

## **From Disruptive Behavior to Criminal Penalty: A Documentary Analysis of the Venezuelan Legal Response to Adolescent School Violence**

**Author:** Zenaida Marina Morales Blanco MSc.

**Email:** zen\_blanco@hotmail.com

**ORCID Code:** <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2563-8447>

**Line of Research:** Integral Human Development

**How to cite this article:** Zenaida Marina Morales Blanco "From Disruptive Behavior to Criminal Penalty: A Documentary Analysis of the Venezuelan Legal Response to Adolescent School Violence" (2025), (1,14)

Received: 05/16/2025    Revised: 05/23/2025    Accepted: 05/27/2025

### **ABSTRACT**

This study, entitled "From disruptive behavior to criminal punishment: A documentary analysis of the Venezuelan legal response to adolescent school violence," aims to critically analyze how the Venezuelan legal system addresses school violence when adolescents are involved, using a punitive approach. The research was framed within the qualitative paradigm, with a documentary design, an analytical-descriptive level, and the use of content analysis as the main technique. Bibliographic, regulatory, and scientific sources were used to interpret the relationship between disruptive behavior and the application of the juvenile criminal justice system. Among the findings, a strong disconnect between the legal framework, which in theory prioritizes socio-educational measures and guarantee principles, and institutional practices, which often quickly lead to prosecution and punishment, is evident. A reductionist view of the adolescent aggressor, decontextualized from their psychosocial environment, is contrasted in the discussion with international models of restorative justice, which have proven to be more effective in the prevention and reintegration of adolescents. The conclusions emphasize that the Venezuelan criminal justice system responds more reactively than preventively, and that schools, far from acting as educational spaces, delegate the conflict to the judicial system. The study proposes revaluing the pedagogical role of schools, strengthening teacher training in mediation, and adopting restorative policies that recognize adolescents as developing individuals and not merely as offenders.

**Keywords:** Conduct, disruptive, sanction, criminal, analysis, documentary, Venezuelan legal, violence, school, adolescent

**Biographical Note:** National Experimental University of the Central Plains "Rómulo Gallegos" 2014. MSc. Educational Research. Bicentennial University of Aragua, 2009. Lawyer. National Open University, 2000. Bachelor of Comprehensive Education, Specialization in Social Sciences. Specialist in Civil Procedural Law.