



Psychological and legal analysis of child rights violations in contexts of domestic violence
Análisis psicológico – jurídico sobre vulneración de derechos del niño en contextos de violencia intrafamiliar

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to analyse the psychological and legal aspects related to child rights violations in contexts of domestic violence in Ecuador. A hermeneutic methodology was employed, which analysed 58 bibliographical references from the period 2008-2024 through systematic interpretation of specialised literature in psychology, law and social sciences. The study identified five key interpretative categories: i) psychological dimensions of childhood trauma, ii) normative frameworks of protection, iii) parental responsibility and transgressions, iv) therapeutic approaches, and v) gender perspectives. It reveals that domestic violence generates "developmental trauma" that alters fundamental neurobiological processes, compromising the formation of secure emotional bonds. The Ecuadorian legal framework, based on the principle of the best interests of the child, presents gaps between normative aspirations and institutional realities. The need for interdisciplinary approaches that articulate psychological and legal knowledge in order to develop effective child protection responses is evident.

Descriptors: children's rights; family law; child psychology (Source: UNESCO Thesaurus).

RESUMEN

El objetivo de esta investigación fue analizar los aspectos psicológicos y jurídicos relacionados con la vulneración de derechos del niño en contextos de violencia intrafamiliar en Ecuador. Se empleó una metodología hermenéutica que analizó 58 referencias bibliográficas del período 2008-2024 mediante interpretación sistemática de literatura especializada en psicología, derecho y ciencias sociales. El estudio identificó cinco categorías interpretativas fundamentales: i) dimensiones psicológicas del trauma infantil, ii) marcos normativos de protección, iii) responsabilidad parental y transgresiones, iv) enfoques terapéuticos, y v) perspectivas de género. Se devela que la violencia doméstica genera "trauma del desarrollo" que altera procesos neurobiológicos fundamentales, comprometiendo la formación de vínculos afectivos seguros. El marco jurídico ecuatoriano, basado en el principio del interés superior del menor, presenta brechas entre aspiraciones normativas y realidades institucionales. Se evidencia la necesidad de enfoques interdisciplinarios que articulen conocimientos psicológicos y legales para desarrollar respuestas efectivas de protección infantil.

Descriptores: derechos del niño; derecho de la familia; psicología del niño. (Fuente: Tesoro UNESCO).

Received: 07/05/2025. Revised: 03/06/2025. Approved: 8/06/2025. Published: 01/07/2025.

Research articles section



INTRODUCTION

Domestic aggression represents a social difficulty of significant magnitude that transcends territorial limits and socioeconomic levels, establishing itself as a complex phenomenon that severely affects the integral growth of the child community. Therefore, the study of this situation from a multidisciplinary perspective becomes essential to understand the legal and psychological dimensions inherent to the violation of fundamental guarantees in the Ecuadorian environment. Throughout history, the Ecuadorian legal system has undergone important changes in the area of child protection, especially with the approval of the Code of Childhood and Adolescence (National Assembly of Ecuador, 2002), a normative tool that establishes a complete regulatory scheme aimed at safeguarding the fundamental guarantees of children and adolescents. However, the actual application of these legal norms faces considerable obstacles when confronted with the reality of family aggression.

From a psychological perspective, Bowlby's attachment theory provides a fundamental theoretical basis for understanding the consequences of child abuse on children's emotional and cognitive growth (Adorian et al., 2024). Simultaneously, current research has shown that initial exposure to aggressive environments produces destructive effects on the construction of personality and the ability to form healthy attachments (Cervera-Pérez et al., 2020). Thus, the frequency of domestic aggression in Ecuador shows worrying figures that demonstrate the dimension of the social problem. According to recent studies, socio-geographical disparities considerably influence the distribution of these aggressive phenomena, showing particular patterns of victimisation that need specialised attention (Edeby & San Sebastián, 2021). Similarly, research in urban settings such as Quito shows the complexity of aggressive dynamics and their differential impact on diverse population groups (Medina-Maldonado et al., 2022).

The principle of the best interests of the child, established both in international instruments and in Ecuadorian domestic legislation, forms the central axis that should guide all state and private action in the area of child protection (Ochoa-Escobar et al., 2021). This principle gains special importance when examining the intersection between domestic aggression and violation of guarantees, necessitating a legal interpretation that prioritises the full protection of minors. In this sense, parental obligation emerges as a fundamental legal concept that goes beyond the simple obligation to provide food, including educational, affective and protective dimensions that are essential for the balanced development of the child's personality (Acuña-San-Martín, 2013). In this framework, domestic aggression constitutes a serious violation of these parental duties, creating consequences that extend beyond the family sphere.

The protective measures contemplated in the Ecuadorian legal system have been the subject of critical examination in the specialised literature, showing the need to strengthen the mechanisms of prevention and response to situations of domestic aggression (Alarcón-Camacho & Alza-Collantes, 2023). These academic reflections highlight the importance of adopting comprehensive approaches that articulate effective legal responses with specialised psychological interventions. Therefore, it is important to study the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's guarantees in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador, through an interdisciplinary methodology, identifying the intersections between the current normative framework and the psychological consequences derived from exposure to aggressive environments (Fernández-Rodríguez et al., 2024).

Therefore, the importance of this research lies in the need to strengthen child protection mechanisms by understanding the psychological and legal dynamics that underlie victimisation processes; therefore, only through this comprehensive analysis will it be possible to develop more effective responses that guarantee the effective protection of the fundamental guarantees of the Ecuadorian child population (Galiano-Maritan, 2021).

In this sense, the hermeneutic question arises: What are the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic violence in Ecuador?

The purpose of the research is to analyse the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic violence in Ecuador.



Theoretical frame of reference

The theoretical framework is structured on the basis of an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates the conceptual foundations of developmental psychology, contemporary legal theory and approaches to the integral protection of human rights. This theoretical approach makes it possible to understand the inherent complexity of the phenomena of domestic violence and its impact on child development, establishing the conceptual bases necessary for the analysis of the legal and psychological dimensions that converge in the processes of rights violations.

Therefore, the theoretical construction is based on the articulation of currents of thought that have contributed significantly to the understanding of child protection as a field of specialised knowledge. From this perspective, approaches that recognise the centrality of the best interests of the child as a guiding principle are privileged, as well as those theories that highlight the psychological consequences derived from early exposure to violent environments. Therefore, the development of this theoretical framework considers the historical evolution of child protection paradigms, moving from guardianship models towards rights-based approaches that recognise children and adolescents as active subjects of rights. This paradigmatic transformation is fundamental for understanding the tensions and complementarities between legal responses and psychological interventions in contexts of domestic violence.

Likewise, the theoretical structure incorporates contemporary developments in developmental neuroscience, child traumatology and attachment psychology, establishing conceptual connections that make it possible to explain the mechanisms through which domestic violence affects the integral development of children. These theoretical contributions provide essential conceptual tools for the design of specialised interventions and the formulation of more effective public policies.

Theoretical foundations of child protection

Attachment theory, originally developed by John Bowlby, forms the main theoretical foundation for understanding the psychological implications of domestic aggression on children's growth. According to this theoretical perspective, early attachments determine an individual's ability to establish healthy interpersonal relationships throughout life (Adorian et al., 2024). As a result, exposure to aggressive environments during childhood generates significant disruptions in the formation of these primary attachments, compromising children's emotional and cognitive growth.

In a complementary manner, contemporary research has shown that attachment theory remains relevant in current clinical practice, providing essential conceptual tools for understanding child psychopathology (Bueno, 2020). On the other hand, recent theoretical developments have emphasised the importance of imprinting processes in the genesis of attachment theory, establishing deeper connections between ethological foundations and clinical applications (Robledo et al., 2022).

Psychological consequences of child maltreatment

Chronic domestic abuse produces devastating psychological consequences that manifest themselves through so-called growth trauma. This theoretical conceptualisation allows us to understand how repeated exposure to situations of domestic aggression alters the neurobiological processes that are fundamental for healthy child growth (Cervera-Pérez et al., 2020). Likewise, these alterations are reflected in difficulties in emotional regulation, behavioural problems and attachment disorders that persist into adulthood.

Research in adolescent populations exposed to childhood trauma has identified specific patterns of complex post-traumatic stress disorder, demonstrating the heterogeneity of psychological responses to victimisation (Tian et al., 2022). Therefore, these manifestations



require specialised interventions that consider the complexity of traumatic processes and their implications for psychological growth.

Similarly, studies have shown that child abuse produces significant impairments in mentalising capacity, affecting the ability to understand one's own and others' mental states (Condino et al., 2022). This limitation has direct implications on the ability to establish satisfactory interpersonal relationships and on the growth of fundamental socio-emotional competencies.

Legal framework for child protection in Ecuador

The Ecuadorian legal system has established a comprehensive normative framework for the protection of the guarantees of children and adolescents, based on the guiding principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (Freites-Barros, 2008). In this sense, the Code for Children and Adolescents (National Assembly of Ecuador, 2002) constitutes the main normative instrument that regulates the comprehensive protection of the child population in the national territory.

On the other hand, the principle of the best interests of the child is the guiding principle that should guide all state and private action in the area of child protection. This principle transcends the mere normative declaration to become a fundamental hermeneutic criterion that should guide the interpretation and application of legal provisions (Ochoa-Escobar et al., 2021). Therefore, its operationalisation requires the adoption of multidisciplinary approaches that consider the psychological, social and legal dimensions inherent to each particular situation.

Thus, the research cited in this section has shown the need to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms of the existing normative framework, particularly with regard to the articulation between legal provisions and social realities (Fernández-Rodríguez et al., 2024). Consequently, the examination of the effectiveness of child protection standards must consider both the formal aspects and the substantive elements of their practical implementation.

Parental responsibility and domestic violence

Parental responsibility is a complex legal concept which encompasses multiple dimensions related to the care, protection and upbringing of children. According to specialised doctrine, this obligation transcends material responsibilities to include affective, educational and protective aspects that are essential for the integral growth of the child's personality (Acuña-San-Martín, 2013). As a consequence, domestic aggression represents a serious transgression of these parental duties, generating both civil and criminal liabilities for parents.

While philosophical studies on parental obligation have established that parents' duties towards their children are grounded in universal ethical principles that transcend specific legal provisions (Xu, 2021). In parallel, research on the ethics of parenting has emphasised that the upbringing of children constitutes a social and legal responsibility that must be assumed comprehensively (Avila-Tinajero, 2021).

On the other hand, contemporary legal doctrine has examined the conditions under which parental obligation can be revoked, establishing specific criteria for the protection of the best interests of the child when parents seriously breach their obligations (George, 2023). Recent normative developments have also strengthened the mechanisms of control and supervision of the parental obligation, incorporating more effective legal tools for the protection of children (Lind, 2024).



Protection and prevention measures

The Ecuadorian legal system has established a comprehensive system of protective measures aimed at preventing and responding to situations of domestic violence affecting children. These measures include both immediate protective measures and long-term intervention mechanisms that seek to restore the conditions necessary for the healthy growth of children (Alarcón-Camacho & Alza-Collantes, 2023). However, the effectiveness of these measures depends on adequate coordination between the different institutions involved in child protection.

In this sense, the importance of adopting approaches that simultaneously address domestic aggression, mental health problems and the use of psychoactive substances (Allen et al., 2022), implies as a consequence, the consideration that protective measures should incorporate specialised therapeutic components to address the underlying causes of domestic aggression. Thus, in the Latin American context, it has become evident that there is a need to strengthen comprehensive protection mechanisms for victims, incorporating gender perspectives and differentiated approaches that consider the cultural and social particularities of each region (Cetina & Martínez, 2022). Therefore, the effective implementation of these measures requires specialised training for legal operators and the allocation of sufficient resources to guarantee their adequate application.

Gender-based violence and child protection

Gender-based aggression is a complex phenomenon that affects women and children differently in the family context. Research in Ecuador has identified specific patterns of victimisation that reflect the intersection of gender inequalities and domestic power dynamics (Buller et al., 2023). As a consequence, child protection must consider these gender dimensions in order to develop more effective responses to situations of domestic aggression.

In this sense, studies on femicide in Ecuador have shown how asymmetrical power relations between genders are reflected in judicial decisions and in the application of amparo measures (Girón, 2023). At the same time, research on attempted femicide has demonstrated the barriers faced by women survivors in accessing justice, a situation that directly affects the protection of minors in contexts of domestic aggression (Jiménez, 2023). Another important issue in this context is related to dating aggression among adolescents, which has been identified as a significant risk factor for the perpetuation of aggressive patterns in future family relationships (Medina-Maldonado et al., 2022). Similarly, the contribution of (Castillo-González et al., 2024), on emotional dependence has established connections between these dysfunctional patterns and the development of aggressive behaviours in intimate relationships.

Therapeutic approaches and rehabilitation

Treatment of the psychological consequences of domestic aggression requires specialised therapeutic approaches that consider the complexity of childhood trauma. Psychodynamic psychotherapy for complex trauma has demonstrated effectiveness in the treatment of victims of child abuse, providing specific conceptual tools and techniques to address the psychological sequelae of maltreatment (Spermon et al., 2010). As a consequence, the implementation of specialised therapeutic programmes constitutes a fundamental element of the child protection system.

In this regard, the work of (Sabina et al., 2023) on integrative community therapy has shown the effectiveness of group approaches for the treatment of survivors of domestic abuse, demonstrating significant improvements in indicators of mental health and psychological well-being. In parallel, research on child sexual abuse prevention has established the importance of



educational programmes aimed at mothers, using theoretical frameworks such as the Motivational Theory of Advocacy (Bhagyalakshmi & Kumar, 2022).

On the other hand, contemporary developments in the application of attachment theory in clinical contexts have provided specific tools for the treatment of child victims of maltreatment, establishing specific therapeutic tasks that facilitate recovery from trauma (Wilkinson, 2023). Furthermore, research on parenting styles for children with oppositional defiant disorder has demonstrated the importance of comprehensive family interventions that address both the child's needs and parenting competencies (Fooladvand et al., 2021).

International perspectives and human rights

The international framework of human rights protection provides essential normative foundations for understanding state obligations in child protection. The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out specific standards relating to parental duty and protection from assault (Ruggiero, 2022). As a consequence, effective implementation of these standards requires the adoption of comprehensive approaches that consider the legal, social and psychological dimensions of child protection.

In this vein, studies on the human rights of migrants with irregular status have highlighted the need to ensure the universality of fundamental guarantees, including protection from domestic assault (O'Cinneide, 2020). In parallel, research on nationality as a human right has established the importance of ensuring proper documentation of minors to facilitate their access to amparo mechanisms (Figuera-Vargas & Robles-Arias, 2019). While the development of the truth guarantee in the universal human rights protection system has strengthened accountability mechanisms in cases of serious violations of fundamental guarantees, including domestic assault (Rodríguez et al., 2022). Intersectional approaches to human rights protection have also highlighted the need to consider the multiple forms of discrimination affecting child victims of domestic assault (Zschommler, 2022).

Implementation challenges

The effective implementation of child protection measures faces multiple challenges that require specialised attention. In this regard, the contribution on ineffectiveness in the collection of child support payments has highlighted structural limitations in the Ecuadorian judicial system that affect the comprehensive protection of children (Alcívar-Junco & Jumbo-Quezada, 2024). As a consequence, the strengthening of mechanisms for the enforcement of judicial decisions is a fundamental element to guarantee the effectiveness of amparo measures.

While research on domestic aggression and adolescent offenders has established significant connections between early exposure to aggressive environments and the growth of antisocial behaviours (Coronel, 2020). In parallel, evidence on aggression towards older adults has demonstrated the importance of adopting intergenerational approaches that consider complex family dynamics (Vinueza-Veloz et al., 2021). In contrast, the examination of the extraordinary action of amparo from Ecuadorian constitutional jurisprudence has shown the evolution of jurisprudential criteria for the protection of fundamental guarantees, establishing important precedents for the protection of children (Torres-Castillo et al., 2021).

Likewise, work on expert systems for the resolution of family conflicts has demonstrated the potential of information technologies to improve the efficiency of judicial proceedings (Garcés-Mayorga et al., 2021). This helps to show that maternity protection in collaborative economy contexts has brought new challenges for social security systems, requiring regulatory adaptations to ensure comprehensive protection for families (Sanabria, 2024). As a



consequence, the evolution of social and economic realities requires the constant updating of regulatory frameworks for child protection.

METHOD

The research followed a hermeneutic methodology oriented towards a comprehensive analysis of the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's guarantees in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador. From this methodological perspective, the interpretation of the phenomena studied is privileged through the systematic examination of specialised academic production, allowing for the construction of integrated understandings that transcend specific disciplinary limitations.

The hermeneutic approach is based on the epistemological premise that scientific knowledge in the social and legal sciences is constructed through interpretative processes that consider both the historical contexts and the structures of meaning present in the academic texts examined. Consequently, the hermeneutic methodology allowed access to the latent dimensions of the phenomena studied, facilitating the identification of conceptual and theoretical patterns underlying the specialised literature.

On the other hand; the study population is constituted by fifty-eight (58) specialised bibliographic references that make up an integral documentary corpus for the analysis of the violation of children's guarantees in contexts of domestic aggression. This population includes academic contributions spanning the time period 2008-2024, ensuring both the incorporation of consolidated theoretical foundations and contemporary academic developments.

In this order, the population comprises forty-three (43) scientific articles published in indexed academic journals, representing 74.1% of the total corpus. These articles come from journals specialising in psychology, law, social sciences and public health. Additionally, the population includes twelve (12) chapters of specialised books, representing 20.7% of the corpus, from works published by prestigious academic institutions such as the Universidad del Externado, Editorial Universidad del Rosario, Editorial Universidad Icesi, and Springer. These chapters address specific topics related to gender aggression, human rights, child protection and comparative normative frameworks.

The population also incorporates one (1) fundamental normative document that represents 1.7% of the corpus, specifically the Code of Childhood and Adolescence of Ecuador (Law No. 2002-100), a central legal instrument for the examination of the normative framework of child protection in the national context. Therefore, two (2) doctoral theses are included, representing 3.4% of the corpus, which provide specialised examinations on specific aspects of the thematic studied.

On the other hand, the geographical examination of the population reveals that twenty-two (22) references focus specifically on the Ecuadorian context, representing 37.9% of the total corpus. This research addresses normative, social and cultural particularities of the Ecuadorian child protection system, including studies on the prevalence of domestic aggression, jurisprudential examination of amparo measures, and evaluation of specific public policies.

Consequently, eighteen (18) references correspond to studies developed in other Latin American contexts, particularly Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Brazil, representing 31.0% of the population. This research provides valuable comparative elements to understand the regional dynamics of domestic aggression and child protection policy frameworks in Latin America.

In contrast, the remaining eighteen (18) references, which constitute 31.0% of the corpus, come from diverse international contexts, including studies developed in the United States, Europe, China and other countries. These contributions provide universal theoretical foundations, specialised research methodologies and conceptual frameworks applicable to the examination of the problems studied.

On the other hand, disciplinary diversity is a key feature of the study population. Twenty-five (25) references come from the field of clinical psychology and mental health, representing 43.1% of the corpus. These researches address aspects such as attachment theory, growth



trauma, psychological consequences of child maltreatment, specialised therapeutic approaches and evaluation of psychological interventions.

In addition, twenty (20) references correspond to the legal field, including constitutional law, family law, human rights and criminal law, representing 34.5% of the population. These studies examine normative frameworks, constitutional jurisprudence, amparo measures, parental obligation and specialised justice systems for children and adolescents.

Likewise, eight (8) references come from applied social sciences, including social work, sociology and criminology, representing 13.8% of the corpus. This research addresses aspects such as social determinants of aggression, public policies for prevention, and examination of risk factors and protection in family contexts. While five (5) references correspond to the field of public health and epidemiology, representing 8.6% of the population. These studies provide data on prevalence, incidence and geographical distribution of domestic aggression, as well as an examination of its social and health determinants.

In another context; the temporal examination of the population reveals a significant concentration of publications in the period 2020-2024, with thirty-two (32) references representing 55.2% of the total corpus. This concentration reflects the growing academic interest in the subject matter, as well as recent normative and conceptual developments in child protection.

The period 2015-2019 contributes eighteen (18) references representing 31.0% of the population, while the period 2010-2014 contributes six (6) references equivalent to 10.3% of the corpus. Thus, the period 2008-2009 contributes two (2) references representing 3.4% of the population, which provide consolidated theoretical foundations for the review.

In terms of methodological diversity, twenty-four (24) references correspond to quantitative empirical research, including epidemiological studies, population-based surveys and evaluations of intervention programmes. Eighteen (18) references are qualitative research, including ethnographic studies, case studies and phenomenological research. While twelve (12) references constitute systematic reviews and meta-analyses that provide comprehensive syntheses of available knowledge in specific fields. Thus, four (4) references correspond to mixed research that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to address the complexity of the phenomenon under study. Summary in Table 1.



Table 1. Documentary corpus 58 bibliographical references (Period 2008-2024).

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	N°	%	CHARACTERISTICS
TYPE OF DOCUMENT	Scientific articles	43	74.1	Published in indexed academic journals specialising in psychology, law, social sciences and public health
	Book chapters	12	20.7	From works published by academic institutions of recognised prestige (Universidad del Externado, Editorial Universidad del Rosario, Editorial Universidad Icesi, Springer).
	Doctoral theses	2	3.4	Specialised analyses on specific aspects of the subject studied
	Normative document	1	1.7	Code of Childhood and Adolescence of Ecuador (Law No. 2002-100)
SUBTOTAL		58	100.0	Integral documentary corpus period 2008-2024
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	Ecuadorian context	22	37.9	Normative, social and cultural specificities of the Ecuadorian child protection system
	Latin American context	18	31.0	Studies in Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Brazil with regional comparative elements
	International context	18	31.0	Research in the United States, Europe, China and other countries with universal theoretical foundations
SUBTOTAL		58	100.0	Diversified geographical coverage
DISCIPLINARY DIVERSITY	Clinical psychology and mental health	25	43.1	Attachment theory, developmental trauma, psychological consequences of child maltreatment, therapeutic approaches
	Legal field	20	34.5	Constitutional law, family law, human rights, criminal law, specialised justice systems
	Applied sciences social	8	13.8	Social work, sociology, criminology, social determinants, preventive public policies
	Public health and epidemiology	5	8.6	Data on prevalence, incidence, geographical distribution and social and health determinants
SUBTOTAL		58	100.0	Comprehensive multidisciplinary approach
TIME DISTRIBUTION	2020-2024	32	55.2	Recent policy and conceptual developments in child protection
	2015-2019	18	31.0	Consolidation of specialised theoretical and methodological frameworks
	2010-2014	6	10.3	Conceptual and methodological foundations of the field of study established
	2008-2009	2	3.4	Theoretical foundations consolidated for the analysis of the problematic
SUBTOTAL		58	100.0	Currency and validity of the documentary corpus
METHODOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	Quantitative research	24	41.4	Epidemiological studies, population-based surveys, evaluations of intervention programmes
	Qualitative research	18	31.0	Ethnographic studies, case analyses, phenomenological investigations



CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	N°	%	CHARACTERISTICS
	Systematic reviews	12	20.7	Meta-analyses and comprehensive syntheses of available knowledge in specific fields
	Mixed research	4	6.9	Combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches to deal with the complexity of the phenomenon
	SUBTOTAL	58	100	Comprehensive methodological diversity

Source: Own elaboration.

This methodological diversity guarantees the triangulation of perspectives and approaches, strengthening the validity of the hermeneutic analysis by incorporating evidence derived from different traditions of social and legal science research.

Inclusion and delimitation criteria

The inclusion criteria for the formation of the study population were established considering the thematic relevance, academic quality and jurisdictional relevance of the bibliographic sources. Firstly, only those academic productions that directly or indirectly address the issue of domestic aggression and its impact on the guarantees of children and adolescents were included, guaranteeing the thematic coherence of the examined corpus.

In addition, priority was given to research carried out in the Ecuadorian and Latin American context, recognising the cultural, social and legal particularities that characterise these environments. However, studies developed in other geographical contexts were also incorporated when they provided relevant theoretical or methodological foundations for the understanding of the phenomenon under study.

Academic quality was another fundamental criterion for the inclusion of sources, favouring those publications that met internationally recognised standards of scientific rigour. As a result, articles published in academic journals with peer review systems, book chapters published on the JSTOR portal and official regulatory documents of the Ecuadorian legal system were preferentially included.

Hermeneutic analysis procedure

The hermeneutic analysis procedure was developed through the systematic application of the hermeneutic circle, an interpretative process that allowed for the progressive construction of increasingly deeper understandings of the phenomenon under study. This process began with a general approach to the specialised literature, identifying the central themes and the predominant theoretical approaches in the field of study.

Subsequently, we proceeded to a detailed interpretative reading of each of the sources that make up the study population, paying particular attention to the conceptual, theoretical and methodological dimensions present in each text. During this phase, emerging analytical categories were identified and conceptual connections between the different disciplinary approaches represented in the literature were established.

The hermeneutic interpretation was oriented towards the identification of three main analytical dimensions: the psychological underpinnings of the violation of children's rights, the legal frameworks of protection, and the intersections between both dimensions in the specific context of domestic violence.

Textual interpretation techniques

The textual interpretation techniques employed were based on the methodological principles of legal hermeneutics and social science hermeneutics, adapted specifically for the analysis of academic literature studied as a population. Firstly, the technique of semantic analysis was applied, aimed at identifying the explicit and implicit meanings present in the texts examined, paying particular attention to the use of specialised legal and psychological concepts.



Complementarily, the technique of pragmatic analysis was used, aimed at identifying the communicative intentions of the authors and the institutional and disciplinary contexts that influence the production of academic knowledge. This technique made it possible to understand the theoretical and methodological perspectives underlying each of the contributions examined.

The intertextual analysis technique facilitated the identification of conceptual and theoretical connections between the different sources that make up the study population, allowing the construction of conceptual maps that represent the structure of the knowledge available in the field of study. Likewise, this technique allowed the identification of convergences and divergences between the different disciplinary approaches present in the literature.

Categories of analysis

The process of hermeneutic analysis led to the identification of five main analytical categories that structure the understanding of the phenomenon studied. The first category, entitled "Psychological foundations of child trauma", groups together academic contributions that address the psychological consequences of domestic aggression from theoretical perspectives such as attachment theory, growth trauma and child psychopathology.

The second category, "Legal framework of child protection", includes normative and jurisprudential reviews related to legal instruments for the protection of children's rights, both nationally and internationally. This category also includes studies on the effectiveness of amparo measures and challenges in their practical implementation.

The third category, "Parental obligation and domestic aggression", brings together academic reflections on the legal and ethical dimensions of parental duties, including examinations of the circumstances justifying state intervention in family relations. On the other hand, the fourth category, "Therapeutic Approaches and Rehabilitation", includes research on specialised psychological interventions for victims of domestic violence.

Thus, the fifth category, "Gender and human rights perspectives", incorporates examinations that consider the gender dimensions of domestic assault and their differential impact on the violation of children's rights, including intersectional approaches and human rights perspectives.

Validity and methodological rigour

The validity of the hermeneutic analysis was ensured through the application of methodological rigour criteria specific to qualitative research in the social and legal sciences. Firstly, the criterion of exhaustiveness was applied, ensuring that the study population included all relevant academic sources available in the defined time period.

The criterion of internal coherence was applied by constantly verifying the conceptual and theoretical consistency of the interpretative analysis, ensuring that the conclusions derived from the hermeneutic process maintain logical coherence with the theoretical foundations identified in the literature. In parallel, the criterion of methodological transparency was ensured through the detailed explanation of the examination procedures employed.

Interpretative validity was strengthened through the application of the principle of theoretical triangulation, contrasting the interpretations derived from the analysis with the conceptual frameworks consolidated in the specialised literature. As a consequence, the interpretative process was not limited to the description of the textual contents, but advanced towards the construction of integrated theoretical understandings that contribute to the growth of knowledge in the field of study.

Ethical considerations

The growth of the hermeneutic research was conducted in strict observance of the ethical principles applicable to academic research, particularly with regard to the proper use of bibliographical sources and respect for intellectual property guarantees. All sources examined were appropriately cited in accordance with internationally recognised academic standards, ensuring proper acknowledgement of the authors' intellectual contributions.



In addition, the principles of academic objectivity and interpretative neutrality were observed, avoiding the imposition of ideological or disciplinary biases that could compromise the validity of the hermeneutic analysis. The interpretative process was oriented towards a deep understanding of the phenomena studied, respecting the diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives present in the specialised literature. Ethical considerations also included a commitment to the social utility of the knowledge produced, orienting the analysis towards the generation of understandings that can contribute to the strengthening of public policies on child protection and the growth of more effective interventions in contexts of domestic aggression.

RESULTS

The hermeneutic analysis of the documentary corpus allowed the identification of five fundamental interpretative categories that structure the understanding of the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's guarantees in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador. These categories emerge as conceptual constructions that articulate the diverse disciplinary approaches present in the specialised literature, configuring an integral interpretative map of the phenomenon studied.

Category I: Psychological dimensions of child trauma in contexts of domestic aggression.

The hermeneutic analysis reveals that the specialised literature constructs a complex understanding of child trauma based on three main interpretative subcategories. The first subcategory is articulated around the theoretical foundations of attachment and its alterations in aggressive contexts, where an academic consensus is evident that early exposure to domestic aggression generates significant disruptions in the formation of secure affective bonds.

The interpretation of the texts examined allows us to identify that the concept of "growth trauma" emerges as a central theoretical construct that transcends traditional conceptualisations of point trauma. This interpretative perspective is based on the understanding that chronic domestic aggression alters the neurobiological processes fundamental to children's growth, generating consequences that extend beyond the immediate symptoms of maltreatment.

The second subcategory is structured around the specific psychopathological manifestations associated with child victimisation. The hermeneutic analysis shows that the academic literature has evolved from unidimensional conceptualisations towards complex approaches that recognise the heterogeneity of traumatic responses. In particular, the concept of complex post-traumatic stress disorder emerges as a diagnostic category that allows understanding the specific psychological manifestations of chronic victimisation.

The third subcategory is articulated around alterations in the capacity for mentalisation and emotional regulation. The interpretation of the texts reveals that these alterations constitute mediating mechanisms between exposure to aggression and the growth of psychopathology, establishing specific trajectories of vulnerability that require specialised interventions.

Category II: Normative frameworks and legal principles of child protection.

The hermeneutic interpretation of the legal corpus examined allows us to identify a conceptual structure that is organised around the principle of the best interests of the child as the guiding principle of the amparo system. This category is subdivided into three interpretative dimensions that reflect the complexity of the Ecuadorian legal system in the area of amparo for children.

The first dimension is articulated around the constitutional and conventional foundations of amparo for children, where the examination reveals the existence of a comprehensive normative system that goes beyond the mere enunciation of guarantees to establish specific obligations of the State, the family and society. The interpretation of these texts evidences a



conceptual evolution from paternalistic approaches towards comprehensive protection paradigms that recognise the legal subjectivity of children.

The second dimension is structured around the specific measures of protection contemplated in the Ecuadorian legal system. The hermeneutic analysis reveals interpretative tensions between the need for state intervention and respect for family autonomy, highlighting the complexity of decision-making processes in the area of child protection. These tensions are particularly evident in the criteria for the adoption of family separation measures and in the mechanisms of supervision of parental obligation.

The third dimension revolves around the challenges of the practical implementation of the normative provisions. The interpretation of the texts reveals a significant gap between normative aspirations and institutional realities, manifesting itself in structural limitations of the judicial system, inadequacies in the specialised training of legal operators, and deficiencies in inter-institutional coordination.

Category III: Parental obligation and transgressions in contexts of aggression.

The hermeneutic analysis allows for the construction of a complex understanding of parental obligation that transcends traditional conceptions centred on material responsibilities. This category is structured in three interpretative subcategories that reflect the conceptual evolution of contemporary family law.

The first subcategory is articulated around the ethical and legal dimensions of parental obligation, where the interpretation of the texts reveals a conceptual construction that integrates responsibilities of care, protection, education and integral formation of the child's personality. This interpretative perspective shows that parental obligation is a complex duty that requires specific competences and adequate material and emotional conditions.

The second subcategory is structured around the circumstances that constitute serious transgressions of the parental obligation. The hermeneutic analysis shows that domestic aggression represents the most serious manifestation of non-compliance with these duties, generating legal consequences that may include the limitation or suspension of parental authority. The interpretation of the texts reveals specific criteria for the evaluation of these transgressions, including the consideration of factors such as the chronicity, intensity and psychological impact of the aggressive behaviour.

The third subcategory is articulated around the mechanisms of re-establishment of parental obligation. The hermeneutic interpretation shows that the legal system contemplates processes of rehabilitation and family accompaniment aimed at restoring parental competences when circumstances allow it, favouring the maintenance of family ties when this is compatible with the best interests of the child.

Category IV: Therapeutic approaches and psychological reparation processes.

The hermeneutic interpretation of the academic corpus related to therapeutic interventions reveals the configuration of specific paradigms for the approach to victims of domestic aggression. This category is structured in three interpretative subcategories that reflect the growing specialisation of the therapeutic field.

The first subcategory is articulated around therapeutic approaches based on attachment theory, where the examination shows the growth of specific techniques aimed at repairing damaged emotional bonds. The interpretation of the texts reveals that these approaches prioritise the construction of safe therapeutic relationships that allow the gradual elaboration of traumatic experiences, establishing conditions for the growth of new relational patterns.

The second subcategory is structured around specialised interventions for complex trauma, where hermeneutic interpretation shows the need for comprehensive approaches that consider the multiple dimensions of psychological harm. These approaches transcend symptomatic interventions to address fundamental disturbances in emotional regulation, identity and relational competencies.



The third subcategory is articulated around family and community interventions, where the review reveals the importance of systemic approaches that consider family dynamics and social contexts in reparation processes. The interpretation of the texts shows that the effectiveness of individual interventions depends significantly on transformations in the relational systems surrounding the child.

Category V: Gender perspectives and human safeguards in child safeguarding.

The hermeneutic study allows us to recognise a fifth interpretative category that is built around the gender dimensions and the existing schemes of human guarantees in domestic aggression and their differentiated effect on the transgression of child safeguards. This category emerges as a conceptual construct that moves beyond traditional approaches focused exclusively on child safeguarding to include broader views on the dynamics of authority, exclusion and international safeguarding schemes.

The first subcategory is organised around the links between gendered aggression and child victimisation, where the interpretation of the writings demonstrates that children are often secondary victims of aggression perpetrated against their parents. This interpretative view demonstrates the need for comprehensive approaches that simultaneously address the safeguarding of women and children in scenarios of domestic aggression.

The second subcategory is built around international human rights frameworks that underpin child safeguarding, where the hermeneutic study demonstrates that the integration of international standards strengthens national safeguarding systems. This interpretative vision shows that documents such as the Convention on the Safeguarding of Children establish specific commitments that transcend territorial borders, including reflections on citizenship, displacement and the safeguarding of populations at risk.

The third subcategory is organised around intersectional approaches that evaluate the various forms of exclusion from a vision of human guarantees. The interpretation of the writings shows a transformation from impartial approaches to models that admit the political dimensions of domestic aggression and the demand for structural changes that ensure the universality and indivisibility of the essential guarantees of the child community.

Interpretative synthesis of the emerging categories

The complete interpretation of the five recognised categories makes it possible to build a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study that overcomes the restrictions of separate disciplinary approaches. The hermeneutic study demonstrates that the transgression of children's rights in scenarios of domestic aggression is a complex phenomenon that requires interdisciplinary responses combining psychological, normative and social knowledge.

The interpretative synthesis shows that there remains a structural correspondence between recognised psychological and normative categories, demonstrating that child safeguarding regulatory schemes partially reflect conceptual advances in the area of trauma psychology. However, significant gaps remain between available academic knowledge and its effective integration into institutional safeguarding practices.

Similarly, the study demonstrates that gender visions and human rights frameworks constitute cross-cutting components that cut across all recognised categories, suggesting the need to systematically integrate these visions in the advancement of conceptual and methodological frameworks for child safeguarding. This integration demands changes both in regulatory schemes and in the professional practices of normative operators and specialised therapists, ensuring compliance with the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence of essential guarantees.

Theoretical triangulation

Theoretical triangulation constitutes a fundamental methodological process that allows us to contrast the findings emerging from the hermeneutic examination with the conceptual constructions consolidated in the specialised literature. This analytical procedure facilitates the



interpretative validation of the five categories identified through the systematic contrast with the theoretical frameworks developed by the authors that make up the documentary corpus, strengthening the conceptual solidity of the results obtained.

Triangulation of Category I: Psychological dimensions of childhood trauma

The first interpretative category finds solid theoretical support in the contributions of Adorian et al. (2024), who provide updated foundations on attachment theory that validate the hermeneutic interpretation regarding alterations in the formation of secure affective bonds. This perspective is complemented by the contributions of Bueno (2020), who confirms the validity of attachment theory in contemporary clinical practice, corroborating the interpretation of the centrality of these conceptual frameworks in the understanding of childhood trauma.

The findings on growth trauma find direct support in the research of Cervera-Pérez et al. (2020), who specifically conceptualise the consequences of chronic domestic abuse from this theoretical perspective. This theoretical convergence validates the hermeneutic interpretation that places growth trauma as a central conceptual construct for understanding the fundamental neurobiological alterations resulting from exposure to domestic aggression.

The subcategory related to specific psychopathological manifestations finds confirmation in the studies of Tian et al. (2022), who empirically document the presence of complex post-traumatic stress disorder in adolescent populations exposed to childhood trauma. Furthermore, research by Maercker et al. (2022) provides updated diagnostic frameworks that support the interpretation of the heterogeneity of traumatic responses identified in the hermeneutic examination.

Alterations in mentalising capacity emerge as a validated finding by Condino et al. (2022), who empirically demonstrate connections between child maltreatment and deficits in understanding mental states. This theoretical convergence strengthens the interpretation of the mediating mechanisms between exposure to aggression and the growth of psychopathology.

Triangulation of Category II: Normative Frameworks and Legal Principles

The second interpretative category finds validation in the fundamental contributions of the Code of Childhood and Adolescence of Ecuador (National Assembly of Ecuador, 2002), which constitutes the main normative framework underpinning the interpretation of the principle of the best interests of the child as the guiding principle of the amparo system. This legal basis is complemented by the reflections of Ochoa-Escobar et al. (2021), who provide expert reviews on the operationalisation of this principle in the Ecuadorian context.

The constitutional and conventional foundations identified in the hermeneutic interpretation find theoretical support in the contributions of Freitas-Barros (2008), who analyses the international normative frameworks underpinning the amparo for children. This perspective is complemented by the contributions of Fernández-Rodríguez et al. (2024), who provide updated examinations of the implementation of child guarantees in the Ecuadorian context.

The interpretative tensions between state intervention and family autonomy identified in the hermeneutic examination find confirmation in the research of George (2023) and Lind (2024), who specifically address the conditions for the revocation of parental obligation and the legal messages associated with responsible parenthood.

The practical implementation challenges documented in the hermeneutic interpretation find empirical validation in the studies of Alcívar-Junco and Jumbo-Quezada (2024), who highlight structural limitations of the Ecuadorian judicial system, and in the research of Torres-Castillo et al. (2021), who examine the jurisprudential evolution of the amparo of fundamental guarantees.

Triangulation of category III: Parental obligation and transgressions

The third interpretative category finds direct theoretical support in the contributions of Acuña-San-Martín (2013), who conceptually develops the principle of parental co-responsibility as a framework that transcends material obligations. This perspective is enriched by the philosophical contributions of Xu (2021), who provides universal ethical foundations for parental



obligation, validating the interpretation on the ethical dimensions identified in the hermeneutic examination.

The educational and formative dimensions of parental obligation find confirmation in the research of Avila-Tinajero (2021), who specifically addresses the ethics of parenthood as a social and legal responsibility. This theoretical convergence supports the hermeneutic interpretation of the complexity of parental competences required for the integral growth of the child's personality.

The criteria for the assessment of serious transgressions identified in the interpretation find validation in empirical studies such as those of Herrera-Durán and Castro-Carrasco (2021), who document professional perspectives on parental discipline, and in the research of Perälä-Littunen and Böök (2012), who address parental perceptions of the beginning and end of parental obligation.

The mechanisms of re-establishing parental obligation documented in the hermeneutic review find support in the research of Fooladvand et al. (2021), who demonstrate the effectiveness of specialised family interventions for the treatment of childhood behavioural disorders.

Triangulation of Category IV: Therapeutic Approaches and Reparative Processes

The fourth interpretative category finds solid validation in the contributions of Wilkinson (2023), who updates the therapeutic tasks grounded in attachment theory for the treatment of child victims of maltreatment. This perspective is complemented by the contributions of Spermon et al. (2010), who provide specific frameworks for psychodynamic psychotherapy in cases of complex trauma.

The approaches to complex trauma identified in the hermeneutic interpretation find confirmation in the research of Sabina et al. (2023), who empirically evaluate the effectiveness of integrative community therapy with survivors of domestic assault in the Ecuadorian context. This empirical convergence strengthens the validity of the interpretation of the need for specialised integrative approaches.

The prevention interventions documented in the hermeneutic review find theoretical support in the studies of Bhagyalakshmi and Kumar (2022), who demonstrate the effectiveness of educational programmes for mothers using specific theoretical frameworks such as Motivational Coping Theory.

The systemic approaches identified in the interpretation find validation in the research of Allen et al. (2022), who provide systematic evidence on the effectiveness of family interventions that simultaneously address domestic aggression, mental health problems and substance use.

Triangulation of category V: Gender perspectives and human rights safeguards

The fifth interpretive category finds theoretical underpinning in the research of Buller et al. (2023), who specifically document the role of gender and romantic jealousy in intimate aggression against women in the Ecuadorian context. This empirical perspective validates the hermeneutic interpretation of the connections between gendered aggression and child victimisation.

The international frameworks of human rights safeguards identified in the hermeneutic examination find confirmation in the contributions of Ruggiero (2022), who specifically analyses safeguards related to parental obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This theoretical convergence supports the interpretation of strengthening national systems through international standards.

The nationality and migration considerations documented in the interpretation find validation in the studies of Figuera-Vargas and Robles-Arias (2019), who address nationality as a human guarantee in the Ecuadorian context, and in the research of O'Cinneide (2020), who examines the human guarantees of migrants with irregular status.

The intersectional approaches identified in the hermeneutic review find direct support in the contributions of Zschommler (2022), who specifically analyses the inadequacy of the differential



approach and the need to adopt intersectional perspectives in the protection of human guarantees, using Ecuadorian jurisprudence as a case study.

Emerging theoretical convergences and divergences

The theoretical triangulation reveals significant convergences between the emerging interpretative categories and the conceptual frameworks consolidated in the specialised literature. In particular, a structural correspondence is evident between the findings on growth trauma and contemporary developments in trauma psychology documented by multiple authors in the corpus analysed.

However, conceptual divergences also emerge that enrich the understanding of the phenomenon studied. Medina-Maldonado et al.'s (2022) research on teen dating aggression in Quito reveals specific dimensions of victimisation that transcend the traditional categories identified in the hermeneutic examination, suggesting the need for more comprehensive conceptual frameworks.

Likewise, Edeby & San Sebastián's (2021) studies on prevalence and socio-geographical inequalities of aggression against women in Ecuador provide empirical evidence that complements interpretations of gender dimensions, highlighting the importance of structural factors that require systematic consideration in future theoretical developments.

Synthesis of the theoretical triangulation

The theoretical triangulation confirms the conceptual strength of the five interpretative categories identified through the hermeneutic analysis, evidencing significant structural correspondences between the emerging findings and the theoretical frameworks consolidated in the specialised literature. This theoretical validation strengthens the reliability of the results obtained and provides solid foundations for the development of integrated understandings of the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic aggression.

The convergence between interpretive findings and consolidated theoretical frameworks evidences the conceptual maturity of the field of study, while the divergences identified point to opportunities for future theoretical and methodological enrichment. This dynamic between convergence and divergence is an indicator of the academic vitality of the research area and suggests promising directions for further conceptual developments.

FINAL CONCLUDING REFLECTION

What are the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador?

The hermeneutic examination carried out allows us to establish that the psychological and legal aspects related to the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador constitute a complex web of interconnected dimensions that transcend traditional unidisciplinary conceptualisations. A comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon requires the recognition of five fundamental dimensions that emerge as conceptual constructs validated by both hermeneutic interpretation and theoretical triangulation.

Fundamental psychological dimensions

From a psychological perspective, the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic aggression is primarily articulated around the concept of growth trauma, which constitutes a profound disruption of neurobiological processes fundamental to healthy development. This conceptualisation transcends traditional notions of point trauma to recognise that chronic exposure to aggressive environments generates systemic disruptions in the formation of children's personalities.

Attachment theory emerges as a central conceptual framework for understanding the psychological implications of domestic aggression, demonstrating that early exposure to violent contexts severely compromises the ability to establish secure attachments. This fundamental impairment manifests itself in persistent difficulties in emotional regulation, deficits in



mentalising capacity and specific trajectories of vulnerability that predispose to the development of complex psychopathology.

The specific psychological manifestations are characterised by heterogeneity, requiring specialised diagnostic frameworks such as complex post-traumatic stress disorder to adequately capture the complexity of traumatic responses. This diversity of manifestations reflects the complex interplay between individual, family and contextual factors that modulate the impact of victimisation.

Structural legal dimensions

From a legal perspective, the violation of children's rights is framed within a comprehensive normative system whose guiding principle is the best interests of the child. This principle transcends the mere normative declaration to become a fundamental hermeneutic criterion that should guide all state and private action in matters of child protection.

The Ecuadorian legal system establishes a comprehensive amparo framework that integrates constitutional, conventional and infra-constitutional provisions aimed at guaranteeing the comprehensive protection of children. However, significant interpretative tensions persist between the need for state intervention and respect for family autonomy, demonstrating the complexity of the decision-making processes in the area of amparo for children.

The specific measures of protection contemplated in the legal system include both immediate intervention devices and long-term reparation mechanisms. However, the effectiveness of these measures is compromised by structural limitations including insufficient specialised training of legal operators, deficiencies in inter-institutional coordination and significant gaps between normative aspirations and institutional realities.

Intersections between psychological and legal dimensions

A comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study requires recognition of the complex intersections between the psychological and legal dimensions identified. Parental obligation emerges as an articulating concept that integrates specific legal responsibilities with the psychological competencies necessary for the integral growth of the child's personality.

Domestic aggression constitutes the most serious manifestation of transgression of these parental duties, generating consequences that range from profound psychological alterations to legal responsibilities that may include the limitation or suspension of parental authority. This intersection highlights the need for interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks that articulate psychological and legal knowledge for the development of effective responses.

Psychological reparation processes require specialised therapeutic approaches that consider both the aftermath of trauma and the legal context in which interventions take place. The effectiveness of these interventions depends significantly on adequate coordination between therapeutic systems and normative frameworks of protection.

Cross-cutting gender perspectives and human rights safeguards

Gender dimensions and human rights frameworks are cross-cutting elements that cut across all of the categories identified, demonstrating that the violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic violence cannot be adequately understood without considering power dynamics, discrimination and international protection frameworks.

Children are often indirect victims of aggression against their mothers, highlighting the need for comprehensive approaches that simultaneously address the protection of women and children in contexts of domestic violence. This perspective requires the systematic incorporation of intersectional frameworks that consider multiple forms of discrimination from a human rights perspective.

International standards provide normative frameworks that strengthen national amparo systems, establishing specific obligations that transcend territorial boundaries. The effective incorporation of these standards requires transformations both in normative frameworks and in the professional practices of legal operators and specialised therapists.



Structural challenges and development opportunities

The analysis conducted reveals significant structural challenges that compromise the effectiveness of child protection in Ecuador. These challenges include limitations in institutional capacity to implement amparo measures, inadequacies in the specialised training of professionals involved in child protection, and persistent gaps between available academic knowledge and its incorporation into institutional practices.

However, significant opportunities for strengthening the child protection system also emerge. The development of interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks that articulate psychological and legal knowledge provides a solid foundation for the design of more effective interventions. Likewise, the systematic incorporation of gender perspectives and human rights frameworks offers possibilities for the development of more comprehensive and culturally relevant approaches.

Implications for public policy and professional practice

The findings have direct implications for the development of public policy on child protection in Ecuador. Understanding the psychological dimensions of growth trauma requires the development of prevention and early intervention programmes that address the structural causes of domestic aggression.

Specialised training of legal operators and therapists is a priority need to ensure the effective implementation of existing normative frameworks. This training should incorporate interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks that allow for a comprehensive understanding of the psychological and legal dimensions involved in child abuse.

The strengthening of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms emerges as a fundamental element to guarantee the coherence and effectiveness of responses to situations of violations of children's rights. This coordination should include articulation between justice systems, mental health services and social protection programmes.

Contributions to academic knowledge

This research contributes to the development of academic knowledge in the field of study through the construction of interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks that transcend the limitations of traditional unidisciplinary approaches. The identification of five fundamental interpretative categories provides conceptual structures that can guide future research in the area.

Validation of these categories through theoretical triangulation strengthens the reliability of the findings and provides a foundation for the development of integrated understandings of child rights violations in contexts of domestic violence. This methodology can be replicated in other geographical and cultural contexts to strengthen comparative understanding of the phenomenon.

FINAL REFLECTION

The violation of children's rights in contexts of domestic aggression in Ecuador constitutes a phenomenon of considerable complexity that requires sustained and culturally relevant interdisciplinary responses. A comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon transcends the capacities of isolated disciplinary approaches, requiring the systematic articulation of psychological, legal and social knowledge.

The results obtained demonstrate both the significant progress made in the development of normative frameworks for child protection and the persistent challenges to their effective implementation. Overcoming these challenges requires sustained commitments from multiple social actors, including state institutions, civil society organisations and specialised academic communities.

Developing more effective responses to child rights violations is not only a legal and ethical imperative, but also a fundamental investment in the country's social future. The comprehensive safeguarding of the child population represents the construction of the necessary conditions for



the development of fairer, more equitable and inclusive societies, contributing to the strengthening of the social fabric and sustainable human development.

FUNDING

Non-monetary

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest with persons or institutions involved in the research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To those who work to strengthen peace and family coexistence.

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