

## DJPC's Position on Transitional Justice

DJPC dedicates itself to promoting lasting peace in Latin America. DJPC promotes constructive transitional justice as the means to reconciliation and peace in a region that is emerging from decades of dictatorships, civil conflicts, and genocide,

Transitional justice incorporates various approaches societies can take to reconcile their violent histories of human rights abuses and move towards a peaceful state, governed by rule of law, inclusive of civil society, and respectful of individual and collective rights. Transitional justice approaches are necessarily varied by historical legacy and the desires of the victims and other stakeholders. DJPC affirms its belief in bringing to justice the perpetrators of atrocities, but does so in accordance with the wishes of the victims and their families. To this end, DJPC prescribes transitional justice that:

- Gives priority to the desires and preferences of victims and survivors.
- Adapts appropriately to local cultures and context.
- Promotes local involvement, empowerment, and reconciliation within divided communities.
- Accounts for gender, ethnic, religious, political or other patterns of abuse and enhance justice for these groups.
- Respects the universality of human rights and operates within the international norms and standards for human rights.
- Sustains and realizes the terms and conditions of peace accords, where applicable.
- Pursues legal prosecution of offenders by means of truth and reconciliation commissions, courts of law, or other bodies given power by stakeholders and governed by the rule of law.
- Promotes institutional reforms as necessary to remove incompetent, corrupt, or abusive officials from all branches of government, security forces, the police, the military, or other public or publicly-contracted institutions.
- Works for the cessation of vigilante, paramilitary, and other forms of government-sponsored violence.

DJPC works to establish equitable public policy through:

- Education: of our members, our communities, our Congressional delegation on the history and manner in which U.S. foreign policy has supported humanitarian abuses. Also, familiarize them with the benefits of comprehensive and holistic approaches to achieving just societies.
- Solidarity: partnering with local and national groups and international movements to advocate for these strategies.
- Nonviolent Activism: calling, writing, visiting and keeping pressure on members of our Congressional delegation to enact just foreign policies and denounce violence and human rights abuses. Participating in rallies, press conferences, public meetings, and nonviolent protests.