



# Communique Committee of Experts

## **Committee of Experts welcomes the legalization of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill in Honduras**

Washington, DC, March 21st, 2023. The [Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI) welcomes the decision of the Government of Honduras to allow the free use and commercialization of the emergency contraceptive pill (known as PAE). This decision represents an advance in guaranteeing the sexual and reproductive rights of Honduran girls and women, in compliance with the State's international obligations.

The Executive Agreement for the free use and sale of the morning-after pill, signed on March 8 by President Xiomara Castro, paves the way for women to have access to this contraceptive method after 13 years of a total ban. With this decision, the authorities are taking a step forward in guaranteeing women's access to a service that is essential for their reproductive health.

The Committee also recognizes and welcomes the important role played by Honduran women's groups and civil society organizations who, since the banning of the emergency contraceptive pill in 2009, have made numerous efforts to achieve its legalization as a fundamental right of women.

The Committee of Experts recalls that sexual and reproductive rights are part of the catalogue of human rights that are protected by the universal and inter-American human rights systems, including the Belém do Pará Convention, which establishes the right of every woman to have her life respected including her physical, mental, and moral integrity respected, as well as, her right to be free from all forms of discrimination.

As is articulated in the [Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights](#), issued by this Committee of Experts: "the negation of public policy and sexual and reproductive health services exclusively to women, through norms practices, and discriminatory stereotypes, constitutes a systematic violation of their human rights and subjects them to institutional violence by the State, causing physical and psychological suffering."

For all these reasons, the Committee of Experts encourages the Honduran authorities to continue working to guarantee all sexual and reproductive rights of women, and to adopt the necessary public policies to ensure that women's lives are not threatened, and that integrity is assured in the exercise of these rights.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the authorities of Honduras for any technical support they may require in this matter.

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*The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.*