



Centre for
Human Rights and
Restorative Justice

HISTORY REFERENCES

Guatemala Truth Commission

Abstract

Notes on discussions of history, as well as a list of coding themes and references to history in the Guatemala Truth Commission.

Chelsea Barranger

Table of Contents

Researcher Notes	2
Links to Data Visualization.....	3
History Coding for the Guatemala Report.....	4
History References.....	5
History Child Node References	9
<i>Colonialism</i>	9
<i>Commemoration</i>	10
<i>Conclusions</i>	11
<i>Education</i>	13
<i>Human Rights</i>	14
<i>Invoking Others</i>	15
<i>Legacy</i>	16
<i>Nation</i>	18
<i>Reconciliation</i>	20
<i>True or Accurate</i>	21
<i>Violence</i>	22

Researcher Notes

Report details:

- published in 1999
- pdf is 82 pages
- report had no chapters or sections dedicated to history
- according to NVivo's text search, the word history (using stems) is referenced 17 times, representing 0.29% coverage
- after deleting references from the bibliography, notes or headers, there are **16 broad references** to history in the content of the report
- history usually mentioned in terms of historical context

History referenced in the following ways:

- most Guatemalans are aware of the country's violent past, but it is not apart of the national consciousness
- there is a need to educate the public about the past
- violence conducted by the State against vulnerable populations
- idea of an authentic history or past
- discussions of a need for reconciliation
- legacy of colonialism
- accounts of personal tragedies
- historical context of the cold war and US involvement in Guatemala
- historical human rights violations
- stories of victims (priests, Mayans, grassroots groups, academics)
- legacy of violence
- there is a need to learn from the nations suffering

History and truth are discussed in the following ways:

- commission argues that there is a need to educate the country about the truth of the past
- there is a need to learn from the nation's suffering

*References of history and truth appear under the highlighted coding theme/section **True and Accurate** starting on page 21

Links to Data Visualization

This section contains links to all data visualization for the Guatemala report.

Word Frequency Cloud

- [word frequency cloud](#)
- [excel sheet of word frequency cloud findings](#)

Word Trees

- [history](#)
- [women](#)
- [children](#)
- [youth](#)
- [forgive](#)
- [victim](#)
- [truth](#)
- [reconciliation](#)
- [land](#)

*NVivo software can only edit word trees by changing the central search term and branch sizes. Word trees includes references from bibliography, headers, and notes that cannot be edited out using NVivo software. Researchers will need to manually remove unsightly branches using editing software (e.g., paint, photoshop, etc.)

History Hierarchy Coding Chart

- [history hierarchy coding chart](#)
- [excel sheet of history hierarchy coding chart results](#)

History Coding for the Guatemala Report

The following chart breakdowns the child nodes used for coding history references based on themes and discussions surrounding history in the Guatemala report.

History	All references or discussions of history in the Guatemala report
Colonialism	References or discussions of colonialism
Commemorate	References or discussions of commemoration, remembrance, heritage, monuments, etc.
Conclusions	References or discussions of history in the report's major conclusions
Education	References or discussions of education, curriculum, or the teaching of history
Human Rights	References or discussions of human rights or human rights violations and history
Invoking others	References or discussions of countries and their past
Legacy	References or discussions of the legacy, effects or lasting impacts of the past
Nation	References or discussions of the nation, nations, or national history
Reconciliation	References or discussions of reconciliation, healing, coming together etc. and history
True or Accurate	References or discussions of true, accurate, genuine, or missing history
Violence	References or discussions of violence and the past

History References

This section contains all references to history from the Guatemala report.

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 16 references coded [2.14% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.02% Coverage

Let the history we lived be taught in the schools, so that it is never forgotten,

Reference 2 - 0.13% Coverage

Oslo on 23 June 1994, in order to clarify with objectivity, equity and impartiality, the human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation that caused suffering among the Guatemalan people. The Commission was not established to judge - that is the function of the courts of law - but rather to clarify the history of the events of more than three decades of fratricidal war. When we were appointed to form the CEH, each of us, through different routes and all by

Reference 3 - 0.15% Coverage

Although many are aware that Guatemala's armed confrontation caused death and destruction, the gravity of the abuses suffered repeatedly by its people has yet to become part of the national consciousness. The massacres that eliminated entire Mayan rural communities belong to the same reality as the persecution of the urban political opposition, trade union leaders, priests and catechists. These are neither perfidious allegations, nor figments of the imagination, but an authentic chapter in Guatemala's history. The authors of the Accord of Oslo believed that, despite the shock the Nation could suf-

Reference 4 - 0.08% Coverage

edge of the truth, can be successfully faced. Above all, it is necessary to recognise the facts of history and learn from the Nation's suffering. To a great extent, the future of Guatemala depends on the responses of the State and society to the tragedies that nearly all Guatemalans have experienced personally.

Reference 5 - 0.10% Coverage

of contributing to national reconciliation through the clarification of history, have come to the CEH and placed their trust in us. Without them, without their help, support and trust, our delicate task would have been difficult to complete. Their continuous support has motivated and inspired us. The two Parties to the Accord of Oslo, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala and

Reference 6 - 0.15% Coverage

1. With the outbreak of the internal armed confrontation in 1962, Guatemala entered a tragic and devastating stage of its history, with enormous human, material and moral cost. In the documentation of human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation, the Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) registered a total of 42,275 victims, including men, women and children. Of these, 23,671 were victims of arbitrary execution and 6,159 were victims of forced disappearance. Eighty-three percent of fully identified victims were Mayan and seventeen percent were Ladino. 1

Reference 7 - 0.22% Coverage

3. The Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) concludes that the structure and nature of economic, cultural and social relations in Guatemala are marked by profound exclusion, antagonism and conflict - a reflection of its colonial history. The proclamation of independence in 1821, an event prompted by the country's elite, saw the creation of an authoritarian State which excluded the majority of the population, was racist in its precepts and practises, and served to protect the economic interests of the privileged minority. The evidence for this, throughout Guatemala's history, but particularly so during the armed confrontation, lies in the fact that the violence was fundamentally directed by the State against the excluded, the poor and above all, the Mayan people, as well as against those who fought for justice and greater social equality.

Reference 8 - 0.10% Coverage

10. The country's judicial system, due either to induced or deliberate ineffectiveness, failed to guarantee the application of the law, tolerating, and even facilitating, violence. Whether through acts of commission or omission, the judicial branch contributed to worsening social conflicts at various times in Guatemala's history. Impunity permeated the country to such an extent that it

Reference 9 - 0.20% Coverage

13. The CEH recognises that the movement of Guatemala towards polarisation, militarization and civil war was not JUST the result of national history. The cold war also played an important role. Whilst anti-communism, promoted by the United States within the framework of its foreign policy, received firm support from right-wing political parties and from various other powerful actors in Guatemala, the United States demonstrated that it was willing to provide support for strong military regimes in its strategic backyard. In the case of Guatemala, military assistance was directed towards reinforcing the national intelligence apparatus and for training the officer corps in counterinsurgency techniques, key factors which had significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation.

Reference 10 - 0.25% Coverage

16. Only recently in Guatemalan history and within a short time period did the Catholic Church abandon its conservative position in favour of an attitude and practise based on the decisions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the Episcopal Conference of Medellin (1968), prioritising its work with excluded, poor and under-privileged sectors and promoting the

construction of a more JUST and equitable society. These doctrinal and pastoral changes clashed with counterinsurgency strategy, which considered Catholics to be allies of the guerrillas and therefore part of the internal enemy, subject to persecution, death or expulsion. Whereas the guerrilla movement saw in the practise of what was known as "liberation theology" common ground on which to extend its social base, seeking to gain the sympathy of its followers. A large number of catechists, lay activists, priests, and missionaries were victims of the violence and gave their lives as a testimony to the cruelty of the armed confrontation.

Reference 11 - 0.19% Coverage

58. The CEH has confirmed that during the armed confrontation, social organisations were an important target of the State's repressive action. Considered as part of the "internal enemy", hundreds of leaders and grassroots members of a wide spectrum of groups were eliminated. These actions left civil society weakened and still affect its full participation in Guatemala's political and economic debates. The loss of professionals, academics and researchers, the "creative powers" who died or went into exile, not only created a vacuum during a specific period of political and cultural history, but also resulted in the loss of an important part of the pedagogic and intellectual capacity to educate several future generations in Guatemala.

Reference 12 - 0.10% Coverage

ly in the newly settled areas close to the Mexican border. The forced displacement of civilians in ~ Guatemala stands out in the history of the armed confrontation because of its massive nature and :J~ its destructive force. It embodies the rupture of social fabric in its most direct and heart-rending form. Families and communities were fractured and cohesive cultural ties weakened.

Reference 13 - 0.15% Coverage

79. In the judgement of the CEH, during the later years of the armed confrontation the Mayan movement affirmed its role as a key political actor. In the struggle against exclusions suffered since the foundation of the Guatemalan State, the Mayan people has made important contributions in the area of multiculturalism and peace. These provide the essential bases for society as a whole to review its history and commit itself to building a new project of nationhood consistent with its multiculturalism, which should be inclusive, tolerant and proud of the wealth implicit in its cultural differences.

Reference 14 - 0.11% Coverage

147. At the end of 1996, the Government of President Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen, together with the URNG, with the participation of the United Nations as moderator and with the support of the international community, concluded a long negotiating process, by signing the Peace Accords. The Accords established certain obligations that represent an achievement of incomparable importance in the national history of recent decades.

Reference 15 - 0.07% Coverage

"To express solidarity with the relatives of those who gave their lives in order to find a path to a better future and achieve a firm and lasting peace... [and] to exhort Guatemalan society to commemorate these events, which are part of the history of Guatemala ... "

Reference 16 - 0.13% Coverage

Subsequent generations in Guatemala have the right to a brighter, better future. Guatemalans can, and must, encourage a common project of nationhood. To bring about a reconstruction of Guatemala's social fabric, based on lasting peace and reconciliation, it is vital to foster an authentic sense of national unity among the diversity of peoples that make up the nation. By means of its recommendations, the CEH aims to help strengthen the hope of the people of Guatemala that its violent history will never be repeated.

History Child Node References

The following section contains history references from the Guatemala report organized by the child nodes outlined in History Coding for the Guatemala Report. Some references appear under several subheadings since they contained discussions of multiple themes.

Colonialism

References or discussions of colonialism

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 2 references coded [0.42% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.22% Coverage

3. The Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) concludes that the structure and nature of economic, cultural and social relations in Guatemala are marked by profound exclusion, antagonism and conflict - a reflection of its colonial history. The proclamation of independence in 1821, an event prompted by the country's elite, saw the creation of an authoritarian State which excluded the majority of the population, was racist in its precepts and practises, and served to protect the economic interests of the privileged minority. The evidence for this, throughout Guatemala's history, but particularly so during the armed confrontation, lies in the fact that the violence was fundamentally directed by the State against the excluded, the poor and above all, the Mayan people, as well as against those who fought for justice and greater social equality.

Reference 2 - 0.20% Coverage

13. The CEH recognises that the movement of Guatemala towards polarisation, militarization and civil war was not JUST the result of national history. The cold war also played an important role. Whilst anti-communism, promoted by the United States within the framework of its foreign policy, received firm support from right-wing political parties and from various other powerful actors in Guatemala, the United States demonstrated that it was willing to provide support for strong military regimes in its strategic backyard. In the case of Guatemala, military assistance was directed towards reinforcing the national intelligence apparatus and for training the officer corps in counterinsurgency techniques, key factors which had significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation.

Commemoration

References or discussions of commemoration, remembrance, heritage, monuments, etc.

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 2 references coded [0.20% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.07% Coverage

"To express solidarity with the relatives of those who gave their lives in order to find a path to a better future and achieve a firm and lasting peace... [and] to exhort Guatemalan society to commemorate these events, which are part of the history of Guatemala ... "

Reference 2 - 0.13% Coverage

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Conclusions

References or discussions of history in the report's major conclusions

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 8 references coded [1.37% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.15% Coverage

1. With the outbreak of the internal armed confrontation in 1962, Guatemala entered a tragic and devastating stage of its history, with enormous human, material and moral cost. In the documentation of human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation, the Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) registered a total of 42,275 victims, including men, women and children. Of these, 23,671 were victims of arbitrary execution and 6,159 were victims of forced disappearance. Eighty-three percent of fully identified victims were Mayan and seventeen percent were Ladino. 1

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Reference 3 - 0.10% Coverage

10. The country's judicial system, due either to induced or deliberate ineffectiveness, failed to guarantee the application of the law, tolerating, and even facilitating, violence. Whether through acts of commission or omission, the judicial branch contributed to worsening social conflicts at various times in Guatemala's history. Impunity permeated the country to such an extent that it

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corps in counterinsurgency techniques, key factors which had significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation.

Reference 5 - 0.25% Coverage

16. Only recently in Guatemalan history and within a short time period did the Catholic Church abandon its conservative position in favour of an attitude and practise based on the decisions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the Episcopal Conference of Medellin (1968), prioritising its work with excluded, poor and under-privileged sectors and promoting the construction of a more JUST and equitable society. These doctrinal and pastoral changes clashed with counterinsurgency strategy, which considered Catholics to be allies of the guerrillas and therefore part of the internal enemy, subject to persecution, death or expulsion. Whereas the guerrilla movement saw in the practise of what was known as "liberation theology" common ground on which to extend its social base, seeking to gain the sympathy of its followers. A large number of catechists, lay activists, priests, and missionaries were victims of the violence and gave their lives as a testimony to the cruelty of the armed confrontation.

Reference 6 - 0.19% Coverage

58. The CEH has confirmed that during the armed confrontation, social organisations were an important target of the State's repressive action. Considered as part of the "internal enemy", hundreds of leaders and grassroots members of a wide spectrum of groups were eliminated. These actions left civil society weakened and still affect its full participation in Guatemala's political and economic debates. The loss of professionals, academics and researchers, the "creative powers" who died or went into exile, not only created a vacuum during a specific period of political and cultural history, but also resulted in the loss of an important part of the pedagogic and intellectual capacity to educate several future generations in Guatemala.

Reference 7 - 0.15% Coverage

79. In the judgement of the CEH, during the later years of the armed confrontation the Mayan movement affirmed its role as a key political actor. In the struggle against exclusions suffered since the foundation of the Guatemalan State, the Mayan people has made important contributions in the area of multiculturalism and peace. These provide the essential bases for society as a whole to review its history and commit itself to building a new project of nationhood consistent with its multiculturalism, which should be inclusive, tolerant and proud of the wealth implicit in its cultural differences.

Reference 8 - 0.11% Coverage

147. At the end of 1996, the Government of President Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen, together with the URNG, with the participation of the United Nations as moderator and with the support of the international community, concluded a long negotiating process, by signing the Peace Accords. The Accords established certain obligations that represent an achievement of incomparable importance in the national history of recent decades.

Education

References or discussions of education, curriculum, or the teaching of history

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 1 reference coded [0.02% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.02% Coverage

Let the history we lived be taught in the schools, so that it is never forgotten,

Human Rights

References or discussions of human rights or human rights violations and history

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 2 references coded [0.33% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.12% Coverage

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Invoking Others

References or discussions of countries and their past

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 1 reference coded [0.20% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.20% Coverage

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Legacy

References or discussions of the legacy, effects or lasting impacts of the past

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 7 references coded [1.14% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.08% Coverage

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Reference 6 - 0.10% Coverage

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Nation

References or discussions of the nation, nations, or national history

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 7 references coded [1.06% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.15% Coverage

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Reference 2 - 0.10% Coverage

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Reference 6 - 0.11% Coverage

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Reference 7 - 0.13% Coverage

Subsequent generations in Guatemala have the right to a brighter, better future. Guatemalans can, and must, encourage a common project of nationhood. To bring about a reconstruction of Guatemala's social fabric, based on lasting peace and reconciliation, it is vital to foster an authentic sense of national unity among the diversity of peoples that make up the nation. By means of its recommendations, the CEH aims to help strengthen the hope of the people of Guatemala that its violent history will never be repeated.

Reconciliation

References or discussions of reconciliation, healing, coming together etc. and history

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 5 references coded [0.55% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.10% Coverage

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Reference 4 - 0.07% Coverage

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True or Accurate

References or discussions of true, accurate, genuine, or missing history

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 3 references coded [0.36% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.15% Coverage

Although many are aware that Guatemala's armed confrontation caused death and destruction, the gravity of the abuses suffered repeatedly by its people has yet to become part of the national consciousness. The massacres that eliminated entire Mayan rural communities belong to the same reality as the persecution of the urban political opposition, trade union leaders, priests and catechists. These are neither perfidious allegations, nor figments of the imagination, but an authentic chapter in Guatemala's history. The authors of the Accord of Oslo believed that, despite the shock the Nation could suf-

Reference 2 - 0.08% Coverage

edge of the truth, can be successfully faced. Above all, it is necessary to recognise the facts of history and learn from the Nation's suffering. To a great extent, the future of Guatemala depends on the responses of the State and society to the tragedies that nearly all Guatemalans have experienced personally.

Reference 3 - 0.13% Coverage

Subsequent generations in Guatemala have the right to a brighter, better future. Guatemalans can, and must, encourage a common project of nationhood. To bring about a reconstruction of Guatemala's social fabric, based on lasting peace and reconciliation, it is vital to foster an authentic sense of national unity among the diversity of peoples that make up the nation. By means of its recommendations, the CEH aims to help strengthen the hope of the people of Guatemala that its violent history will never be repeated.

Violence

References or discussions of violence and the past

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\Guatemala-Report-of-the-Commission-for-Historical-Clarification> - § 9 references coded [1.41% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.12% Coverage

Oslo on 23 June 1994, in order to clarify with objectivity, equity and impartiality, the human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation that caused suffering among the Guatemalan people. The Commission was not established to judge - that is the function of the courts of law - but rather to clarify the history of the events of more than three decades of fratricidal war. When we were appointed to form the CEH, each of us, through different routes and all by

Reference 2 - 0.15% Coverage

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Reference 3 - 0.15% Coverage

1. With the outbreak of the internal armed confrontation in 1962, Guatemala entered a tragic and devastating stage of its history, with enormous human, material and moral cost. In the documentation of human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation, the Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) registered a total of 42,275 victims, including men, women and children. Of these, 23,671 were victims of arbitrary execution and 6,159 were victims of forced disappearance. Eighty-three percent of fully identified victims were Mayan and seventeen percent were Ladino. 1

Reference 4 - 0.22% Coverage

3. The Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) concludes that the structure and nature of economic, cultural and social relations in Guatemala are marked by profound exclusion, antagonism and conflict - a reflection of its colonial history. The proclamation of independence in 1821, an event prompted by the country's elite, saw the creation of an authoritarian State which excluded the majority of the population, was racist in its precepts and practises, and served to protect the economic interests of the privileged minority. The evidence for this, throughout Guatemala's history, but particularly so during the armed confrontation, lies in the fact that the violence was fundamentally directed by the State against the excluded, the poor and

above all, the Mayan people, as well as against those who fought for justice and greater social equality.

Reference 5 - 0.10% Coverage

10. The country's judicial system, due either to induced or deliberate ineffectiveness, failed to guarantee the application of the law, tolerating, and even facilitating, violence. Whether through acts of commission or omission, the judicial branch contributed to worsening social conflicts at various times in Guatemala's history. Impunity permeated the country to such an extent that it

Reference 6 - 0.25% Coverage

16. Only recently in Guatemalan history and within a short time period did the Catholic Church abandon its conservative position in favour of an attitude and practise based on the decisions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the Episcopal Conference of Medellin (1968), prioritising its work with excluded, poor and under-privileged sectors and promoting the construction of a more JUST and equitable society. These doctrinal and pastoral changes clashed with counterinsurgency strategy, which considered Catholics to be allies of the guerrillas and therefore part of the internal enemy, subject to persecution, death or expulsion. Whereas the guerrilla movement saw in the practise of what was known as "liberation theology" common ground on which to extend its social base, seeking to gain the sympathy of its followers. A large number of catechists, lay activists, priests, and missionaries were victims of the violence and gave their lives as a testimony to the cruelty of the armed confrontation.

Reference 7 - 0.19% Coverage

58. The CEH has confirmed that during the armed confrontation, social organisations were an important target of the State's repressive action. Considered as part of the "internal enemy", hundreds of leaders and grassroots members of a wide spectrum of groups were eliminated. These actions left civil society weakened and still affect its full participation in Guatemala's political and economic debates. The loss of professionals, academics and researchers, the "creative powers" who died or went into exile, not only created a vacuum during a specific period of political and cultural history, but also resulted in the loss of an important part of the pedagogic and intellectual capacity to educate several future generations in Guatemala.

Reference 8 - 0.10% Coverage

ly in the newly settled areas close to the Mexican border. The forced displacement of civilians in ~ Guatemala stands out in the history of the armed confrontation because of its massive nature and :J~ its destructive force. It embodies the rupture of social fabric in its most direct and heart-rending form. Families and communities were fractured and cohesive cultural ties weakened.

Reference 9 - 0.13% Coverage

Subsequent generations in Guatemala have the right to a brighter, better future. Guatemalans can, and must, encourage a common project of nationhood. To bring about a reconstruction of

Guatemala's social fabric, based on lasting peace and reconciliation, it is vital to foster an authentic sense of national unity among the diversity of peoples that make up the nation. By means of its recommendations, the CEH aims to help strengthen the hope of the people of Guatemala that its violent history will never be repeated.