 de mayo del 2014 fue la primera vez (de muchas) que se izó en Casa Presidencial, la bandera de la diversidad. Foto: Casa Presidencial.

**País**

## Gobierno obvió decreto vigente y no conmemoró el Día Internacional contra la homofobia, lesbofobia y transfobia

Por [Daniela Muñoz Solano](#) | [danielavms@gmail.com](mailto:danielavms@gmail.com)  
18 mayo, 2022

Adicionalmente, personas funcionarias de dos distintas instituciones públicas dijeron a este medio que sus instituciones recibieron "órdenes superiores" de no realizar celebraciones institucionales en

COMPARTIR

## **Government bans celebration of IDAHOBIT.**

The current government disregards a valid executive order and doesn't commemorate International day against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia for the first time in 14 years.

Personnel received explicit orders not to do any celebration regarding that day, or put any rainbow flags.

### **News article in Spanish:**

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/gobierno-obvio-decreto-vigente-y-no-conmemoro-dia-internacional-contra-la-homolesbofobia-transfobia-y-bifobia/>

2022 April 7

50.50: FEATURE

# Costa Rica's new president threatens women's and LGBTIQ rights

Rodrigo Chaves, accused of sexual harassment at the World Bank, has promised to ban gender education and uphold the strict law on abortion

PORTUGUÊS



[Dánae Vílchez](#)

7 April 2022, 2.28pm



## Comment on Costa Rica's current president, by OpenDemocracy.

How he is a radical change from the previous two governments, promoting right-wing values, similar to Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro. Evoking an “authoritarian tone and a really dangerous, traditional, masculine representation”.

## News article in English:

- <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/costa-rica-president-election-women-human-rights/>

2022 March 31



## Red LACTRANS publishes 5th report on trans issues in the region.

Citing Costa Rica as the second highest country in beating rates (44%, page 15), the highest country where violence and abuse occurs on the street (71%, page 16), and second highest where abuse and violence happen in health care services (27%, page 17).

### Report in Spanish:

- <http://redlactrans.org.ar/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PERSEGUIDES-EN-DEMOCRACIA-CEDOSTALC-2022.pdf>

## 2022 March 25

Política

### Chaves se compromete con pastores a eliminar 'ideología de género' en educación

Acuerdo también incluye permitir que sector cristiano le proponga, si llega a mandatario, candidatos a puestos de liderazgo en Educación, Salud y Relaciones Exteriores

Por Armando Mayorga

25 de marzo 2022, 08:47 p. m.

El candidato Rodrigo Chaves Robles se comprometió con pastores evangélicos a eliminar la llamada "ideología de género" en el sistema educativo costarricense en caso de que llegue a ser elegido presidente de la República en las elecciones del domingo 3 de abril.

Publicidad



## **President committed with pastors to eliminate “gender ideology” when he was a candidate.**

Then candidate, now president, committed with evangelical pastors to remove “gender ideology” from school system.

Also allowed the christian sector to nominate candidates to leadership positions in Education, Health and International Affairs.

### **Reference in Spanish:**

- <https://www.nacion.com/el-pais/politica/chaves-se-compromete-con-pastores-a-eliminar/JUFZSGGUQBAKNAS4F2JMIWFSJ4/story/>

# 2022 February 6

Santa Cruz, Guanacaste

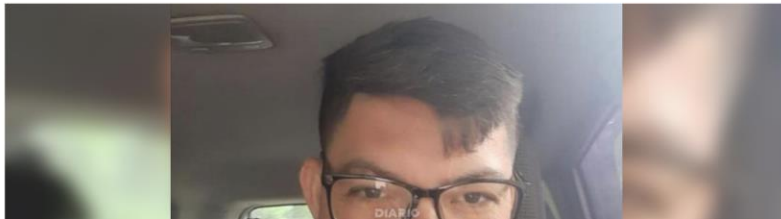
SUCESOS

## Inducen a coma a salomero quemado vivo

Un nicaragüense identificado como Genaro Antonio Vega Pérez de 34 años de edad se encuentra internado en condición grave luego de ser víctima de una agresión en que le quemaron gran parte de su cuerpo en playa Potrero de Cabo...

23/01/2022 - 22:00

Sucesos



## Waiter burned alive.

Immigrant gay waiter burned alive. Authorities deny it is a hate crime.

News in Spanish:

- <https://www.diarioextra.com/Noticia/detalle/468608/inducen-a-coma-a-salomero-quemado-vivo>
- <https://www.laprensani.com/2022/02/06/suplemento/la-prensa-domingo/2946897-el-crimen-de-odio-contra-genaro-quemado-vivo-por-ser-homosexual-y-nicaraguense>



# 2021 December 27

Deportes

## Mujer trans perdió a su familia y el trabajo cuando cambió de sexo hace siete meses

Julia Bohemia Roberts contó todo lo que tuvo que sacrificar para poder sentirse plena

Escuchar

Por Franklin Arroyo

27 de diciembre 2021, 07:32 a. m.

Julia Bohemia Roberts es una mujer trans que vivió como hombre hasta hace apenas siete meses, incluso siendo hombre estuvo casado y tuvo una hija, pero no se sentía cómoda con ella misma.

Cuando decidió hacer la transformación de él a Julia, también hubo cambios en su vida social. Perdió el trabajo. su familia le dio la espalda. casi no tiene contacto con su hija v

Publicidad



## Transwoman loses family and job after sex change.

Interview in Spanish with Julia Bohemia.

### Reference in Spanish:

- <https://www.lateja.cr/deportes/mujer-trans-perdio-a-su-familia-y-el-trabajo/FIEZ-WDCKLVEHRL524HSIBJHGVE/story/>

2021 November 24

50.50: INVESTIGATION

# Therapists backed by US groups tell LGBTQ Costa Ricans that homosexuality is ‘wrong’

Foreign affiliates of Focus on the Family and Exodus Global Alliance promote anti-gay ‘therapy’, openDemocracy investigation reveals

ESPAÑOL

PORTUGUÊS

[Diana Cariboni](#)

[David Chavarría Hernández](#)

[Stephania Corpi](#)

24 November 2021, 9.00am

## Therapists backed by US groups tell LGBTQ Costa Ricans that homosexuality is ‘wrong’.

Saying “only a sadistic God would create a gay person”.

And the government refuses to ban conversion therapy.

## News in English:

- <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/therapists-costa-ricans-homosexuality-wrong/>

## 2021 August

Article

PDF Available

### From Victimization to Incarceration: Transgender Women in Costa Rica

August 2021 · [Women & Criminal Justice](#)

DOI:[10.1080/08974454.2021.1965066](https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2021.1965066)

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[Citations \(4\)](#)

[References \(115\)](#)

[Figures \(1\)](#)

## **From Victimization to Incarceration: Transgender Women in Costa Rica**

Article in English describing how transgender women's rights are violated by direct, social and structural violence in Costa Rica. Interviews transgender incarcerated women to narrate their experience and state of vulnerability. Complemented with a socio-legal analysis of the justice framework.

### **Reference:**

- <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354035115FromVictimizationtoIncarceration-TransgenderWomeninCostaRica>

2021 March 4

PDF de La violencia contra las mujeres trans en los espacios públicos: Entre el acoso sexual y la transfobia

59/rldh.32-1.1 • URL: <http://www.revistas.una.ac.cr/derechoshumanos>  
Recibido: 26-8-2020 • Aceptado: 25-11-2020



## La violencia contra las mujeres trans en los espacios públicos: Entre el acoso sexual y la transfobia

**Violence against trans women in public spaces: Between sexual harassment and transphobia**

**Violência contra mulheres trans em espaços públicos: entre o assédio sexual e a transfobia.**

Karol Carmona Alvarado<sup>1</sup>

### Resumen

Este estudio tuvo como objetivo principal analizar, mediante el estudio de testimonios de mujeres trans, las manifestaciones del acoso sexual que enfrentan en los espacios públicos y que violentan sus derechos. Se realizó desde un paradigma de investigación cualitativa con algunos

## Violence against trans women in public spaces: Between sexual harassment and transphobia

Academic article in Spanish, with summaries in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Published by Universidad Nacional, one of the main universities in Costa Rica.

Violence against trans women in public spaces: Between sexual harassment and transphobia.

Quote: “To the majority of women interviewed, public spaces are not safe places, they feel fear of being raped or hurt, be subjected to mockery and discrimination.”

### Reference in Spanish:

- <https://www.revistas.una.ac.cr/index.php/derechoshumanos/article/view/15192>

## 2020 December 8

Playas del Coco, Guanacaste

SUCESOS

# Pelea con travesti y lo liquida a tiros

El sector conocido como El Precario en Playas del Coco de Carrillo, Guanacaste, se tiñó de sangre luego de que a un nicaragüense de 21 años lo asesinaran a balazos en vía pública tras un enfrentamiento, manifestó el Organismo de Investigación...



07/12/2020 - 22:00

Sucesos



## Tati Quirós murdered in Playas del Coco.

Tati Quirós was murdered by gunshot near a tourist area. News coverage for shock value, disrespecting her privacy or identity.

Violence against trans people is not recognized in Costa Rica. These cases are treated as generic murder. This happened in 2020 but legality has not changed.

## Original news report, violating her identity and privacy in Spanish:

- <https://www.diarioextra.com/Noticia/detalle/435859/pelea-con-travesti-y-lo-liquida-a-tiros>

## Comment on the original news article in Spanish:

- <https://vozdeguanacaste.com/explicativo-una-mujer-trans-fue-asesinada-en-playas-del-coco/>

2020 April 1



### “La diversidad no significa inclusión”: entrevista con Victoria, mujer trans de Costa Rica.

*Primero que nada, me gustaría que a la gente que no te conoce le cuentes, ¿quién eres? ¿qué haces?* Bueno, mi nombre es **Victoria Rovira Hernández**, tengo 24 años, soy, hmmm, usualmente inicio diciendo que soy estudiante, pero hasta hace poco dejé de serlo, entonces ahora pues trabajo... trabajo para una empresa como asistente administrativa. También **soy activista** que es como lo que más me llena, pero este año he descansado un poco, he decidido buscar una manera de... de darme un descanso para poder encontrar una nueva meta... **a veces pasa que hacemos mucho lo mismo y nos perdemos a lo largo del camino**, perdemos el enfoque, esa meta, y pues estoy en este momento

## Interview with trans activist Victoria Rovira.

Interview in Spanish. “Being a trans woman is hard, we have the lowest life expectancy in the world”, says Victoria Rovira trans activist.



“Diversity doesn’t mean inclusion”.

## Interview in Spanish:

- <https://eldiverso.com/2020/04/01/costa-rica-ser-mujer-trans-es-difcil-tenemos-las-expectativas-de-vida-mas-bajas-en-el-mundo-activista-trans-victoria-rovira/>

## 2020 March 3

NACIONALES ▶ SUCESOS

VIDEO TRASCIENDE EN REDES SOCIALES

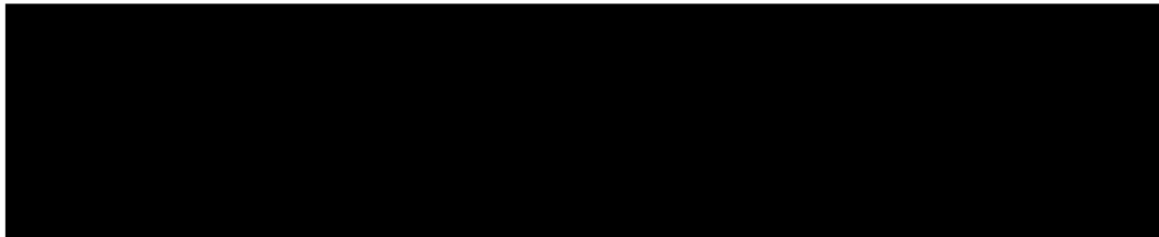
### ▶ (VIDEO) Sujetos atacaron brutalmente a mujeres trans en el centro de San José

Josué Alvarado ✉

Marzo 3, 2020 9:12 am



- HECHOS OCURRIERON EN LAS CERCANÍAS DE LA ALIANZA FRANCESA, BARRIO AMÓN



## Group of men brutally attack trans women, downtown San Jose.

Two women were verbally and physically attacked. Video recordings show the men were recording themselves from a nearby car, while they yelled, touched, hit and kicked the women, all while laughing and placing bets.

## News article in Spanish:

<https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/video-sujetos-atacaron-brutalmente-a-mujeres-trans-en-el-centro-de-san-jose/>

## 2020 (date undefined)



## Hate crimes due to sexual orientation and real or perceived gender identity in Costa Rica.

Report by Hivos America Latina (in Spanish). Describes hate manifestation, and provides examples of violence against trans people from 2016 to 2020.

It highlights how Costa Rica does not recognize gender identity and has no laws against specific transphobic hate crimes. That situation hasn't change since the report was published.

One case from 2017, for example: a transwoman was murdered, and the government did not respect her gender identity. Homicide records describe her as "a boy dressed as a woman".

- <https://america-latina.hivos.org/assets/2020/07/2020-Crimenes-de-odio-en-Costa-Rica-Acciones-e-insumos-para-la-incidencia.pdf>

## Homophobic remarks by police officer.

### Homophobic Remarks by Police in Costa Rica Under Investigation

By Jaime Lopez

LGBT Travel

Living in Costa Rica

San Jose Costa Rica

Share this article



A complaint that unfolded in social media circles has caught the attention of the media and the Ministry of Public Security (Spanish initials: MSP) in Costa Rica. According to a news report filed by metro reporter Paula Ruiz of daily newspaper La Prensa Libre, the incident occurred this past Saturday in San Jose.

A police officer launched a series of insulting and homophobic remarks towards a male couple.

- <https://news.co.cr/homophobic-remarks-by-police-in-costa-rica-under-investigation/41544/>

# 2019 October 30

NACIONALES ▶ SUCESOS

EN EL CENTRO DE SAN JOSÉ

## Acusan a oficial de Fuerza Pública de quebrar cédula a mujer trans

Josué Alvarado ✉

Octubre 30, 2019 1:47 pm



- "Y SI SE PONE DE MATONCITO LO QUEBRAMOS AHÍ EN EL CAJÓN", DICE VÍCTIMA QUE LE AMENAZABAN
- MINISTERIO DE SEGURIDAD RESPONDE QUE RECOMIENDA A LA SUPUESTA VÍCTIMA DENUNCIAR PARA PODER PROCEDER

(CRHoy.com) Marco Castillo, líder de la comunidad LGBTI, denunció a través de redes sociales que un policía de Fuerza Pública le quebró la cédula a una mujer por ser trans. **CRHoy.com conversó con la supuesta víctima, quien decidió mantenerse en el anonimato, y contó la misma versión.** Ahora al menos dos organizaciones pedirán una cita al Ministro de Seguridad Pública Michael Soto para tratar la queja.

La mujer, a quien llamaremos Lucía, narró a **CRHoy.com** que el pasado miércoles 23 de octubre



## Police officer breaks in half transwoman's Id document.

Downtown San Jose, 2pm. Police officer violates trans woman's rights and threatens further violent action.

### News article in Spanish:

- <https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/acusan-a-oficial-de-fuerza-publica-de-quebrar-cedula-a-mujer-trans/>

**2019 March 5**

**Maria Paula Murillo Reyes**

Age 35

5 Mar 2019

San José (Costa Rica)

Murdered

TDoR list ref: tgeu/5-Mar-2019/Maria Paula Murillo Reyes



Maria Paula Murillo Reyes [photo: [www.diarioextra.com](http://www.diarioextra.com)]

## Murder of Maria Paula Murillo Reyes, age 35.

María was murdered while working. After her death the commissioner of LGBTI Affairs of the Presidential House called for trans people to be respected in society.

*Note the figure of Commissioner of LGBTI Affairs was removed by the following government in June of 2022.*

### News article in English:

- [https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2019/03/05/maria-paula-murillo-reyes\\_san-jose-costa-rica\\_8c7cb192](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2019/03/05/maria-paula-murillo-reyes_san-jose-costa-rica_8c7cb192)

**2018 June 19**



## Who killed Kenisha?

News article (in Spanish), describing the murder of Kenisha, its aftermath and how the government dealt with it. It narrates how the government never recognized her identity, and misgendered her in all official reports. Reflects on how the lack of public policy and apathy are two of the main causes why transwomen's life expectancy on the region is 35 years.

The article includes audio and video. In the audio (in Spanish), her mother describes how she “asked ‘him’ to change ‘his’ life with the power of the Bible.”

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/quien-mato-a-kenisha/>





## Trans víctimas del silencio

Video in Spanish. Trans people tell their personal experiences. One tells how she was witness to one of her friends' murder, and how police officers not only did nothing, but were disgusted to even touch her. Another one narrates how he barely escaped an attack by men, including an armed security guard.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6OKRmBaCHA&t=195s>

# 2017 August 15

## Kenicha

Age 16

15 Aug 2017

Pococí, Limón (Costa Rica)

Asphyxiated

TDoR list ref: tgeu/15-Aug-2017/Kenicha



Kenicha's body was found in a wasteland by neighbours. She had been asphyxiated.

## **Murder of Kenisha, age 16.**

Kenisha's body was found in a wasteland by neighbours. She had been asphyxiated.

**Link in English:**

[https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2017/08/15/kenicha\\_pococi-limon-costa-rica\\_7bd143e0](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2017/08/15/kenicha_pococi-limon-costa-rica_7bd143e0)

## 2016 March 3

Michelle Fuentes Robles

Age 30

3 Mar 2016

Cartago (Costa Rica)

Shot

TDoR list ref: tgeu/3-Mar-2016/Michelle Fuentes Robles



Michelle was killed at her home with multiple gunshot wounds. The police arrested two suspects involved and believes it might be a case of trafficking.

TvT partner organisation Centro de Apoyo a las Identidades Trans & Nacion, 04.03.2016

### **Murder of Michelle Fuentes Robles, age 30.**

Michelle was killed at her home with multiple gunshot wounds.

Link in English:

[https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2016/03/03/michelle-fuentes-robles\\_cartago-costa-rica\\_3eea3e9f](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2016/03/03/michelle-fuentes-robles_cartago-costa-rica_3eea3e9f)

## 2012 May 14

Name Unknown

Age 30

14 May 2012

Alajuela (Costa Rica)

Shot

TDoR list ref: tgeu/May-2012/N.N.



The body was found on the acres of a farm, showing signs of torture. The victim was hit in the face, stabbed and then shot dead.

## **Murder, name unknown, age 30.**

The body was found on the acres of a farm, showing signs of torture. The victim was hit in the face, stabbed and then shot dead.

Link in English:

[https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2012/05/14/name-unknown\\_alajuela-costa-rica\\_aeb5d73d](https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/reports/2012/05/14/name-unknown_alajuela-costa-rica_aeb5d73d)