

# A Mission Against Silence in Venezuela and the US

Ceci, Isaías, Luna



# Historical/ contemporary context



# Background

- 1998: Hugo Chávez is elected president of Venezuela
- 2002: Protests against Chávez and coup attempt led by Pedro Estanga
- 2002: Chávez returns to power with popular support
- 2013: Chávez dies and Nicolas Maduro comes to power, supported by Chávez
- 2024: Election between Maduro and opposition leader Edmundo González
- Opposition leader María Corina Machado

# Current Patterns

- Political prisoners
- El Helicoide
- State of conflict between Chavismo and the opposition
- Emigration
- Embargo on Venezuela

# Structure/Obstacles

From Interviews with Adriana and Gis-Xi



# Obstacles

## Interview with Adriana



- **Communication:** Friends, social media updates
- **Not Involvement:** Seen as dangerous, survival-focused
- **Immigration:** Leaving out of necessity

# Insights from Gis-Xi Nahmens



Positionality & Background

Perspectives on Venezuela

Mental Health & Priorities

Cultural Resilience

Socioeconomic Divide & Support

Mental model, goals,  
and looking forward



# Mental Model

- Positive cultural mindset
  - People make jokes of the situation
  - Pride in Venezuelan nationality keeps people united and going
- Negative practical mindset
  - Faithlessness that change will come
  - Sense of helplessness after stolen election

# Goals

- Get \$10,000 peace grant from Wesleyan
- No fixed goals at the moment
- Staying aware is crucial
- First, create organization to help with practical stuff
- Eventually, expand organization to include rehabilitation plans for tortured people

# Creating Spaces



EN  
EL NACIONAL

- Use the freedom of speech available both in Venezuela and abroad
- Build professional connections with other Venezuelan organizations/leaders
- Utilize position in the United States

Thank You