



Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of Venezuela, of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Violent Deaths of children and adolescents. Failure of the State to fulfill its obligation to guarantee the Right to Life and Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents. Period 2017-2021

Authors of the Report:

The Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (OVV) (<https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/>) is a network that comprises fifteen university teams from ten universities in the country, with the goal of producing, analyzing and spreading knowledge about the magnitude, risk and social impact of violence in Venezuela. Since its foundation in 2005, the OVV coordinates and supports the scientific production of various university research centers that generate knowledge and exchange studies about the behavior of indicators on the right to life, to personal integrity, to access to justice and to freedom, so that Venezuelan society and the international community may make use of substantiated, reliable and independent information, which is particularly necessary due to the absence of public records and official sources of information about violence.

Community Learning Centers (CECODAP) (<http://www.CECODAP.org>) is a Venezuela social institution that, since its foundation in 1984, works on the promotion and defense of the human rights of children and adolescents, with special emphasis in the construction of violence-free cohabitation through citizen participation and the assistance of children and adolescents, families, education centers and the society at large.

The Network for the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDHNNNA) is a coalition of social, academic and community organizations, research centers and institutes and defenders of the rights of children and adolescents (CHA), founded and operational since 2006 (<http://www.REDHNNNA.org>) and dedicated to the promotion, defense and enforceability of the rights of children and adolescents, through the implementation of actions and mechanisms of collective and democratic participation, aimed at promoting the Best Interest of the Child inclusively and with openness to dialogue with various actors.

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Executive Briefing

1. This report presents information and analysis of data regarding violations against the right to life of children and adolescents in Venezuela between 2016 and 2021. The figures and other data presented here are based on various studies carried out by research teams of universities comprised by the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (OVV) in many regions of the country, as well as investigations and records of primary and secondary sources consulted by REDHNNA, CECODAP and OVV.
2. Specifically, here we present the results of the monitoring of the situation of human rights of children and adolescents in the Venezuelan territory, performed in order to know the magnitude and characteristics of violent deaths of children and adolescents (CHA) that have taken place in Venezuela. We state that it is mandatory for the State, in compliance with the regulations established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention), to implement all measures necessary to reduce the number of violent deaths of CHA, preventing and avoiding their occurrence. This report seeks to provide information about some factors associated with violent deaths in this population and, based on the knowledge of these realities, present recommendations for the State to guarantee an integral protection of the rights of Venezuelan children.

Public data and figures on violent deaths of CHA

3. In Venezuela, the official records documenting the figures about violent mortality of CHA are not public. The State has not established a system of information to record, publish and guarantee public access to this data. No public institution presents periodic information on the deaths of CHA by homicide, accidents, suicides, among other causes; there are no official reports that analyze these indicators nor are there institutional records, methodologies and processes to document these events and set guidelines for the performance of the various bodies and authorities accountable for the prevention and control of this mortality. For instance, the latest Yearbook of the Ministry of Health shows figures from 2014¹.
4. The System of Information on the situation of childhood in the country has not been established either by the Venezuelan Institute of Statistics (INE) nor by the National Governing System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents enshrined in the Framework Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (LOPNNA)². The Venezuelan Institute of Statistics and UNICEF point out that “the strengthening of the statistical systems for the monitoring of the right to protection against any form of violence, exploitation and abuse against children and adolescents is a challenge” (2015)³.

¹ Ministry of People’s Power for Health (2018). **Mortality Yearbook 2014**. Published in accordance with Decree N° 35489, July 25th, 2018. Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela N° 41,426. Caracas

² Framework Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (2015). Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. N° 6,185 Extraordinary, June 8th, 2015

³ Venezuelan Institute of Statistics and UNICEF (2015). CDN@25 Convention on the Rights of the Child

5. OVV and CECODAP document 3,738 violent deaths of CHA between 2017 and 2019⁴. Out of this number of deaths, 917 (24.5%) were children and 2,821 (75.4%) were adolescents. 88% of the victims were male.

Homicides of CHA

6. There were 2,291 legally recognized murders of CHA in Venezuela between 2017 and 2019 (OVV-CECODAP)⁵. Most of them were allegedly committed by members of criminal gangs, but there are also cases where the culprits were direct relatives, even parents, a situation that has alarmingly increased in recent years.
7. For 2016, the OVV estimated that the rate of violent mortality for adolescents aged 15-19 years old was 91 for every 100,000 inhabitants; the rate for children and adolescents aged 10-14 years old was estimated at 4.9/100,000 inhabitants. After analyzing these rates in 2017 and comparing them with those of the previous year, OVV highlights an increase of eight points for a number of 99.7/100,000 inhabitants. Estimates for the population aged 10-14 years old also increased to 5.1/100,000 inhabitants in 2017⁶.
8. Armed gangs which previously occupied some territories of low income urban communities have expanded throughout the national territory in the past four years⁷. In order to accomplish this, they have recruited adolescents by offering food and other resources which, given the rapid impoverishment of the population and the lack of options to improve the quality of life, has allowed them to incorporate young members to their structures thus strengthening their organization capabilities. The access to rifles, grenades and other high-caliber weapons that should only be distributed and controlled by military

⁴ Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2018) *Muertes y otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes en un contexto de emergencia humanitaria. Venezuela 2017*. Caracas, October 2018.

Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2019) *Muertes violentas contra de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Venezuela 2018*. En: Informe especial sobre muertes violentas y otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes. Caracas, 2019

Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2020) *Muertes violentas contra de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Venezuela 2019*. Caracas, 2019 Available at: <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/informes/informe-anual-de-violencia-contra/> and <https://cecodap.org/informes/>

⁵ Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2019) *Muertes violentas contra de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Venezuela 2018*. En: Informe especial sobre muertes violentas y 1 otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes. Caracas, 2019

Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2018) *Muertes y otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes en un contexto de emergencia humanitaria. Venezuela 2017*. Caracas, October 2018.

Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2020) *Muertes violentas contra de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Venezuela 2019*. Caracas, 2019. Available at: <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/informes/informe-anual-de-violencia-contra/> and <https://cecodap.org/informes/>

⁶ Venezuelan Observatory of Violence and Community Learning Centers (2018) *Muertes y otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes en un contexto de emergencia humanitaria. Venezuela 2017*, p. 19. Caracas, October 2018. Ediciones El Papagayo © Cecodap. Caracas, May 2018

⁷ Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (2018) **La violencia presenta nuevos rostros en el país: el empobrecimiento y la letalidad policial**. Available at: <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/news/ovv-lacso-informe-anual-de-violencia-2018/>

authorities, cause severe risks of injury and death for civilian living in residential areas, as was the case of two children killed in Lara after stumbling upon a grenade in the street near their home⁸.

9. CHA victims or witnesses of crimes have no access to protective measures, psychosocial support programs, reparations for the harm they suffer or even the financial support they require when one of their parents or caretakers succumb to violence. The country's Protection Councils report the absence or dysfunctionality of specialized, reliable and accessible programs of protection and prevention of violence⁹, to assist the most affected education centers, communities and locales. Even though the State itself acknowledges that murders stand out as the main external cause of adolescent deaths since 2014¹⁰, no specific program has been developed to prevent, report and stop those deaths of CHA, or to tend to the consequences of the harm and injuries suffered by the victims.
10. In addition to this insufficiency, financing for the development of programs and services implemented by various civil society organizations is abruptly cut even though the necessary technical capacity is in place and these programs and services have shown concrete accomplishments in child protection¹¹. Therefore, the few existing programs stop working, losing qualified personnel and thus quality of attention.

Lethality in police actions involving CHA

11. Another type of violent deaths of CHA is caused by the lethal actions of State security officers. The government claims that these deaths are the result of "Resisting authority" (RA). Between 2017 and 2020, 545 CHA were murdered due to RA, 26 of whom were younger than 12 year old. Government authorities say these deaths occurred in "clashes", showing the incapacity and the lack of experience and professional, specialized training of the officers involved, manifested in their disproportionate and harmful actions, in clear violation of human rights.
12. The figures of lethal intervention of police bodies are unjustifiably high; according to OVV, "there were 4,231 deaths labeled by the authorities as alleged resistance to authority, which could be considered homicides committed by State security bodies, through the excessive use of force or extrajudicial executions, with a rate of 16.2 victims for every 100,000 inhabitants"¹².
13. The Annual Report for 2020 published by OVV says that, out of the 4,231 victims of police lethality, 82 were between 12 and 17 years old, and there were three children under 11 years old that allegedly died for having "resisted authority." These figures correspond to a year of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a considerable reduction of

⁸ El Nacional (2020) *Dos niños fallecieron tras explosión de una granada en Lara*. Diario EL Nacional, September 10th, 2020. Available at: <https://www.elnacional.com/venezuela/dos-ninos-fallecieron-tras-explosion-de-una-granada-en-lara/>

⁹ UNICEF (2018) Informe situacional Consejos de Protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes

¹⁰ Venezuelan Institute of Statistics and UNICEF (2015). CDN@25 Convention on the Rights of the Child

¹¹ CECODAP (2021) Informe Somos Noticia. Capítulo Vulneraciones y Protección a los Derechos del Niño en contexto de pandemia, Abril 2021. Disponible en:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_O0My_mgUBniA_z4plNhB4JttX7H0SSN/view

¹² Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (2020). **Annual Report on Violence 2020**. Available at: <https://observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/informes/informe-anual-de-violencia/>

activities and a greater police presence in the streets to control mobility; in these circumstances, police action was lethal and not preventive. In 2020, RA was the first cause of violent death in 112 out of the 335 municipalities in the country, meaning that in a third of municipalities, these deaths surpassed the homicides caused by any other crime: robbery, revenge, femicides or any others.

14. In communities where police bodies carry out what they call Security Operations, clashes between armed gangs, or between them and police bodies are frequent, and children are frequently affected by the shootouts¹³ and by the fear of what could happen to them and their families. Many have directly witnessed crimes committed in their community, the death of either parent, or have themselves been direct victims of injury and other crimes committed by police officers, which constitute violations against international human rights regulations and the national legislation that establishes the obligatory conduct of police bodies regarding CHA. In 2019, two children aged 4 and 6 years old in El Hatillo (Capital District) witnessed how police officers dragged their father from his room and murdered him outside their home.
15. In this case, the lethal actions of the police are harmful for the personal integrity of all family members, but especially of these children who were exposed to extreme violence: officers of the Corps of Scientific and Criminal Investigations (CICPC) and the Special Actions Forces (FAES) of the National Bolivarian Police (PNB) entered their home without a search warrant, took Joan Daniel and dragged him out even though his children told them not to take their dad¹⁴.
16. The children who are witnesses and direct victims of the death of their parents or relatives suffer not only the pain of their losses, but also the consequences and deprivations caused by them. They grow in fear of such violence and it's difficult for them to overcome their grief, which often results in rancor, anger and even desires for revenge.
17. Fourteen deaths caused by stray bullets were reported in the five municipalities of Caracas between January and June 15th, 2021, among them three adolescents (13, 16 and 17 years old.) "The confrontations between the police, mainly the Special Actions Forces (FAES) of the PNB and the criminal gang in the Cota 905 has been the main cause of violence in the communities of La Vega, El Paraíso, El Valle, El Cementerio and other areas of western Caracas. 71.4% of victims of stray bullets lived in those areas. Twelve out of these fourteen victims were lethally wounded in the head, five of them were women"¹⁵. This data clearly shows the level of insecurity and verifiable risk experienced by the population in these areas, the access that criminal gangs have to guns and ammunition, and also how police operations make use of procedures and strategies that put citizens in danger.

¹³ REDHNA (2021) Balas, granadas y resguardo: el escenario que viven los niños de José Félix Ribas, Feb 5, 2021. Available at: <https://www.redhna.org/noticias/balas-granadas-y-resguardo-el-escenario-que-viven-los-ninos-de-jose-felix-ribas>

¹⁴ El Pitazo (2019) *Su familia vio cómo las Faes le dieron tres disparos frente a su casa* (6 junio 2019) Disponible en: <https://elpitazo.net/sucesos/familia-faes-tres-disparos-frente-casa/>

¹⁵ González, E. (junio 23 2021) "Balas Perdidas" de delincuentes y policías acabaron con la vida de 14 personas en Caracas. En **Runrunes. Monitor de Víctimas**- Available at: <https://runrun.es/monitor-de-victimas/447124/monitordevictimas-balas-perdidas-de-delincuentes-y-policias-acabaron-con-la-vida-de-14-personas-en-6-parroquias-de-caracas/>

18. 23 adolescents died due to the repressive actions of police and military bodies during the public demonstrations of 2017¹⁶. There have not been any judicial investigations about the causes of these 23 deaths nor punitive measures for the officers responsible; neither the Ombudsman's Office nor the Prosecutor's Office have reviewed the protocols used by officers responsible for actions that violate human rights.
19. In 2018, the following adolescents were murdered during public protests: José García Fonseca (17) on January 10th in Mérida; Anderson Luis Oliveros Núñez (15) on April 23rd in Maracaibo, Zulia; Luis Fernando Tábata (16) on July 5th while demanding the delivery of the CLAP food box in a community near El Tigre (Anzoátegui); and Evelio José Rodríguez (12) on July 16th in a protest for blackouts and lack of water supply in Bolívar. The following adolescents died during protests in 2019: Yoifre Hernández (14), Yosner Graterol (16) and Yonder Villasmil (15); in Caracas, La Victoria (Aragua) and Mérida (Mérida) respectively. These deaths took place in public protests for lack of water and other social demands, when military officers fired on the population. These incidents should go to trial in order to determine the criminal sanctions required for the officers responsible. The crimes may go unpunished and citizens do not forget them.

Violent deaths of CHA in their homes

20. In the context of the humanitarian emergency and during the lockdown implemented as a measure of sanitary control, homes have had no access to financial support to offset the serious economic problems, the lack of food and basic services such as water supply and cooking gas. The marked decline of living standards, the loss of income and hyperinflation are economic factors that exacerbate conflicts within the family and the tensions experienced by parents, especially women who often assume responsibility for family upkeep.
21. According to the ENCOVI survey, "96% of homes are in a situation of poverty and 79% in extreme poverty, which means in the latter case that the income is insufficient to cover the food basket"; the figures of this study show that in Venezuela, 93.4% of homes are suffering from food insecurity and in 62% of them, food insecurity is either moderate or severe¹⁷. This situation is clearly a violation against the right to an adequate quality of life of the population, but it has also proven to be a relevant factor in family conflicts and situations of cruel treatment and abuse caused by lack of food, as is the case of a mother who burned his 3-year old son's face for eating the only ration of cold meats they had at home¹⁸, or another who did the same to her 7-year old girl for eating the rice they had stored in the fridge¹⁹.

¹⁶ CECODAP and Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (2018) Muertes y otras formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes en un contexto de emergencia humanitaria. Venezuela 2017, p. 35 .

¹⁷ Andrés Bello Catholic University (2020) ENCOVI. Available at: <https://insoencovi.ucab.edu.ve/salud-y-alimentacion/>

¹⁸ La Verdad (2021) Mujer quema el rostro de su hijo por comerse una mortadela. **Diario La Verdad**. March 17th, 2021, Maracaibo. Available at: <http://www.laverdad.com/sucesos/179063-mujer-quema-el-rostro-de-su-hijo-por-comerse-una-mortadela.html>

¹⁹ La Verdad (2020) Mujer quema rostro de su hija por comerse un arroz. **Diario La Verdad**. December 21st, 2020, Maracaibo. Available at: <http://www.laverdad.com/sucesos/175599-mujer-quema-rostro-de-su-hija-por-comerse-un-arroz.html>

22. According to data collected by REDHNNA in 2020, 22% of violent deaths of CHA were caused by a family member. Another form of violence is manifested in the negligence and abandonment of children by their parents and relatives, pushing even very small children to homelessness and begging, risking their health and personal integrity. 17 CHA died because of the actions of parents, step parents or other relatives in 2020 alone; 14 of these victims were under 12 years old (including 8 of one year or younger) and three were adolescents; this information has been reported and verified by the media.
23. These situations happen all over the country and no authority fulfills its legal mandate to guarantee these children the protection they require. In a study carried out by the Venezuelan Association for an Alternative Sexual Education (AVESA) in 2017 and 2018 reveals that, in 19 municipalities of the country, the Protection Council for CHA that must be established in every municipality according to LOPNNA to guarantee the immediate protection of CHA victims of rights violations had not been created or were not operational. The investigation also proved that in the operational Protection Councils, the labor situation and staff wages, as well as travel allowances and other expenses required for the monitoring and attention of cases, are in a precarious condition.
24. “66% of protection council members say the resources of their institutions for personal expenses are insufficient, 55% had no response about travel allowances for the monitoring and attention of cases (food, transport and clothing for CHA) and 57% had no response about the resources for the creation of information material and prevention activities.²⁰ This study also corroborates that “only three Protection Councils in the entire country are in an Acceptable level” for the attention of situations of violence against CHA, and the data shows that “the decline in the conditions of Protection Councils nationwide is overwhelming, even in the large cities of the country, which should access better resources”.”

Structural violence

25. The Convention emphasizes that the State must take all measures and actions necessary to guarantee the protection of children, avoiding any form of harm to their integrity or undermining of their rights (Art. 19.1.) Among the obligations derived from this regulation, the State must implement extreme precautions and promote special protocols of action to guarantee not only the rights and liberties of this population, but the protection of their personal integrity, as well as an appropriate and careful treatment with sensibility and respect, offering the attention corresponding to their development process, avoiding practices that may cause revictimization, institutional violence or human rights violations.
26. In contrast with this mandate, when detailing the mortality of CHA, information collected by REDHNNA shows that 38% of violent deaths of CHA in 2020 were directly related to situations of extreme poverty, deprivation of the most basic resources to guarantee survival and the decline of the quality of life. It is unknown how many CHA with some health

²⁰ AVESA (2018) *Cuellos de botella que limitan la atención del abuso sexual en los Consejos de Protección en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela*. Study carried out with the support of UNICEF Venezuela. Available at: <https://avesa.blog/2021/01/26/cuellos-de-botella-que-limitan-la-atencion-del-abuso-sexual-en-los-consejos-de-proteccion-de-ninos-ninas-y-adolescentes-en-la-republica-bolivariana-de-venezuela/>

condition die with malnutrition as an associated cause, or how many CHA die due to accidents caused by lack of maintenance of proper condition of public services²¹.

27. Some of these cases have been documented, for instance: the death of a child hit by a vehicle in a garbage landfill while he was searching through the waste with his mother; the case of 15 children who died due to lack of medicines to continue their oncological treatment (Carabobo); children and adolescents who die of sickness or injury because there were no vehicles with fuel to take them to healthcare centers, such as a 1-year old child who died of dehydration while waiting for a car to take him to a hospital in Lara or a child scarcely 10 days old who died in the one hospital that admitted him after having been previously rejected in 12 others (Caracas); a girl died shortly after birth because her 20-year old mother was not promptly assisted after visiting five hospitals and finally fainting at the entrance of the Concepción Palacios Maternity Hospital (Capital District). There are also cases of children born in the streets because their mothers could not be taken to a hospital for lack of a vehicle with fuel.
28. According to data collected by REDHNNNA(2021), most of the victims of this structural violence are children under 4 years old. In the context of the humanitarian emergency, the availability of programs, services and institutions of special protection for CHA has declined.
29. In native communities of Bolívar state to the south of the country, the presence of military operations, criminal gangs and alleged members of guerrillas affect native inhabitants. These armed groups are involved in mining exploitation in the area, their activities poison rivers, cause damages to cultivated farmland and have subjected the population to territorial invasion, environmental hazards and the sexual exploitation of CHA²².

Recommendations

30. The Venezuelan Institute of Statistics (INE) and the National Governing System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents must guarantee the operation of a National Information System that documents indicators about the situation of the rights of CHA, with data disaggregated by age group, sex and territorial distribution (by state and municipality,) indentifying causes of mortality and other indicators that allow the creation of appropriate measures and policies, based on the knowledge of the various realities of violence affecting the population.
31. The State must comply with the 16th SDG of the 2030 Agenda, adopting safety policies and plans aimed at providing peace for society, with the development of programs for prevention, training in human rights and timely, integral attention for children and adolescents who suffer threats, harassment, extortion and police abuse, with the involvement of institutions, programs and services in accordance with legal regulations.

²¹ REDHNNNA (2020) **Paper Promises: Dignity for Ransom**. Available at: <https://www.redhnaa.org/noticias/dignidad-secuestrada>

²² Platform against the Orinoco Mining Arc (2019) “Informe sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en el Arco Minero y el territorio venezolano ubicado al sur del río Orinoco.” Available at: <http://www.civilisac.org/civilis/wp-content/uploads/Informe-sobre-la-situaci%C3%B3n-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-Arco-Minero-y-el-territorio-venezolano-ubicado-al-sur-del-r%C3%ADo-Orinoco.pdf.pdf>

32. Police officers must comply with the General Provision N° 7 of the UN on the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, which forbids the use of firearms against people save for self-defense or the protection of other individuals, in case of danger of imminent death or serious injury, when there is evidence of a severe threat to life and only in an exceptional case where less extreme measures to ensure compliance with the Law are insufficient²³.
33. The Ministry of People's Power for the Interior, Justice and Peace and police officers must comply with the General Regulation of the Framework Law of the Police Service and the Body of the National Bolivarian Police (Chapter II - Police Action regarding Children and Adolescents,) decree N° 2,765 dated March 21st, 2017²⁴, which establishes the principles and guidelines for police action when approaching children and adolescents, victims of threat or rights violations, victims or witnesses of punishable offenses, or in cases of adolescents allegedly responsible for punishable offenses.
34. Public Powers must comply rigorously and timely with the investigative and judicial actions necessary, in accordance with the legal system, to avoid impunity and guarantee justice for children and adolescents who have been the victims of criminal violence and the lethal action of police officers.
35. The institutions of the system for the administration of justice must order measures of reparation for damages caused to CHA and their families due to the violent death of either parent or other relatives, in order to promote emotional and financial recovery as well ensuring an adequate learning and personal and social development.
36. The State must develop programs and services to support and strengthen families for an adequate parental performance, the training of skills for life, the promotion of proper treatment, reciprocal respect and the fair development of social cohabitation.
37. The State must develop training programs on human rights to strengthen attitudes and behaviors of respect toward the dignity and rights of all persons, and of criticism toward cultural patterns and prejudices that legitimate the inequality of girls, discrimination and violence against women.
38. The State must apply the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in their Final Report published in 2014, whose Observation 51 expressed concern "the complaints of inattention, violence in the home and sexual abuse." The CRC specifically recommended that the State "guarantee, among other things, that children all over the country have access to a free and uninterrupted three-digit phone line" to denounce and report cases of abuse. It also urged the monitoring of the analyses and recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children (Observation 53.)
39. The State must carry out awareness campaigns about the proper treatment of CHA, the human rights of CHA and the prevention or appropriate attention of situations of

²³ UN (1990) General Provision N° 7 regarding the "Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials." Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/UseOfForceAndFirearms.aspx>

²⁴ Decree N° 2,765 dated March 21st, 2017, establishing the General Regulation of the Framework Law of the Police Service and the Body of the Bolivarian National Police, published in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela N° 6,290 Extraordinary.

mistreatment, exploitation or sexual abuse to allow the general population to better identify the various manifestations of violence against CHA.

40. In accordance with the Principle of Absolute Priority enshrined in the Convention, in the National Constitution and the LOPNNA, the State must comply with its duty to assign sufficient quality resources to guarantee appropriate protection for CHA victims of violence, the optimal operation of healthcare services, including psychological attention, family orientation, therapy and education.
41. The State must design and implement programs, services and projects with sufficient budget to assist CHA victims of violence, mistreatment, sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancy, children deprived of parental care, rehabilitation for various kinds of addiction, reeducation of adolescents deprived of liberty, victims of sexual exploitation, asylum seekers, refugees, among others, with the required quality and in accordance with the LOPNNA. Similarly, it is necessary to strengthen and expand the coverage of institutional plans and programs regarding the mental health of CHA and specific programs for the strengthening and support of families, especially those in which parents and children are separated due to forced migration.