# Corporacion Region\_final.mp3

**Juan Diego:** [00:00:14] My name is Juan Diego, I am 26 years old, I live in the city of Medellín, in the Bello Oriente neighborhood. I come from Comuna 13. I am currently dedicated to music production.

**Juan Diego:** [00:00:27] I really like that, together with my brother, to transmit all those years through music, the expectations of dreaming a little bit. So expressing all that talent through music.

**Juan Diego:** [00:00:42] Well, as I had been living in Comuna 13 or where it happened to me because of the armed conflict, I was a victim of violence, because if I was hit by a stray bullet, at the age of 15 I lost my mobility, I suffered a spinal cord injury. [music]

**Luz Amparo:** [00:01:06] Corporación Región is an organization that has just celebrated its thirty-second anniversary. It is an organization that in Medellin and in Colombia has understood the importance of working for the knowledge of the city, on the problems, which is committed to transformation, through advocacy for public policies for the benefit of the different populations with whom we have been working.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:01:33] And we have also understood in Corporación Región the importance of working with others and working with that 'others' has a very important issue when we think about the right to the city, because we have worked this concept in Latin America hand in hand with the Habitat International Coalition, the Global Platform for the Right to the City, but locally in a very important way since 2014, with Fuerza Incluyente, who are people with disabilities.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:02:03] Together we have understood the right to the city as the right to live, to occupy, to transform, to enjoy the city, human settlements, towns, inclusive, sustainable.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:02:20] But here's the thing. How do we understand inclusiveness? How to understand inclusiveness, for example, from the perspective of disability. This has been very important because here we have to see what participation, full participation and democracy are.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:02:36] How can we talk about a city being a city if, for example, there are physical barriers, if there are attitudinal barriers? And this is very noticeable when we walk with people with disabilities.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:02:46] That's why we are committed to a pedagogy to transform imaginaries, to break down barriers, to build an inclusive city. [music]

**Speaker3:** [00:03:00] Fuerza Incluyente's discourse on accessibility has grown, has been transformed. Let's say that when we started this dynamic exercise we talked about a poorly designed city.

**Speaker3:** [00:03:14] And we realized that the city was not badly designed, that more hands were needed to build it. We proposed that: to build a different city, a friendly city, with accessible environments.

**Speaker3:** [00:03:27] So that has been the growth of Fuerza, we have already achieved it in a different way. A way to work together, to grow with everybody. That is like the basic concept that we have as a collective.

**Speaker4:** [00:03:41] How is accessibility being implemented? Article 4 of the Convention incorporates the concept of universal design. It is not that we re-do things that are badly done constructions, we are not measuring and then make adjustments like when they first told us: “we can do that with a little board and put it there, or we can close the door or there is no bathroom, but here we can put up a curtain”. No .

**Speaker4:** [00:04:07] Universal design begins to set challenges and that is that we do: not make accessibility for people with disabilities, but we generate accessibility for all people regardless of their condition.

**Speaker5:** [00:04:22] I think we have discovered many things about ourselves in that. Because even with the disability that we have, well, sometimes we only think about ourselves.

**Speaker5:** [00:04:36] So from Fuerza we have discovered the needs of other people. So, for example, I can move around, I can walk.

**Speaker5:** [00:04:50] But then when I go through this process, suddenly I see that there is no ramp. Then I myself think of the others, that this other person could not be here.

**Speaker 6:** [00:04:57] Being in the hands of support, we hope it will be perfected someday and it remains to be seen if we are allowed to enjoy that. The greatest guarantor is this: it is the power of a State to provide us with the quality accessibility we deserve.

**Luis Fernando Tortosa:** [00:05:26] Good afternoon, my name is Luis Fernando Tortosa, I am part of the Fuerza Incluyente collective. This sensitization that we are doing, is that people with disabilities that many times people refer to disabled people as deficient, sickly, but the correct form is: persons with disabilities.

**Luis Fernando Tortosa:** [00:05:55] Do not say deficient, handicapped, invalid, paralytic, mocked, lame, crippled. The correct way to say it is person with physical disability or reduced mobility.

**Speaker5:** [00:06:21] Well, Guillermo, you have noticed that many people, when they see a person with a disability, they are sometimes treating them, let's say, not in the most appropriate way, right? For example: "Oh, look at this invalid,

**Speaker5:** [00:06:47] Or this cripple, the backpacker, right? Those words for one, I don't know, are kind of cruel. I say it, for me, personally. So, for example, a person who is in a wheelchair. So you are a wheelchair user, right?

**Taxista:** [00:07:11] It does not seem to them that it is a right. Because as they have to do the work of getting off, disassembling the chair, the chair does not fit, they are going to waste time. They then choose to continue on their way.

**Speaker5:** [00:07:22] Exactly. But then, here I am explaining the treatment, that they should have, like when they are going to refer to a person with a disability.

**Speaker5:** [00:07:31] For example, in my case, I have a physical disability, a certain absence of my limbs. And a person in a wheelchair is a wheelchair user. The blind, the blind can be said to be blind or of low or forgiveness, of

**Taxista:** [00:07:52] Loss of vision.

**Speaker5:** [00:07:54] Well the word is blind or visually impaired, right, visually impaired. There is also intellectual disability. Those of low height are not called dwarfs.

**Speaker5:** [00:08:10] No, no, that wouldn't be the right way to do it, it would be. You can open the zipper first at the front. There it is. And here is a sticker that you can put on your cab, if you would like to be part of the Inclusive Taxidrivers.

**Taxista:** [00:08:35] Very good.

**Speaker5:** [00:08:36] Thank you very much. [music]

**Luz Amparo:** [00:08:58] The pedagogical force, precisely for an inclusive city, is captured in the experience, in the experience with that 'other', a face-to-face, mediating experience, an experience in which power relations are not deepened at all, on the contrary. And in this case it is powerful. Socially, people with disabilities have been seen as minors, as if they are to be pitied.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:09:26] And in this case, when they do this pedagogy, for example, with those who define urban transportation, this pedagogy in which they have so much to contribute to tell them, for example, what it means to name people with dignity, it comes from people with disabilities in this awareness-raising exercise, which is not simply sensitization.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:09:50] Awareness is for people to understand, to know and to take ownership.

**Luz Amparo:** [00:09:57] of their knowledge, that is, that they begin to act differently. [music]

**Juan Diego:** [00:10:13] Well, I've been living in that Bello Oriente neighborhood for 8 years, where I've always missed many opportunities, so to speak. I have managed to move forward in a number of things, but I missed many opportunities because of sensitivity

**Juan Diego:** [00:10:32] Being without sensitivity is a bit complicated, because there are so many hills, high stairs and transportation issues as well. Transportation is sometimes very uncomfortable because you don't always catch it when you want it or sometimes there are a thousand “buts” to get on a bus that has an adequate platform.

**Music:** [00:11:07] The heroine, the gun, the MDMA, with you I feel like I’m rolling, please, welcome to my purgatory. Here they tell us I'm sorry. The heroine, the gun, the MDMA, with you I feel like I’m rolling, I'm going with you to purgatory. Here they tell us I'm sorry .

**Juan Diego:** [00:12:08] It is also the ideal, and we, as people with disabilities, feel like we are in those spaces, let's say, and in my case, I spend most of my time here at home, locked up for the same reason.

**Juan Diego:** [00:12:26] Because I don't have adequate space to go out to a park or go out there to have fun, because of what is reflected in the access, everywhere, in the streets, as well as in the neighborhoods where we live and all that.

**Juan Diego:** [00:12:48] Therefore, it would be very good for a better quality of life, since it would help us to achieve many things, many objectives, to stop losing opportunities and thus we with a disability situation, to be able to contribute to life.[musica].