

Committee of Experts encourages the Dominican Republic to approve a Comprehensive Law on violence against women in accordance with the provisions of the Belém do Pará Convention

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) salutes the Government of the Dominican Republic for its interest in advancing the creation, discussion and approval of a law that creates an Comprehensive Support System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in the Dominican Republic. This is a step forward to guarantee the right of all women to live free of violence, in addition to showing the political will to advance in the matter.

The Committee of Experts has stressed the need to harmonize national legislation and guarantee its adaptation to the international standards of the Belém do Pará Convention, since the First Multilateral Evaluation Round in the National Reports of the Dominican Republic. Therefore the steps following in this regard should be welcomed. Nevertheless, the Committee also wishes to state that, according to different civil society organizations, some of these draft proposals could affect the essence of the Belém do Pará Convention.

Article 7 of the Belém do Pará Convention establishes that the States Party agree to adopt policies aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating such violence, as well as acting with due diligence, by all appropriate means and without delay. In this line, the Committee has urged States to pass legislation aimed at preventing and eradicating cultural or discriminatory practices and conducts through the [Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention](#). These conducts are based on the supposed subordination or inferiority of women and girls, taking into account the intersectionality with other dimensions of discrimination such as girls, indigenous people, afro-descendants, immigrants, inmates, women from rural areas, with disabilities, in poverty, among others.

Consequently, the Committee recalls that the recommendations aimed at the adoption of comprehensive law in accordance with international standards in the area of women's and girls' rights must include the Convention's comprehensive definition which includes the violence suffered by women both in the public and private spheres. The objective is to guarantee access to justice and reparation for victims and significant budgets that enable national actions and programs to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women; to guarantee a life free of violence for all women, girls and adolescents in the country. In short, a law that incorporates the standards and commitments emanating from the Belem do Pará Convention, an international instrument that has been signed and ratified by the Dominican Republic.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Belém do Pará

Convention. It is composed of independent experts, appointed by each of the States Parties among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity