

# **Laura Estefania Castro Penagos**

**Director of the Promotion of Women's Human Rights for South America**  
**Goodwill Ambassador**

Professional in Industrial Engineering, Co-founder of the Canadian Human Rights International Organization CHRIO Mission Cundinamarca, Co-founder Collective Human Rights Defenders "Laura Acosta" "International Organization COHURIDELA"; as Human Rights defender, Laura Estefania works hard in the promotion of gender equality.



Laura Estefanía is currently the new Director of the Promotion of Women's Human Rights for South America and Goodwill Ambassador; also, she works as Director Human Anti-trafficking Program and refugee at Mission Bogota and Cundinamarca of Canadian Human Rights International Organization CHRIO Misiones Colombia South America and Laura is a Youth Journalist at Human Rights Journal.

The promotion and defense of Human Rights has been an area that always caught the attention of Laura Estefania, since she began to explore this field at a young age when she began her studies in Industrial Engineering at the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada in Colombia. When she was only 19 years old, in 2012 the young woman set her intentions to become an activist when she collaborated in the founding team of CHRIO and the Human Rights Collective Defenders International Organization "Laura Acosta" COHURIDELA, Mission Cundinamarca, since that year began, the linking of different issues of Human Rights to her career focusing it in a different direction to the one established in society, since she did not take it to work in the industry, if not, to help those who especially needed women.

In addition to pursuing her profession as an industrial engineer, Laura Estefania also participated in the promotion, protection and guarantee of Human Rights in the Juridical Headquarters (JURDH) of the Colombian Air Force, in helping people who were in vulnerability in the peripheral areas of the city of Bogotá, in the area of entrepreneurship and community projects for women of the Proyectar Sin Fronteras (PSF) foundation. Currently Laura teaches women how to assert their rights and act in cases of discrimination, gender violence or other circumstances that disturb or impede the security, freedom, development and other human rights implicit in national and international laws and agreements, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).