

Stories Of Change: *Ana, Ecuador*

Meet Ana, a 43-year-old mother of African descent living in Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador. Ana had many difficulties raising her 13-year-old daughter, Azumy. They didn't have a good relationship and Ana could not understand her daughter's aggressive behavior, isolation, and sadness. A friend told her to take Azumy to CEPAM-G given that they have helped many women she knows.

It was in January 2023 when Ana sought help from the Feminist Futures Free from Violence counselling team at CEPAM-G. The psychologist detected that Azumy had been a victim of sexual abuse by her paternal grandfather two years ago. Ana was shocked to hear that her daughter had been going through this all alone, but she was relieved to finally understand the reasons behind her daughter's behaviors.

Ana knew that what happened to her daughter was rape and it must be punished. She decided to accompany her daughter, and they both continued with psychological help. CEPAM-G's care team activated measures according to the processes of care and legal advice.

Throughout this process, Ana noticed a significant change in Azumy's behavior. She was no longer suicidal and her relationships with Ana and her siblings had improved. Ana had never blamed her daughter for what had happened, but she understood why her daughter might have thought that. Now that Ana knew what had happened, she was able to build a relationship of trust with her daughter.

Azumy's father never appeared, leaving Ana to handle this process alone. Ana knew that she didn't want her daughter's paternal grandfather to rape other people, particularly young girls. She wants to ensure that justice is served for her daughter and for the other girls who might be victims of her daughter's grandfather.



Through the accompaniment of the Feminist Futures Free from Violence technical team, Ana and Azumy are learning to overcome this hard experience and relate better. They have reconciled their relationship and they are now able to enjoy each other's company and even have fun together, which was not possible before.

Ana is grateful for the support she received from the CEPAM-G team and is committed to being there for her daughter through this difficult time. She knows that it won't be easy, but with their continued effort, they can overcome this hard experience and grow stronger as a family.